

Food for Thought A Newsletter for Volunteers

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Hunger Statistics

According to the US Department of Agriculture, **Food secure** households had access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members

Food insecure households are uncertain of having, or unable to acquire, at some time during the year, enough food to meet the needs of all their members because they had insufficient money or other resources for food. Households with **very low food security** are food insecure to the extent that normal eating patterns of some household members are disrupted at times during the year, with self-reported food intake be-

low levels considered adequate. Thirteen point five percent (18.0 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2023.

The following is a snapshot of **Ozaukee County Food Insecurity from 2018 to 2022.**

Year	# People	% Population
2017	6,120	7.0
2018	4,720	5.3
2019	5,400	6.1
2020	4,760	5.3
2021	3,980	4.4
2022	7,290	7.9

Source: Feeding America

Not only do we strive to alleviate food insecurity with our pantry services, but access to vital programs such as FoodShare (formerly food stamps) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) help families tremendously. These services are accessible through Ozaukee County Human Services, and the Washington/Ozaukee Public Health Department respectively.. Feeding America also provides in-person sign-up services for FoodShare at our pantry periodically.



Client Gratitude

We often receive words of gratitude from our clients. If you ever think you're not making a difference, please reflect on these words recently left on our pantry voicemail:

'....I just wanted to thank you for everything that you've done. You're helping me through a very hard time in

my life and I couldn't be more grateful. Keep doing what you're doing. You're incredibly true heroes and I wish more people were like you in this world.'

When someone who is going through tough times, and still takes time to leave a message of thanks for us and the work we do, it really drives home

that this work is so very important. We are not just distributing food and clothing, we are impacting lives.



March Birthdays

Pat Ruthing, 6th
Joyce Brost, 9th
Kathy Wendt, 10th
Mark VanderHeiden, 11th
Barb Bichler, 26th

Food Pantry Website

We are in the requirements gathering phase of updating our website. If you have a website usability improvement you'd like to suggest, please get your input to Marcia, or put your idea in the suggestion box.

Sample of ideas already submitted:

- A way to submit donations electronically
- A more appealing front page
- Board of Directors list and bios
- Better organization of information
- More information behind 'tabs'
- Instructions for clients on the front page
- Use of better graphics
- Use of 'tiles' to click on for information
- Remove 'stale' information
- Information donors might like to see



Notes

Please contact Marcia, or drop a note in the suggestion box if:

- You have input, ideas, or questions regarding how we will operate in the new building,
- There is information you'd like to see in this newsletter



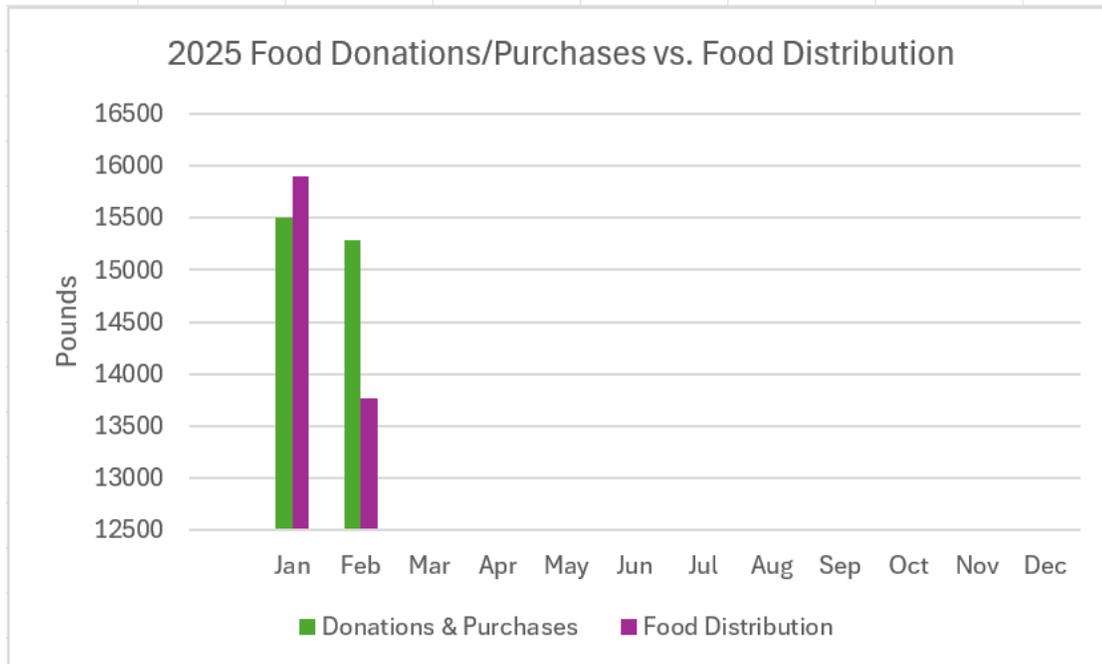
In Appreciation

- The Lighthouse Ministries youth group for collecting birthday items and assembling kits.
- Grafton Lions Leos for collecting money and food supplies for birthday kits.
- Divine Savior for assembling and donating birthday kits.
- St. Boniface in Mequon for their recent food drive
- All of our volunteers who give generously of their time and resources
- A donation of clothing racks for our new facility
- Portal, Inc. for their weekly packing of grocery bags on Wednesdays
- Sue Kruske, Trish Poull, and Kendra Young, who recently trained to do Costco pickups
- Scott Brost for replacing all the batteries in our smoke detectors
- New volunteer Heather Woods for taking over the Gift a Child and children's birthday programs
- New Volunteer Garrett Adams for taking on food barrel management and for helping at the elevator

THANKS!

Food Drives, Fundraisers & Events

- The Steerage Dining Saloon in downtown Port Washington continues to support our pantry with their special drink menu. One dollar from every drink sold is donated to the pantry. Stop in and try one and have a great meal too!
- The Cloverleaf 4-H Club will be hosting a food drive in March
- Lakeside Alliance Church will be hosting a food drive in March
- St. John XXIII School Lenten Project
- Port Washington Women’s Club collection for gift programs
- Food drive in conjunction with National Night Out hosted by the Port Washington Police Department (for Ozaukee County) Tuesday, August 6th



Pantry Collaborations

- Saukville Food Alliance shared several cases of frozen macaroni and cheese and mashed potatoes with our pantry.
- Family Sharing gave us a tour of their operation so we could get a sense of how we might set up our new location.
- We have invited Family Sharing and Ozaukee Food Alliance to join us for

National Night Out, held in Port Washington this year..



The Food Pantry, Inc.



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Working together to alleviate hunger in our community by acquiring and distributing food to those who seek aid.

Our History

Serving all of Ozaukee County residents, as well as Random Lake in Southern Sheboygan County. We distribute to all faiths and are blessed for the donated space in the Saint John XXIII rectory basement since 1982.



Board Members

Steve Hansen, President
Jim Langford, Vice President
Jennifer Binninger-Gomez, Secretary
Liz Busateri, Treasurer
John Vallier, Churches
Tom Didier, Business/ Community
Brian Boettcher, Food Resources
Sandra Pessaro, Schools

Board Members Emeritus

Pat Curtis
Pat Kozak
Phil Groothousen

Food Pantry Operations

Marcia Nosko, Executive Director
Joyce Brost, Food Manager
Lorraine Halls, Volunteer Manager

Marketing

Todd Korb

Grant Writing & Foundation Liaison

Monica Beale