



HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN ANNUAL SUMMIT

Thursday, October 2

Welcome and Introduction

Matt King, CEO, Hunger Task Force

Presentation from the Hunger Relief Federation

Mark Lisowski, Hunger Relief Federation Organizer, Hunger Task Force

Join us for an engaging opening presentation on the Hunger Relief Federation's ongoing efforts to drive policy change and strengthen nutrition programs through advocacy. Over the past two years, the Federation has made significant strides in mobilizing grassroots support, influencing state and federal policy and securing critical resources for anti-hunger programs.

This session will outline some of these accomplishments and explore how Federation partners — pantries, volunteers and advocates — can amplify a collective voice to push for stronger policies that combat food insecurity in Wisconsin.

Presentation: State and Federal Nutrition Policy updates

Reno Wright, Public Policy and Advocacy Director, Hunger Task Force

Over the past year, food assistance programs have experienced significant shifts at both the federal and state level. From funding cuts and tightened eligibility requirements to meaningful policy wins that strengthen support for families, these changes directly affect the work of hunger relief organizations across Wisconsin. This session will provide an overview of the most impactful updates to programs such as FoodShare and child nutrition programming, highlighting both challenges and opportunities for pantries and their communities.

Panel: Food Procurement at the Grassroots Level

Kyle Buehner, Food Procurement Manager, Hunger Task Force

Ryan Sullivan, Sullivan Family Farms

Paulina Baker, Farm to Families Coordinator, REAP Food Group

Sourcing food locally and regionally is essential for strengthening food security, supporting community-based solutions and ensuring culturally appropriate options for those in need. In this panel, audience members will learn of panelists' firsthand experiences in procuring and distributing foods from farmers, retailers, wholesalers and community partners. Panelists will discuss innovative approaches to sourcing nutritious foods, overcoming supply chain challenges and building sustainable relationships with local suppliers.

Federation Member Highlight: Brown County Hunger Coalition

Selena Darrow, Founder and Executive Director, Rooted In, Inc.

Larry Peterson, Manager of Resurrection Lutheran Food Pantry

Co-led by Selena Darrow of Rooted In, Inc. and Larry Peterson of Resurrection Lutheran Food Pantry, the Brown County Hunger Coalition comprises over a dozen pantry partners serving Brown County

residents seeking nutritious food resources. In this opening partner presentation, Selena and Larry will discuss the work they do at their respective pantries and among their coalition partners to enhance services and ensure pantry patrons are receiving dignified access to foods.

Breakout Session

Federation Members

The breakout session will have Federation members break into randomized groups to work through discussion prompts in each of their groups. Prompts will focus on features of organizational operation and are intended to invite conversation among participants evoking stories of challenges, successes and plans for the future.

Presentation: Childhood Nutrition Programming and How You Can Be Involved

Tania Ramsey, Childhood Nutrition Organizer, Hunger Task Force

Amber Daus, CEO & Founder, Grow It Forward, Inc.

Strong nutrition during childhood is essential for lifelong health, yet too many Wisconsin kids still face barriers to consistent, healthy meals. This session will spotlight key programs that address this need, including the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Federation members will learn how these initiatives work, recent updates shaping their implementation and the impact they have on reducing child hunger. The presentation will also feature practical ways for pantry leaders, coordinators, and volunteers to engage in advocacy efforts that expand access to these programs in their communities.

Speaker: The Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Jennifer Putzer, Food Security Unit Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Jennifer Miller, Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) plays a crucial role in supporting the state's food security through the administration of key federal nutrition programs, including CSFP and TEFAP. The Hunger Relief Federation is honored to host two distinguished DHS representatives, Jennifer Putzer and Jennifer Miller, at our Summit this year. They will discuss the work DHS has done to address food insecurity in Wisconsin and the road ahead in navigating challenges of feeding the hungry across the state. Their presentation will be followed by Q&A with attendees.

Panel: Operations, Inventory and Logistics – Supporting the Flow of Foods

Tara Roberts-Turner, General Manager, Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative

Kelli Hirt, Director of WI Food and Nutrition Services, Vivent Health

Panelist TBD

Efficient operations, inventory management, and logistics are the backbone of a well-run food pantry. In this segment, panelists will share strategies for streamlining food procurement, tracking inventory and ensuring a smooth flow of food to those in need. Panelists will discuss best practices for managing supply chain challenges, coordinating food distribution and improving efficiency.

Presentation: Beyond the Food Box – Quality Intake Practices

Imelda Roman, Site Developer, Hunger Task Force

Pantries provide more than food—they are often a first point of connection for individuals and families facing complex challenges. This session will focus on how to conduct thoughtful and qualified client

intake, ensuring that visitors are welcomed with dignity while also identifying needs beyond food assistance. The presenter will highlight strategies for making effective referrals to community resources such as housing, healthcare and employment services. Attendees will gain practical tools to strengthen their intake process and learn how to support clients holistically, helping them move toward long-term stability.

Panel: Nutrition Education and Outreach – How Can You Be Involved

Carmen Baldwin, Community Nutrition Manager, Hunger Task Force

Melanie Foland, Child Nutrition Educator, Hunger Task Force

Leah Kostos, Community Nutrition Educator, Hunger Task Force

Pantries play a vital role not only in providing food but also in empowering clients to make healthier choices. This panel will explore how nutrition education and outreach can support food-insecure populations across Wisconsin in building lasting, healthy eating practices. Panelists will share strategies they use—from offering culturally-relevant nutrition information to creating client-centered programs that make healthy foods more accessible and appealing. Attendees will gain ideas for how their own pantries can incorporate simple, effective approaches to nutrition education that strengthen community health and maximize the impact of the food they distribute.

Presentation: SNAP/FoodShare Updates

Allen Castillo, Public Policy & Outreach Manager, Hunger Task Force

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a critical resource for reducing food insecurity, yet many eligible families face barriers to accessing benefits. This session will provide an overview of recent updates to SNAP and what they mean for clients and pantries alike. The presenter will highlight best practices for supporting clients through the enrollment process, addressing common challenges and connecting households to this vital program. Attendees will leave with tools and strategies to strengthen their role in helping clients maximize available benefits and improve food security in their communities.

Workshopping Roundtables

Hunger Task Force Staff and Federation Members

Federation members will join in a roundtable discussion to work through a workshopping session that will be co-facilitated by Hunger Task Force staff and other Federation members. Members will choose one of three sessions they would like to participate in: planning an annual fundraising campaign; organizational governance and succession planning, or; developing and executing an advocacy campaign. The goal of the workshops will be to support Federation members in planning for their specific topic of interest and what they would like to incorporate into their pantry operations or strategic plan post-Summit.

Evening Social Hour (Location TBD)

Friday, October 3

Welcome and Previous Day Recap

Mark Lisowski, Hunger Relief Federation Organizer, Hunger Task Force

Federation Member Highlight: Paul's Pantry

Bob Hornacek, Assistant Executive Director, Paul's Pantry

Founded in 1984 by Green Bay legend Leo Frigo, Paul's Pantry started from a need to care for hungry people in the community who were unable to purchase enough food for their families. Since then, Paul's Pantry has served thousands of community members and rescued tens of millions of pounds of food, ensuring the food-insecure of Green Bay are provided nutritious foods with dignity. Assistant Executive Director Bob Hornacek will present on the history and legacy of Paul's Pantry during this compelling Federation member highlight.

Speaker: The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (TBD)

April Yancer, Farm to School and Institution Program Specialist, Division of Agricultural Development

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is a pivotal partner of Hunger Task Force. DATCP's April Yancer will join attendees at the Summit to share about their work, resources, and how they partner with anti-hunger organizations across Wisconsin. The presentation will be followed by Q&A with attendees.

Structured Networking Time

Federation Members

Structured Networking time will be a self-guided portion of the Summit for Federation members to connect with each other and learn more about other pantries in the network. Members will be initially sorted into groups with prompts to begin discussion. From there, members can feel free to mingle with others and create discussion from the prompts or discuss separate topics than the ones provided.

Presentation: Donor Stewardship

Will Skrundz, Donor Database Manager, Hunger Task Force

Camille Robert-Quakkelaar, Major Gifts Officer, Hunger Task Force

Sustainable pantry operations rely on more than food—they depend on strong relationships with donors and effective systems to manage those connections. This session will focus on best practices in donor stewardship, from cultivating lasting relationships to recognizing contributions in meaningful ways. The presenters will also share practical guidance on using donor databases to track giving, organize outreach and strengthen fundraising efforts.

Presentation: The Agenda for Action

Reno Wright, Public Policy and Advocacy Director, Hunger Task Force

As the Federation Summit concludes, this presentation will bring collective focus to the road ahead. Participants will learn about the key policy issues shaping hunger and nutrition in Wisconsin and

beyond, and how these issues directly impact the work of food pantries and the families they serve. The presentation will highlight practical ways that pantry leaders, coordinators and volunteers can engage in advocacy—whether through raising awareness, mobilizing their communities or partnering with Hunger Task Force to influence decision-makers.

Federation Member Takeaways

Mark Lisowski, Hunger Relief Federation Organizer, Hunger Task Force

Closing Statements

Matt King, CEO, Hunger Task Force

Optional Partner Tour of Paul's Pantry (TBD)

Paul's Pantry is just a five-minute drive from the Hyatt Regency KI Convention Center. Come join other Federation members for a tour of Paul's Pantry and learn more about the work they are doing to address food insecurity in Green Bay.