



HUNGER RELIEF FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN ANNUAL SUMMIT

Thursday, October 2

Welcome and Introduction

Matt King, CEO, Hunger Task Force

Presentation: The Federation and the Road Ahead

Mark Lisowski, Hunger Relief Federation Organizer

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 & Advocacy Director, Hunger Task Force

Over the past year, food assistance programs have experienced significant shifts at both the federal and state levels. 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

Paulina Baker, Farm to Families Coordinator, REAP Food Group

Kyle Buehner, Food Procurement Manager, Hunger Task Force

Ryan Sullivan, Sullivan Family Farms

Sourcing food locally and regionally is essential for strengthening food security, supporting community-based solutions and ensuring culturally familiar options for those in need. In this panel, attendees 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.

-- 15 Minute Break --

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 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

Attendees will be assigned to randomized groups to work through prepared scenarios. These scenarios will examine key aspects of organizational operations and are designed to foster discussion as participants develop strategies for addressing hypothetical challenges commonly encountered by pantries.

Presentation: Childhood Nutrition Programming and How You Can Be Involved

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

Tania Ramsey, Childhood Nutrition Organizer, Hunger Task Force

Strong nutrition during childhood is essential for lifelong health, yet too many Wisconsin children 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). Attendees will learn how these initiatives work, recent updates shaping their implementation and the impact they have on reducing childhood hunger. The presentation will also feature practical ways for pantry leaders, coordinators and volunteers to engage in advocacy efforts that expand access to these critical programs for their communities.

-- Lunch Break --

Speaker: The Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative

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

The Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative (WFHC) is a farmer-owned cooperative that provides sales, marketing, logistics, aggregation, food safety and other services to farmers. WFHC was instrumental in the logistics of the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) program when it was in effect and continues to help transform many small family farms into wholesale ready suppliers. Founding member and General Manager Tara Roberts-Turner will share the successes of the cooperative and future ambitions for the group and its partners.

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

Shelly Fortner, Executive Director, Hunger Task Force of La Crosse

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

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

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 Román, Site Developer, Hunger Task Force

Pantries provide more than food and 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.

-- 15 Minute Break --

Panel: Nutrition Education and Outreach – How You Can 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 emergency food but also in empowering clients to make healthier choices. This panel will explore how community nutrition education and outreach can support food-insecure populations across Wisconsin in building lasting, healthy eating practices. Panelists will share strategies ranging from providing culturally relevant nutrition education to designing client-centered programs that increase the accessibility and appeal of healthy foods. Attendees will gain ideas for how their own pantries can incorporate simple, effective approaches to community nutrition education that strengthen health and maximize the impact of the foods they distribute.

Presentation: Donor Stewardship

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

Will Skrundz, Donor Database Manager, Hunger Task Force

Sustainable pantry operations 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.

Workshopping Roundtables

From three options, attendees will choose one session to participate in: 1) planning an annual fundraising campaign; 2) organizational governance and succession planning, or; 3) 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: Hyatt Hotel Atrium | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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 formed from a deep-rooted care for hungry people in the community who were unable to afford 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

April Yancer, Farm to School and Institution Program Specialist, Division of Agricultural Development
The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is a key partner of Hunger Task Force and the Hunger Relief Federation. April Yancer of DATCP will provide an overview of the agency's work, available resources and partnerships with anti-hunger organizations across Wisconsin. The presentation will conclude with a Q&A session.

Structured Networking Time

Attendees will have an opportunity to connect and exchange ideas in a guided yet flexible format. The session will begin with attendees sorted into small groups and provided with discussion questions to spark conversation and encourage introductions. Following these initial conversations, participants will be invited to move about the room, continue building connections and engage in discussions – whether following the guiding questions or exploring topics most relevant to their work.

-- 15 Minute Break --

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 these changes mean for clients and pantries. The presenter will highlight best practices for supporting clients through the enrollment process, addressing common challenges and connecting households to SNAP resources. Attendees will leave with tools and strategies to strengthen their role in helping clients maximize available benefits and improve food security in their communities.

Presentation: The Agenda for Action

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

As the Summit concludes, this presentation will bring collective focus to the road ahead. Attendees will learn about 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.

Summit Takeaways

Mark Lisowski, Hunger Relief Federation Organizer, Hunger Task Force

Closing Statements

Matt King, CEO, Hunger Task Force

-- Adjournment --

Optional Tour: Paul's Pantry

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.

***Address: 1520 Leo Frigo Dr, Green Bay, WI 54302**