

# 2024

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# Annual Report



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Since 2009

EIN 26-4560796



On March 1, 2025, the Walworth County Food & Diaper Bank changed our name to **The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank**.

Together, we are building a bridge to a better tomorrow for our Walworth County neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.



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## **Board of Directors**

***Jennifer Myers***, Board Chair

***Karen Stoneman***, Board Vice Chair

***Paul Schmelzer***, Board Secretary

***Peter Wautlet***, Board Treasurer

***Dominic Sergi, Mark Reno, Mary Ann Moller-Gunderson,***

***Penny Hallett, Taylor Smith***

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**Formerly The Walworth County Food & Diaper Bank**

# About The Food & Diaper Bank

Walworth County is located in the Southeast Corner of Wisconsin. It is a popular resort area known for its beautiful lakes. However, it has one of the greatest income disparities in the state. Walworth County is home to one of Wisconsin's poorest populations.

Our mission began in 2009 with a group of local Boy Scouts pulling wagons of food. Throughout the past sixteen years we've expanded our operations to serve Walworth County as a food bank providing bulk food distribution services to partner pantries, and additional programs providing diapers, incontinence products, and period supplies.

We focus on providing healthy, nutritious food in a welcoming environment, treating our guests with compassion and dignity. As we look to the future in our fight to end food insecurity, our goal is to ensure that no one in Walworth County goes hungry. We will continually seek new ways to serve more neighbors in need, easing financial stress, and strengthening our community. Together, we are **neighbors helping neighbors**.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to help neighbors in need build life security by providing food, milk, diapers, incontinence products, period supplies, and complimentary programs and services in an inclusive atmosphere. We leverage resources, donations, and grants to optimize our community impact.



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# Messages from our Board Chair and Executive Director

## JENNIFER MYERS

BOARD CHAIR

Thank you for your support! 2024 was a year of intense planning, soul searching and decision making for our organization. With the amazing support from the community, our volunteers, partners and private foundations, we feel confident moving forward into 2025 with big plans to expand our operations and serve Walworth County even better.

We are excited at the prospect of being able to serve more of our neighbors in our new facility, working to ensure that no one in our community needs to decide between groceries or other critical household expenses.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope that we can continue to partner with you.



## TAMMY DUNN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 was a year of remarkable growth. We grew our volunteer base, we grew our guest outreach, we grew our staff, we grew our resources, we grew our fleet, we grew our partnerships, and we grew our community awareness and involvement.

But with all of this growth, there still remains thousands of Walworth County households that need our help. Our current space limits our ability in this fight to end food insecurity in Walworth County. Through focused strategic planning, we've embarked on a journey to improve our efficiency and operations.

The time is now to put Walworth County on the map as one of the leaders in caring for its neighbors. All of them. Together we fight, together we grow, and together we build bridges to the best tomorrow.





# Community Need

## Food insecurity risk affects 33% of Walworth County households.

In Walworth County,

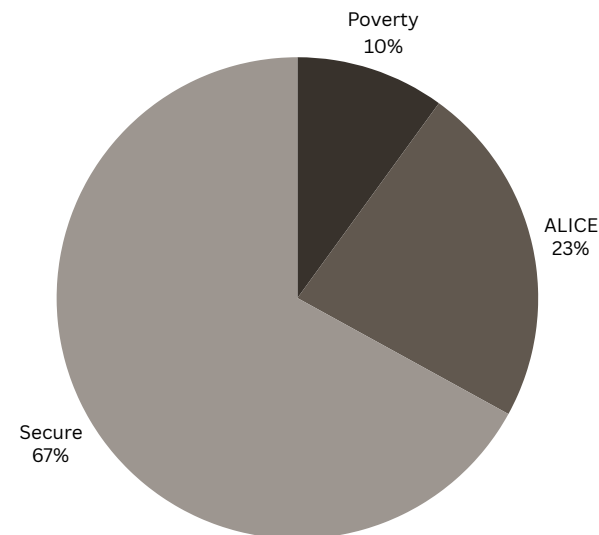
- 10% of our neighbors (4,400 households) are living below the Federal Poverty Level.
- 23% of the households in Walworth County (9,800) are considered ALICE households.

ALICE is an acronym for:

Asset Limited

Income Constrained

Employed



ALICE households earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. Learn more about our ALICE neighbors living paycheck to paycheck at [unitedforalice.org](https://unitedforalice.org).

In 2024 we served 1,300 households representing 4,000 people across 19 municipalities.

- 16% were older adults over the age of 60 years old
- 38% were children under the age of 18 years old
- 46% were adults ages 18 to 59 years old



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# Our Services

In 2024, we distributed **more than 500,000 pounds of food**.

## As a Pantry

As a food pantry, we provide assistance to Walworth County residents across 19 municipalities who are food insecure.

In 2024, we served 1,300 unduplicated households representing almost 4,000 unique individuals.

- 362 were new households
- 631 of 2023 households didn't return in 2024
- only 2% of our guests come for help every month

*Some households only need a little help to get through a difficult time. It's situational. Event driven. They don't want to rely on us. But they need us in the moment of crisis.*

## As a Bank

As a food and diaper bank, we provide assistance to multiple pantries and organizations throughout Walworth County. In 2024, we shared 4,000 lbs. of food every month, **a 2024 value of \$182,900**.

### Supported Partners

Agape House  
Big Foot Food Pantry, Walworth  
Chapel on the Hill Food Pantry, Lake Geneva  
East Troy Food Pantry  
Elkhorn Food Pantry  
Food For Life Pantry, Delavan  
Harold Johnson 14th Apostle Food Pantry, Delavan  
Lake Geneva Food Pantry  
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Genoa City  
Lutheran Social Services  
Mt. Zion Food Pantry, Lake Geneva  
Tree House Child and Family Center, Elkhorn  
Twin Oaks Shelter, Darien  
United Methodist Food Pantry, Delavan  
Walworth County Aging & Disability Resource Center

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# Diaper Bank

As the only diaper bank in the county, we fight more than food insecurity, we fight period and diaper poverty.



## Diaper and Incontinence Products

**In Walworth County, 1 in 2 households** struggle with diaper and incontinence product needs.

In 2024, we distributed **62,000 diapers and incontinence products** for babies, toddlers, older adults, and disabled residents of Walworth County.

## Period Supplies

**In Walworth County, 1 in 3 women** miss work and **1 in 3 girls** miss school because they don't have period supplies.

In 2024, we distributed **42,000 period products** enabling girls and women to feel confident and attend school and work when they have their period.

We are the only Walworth County member of the National Diaper Bank Network and the Alliance for Period Supplies. In addition to community drives and donations, our memberships provide access to purchase diapers and period supplies at heavily discounted rates.

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# Older Adults

The need to support our older adult population has never been greater.

We proudly prioritize serving older adults in Walworth County who account for 27% of those living in our communities. Many face financial challenges living on a fixed income to support basic needs like food and personal care products.

**Stockboxes** are an additional box of nutritional foods we receive through the Hunger Task Force. The boxes are given out monthly to income eligible adults 60+ years old. Stockboxes include items such as rice, cereal, juice, pasta, and vegetables. We are the only facility to receive and distribute these boxes in Walworth County. In 2024, we gave out **1,600 Stockboxes**.

We also provide older adults with a bag of personal care and household items monthly. In 2024, we gave out **1,900 CARE bags**, a **25% increase** due to a generous, designated donation from Bader Philanthropies.



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# Strategic Partnerships

Our food resources and purchasing power make it possible for us to **turn every \$1 donated into \$7 of food.**

# \$1 = \$7

We work with local, national, and government resources to acquire free food or purchase food at a reduced cost. Relationships with our partner resources are critical because we do not receive financial assistance from the government. **We are an organization fully funded by private donations and grants.**

Having a **loading dock** means we can **accommodate semi-trucks** and large donations. Some donation opportunities come in unexpectedly, and being able to receive and store them means more food for our shelves, and the shelves of other pantries throughout Walworth County.



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# Volunteer Driven

The quality of our community and of our county is defined by the opportunities to volunteer, to give back, and to help our neighbors in need.



**In 2024, we had 150+ dedicated volunteers donate 10,773 hours** of their time. According to *independentsector.org*, the value of a volunteer hour in Wisconsin in 2024 was \$33.49.

**10,773 hours x \$33.49  
= \$360,788**

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# 2024 Notable Achievements



- Awarded a new 26' refrigerated box truck through a Hunger Task Force grant

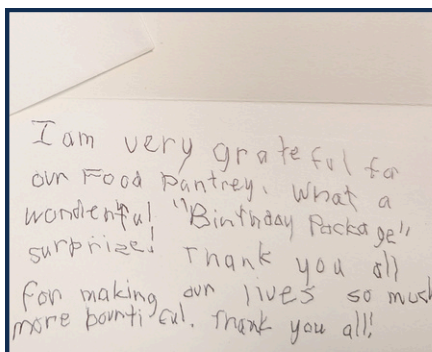


- Received a generous donation of cookbooks from Lake Geneva Country Meats to help our guests prepare healthy meals



- Grew 696 pounds of fresh produce in our own *Garden of Weedin'* planted with help from Badger High School students and tended by volunteers

## A note from our guest:



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# 2024 Notable Achievements



- Distributed hundreds of turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving and Christmas and were featured on Milwaukee TMJ4 News.



- Co-hosted the Toys for Tots event with Circle of Friends distributing thousands of toys for 750+ Walworth County children at Christmas



- Increased our weekly inventory of fresh fruits and vegetables through generous grants received from the Nicholas D. Sergi Foundation and the Paul M. Angell Foundation



**With support from a strong community network of neighbors helping neighbors, our mission and growth are possible.**



**PAUL M. ANGELL**  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



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# 2024 Statement of Operations

## Resources

### Cash

Fundraising \$27,335  
Grant Awards \$169,500  
Community Donations \$480,639  
Non-cash Donations  
Food\* \$1,387,062  
Diapers\* \$31,312  
Other \$154,000  
Total Resources \$2,249,848

### Distributions

Food Donated\* \$1,500,635  
Diapers Donated\* \$20,844  
Food Purchased \$97,438  
Diapers Purchased \$12,344  
Toiletries Health and Hygiene \$15,772  
Supplies \$4,275  
Total Distributions \$1,651,308

### Operations

Payroll and Related \$167,355  
Occupancy \$92,667  
Accounting and Legal \$11,135  
Marketing and Fundraising \$42,116  
General and Administrative \$25,096  
Total Operations \$338,369  
Other Income \$14,350  
Net Surplus \$274,521

*\*Hunger Task Force calculates the value of a pound of food at \$3.81 based on a blended basket of food items representative of a balanced diet. Diaper donations were valued at \$.50 each based on an estimated fair market value.*



# Contact Us

In 2024, consistent with our strategic plan, we added staff to sustain our mission and vision for the future. We have bold plans to increase service to our neighbors, the 15,000 households in Walworth County, who struggle to make ends meet.

We invite you to visit us for a tour and to learn more about The Bridge.

262-723-4488

[admin@thebridgewalco.org](mailto:admin@thebridgewalco.org)

[www.thebridgewalco.org](http://www.thebridgewalco.org)



## Our Staff

***Tammy Dunn***, Executive Director

***Elizabeth Russell-Jones***, Development Director

***Carl Gustafson***, Operations Manager

***Jill Jensen***, Volunteer & Community Specialist

## The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank

205 E. Commerce Ct. Unit B  
Elkhorn, WI 53121  
EIN 26-4560796

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