



Quick Things

The Food Pantry is still looking for a new space — and we need your help. We have scoured the Sauk Prairie area, reviewing many potential sites and buildings. Unfortunately, for various reasons, we have not yet secured a space to relocate to or expand into.

However, we are excited to share some very positive news: **St. Vincent de Paul of Sauk Prairie/Roxbury has pledged \$100,000 toward a future space once one is found.** This is incredibly encouraging and energizing for our efforts.

Thank you once again to St. Vincent de Paul of Sauk Prairie/Roxbury for your continued generosity and support. We are truly grateful.

2025 by the numbers

- 2,101 pantry families plus 266 school families for a total of 2,367 families served
- 260,298+ pounds of food received
- 213,030+ pounds distributed

What do we need?

These items are at the top of our list today:

- Diapers size 4, 5 and 6, and wipes
- Baking items – flour, sugar, vegetable oil, brown sugar, powdered sugar, baking mixes (brownies/cakes)

From the Director:

75,832

From October 1 through the end of the quarter on December 31, 2025, we received **75,832 pounds of food, personal care items, and more from YOU — our community.**

You didn't just help... **you carried the weight of the pantry** through a government shutdown, the threat of SNAP benefits being reduced or removed from our patrons, and the rising costs we are all enduring.

YOU carried us through the storm — and you continue to carry us.

In a typical quarter, we receive approximately **50,000 pounds of food. You absolutely smashed that average.**

This past quarter — what I fondly call “**Donation Season**” — was spectacular, overwhelming, heartwarming, stressful, and wonderful all at the same time.

While other pantries may struggle to meet the needs of their neighbors, **YOU, our community, came through and exceeded more than we could have ever imagined.**

Our shelves and backstock areas are looking fantastic and should carry us comfortably into the new year for several months — something I could not have said back in August or September.

MyFoodValley.net says, “*A single donation can create a ripple effect, inspiring others to embrace generosity.*”

We truly witnessed that ripple effect — from the first responders' friendly competition, to each school in the district hosting its own drive, to businesses setting personal giving goals, including **American Family Insurance / Andrew Strathman, Frey Construction, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Mueller Sports Medicine**, and so many more. You inspired the next person to embrace generosity, and you succeeded in the most important goal of all: **helping your pantry feed one more neighbor.**

And yes, I have to say it again... **IT TAKES A VILLAGE!**

We are beyond grateful that **you** are part of ours.

Till the next time,

Kris Ballweg



Kris Ballweg



Volunteer Spotlight: Nancy and John Klabough

Nancy and John Klabough began their journey together as high school sweethearts in Mauston before settling in Cross Plains and eventually making Sauk Prairie their home. They are the proud parents of two daughters and one son, grandparents to a growing family, and great-grandparents to 2-year-old Isla.

Nancy began her career in operations and engineering management for several Madison-based technology companies after raising her children and running an in-home day-care. Her lifelong commitment to kindness, care, and compassion has touched everyone around her.

John, a barber by trade, owned and operated his own shop until retirement. Known for his quick wit, he can deliver a punchline like no one else. How he remembers them all remains a mystery to those who share in the laughter.

John is one of our dedicated TEFAP crew members, driving the pantry truck to pick up donations, milk, and more. His nickname, “MacGyver John,” is well earned. He is our go-to fixer, accomplishing wonders with little more than ingenuity, chewing gum, and duct tape.

Nancy began her service at the pantry by stocking shelves and helping unload Second Harvest deliveries. She was later invited to join the Board of Directors and, despite her modest hesitation, has served very capably as Board President for several years. Always eager to do more, Nancy attends Chamber Morning Blend meetings, researches insurance options, helps develop promotional materials, and steps in wherever needed.

Together, Nancy and John manage the restocking and delivery of Go Fresh items to the Tower Rock School annex each week. Nancy also serves as the distribution manager for the fourth Wednesday of each month, coordinating volunteers from the pantry and the Indivisible Sauk Prairie group.

Both Nancy and John are invaluable members of our dedicated volunteer team — always bringing a smile, always offering a helping hand, and always strengthening the heart of the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry.



Donation Highlights

It was another outstanding quarter of giving. Here are some of the donations we received (in no particular order):

- Gifting Garland – Gullick Family – over \$1,500
- Frey Construction – over \$1,500
- Grand Avenue Read-a-thon – over \$800
- First Responders – almost 3,000 pounds of food and personal care items
- Cases of toilet paper (YAY!)
- St. John’s Lutheran Church, Prairie du Sac – almost 1,500 pounds from monthly food drives in 2025

If you see any of these people or organizations, please thank them for helping your Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry. Without events or contributions like these, we could not continue to help those in our community who need a little assistance here and there.

How can you help?

Click on [this link](#) to see current opportunities to help at the pantry. Check back often as opportunities can be added as the need changes. We would love to meet you and work with you!

Want to have a team-building exercise with your work team? Send an email to director@spfoodpantry.org or call 608-571-7737 and the director will work with you!

Maybe you would like to donate in other ways. If so, please check the [donation page](#) on our website.

Contact us

Phone: 608-571-7737

Web: spfoodpantry.org

Email:

director@spfoodpantry.org

Site:

821 Industry Road, Sauk City

Mailing address:

PO Box 652, Sauk City, WI 53583

Day of Caring teaches students about volunteering at the Food Pantry

What a wonderful Day of Caring held in December! Tower Rock 4th grade students visited the pantry, each group led by a National Honor Society student, and they truly made an impact. Together they filled cooler and freezer bags, sorted and stowed donations, bagged toilet paper and tissues, and tackled many other important tasks.

A special shoutout to **Sophia**, the NHS student who worked alongside me at the pantry. She was wonderful, hardworking, ambitious, and a true leader.

And the 4th graders? They **ROCKED** everything I threw at them! Their energy, teamwork, and willingness to help made it a fantastic day from start to finish.

If you see any of these people, students or organizations, be sure to



thank them for helping your Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry for without events or contributions like these, we could not continue to help those in our community who need a little assistance here and there.

What cannot or should not be donated to the Food Pantry?

This is a common question, so hopefully the following helps:

We absolutely **cannot** accept anything homemade, home butchered, or home processed. Examples: Home-canned items like tomatoes, jellies, vegetables, etc.; venison butchered in your home/garage/hunting shack, etc.

We can accept venison/beef/pork/chicken **IF** it has been professionally processed, so your favorite meat locker like Prem's, Straka's, etc., has butchered and wrapped the items.

DO NOT donate any food item that has been opened. No bottles of syrup, spices, shampoo, etc. If it has been opened, **DO NOT** donate it.

If a cereal box has been opened but the inside bag has not been opened, this **CAN** be donated. If the bag has been opened, **DO NOT** donate.

Dates: Whether you call them an expiration date, best-by date, use-by date, etc., for canned and some boxed items, we will use and can accept up to two years past the date noted on the product.

BUT, if the can is rusty, dented, bulging or looks gross, we would discard it because we do not know if the can was exposed to serious temperature fluctuations such as freezing and thawing.

Keep this in mind when going through your or a loved one's pantry.

Where does our funding come from?

Our pantry receives financial support from several important sources:

Annual Fundraising Campaign: Each year, we conduct one main fundraising campaign called **OMAT – One Meal at a Time**. We mail a letter to households throughout the Sauk Prairie School District, inviting community members to support the pantry financially.

Grants: We also apply for grants from organizations that offer funding through a formal grant process. These grants are competitive, time-consuming, and never guaranteed. Some are renewable, while others allow annual applications only if the funding supports a *new* project

or initiative. Examples of past initiatives include **Go Fresh** and **Delivering a Healthy Future**.

Planned Giving: Another meaningful source of support comes from individuals who include the pantry in their **trusts or wills**. These gifts help ensure the pantry's long-term sustainability.

Community-Driven Giving: Finally, funding comes from the heart of our community — children hosting lemonade stands, school and club projects, and countless kind, caring, and generous individuals who choose to give.

It all counts and it all adds up!