



November 1, 2025

A letter from Tammy Dunn, Executive Director

Hunger is a basic human need.

At the Bridge Food & Diaper Bank we've been monitoring food insecurity in Walworth County since 2009. The escalated challenges we see coming due to the pause in FoodShare (SNAP) benefits are concerning. We anticipate a significant rise in Walworth County neighbors that will need our help through the month of November and possibly December. Last week alone, we experienced a 20% increase in the number of Walworth County households we served.

There's never a good time to cut off a food supply. It creates a level of fear unlike any other. But it's heartbreaking when it happens during the holidays, which is the most stressful time of the year for families who struggle to make ends meet.

At The Bridge Food & Diaper Bank, we rely solely on private donations and grants. We receive no federal funding. However, more than 8,500 Walworth County households do receive supplemental funds through FoodShare, Wisconsin's name for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In fact, Walworth County receives \$1.2 million in FoodShare support monthly. Whether you believe that's low or high, necessary or unnecessary, there are people in Walworth County who are depending on that money to eat. Families, children, seniors, all ages. Many are already working two or more jobs in our tourism-rich, service-saturated community. I often heard the saying don't judge a book by its cover while growing up. That couldn't resonate any larger than it does at a food pantry. The situations, the crisis, the stories, the emotions, they are all very real. And they can happen to the person you sit next to at church, the child hanging out with your kids on the playground, or maybe it's even happened to you or to a relative.

In Walworth County, 33% of our residents are facing food insecurity. That's a staggering number. Does something need to change? Absolutely. But while we look for answers let's keep our community fed, nourished, in their homes, and able to turn on the heat. There are many great organizations in Walworth County that assist with housing and utilities. At The Bridge, we help with food, diapers, incontinence products, and period supplies. And we'll continue marching forward on this mission with over one hundred volunteers, neighbors helping neighbors, to make sure Walworth County residents have food to eat, and the fifteen Walworth County pantries that we collaborate with and support as a food bank have full shelves, refrigerators, and freezers.

Currently, we encourage your monetary donations and food drives. It will make a big difference. We also ask you to support your community pantry, local grocery stores, and farmers, as they too are largely and unexpectedly impacted by the lapse in funding. If you'd like to learn more about our mission, we invite you to come for a tour.

Thank you.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

TheBridgeWalco.org



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