

SUMMER 2025

THE INSIDE SCOOP

SECOND HARVEST

FOODBANK
OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

IN THIS EDITION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: **SUMMER HUNGER**

For nine months each year, schools are more than places of learning; they are the heart of their communities. They play a pivotal role in fostering connections and providing resources. They also offer a sense of community that is foundational for building stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods.

Additionally, schools play a critical role in addressing food insecurity during the school year. For those facing hunger, the meal programs, backpack programs, and food markets offered in school provide vital resources that help families make ends meet.

But what happens to those families when the lockers are emptied, lights turned off, and doors locked one last time before students head off for the summer? *Continued inside.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK **SUMMER HUNGER, CONT.**

That's when the community increasingly looks to Second Harvest and our network of emergency food providers to fill the gap that increases during the summer break.

This summer, tens of thousands of children will lose consistent access to nutritious food, making it harder for them to just enjoy being kids. That's why summer is a critical time for food banks like Second Harvest. That's also why your support is even more important now as we head into the summer months.

Summer should be a time of fun, exploration, and carefree childhood memories—not hunger. No child should have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, and with community support, we can make sure they don't have to. Thank you for joining us as we meet the needs of thousands of families this summer.

Take care,



Michelle Orge
President & Executive Director



THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERING: **BENEFITS FOR YOU AND OUR COMMUNITY**

At Second Harvest Foodbank, we believe that everyone has something valuable to contribute. **Volunteering is not just about offering your time—it's about sharing your unique skills, talents, and strengths to help build a stronger, thriving community.**

When you volunteer with us, you join our community working to ensure everyone has access to nutritious food. Your contributions help ensure our food bank runs efficiently and we can get more food into community. Volunteers are essential in sorting donations, assisting with administrative tasks, and supporting our distribution efforts. **Volunteering is also a great way to learn new skills and build meaningful connections.**

The beauty of volunteering at our food bank is that it's a shared effort. It's about coming together as a community to use our collective strengths to address food insecurity and respond to community priorities. By volunteering, you are helping build a more resilient community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

At Second Harvest, we see our volunteers as crucial partners in ending hunger and creating positive change. Your time, skills, and energy are the resources that help keep our community strong.

Learn how you can get involved by visiting secondharvestsw.org or contacting us at volunteers@secondharvestsw.org.

STORIES ARE POWERFUL.

"A member of our community, Jill, tragically lost one of her children. When the loss happened, she stopped working to take care of and spend time with her other three children. The community stepped up to help her by providing meals, helping with housekeeping, and checking in on the family regularly. As time went on, the community help slowed down, but the family was still trying to cope with their new normal and the loss of their family member. Jill was not in a position to be able to return to work, as her mental state was not in a good place.

One community member visited Jill and noticed she was short on many essentials like milk, eggs, and bread. She contacted our food pantry because she needed something quick, and we don't have a grocery store in our community. When this

community member came to our pantry, we talked about how the family was doing and if we could provide any support. She mentioned that taking groceries to the house wasn't a great option because she wasn't sure if Jill was ready to cook for her family. We asked this community member if she would cook for the family if we provided the groceries. This was a great partnership. It wasn't that community members didn't want to continue helping, but food is expensive, and they couldn't continue feeding a family of four on their own family's grocery budget.

Jill was extremely grateful to have this continued support from the community. This allowed their family time to grieve and get back on their feet."



Julie Schwenn

Executive Director
Deerfield Community Center



This June, you can help provide fresh, nutrient-rich milk to our pantry partners through our Adopt a Dairy Cow program!

Simply adopt a cow, choose how many gallons to donate, and download your adoption certificate to celebrate your new bovine friend.

Donate by visiting **GIVEDAIRY.COM**

THANK YOU TO OUR CAMPAIGN SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:



COMMUNITY CARE AT THE JEFFERSON PANTRY

Second Harvest works with over 300 partners and programs throughout southwestern Wisconsin to provide critical resources to our neighbors who are food insecure. **One of those partners—the Jefferson Area Food Pantry—has been an important resource for residents for more than 50 years.**

Every Monday and Thursday, the Jefferson Area Food Pantry supports between 40 - 60 households with food and other resources. **Households like Jacqi's.**

Jacqi has been coming to the Jefferson Area Food Pantry for 10 years. "I'm on social security and money is tight. A neighbor said I should come to the pantry to get help with groceries to get from month to month. Sometimes I can't always get here for

health reasons. So I'll wait a month or two and then come back. **It's phenomenal. It takes care of all my needs, and it gets me through. And I know I'll have a little extra so if I can't make it here, I can at least get through the next month.**"

For Cris Adams, a lifelong Jefferson resident and one of the pantry's Board members, when he retired eight years ago, volunteering became his way of being around people. "I'm all about volunteering. I get lots of calls, and I never say no if someone needs help. When I'm at the pantry, and it's open, I try to walk around and say hi to the people I know and new people and try to make it a friendly atmosphere."

When asked about how volunteering at the pantry makes him feel, Cris shared, **"It warms my heart. I'm all about paying it forward. The main thing is**

that our neighbors are being taken care of."

Like most of Second Harvest's network of partner agencies and programs, the Jefferson Area Food Pantry relies on volunteers to keep things running. There are no paid staff. One of the volunteer Co- Coordinators of the pantry is Tracey Burns. Tracey said, **"I love helping people. I try to lift them up."**

For Tracey, it goes beyond helping people because, in many ways, he knows where they are coming from. He can truly relate to struggling. "I wish I would have known about this stuff 25 years ago when I was scraping by. Back then, I made sure my kids ate before me. I was younger, paying child support while making a low wage. [Having access to a pantry] would have been a lot easier to get through it. When I go and talk to people, they understand that I know where they're at, and I try to lift them up."

"It makes a huge difference," said Tracey. **"Our guests tell me how much they appreciate getting the great quality food for their family, and it helps them a lot."**

For Jacqi, it's the people at the Jefferson Area Food Pantry that make the difference. "The people, the staff, everybody. So helpful. Friendly. It's a source of community. It's very welcoming. They welcome you like a friend or family with open arms. If a person is out there and in need, they should feel welcome to come here."

Thanks to supporters like you, Second Harvest and our network of amazing partner agencies are able to support families like Jacqi's throughout southwestern Wisconsin.

