



ANNUAL REPORT

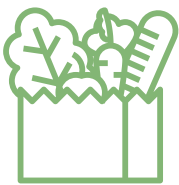
2023

**More Than A Food Pantry —
Investing In the Future of Our
Rural Communities**

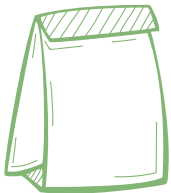
The Gathering Source, W7115 State Road 60-16 Juneau, WI 53039
(920) 927-1702
www.TheGatheringSource.org

WHO WE ARE

Our Mission: We are **DEVOTED** to caring for hunger, education and wellness in our RURAL communities in partnership with our schools, organizations, churches, businesses and caring individuals.



We are a food pantry where anyone can pick up a wide variety of nutritious food, based on their household size, every week at no cost to them. Our patrons self-certify their need for food.



We provide weekend meal packs to students in nearby schools where 10% of the students rely on their schools' weekday meal programs as their main source of food.



Backpacks filled with required school supplies are given to students at these same schools that need this assistance. Otherwise, the students would not have the tools needed to succeed in their classes.



We also provide life skills education to interested area residents in our facility.



We are a local service provider, as over 95% of the households served are within a 10-mile radius of our location.



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was another successful year for The Gathering Source!

112,000

POUNDS OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

In total, our weekly pantry distributed over 112,000 pounds of food and personal care items to 1,561 households with 4,870 members, an increase of 42% and 56%, respectively, over 2021. New households and their members were 213 and 625, respectively. Our community awareness efforts are attracting more households needing our assistance.

100

WEEKEND MEALS DELIVERED PER WEEK ON AVERAGE

Weekend meal packs were delivered to about one hundred students on average each week at the Dodgeland and Hustisford schools. One hundred eighty school supply backpacks (up 21% over 2021) were provided to students from these same schools. In addition, students conduct food drives and perform volunteer activities for TGS. We exchange needed products and services for the benefit of both TGS and the schools.

2,800+

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

We have over 30 caring, active volunteers who, in total, provided over 2,800 hours of service to TGS. Volunteers manage the pantry (distribute food, stock shelves, clean, etc.); pick up, receive, and sort food; deliver food to the schools; prepare and distribute the school supply backpacks; perform office support functions and assist with many other activities.

300

POUNDS OF FRESH FOOD GROWN

In 2022, our volunteers installed 10 raised food garden beds that produced almost 300 pounds of fresh produce distributed in our food pantry. And, we resumed life skill education courses for residents in our service area.

150

DONORS

In 2022, we had over 260 financial donations for operations from approximately 150 donors (foundation grants, other not-for-profits, corporations, and individuals).

TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Our goal is to provide access to our pantry, programs and leadership in a variety of ways.



Southern Dodge County, Wisconsin, is a very economically challenged, rural area. A well-accepted study indicates that 29% of households in Dodge County have fewer financial resources than it takes to cover the “Household Survival Budget”, or costs to survive.

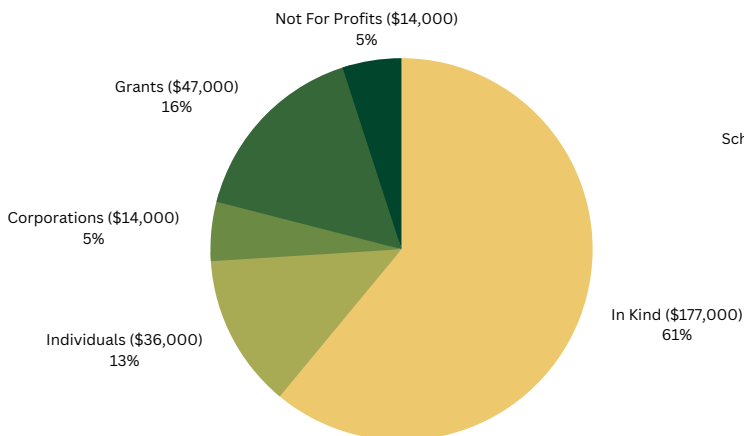


Costs of basic living needs are rising. Communities in our immediate geographic area have distressed economic resource levels higher than the Dodge County overall average. Students that qualify for free or reduced meal assistance at the Dodgeland and Hustisford schools we serve represent 44% and 36%, respectively, of all students in those school systems. Additional government assistance added during the COVID-19 Pandemic has been eliminated.

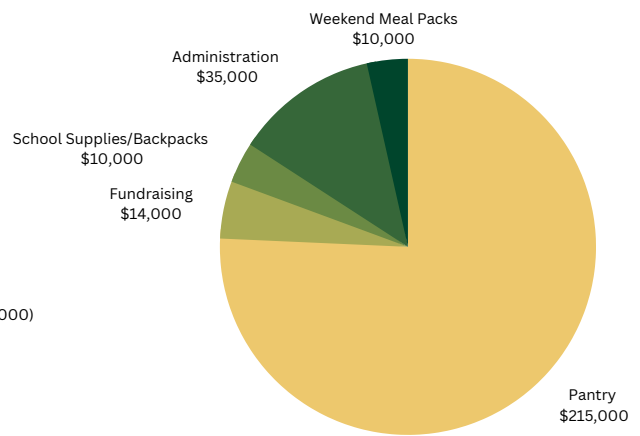


Our neighbors need assistance with basic food needs, school materials, housing and utilities, childcare, health care, transportation, and more just to survive. We are here to help anyone in need if we are able

Sources



Uses



THE FUTURE

The Gathering Source wants to reduce hunger, improve education and grow wellness in our rural communities in partnership with others. Our visioning includes expanding, to benefit our neighbors, into the following areas:

OUTDOOR FOOD GARDEN

We will expand our garden by allowing local area residents to plant and care for their own garden plots.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

We have resumed at least one life skills, social service needs, etc., education course per month hosted by various agencies in our area.

RESOURCE SESSIONS

We will provide onsite rotating topical subject matter experts for one-on-one sessions with individuals on social needs and life skills.

TEACHING KITCHEN

Plans are being developed in 2023 to construct and install an appropriate kitchen facility and use it to teach our neighbors how to plan, shop, prepare and serve meals.

MEDICAL CLINIC

Led by Church Health Services, we will install an onsite Medical Clinic for CHS to provide medical, dental and mental care at no charge.

"We are evaluating other ways to utilize our facility for the benefit of the community."



LEADERSHIP

We have a very dedicated, qualified, and hands-on Board of Directors which, collectively, bring a diversity of backgrounds and expertise for the benefit of The Gathering Source.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

- Bruce Wadman, President / Treasurer** – Corporate Controller, Alliance Laundry Systems (retired)
- Steve Westra, Vice President** – CEO, WDS Construction, Inc. (retired)
- Patricia Carroll, Secretary** – UW-Madison, Division of Extension Associate Professor, Dodge County
- Sharon Snow, Founder** – United States Postal Service (retired)
- Heather Cramer, Member** – District Administrator, Hustisford (WI) School District
- Linnette Heyliger, Member** – Uncion Fresca Senior Pastor, Harvest Evangelical Free Church
- Tanya Lemke, Member** – Owner, Sinissippi Lake Pub
- Terry O'Connor, Member** – Senior Vice President, Commercial Lending, Horicon Bank
- Thea O'Connor, Member** – Executive Director, Church Health Services

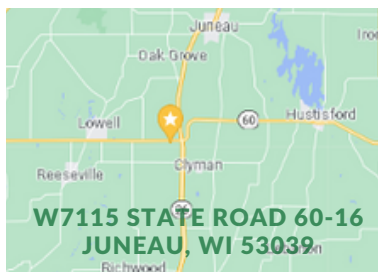


IN 2022 AND ONGOING, WE ARE EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN DEMAND FOR OUR SERVICES. THE STRESS ON HOUSEHOLDS OF INCREASING FOOD AND OTHER COSTS, INCLUDING THE CESSATION OF FREE MEALS AT SCHOOL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE ADDED DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC (FOOD SHARE) ARE THE PRIMARY DRIVERS.



OUR LOCATION

The Gathering Source is in the rural, southern half of Dodge County, Wisconsin.



Our facility is accessible by major highways in all directions. We serve patrons in need from any geographic area. We moved into our new facility in 2020. Moving forward, we plan to have the public use our large lobby, multi-purpose rooms and other offices for group education and other activities.



Our primary sources of food are Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin, Wal Mart (Beaver Dam), Kwik Trip (Columbus and Juneau), Pick 'N Save (Columbus) and Piggly Wiggly (Juneau and Waterloo) as well as food donations from individuals, churches, businesses and other organizations.

Facility Hours

Pantry food distribution hours – Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Other Availability

Food donation and other needs by appointment – 920-927-1702

Website: www.TheGatheringSource.org

Facebook: The Gathering Source

Email: execdirector@thegatheringsource.org

The Gathering Source, W7115 State Road 60-16 Juneau, WI 53039



THANK YOU!

Thank you all for making The Gathering Source successful. We look forward to making a greater difference in our community in the future!

"The Gathering Source provides essential services to an underserved population in Dodge County. Dodge County, as a whole, is considered a "resource desert", especially in our rural areas. The Gathering Source answers a critical need for our rural families and friends."

The United Way of Dodge County is proud to support The Gathering Source

