How Your Kindness Helps Seniors

“I count my blessings every day,” says one recipient.

Patty, a senior in northeastern Wisconsin, has a traumatic brain injury and hasn’t been able to safely shop in grocery stores due to the pandemic.

With a monthly Social Security disability check as her only source of income, Patty receives food assistance through her local food pantries and the Farm to Family Drive-Up Food Distributions — a partnership between Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), local distributors, and farmers.

Patty visited the Menasha food distribution sites for help. “I cry every time I go there,” she explains. “I’ve seen all these volunteers standing out in the freezing cold, packing boxes of food and lunches into people’s cars, and off they go.”

Despite Patty’s disabilities, she still gives back when she is able, through knitting scarves and stockings and baking cookies to spread joy to others.

“I have found that you should learn to count your blessings, give back when you can, and lend a helping hand where you are able,” Patty says. “I count my blessings every day for the foods that come through Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.”

Because of your support, seniors like Patty have the food they need to stay healthy.

Stay Connected

Enjoy receiving our newsletter? Subscribe to our newsletter to receive emails about upcoming events, pantry spotlights, volunteer opportunities, and more!

Simply visit FeedingAmericaWI.org/signup to sign up.

21 Meals a Day!

How you’re helping to feed this large foster family — and many other children — this summer.

SEE PAGE 5

Every $1 will help feed a family of three!

Yes, Patti! I want my gift to help reach families in Eastern Wisconsin who are facing hunger. Enclosed is my gift of:

- $35 to help provide 105 meals
- $50 to help provide 150 meals
- $100 to help provide 300 meals
- $500 to help provide 1,500 meals
- $1,000 to help provide 3,000 meals
- $2,000 to help provide 6,000 meals
- $5,000 to help provide 15,000 meals
- $10,000 to help provide 45,000 meals
- $25,000 to help provide 135,000 meals
- $50,000 to help provide 270,000 meals
- $100,000 to help provide 540,000 meals
- $250,000 to help provide 1,350,000 meals
- $500,000 to help provide 2,700,000 meals
- $1,000,000 to help provide 5,400,000 meals
- $2,000,000 to help provide 10,800,000 meals

Amount $__________________

Phone Number: ____________________

Credit Card Number: _____________________________

Exp. Date: _______/_______ Security Code: __________

Signature: _____________________________________

I would like to donate $_________________ automatically each month using my credit card.
Dear Friend,

School is almost out for the summer. And even though we’re still feeling the effects of the pandemic, kids will be out enjoying warmer days, riding bikes, playing ball, and doing all the fun things kids do.

After a long day of burning energy, they need a nourishing meal. But sadly, for too many families in our community, putting any food on the table is a big hardship.

Every child should have the opportunity to experience the joy of a carefree summer. And a carefree summer means access to nutritious food to help carry them through their day.

Without that fuel, they are left hungry, tired, and often worried. Their parents are feeling the same strains, and then some. They are worried for themselves and their children.

Far too many local children suffer from not having enough nutritious food on their tables — particularly in the summer when the safety net of reliable school meals is no longer in place. But thanks to supporters like you, the children in our community — and their families — are able to enjoy the carefree moments of summer.

But they’re only carefree because you care. In the summer, donations typically drop — while demand for nutritious food often increases. That’s why I’m so grateful to have your generous support of our programs that help these children.

Please take a moment to read through this issue of Around the Table and meet some of the children and families that you’ve been helping. Then, if you’re able, I hope you’ll give a generous gift today to continue helping them this summer. Every $1 you give will help feed a family of three. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Patti Habeck, President & CEO

The Gift That Keeps on Giving
All of us want to leave a legacy, particularly in our own communities. You can do that today by investing in tomorrow — by including Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin in your will or estate plans, or as a beneficiary of a retirement or life insurance plan. Many options offer significant tax benefits while also meeting your philanthropic goals.

For more information, please contact Scott Marshall at 414-831-6323 or smarshall@FeedingAmericaWI.org.
“It Brings Tears to My Eyes”
You’re helping to keep a new mom and her young family from going hungry.

Cassie was a brand-new mom and needed some help feeding her young family.

Someone pointed her to the food pantry at The Salvation Army of Oshkosh, a member of the Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin network. On her first visit, Cassie was given a list of available items. She marked the ones she needed, including milk, chicken, pork, beef, and breakfast products.

“The list of items really stuck out to me,” Cassie says. “I never had anything like that, going to a food pantry where you get so many options.”

In addition to food, Cassie also receives baby products like diapers and wipes, as well as personal care items like hand sanitizer, hand soap, and toilet paper. Cassie also utilizes The Salvation Army’s hot meal program for her family of three.

“I love going there because everyone is always smiling and in a great mood,” Cassie says. “I never have to be afraid to ask for anything because they feel like another family.”

Cassie is extremely grateful for friends like you.

“It is amazing what donors do to support the food pantry,” she says. “It brings tears to my eyes seeing how nice everyone is at the pantry. There are a lot of people that are hungry, especially kids, which is hard to see as a mom.”

Thank you for helping a young mom get the resources she needs for her family.

“So Welcoming and Warm”
How a Racine food pantry makes this foster mom feel right at home.

Jayne originally started coming to the Kingdom Manna Food Pantry in Racine to fulfill a basic need for her family of 12, but believes God brought her there for many more reasons than the food.

“The first time I was there I thought, should I be here?” Jayne remembers. “I’m the type of person who doesn’t like to ask for anything. I like to be the one giving out the help.”

But she was immediately put at ease at the pantry, because “the feeling there was just so welcoming and warm. I feel so blessed because these people are my family now and I wouldn’t trade any of it. It’s really my forever home.”

Most of Jayne’s children are adopted through the foster care system and volunteer with her at the pantry. She wanted her kids to help at the pantry to keep them humble and help them realize that the people at Kingdom Manna come from all different walks of life.

“My kids will often say, ‘I saw this person from school or I saw my teacher at the pantry,’” Jayne says. “I think that makes them understand that you don’t have to be homeless or poor, but the need for food is there for many reasons. Someone could be sick, someone might not be able to get to the store, whatever it is!”

With her kids home from school, Jayne now has to provide breakfast and lunch every day, something they previously received from school. With a few of her kids grown up, Jayne still has seven kids at home with her — that’s 21 meals a day! Jayne is thankful for the wide variety of items she receives at the pantry for her family.

“I think people have a misconception that you just get the leftovers or generic stuff at a food pantry,” Jayne says. “It’s not like that all. We get amazing things from there.”

Thanks to generous donors like you, Jayne never has to worry about where her family’s meals are coming from.
Cher-Make shares your desire to feed hungry families. And who doesn’t love a great sausage!

The Best of the Wurst
Cher-Make provides tons of sausages and hot dogs for neighbors in need.

Due to the seasonal nature of business for Cher-Make Sausage Co., the company typically reduces their number of employees in early November to correspond with reduced orders. But Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin kept the Manitowoc company running longer and stronger, thanks to purchasing product during their slow season.

Cher-Make’s full-time employees were able to work full weeks right up to December 23, and the seasonal employees were able to remain employed longer.

Tom Chermak, CEO of Cher-Make, says the partnership created “a great opportunity to not only take care of our Cher-Make families, but on a larger scale help many families throughout Wisconsin.”

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin received 110,400 packages of hot dogs and 23,760 packages of polish sausages from Cher-Make. The large order was made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) — a special grant that helped Wisconsin food banks purchase Wisconsin food products to distribute to people experiencing food insecurity during COVID-19.

“Our partnership with Cher-Make is a win-win, keeping families employed and feeding hungry neighbors.”

In addition to all the meats, Cher-Make also provided a cash donation “to not only help Wisconsin residents,” says Chermak, “but also as a way to say thank you to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin for helping our Cher-Make families meet their personal needs.”

Like you, Cher-Make wants to help fight hunger in Wisconsin, and we’re grateful for the support!

Solving Hunger with Local Grocery Stores
Partnership with Save a Lot pairs grocery stores with pantries.

When Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin can support critical local businesses while also providing food to local families, it’s a win-win all the way around.

“This program has been beneficial for everyone.”

“We thought it would be a good idea to connect local pantries to grocery stores within their communities,” says Cassie Fauks, community impact manager at Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. “This way, we help not only the community, but we help the store, the pantries, and the people living there.”

The pilot program started with the Save a Lot in Green Bay and the six pantries in that region. Each pantry’s allotment depends on how many people they serve. Pantries were able to choose from a list of items like fruits, vegetables, milk, soups, peanut butter, and boxed potatoes.

Joan Swigert, director for the Resurrection Food Pantry of Green Bay, says she loves shopping at the local Save a Lot. “Not only do I shop here for the pantry, but also for personal use,” she says. “Shopping local is so important.”

The success of the Save a Lot partnership has spurred Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin to work with other grocery stores, like Tadych’s in Sturgeon Bay, Schaefer’s IGA in Crandon, and Oneida Market, connecting those stores with local pantries in those regions. Pantries working with these grocery stores were given gift cards so they can shop from a list of approved items at the store.

“With everything going on now and how much bad news there’s been, this program has been beneficial for everyone,” says Fauks. “We’re able to support local communities who are struggling.”

We are so thankful for community partners who share our mission to solve hunger.

Pantry teams from The Salvation Army and Manna for Life Ministries pick up their orders at Save a Lot.