



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank Launches Capital Campaign to Expand Services in Walworth County

New facility will increase distribution capacity and serve more local families facing food insecurity

ELKHORN, WI — The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank has launched a \$6 million capital campaign to build a new facility that will significantly expand its ability to fight food insecurity, diaper need, and period poverty across Walworth County.

Walworth County is widely known as a vacation destination, attracting visitors to its lakes, resorts, and restaurants. But behind that image, many local residents are struggling to afford basic necessities. Of the county's 43,000 households, an estimated 14,200 have limited financial resources. In practical terms, that means about one in three households is one unexpected expense away from needing help to afford food and other essentials.

Since its founding in 2009, The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank, formerly the Walworth County Food & Diaper Bank, has grown into a critical resource. The organization now serves more than 2,500 households each year and supports 19 partner organizations throughout the county with food, diapers, period supplies, and incontinence products.

Its current facility, a former medical clinic, has reached its capacity. The space restricts how much can be received, stored, and distributed. At this time, The Bridge is limited to assisting less than one third of the 14,200 Walworth County households struggling with food insecurity.

The Bridge is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is not federal, state, or county funded. It relies on private donations, grants, and a network of resource partners to carry out its mission.

The campaign, titled "Bridge to a Better Tomorrow," will fund the construction of a new, purpose-built facility designed to increase storage, improve distribution, and create a more welcoming experience with the ability to serve more Walworth County households in need. The new building will allow the organization to operate more efficiently while preserving dignity for individuals and families facing food insecurity, diaper need, and period poverty. Most importantly, the new facility will allow The Bridge to stabilize more households during periods of financial hardship and prevent short-term challenges from becoming long-term crises.



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Plans for the new facility include:

- Expansion from roughly 10,000 square feet across two levels to 18,000 square feet on a single level
- Streamlined operations that reduce food handling from five or six touchpoints to just one or two
- Expanded service hours with a grocery store-style layout that allows guests to choose their own food
- Increased capacity for freezer, cooler, dry storage, and food preparation areas
- Dedicated community gathering space for partner programs, education, and outreach

The organization has already secured \$2 million in early commitments from local donors and foundations. It has also purchased land in central Walworth County, near its current location, to ensure continued accessibility for residents, volunteers, and partner agencies. A detailed design for the complex has been completed by Corporate Contractors, Inc. (CCI) and state approval has been received for the project.

“A community thrives when its residents are financially stable and have enough food to eat,” said Tammy Dunn, Executive Director of The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank. “We know we can serve more people in crisis and do it more efficiently. This project will increase our capacity to strengthen individuals and families, support local businesses, and provide a strong foundation for our entire community.”

The Bridge invites community members, businesses, and philanthropic partners to join the campaign and help ensure every household in Walworth County has access to nutritious food and essential supplies. Community members interested in supporting the campaign or learning more can visit www.TheBridgeWalco.org or schedule a tour.

The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank is located at 205 E. Commerce Ct. in Elkhorn. For more information about the “Bridge to a Better Tomorrow” campaign or to get involved, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones, Development Director, The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank at 262-723-4488 or by email to elizabeth@thebridgewalco.org.

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