



Quick update

We're excited to share another milestone in our journey to our new home!

After interviewing, meeting with, and sharing our story with **five highly qualified general contractors**, the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry has selected **Friede & Associates** as our general contractor for the renovation of our new building.

This was not an easy decision. We were truly impressed by every firm we met with and are grateful for the time, thoughtfulness, and professionalism each organization brought to the process. We sincerely believe we could have been successful with any one of them.

Friede is now working to assemble the project team by soliciting bids from subcontractors. We are hopeful that several local contractors will have the opportunity to be part of this exciting project. As with any construction project, subcontractors will ultimately be selected based on a combination of qualifications, schedule, pricing, and experience working with a nonprofit organization, to name a few.

We are looking forward to seeing this project begin

See **UPDATE** on Page 2

From the Director:

As I sit down to write this newsletter, I can't help but smile. What an incredible season this has been for the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry!

For the first time in our 43-year history, we have a place to call our own.

Purchasing our new home at 1111 Sycamore St. in Sauk City, made possible through a loan from a local community bank, marks a milestone that many before us dreamed about but never had the opportunity to see become a reality. This achievement belongs to our entire community — our volunteers, donors, partners, board members, staff, and everyone who has supported our mission over the years.

Recently, we welcomed many of our

See **DIRECTOR** on Page 2



Pictured with Kris Ballweg, the director, is Eric, who raised \$10 for the Food Pantry by operating a flower stand.



We are incredibly grateful for the extraordinary generosity of Bill and Dr. Maribeth Baker, whose leadership gift of \$500,000 has been designated for our building project as a matching challenge donation.

Their remarkable commitment to the future of the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry provides an incredible opportunity for our community to multiply the impact of every qualifying gift while helping us create a permanent home for the families we serve.

Bill and Dr. Baker, thank you for your confidence in our mission, your vision for our community, and your extraordinary generosity. Your gift will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

DIRECTOR continued from Page 1

volunteers to our first-ever Ice Cream Social at the new building. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, excitement, and a few happy tears as we walked through the space together and imagined what it will become. Before construction even begins, you can already feel the possibilities.

While we're celebrating this exciting accomplishment, we also recognize that our work is just beginning.

Over the coming months, the building will undergo significant renovations to transform it into a welcoming, efficient, and accessible food pantry. Our vision includes expanded refrigerated and freezer storage, dedicated volunteer workspaces, a clean room for processing rescued food, improved distribution areas, and space that allows us to continue growing alongside the needs of our community.

Thanks to your generosity, we have made tremendous progress toward our Capital Campaign goal. We remain hopeful that we will raise the funds necessary to complete this project while keeping our annual operating budget focused where it belongs — acquiring and distributing nutritious food to families experiencing food insecurity rather than servicing debt.

Every donation, every volunteer hour, every encouraging word, and every bit of sweat moves us one step closer to that goal.

Speaking of volunteers, I simply cannot thank you enough. Whether you pick up donations,



stock shelves, package food, deliver groceries to homebound neighbors, tend our gardens, support our Go Fresh and Annex programs, or lend your talents in countless other ways, you are the heart of this organization. The Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry exists because of you.

As renovations begin, we'll continue sharing updates and milestones along the way. We hope you'll enjoy watching this building transform into a place that will serve our neighbors with dignity, compassion, and hope for generations to come.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for walking beside us during this exciting new chapter. Together, we aren't just renovating a building — we're strengthening our community and ensuring that every neighbor has access to healthy, nutritious food when they need it most.

With so much gratitude!

Till the next time,

Kris Ballweg



UPDATE continued from Page 1

to take shape and will continue to share updates as we move through the renovation process. Every step brings us closer to opening the doors to our first permanent home in 43 years!

YAY!! Here's to the next exciting chapter!

Volunteer Spotlight: Todd Taylor

Todd Taylor spent his professional career with Oscar Mayer and Kraft Foods in Madison and the Chicago area, holding leadership positions in Finance and Information Systems. After retiring, he and his wife, Linda, relocated to the Sauk Prairie area, where Todd soon became an active volunteer and board member with the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry.



Todd and Linda, high school sweethearts, are the proud parents of three children and six grandchildren. They treasure every opportunity to spend time with their growing family — and, of course, spoil their grandchildren whenever they can!

A proud Badger fan, Todd enthusiastically supports Wisconsin athletics. He also serves on the UW–La Crosse Foundation Board of Directors, where he has represented the Foundation by delivering numerous commencement addresses to graduating students.

At the pantry, Todd and Linda are familiar faces, regularly volunteering with our Costco Retail Rescue program by sorting, repackaging, and preparing rescued food for distribution to families throughout our community.

Todd also brings a wealth of financial and leadership experience to the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry Board of Directors. As a former Pantry Board President, he continues to play an integral role in budgeting, long-range financial planning, and strategic decision-making. He currently serves on both the Building Renovation Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee, helping lead the pantry through one of the most exciting and transformative chapters in our 43-year history.

Todd's steady leadership, thoughtful guidance, and generous volunteer spirit have made a lasting impact on our organization. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication to our mission and his commitment to ensuring that every neighbor has access to healthy, nutritious food.

Thank you, Todd, for all you do for the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry!

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.



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

Who are our Pantry Partners?

At the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry, we often refer to our **Pantry Partners**. But what does that mean?

A Pantry Partner is anyone who joins us in our mission of ensuring that no neighbor in our community goes hungry. Our partners come in many forms, and each plays a vital role in helping us serve families with dignity, compassion, and respect.

Our Pantry Partners include:

- **Volunteers** who give their time to pick up food donations, stock shelves, sort and repackage food, deliver groceries to homebound neighbors, work distributions, maintain our gardens, and support our school-based programs, and so much more.

- **Financial donors** whose generous gifts allow us to purchase nutritious food, maintain our operations, and invest in our future.

- **Retail Rescue partners** such as Prem Meat's, C2 Juicery, Dollar General in Plain, Kwik Trip in Prairie du Sac and Sauk City, Culver's Franchising, and Costco. These businesses donate wholesome food that would otherwise go to waste.

- **Community organizations, churches, civic groups, schools, 4-H Clubs, First Responders, National Honor Society, and other service clubs** that organize food drives, volunteer projects similar to birthday bags or Easter baskets, and fundraising efforts.

- **Corporate sponsors and grant partners** who invest in our programs and help us expand our capacity to meet the growing needs of our community.

- **Local businesses** that provide products, services, discounts, and expertise to strengthen our work.

Every partnership — whether it is a volunteer shift, a food donation, a financial gift, or professional expertise — helps ensure that healthy food reaches families when they need it most.

Together, our Pantry Partners, YOU, are building a stronger, healthier community where every neighbor is welcomed with dignity and compassion.

Thank you to all of our Pantry Partners for making our mission possible. We couldn't do it without you.

By the numbers

1 New home purchased at 1111 Sycamore St., the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry's first permanent home in 43 years!

1 Riding lawn mower generously donated by Rob and Deanna to help us care for our new property.

1 Weed trimmer donated to keep the grounds looking their best.

1 Pantry vegetable garden planted with several dozen donated plants — our first-ever vegetable garden! We look forward to sharing the harvest with the families we serve.

1 Very exciting new chapter! We are incredibly grateful for the generosity, support, and encouragement of our community as we build a permanent home for the Sauk Prairie Area Food Pantry.

WE NEED
YOU

SPAFP Volunteers

**SAUK PRAIRIE AREA FOOD
PANTRY**

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? Email 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.

What do we need?

- Diapers size **5 and 6**, and wipes
- Toilet paper
- Baking items: flour, sugar, vegetable oil, brown sugar, powdered sugar, baking mixes (brownie/cake), etc.

Coming next time ...

- I'd like you to meet...
- Donors / Donations
- Volunteers and volunteering
- Retail Rescue – why is it a big deal?
- What cannot or should not be donated?