Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes
October 27, 2026
Location: Mukwonago Food Pantry

Attendance: *Chloe Bingenheimer- Community Smiles Dental; Eva Platte- Waukesha Head Start; Jill Herz- UW-Madison Extension FoodWIse; Hannah Hazelberg- Mukwonago Food Pantry; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic; Lisa Topp- Waukesha County WIC; Barb Jacob- New Berlin Food Pantry; Marina Rodriguez- Food Pantry of Waukesha County.*

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Updates:

Our next meeting will be in February 2027. See you next year!

Mukwonago Food Pantry Tour- Hannah Hazelberg:

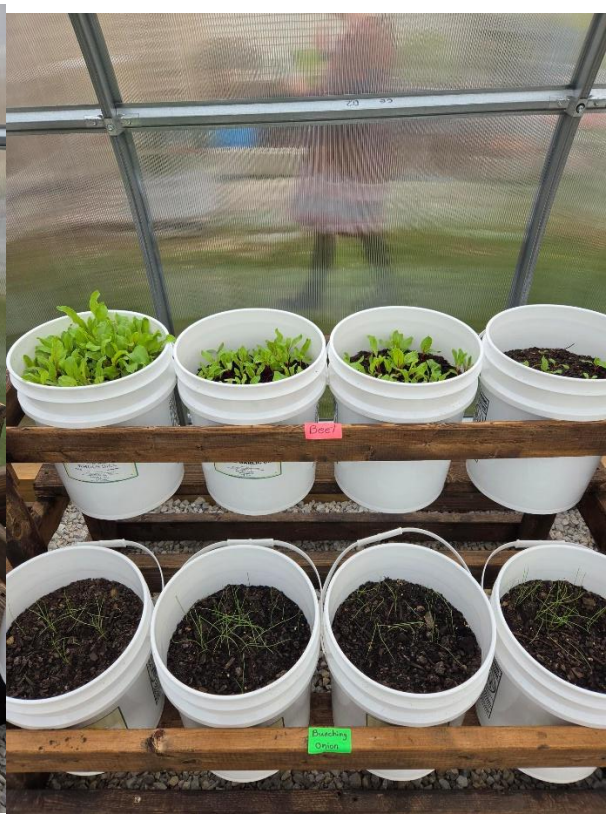
Tour Photos:











Tour: Mukwonago Food Pantry was established in 1989, serving the community for 37 years. The pantry service area includes communities within the Mukwonago Area school district (Mukwonago, Eagle, Vernon, Big Bend). Service hours are Monday-Thursday 9-3, and the second Saturday of the month 9-12. The pantry has an online ordering system, originally established during COVID years, that allows clients to view available food items and select a pickup time during service hours. Clients like it because it is so much faster. Hygiene items are also available and tend to go quickly. The pantry currently has about 500 families in their database, with about half utilizing services in a typical month. Primary populations served are: senior citizens, large families with a single income, and people in acute financial crisis. Pantry use tends to increase during summer months and holidays. They offer senior stockboxes as well, provided by Hunger Task Force.

The Mukwonago Food Pantry has undergone some recent changes to their site, including closing and selling the thrift store at 225 Eagle Lake Ave, purchasing the neighboring building at 305 Eagle Lake Ave, adding storage space to the main building, and adding a greenhouse and garden space.

Toured areas:

- Adding storage space: Since 2002, the main building at 325 Eagle Lake Ave. has been their home. The pantry added 1,000 sq ft to this building in 2025. Prior to the expansion, the pantry had limited receiving and storage space. The added storage has made the building much more functional.
- Closure of thrift store/purchase of neighboring building: The thrift store closed at the end of 2022. The closure and sale of that building allowed for the purchase of 305 Eagle Lake Ave, which now serves as the pantry's social services building. Much of the thrift store inventory went to Love Inc in Burlington and Hope Center in Waukesha. In the social services building, the Mukwonago Food Pantry hosts non-food programs including United Way school supplies program, the senior barbecue and resource fair in June (60-80 seniors attended this year), and Christmas gifts for families. This building also has office space that they are currently looking to rent.

- Greenhouse and gardens: The greenhouse idea was inspired by Hunger Task Force's farm and Kinship food center in Milwaukee, with the goal of growing more food on site. Trying to grow most-requested and least-donated items such as potatoes, lettuce, peppers, green beans.

Emailed Agency Updates:

Waukesha County WIC- Lisa Topp:

- Just a reminder, for eligible participants, the deadline to apply for the Christmas Clearing Council is approaching on November 15th.https://www.christmasclearingcouncil.org/application
- Waukesha County is hosting the Discover & Do Spectacular, a free event at the Waukesha County Expo on Thursday, Oct. 29 from 4-8PM. See flier (attached to email).
- Farmers' market season has come to an end. WIC distributed all of our check booklets and families have reported using many of them at the markets.
- WIC is hiring for an LTE Public Health Technician (see flyer, attached to email).

Community Smiles Dental- Chloe Bingenheimer: A big update from Community Smiles Dental is that we are expanding and opening a third clinic in Milwaukee! Community Smiles Dental's Milwaukee clinic will be a part of **The Beacon**, Aurora Health Care's new health and wellness hub at 27th and Wisconsin Avenue. The former Wisconsin Avenue School is being transformed into a place where healthcare, social services and community resources come together under one roof. The clinic is scheduled to open Spring/Summer of 2027.
Besides that, we are currently accepting new patients. I have attached some flyers to this email in Spanish and English. If any organization would like physical copies, they can reach out to me and I can coordinate a drop off time!

Next Meeting: February 2027

Details will be shared closer to the meeting date