



[www.waferlacrosse.org](http://www.waferlacrosse.org)

**“Our Mission: Responding to God’s love, WAFER provides food and works to eliminate hunger.”**

## U-Bake...U-Help, April 22<sup>nd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Here’s how to fill your pantry and ours during U-Bake’s *Fighting Hunger~Feeding Hope* campaign!

Purchase an item at U-Bake in Shelby Mall, make a nonperishable food or cash donation to **WAFER** while you’re there and receive a 10% discount.

U-Bake’s goal for **WAFER** is \$100 and 250 food items. Stop by and help them out with this tasty fundraiser.

For hours and location, see <http://www.ubakeusa.com/lacrosse> (Excludes: Sale, holiday & Gluten Free items).



Richard Warner (left), and WAFER director, Heidi Blanke (right).

## Laundry Express & WAFER Clean-Up!

Richard and Kathleen Warner, owners of Laundry Express, presented a \$500 check to **WAFER** at the grand opening of their new laundromat on Mormon Coulee Road.

Last year, the business held a naming contest, with \$5 donated for every name suggested.

If you would like to receive **WAFER** email updates, simply contact us with your email address.

To donate electronically, please go to [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org)

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**Helping  
Hands**

## **WAFER and You... Making A Difference**

Last year, you helped **WAFER** provide groceries to over 10,000 individuals in LaCrosse County.

Thanks to your persistence in making sure we could fill our shelves with healthy food, we gave almost 700,000 pounds to anyone who needed a little extra assistance.

Families like Melinda and Phillip, who help support three generations in their home, or senior citizens like Sandra, who survive on minimal income, can fill their cupboards because of you.

Your donations, both food and financial, let us keep our doors open. As the increased need requires a greater financial goal in 2010, please consider increasing your level of support.

Your dollars will help feed an ever growing number of families who need your help in order to get a simple meal on the table.

Thank You.

Heidi Griminger Blanke  
**Executive Director**

## **Divas Night Out, Food & Fun!**

Lillians is holding a special preview night just for friends of **WAFER**.

Treat yourself to something special and Lillians will donate 10% of the sales to **WAFER**. Everyone can enter for a Lillians door prize, but bring a food donation and be entered in a second drawing.

Wednesday, May 5th, 2010 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Lillians, 200 Main Street, LaCrosse, WI

Refreshments and door prize



Help us spread the word for this exciting event!

## **Spring Clean for Cans**

Do you have a can or box of food in your cupboard that you haven't used in over a year?

Although chances are that you probably will not use it, **WAFER** will find a client who is eager to add the item to their food package.

Don't worry about expiration dates...we'll check to see what is still usable. Remember to include any unopened toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) in your donation.

Spring cleaning has never felt so good!

### **In 2009, WAFER donors and volunteers...**

- Distributed 15,510 food packages
- Helped 928 new households
- Gave 9,501 hours of volunteer time
- Provided 683,703 pounds of donated & purchased food

## **Share the Bounty**

Spring Fever will soon be here and with it comes the opportunity to help our clients eat more nutritiously.

If you are a gardener, consider planting an extra row or container of produce to bring to any food site, including **WAFER**.

Our clients are always eager for fresh fruits and vegetables, and this is a simple way to help keep the Coulee Region a healthier place.



***In The Spotlight...***

**Company:**  
Festival Foods

**Volunteer:**  
Stacy, Dan & Family

Several times a week, carts full of bakery and nonperishable items are wheeled through LaCrosse's Festival Foods doors and into **WAFER's** van.

In 2009, Festival generously donated close to 13,000 pounds of a wonderful variety of items. **WAFER** clients especially love the single serve pies Festival often sends our way.

***Thank you, Festival Foods!***

Stacy Shapiro & Dan Baumgardt, and their young sons Hunter and Sawyer, make volunteering a family affair. As a family, their vision "is to leave the world better than we found it" and they are certainly making an impact at **WAFER**.

All together, they have assisted **WAFER** in feeding the hungry with close to 100 hours of volunteer time. Thank you for helping take care of our world.

***Thank you, Stacy, Dan & family!***

**FOOD DRIVES:** "THANK YOU" to these outstanding businesses & organizations for holding food drives in the past few months.

Aquinas High School  
 Badger State Sportsman's Club  
 Breidenbach Chiropractic  
 Canadian Pacific Railway  
 Carpenters and Joiners Local 1143  
 Cashton High School FFA  
 Central High School  
 Chartwells-UWL  
 Cindy Gerke & Associates Realty  
 City Wear  
 Christ Episcopal Church  
 Dahl Automotive  
 English Lutheran Church ELCA  
 First Congregational Church  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 Fort McCoy Dentac  
 Globe University  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
 Goodwill Industries  
 Hawkins, Ash, Babbie & Co.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
 John's Bar  
 La Crosse Area Quilters Guild  
 La Crosse Area Bar Association  
 La Crosse Chamber Chorale  
 La Crosse Flyers Club  
 La Crosse Jaycees  
 La Crosse Public Library  
 La Crosse Tribune  
 Logan High School  
 Luxemburg/American Descendents  
 Main Street Ingredients  
 North Presbyterian Church  
 Oktoberfest Fraus  
 Olivet Lutheran Church  
 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church ELCA  
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church ELCA  
 Outers Operations ATK  
 People's Food Cooperative  
 Radiant Body

Retired Eagles  
 Reinhart  
 Roncalli Newman Parish  
 Rotary Lights  
 St. John UCC  
 St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral  
 St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
 Southern Bluffs Elementary School  
 Stamp 'n Hand  
 Stoffer Court  
 Town & Country Garden Club  
 Trinity Lutheran Church  
 University of Wis.- La Crosse, Rec. Sports  
 Weight Watchers  
 Wesley United Methodist Church  
 Western Technical College  
 Wichelt Imports, Inc.  
 Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture

## Thank You, Weekly Donors!

Aldi  
Festival Foods  
Linda's Bakery  
Panera  
Starbuck's  
Walmart



## Our Wish List

- Rubber, comfort mats.
- Entry mats.
- Chest freezer.
- 6-foot, stainless-steel table.
- Digital Camera (and card).

## Our Wonderful Volunteers!

**December:**      **January:**

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Nancy Luhm     | Michael Young        |
| Kathy Thom     | Kerry Daily Pierce   |
| Lou Wuensch    | Matthew Daily Pierce |
| Joanne Wuensch | Giang Pham           |
| Judy Seifert   | Ciarra Bullard       |

**TOP HOURS: December and January**

### A Special Note

## Feinstein March Fundraiser

Can you help us raise some extra dollars the easiest way possible?

Simply make a donation to **WAFER** of food or money in March or April and we'll get a percentage of the \$1 Million Feinstein Challenge Giveaway to Fight Hunger.

For the last 13 years, the Feinstein Foundation has divided \$1 Million among participating agencies across the country.

Every dollar donated, as well as every pound of food donated (one pound=\$1), counts toward the total. This year, **WAFER's** goal is to submit \$200,000 worth of food and monetary donations.

Will you help?

## New and Improved

Thanks to Sue Weideman of **Hera Marketing**, our web page has a fresh, new look and it's loaded with information.

Be sure to check it out on a regular basis.

If you've held a food drive or **WAFER** event, we're always happy to post your photos.

## Our Terrific New Look

Thanks to Eric Bowen of **E.B. Graphics**, our newsletter has a much more professional appearance.

Eric is a graphic designer and illustrator who donates his time to give this newsletter a wonderful new look!

### Geek Needed

Every now and then, **WAFER** requires a little help navigating both software & hardware for our computers.

If you have IT expertise and would like to act as our occasional (free) consultant, please let us know.

# WAFER

403 Causeway Boulevard  
LaCrosse, WI 54603

(608) 782-6003

[waferfoodpantry@centurytel.net](mailto:waferfoodpantry@centurytel.net)

## Hunger in Wisconsin

Last Fall, **WAFER** was part of a hunger study completed by Feeding America.

From it, we learned:

- 40% of food insecure households have children.
- Over one-third of clients must choose between buying food and paying for utilities, rent, transportation, or medical care.
- Over 80% of food pantries served record numbers of people last year.

However, there is good news. Almost all clients say they are satisfied with the food they receive. That's because you assist us in keeping our shelves stocked with a variety of choices.

In addition, nearly all food pantries in the study rely heavily on volunteers.

Last year, you donated over 9,500 hours of your time, the equivalent of more than \$75,000 in wages. Those dollars can, instead, pay for more than four months of food for **WAFER** clients.



### Think About a Theme Drive...

Looking for a fun way to help **WAFER**? Hold a theme food drive, centering it on a particular item, holiday, or even an event.

Here are some ideas...

#### St. Patrick's Day Drive:

Canned peas, green beans, spinach, and asparagus.

#### Bakery Drive:

Flour, sugar, cake mixes, and chocolate chips.

#### Toiletries Drive:

- Shampoo, toothpaste, soap, and razors.

Need more ideas? See our web page.

### Board of Directors

|                              |   |                |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Rev. Mark<br><b>Solyst</b>   | — | President      |
| Rev. Taylor<br><b>Haley</b>  | — | Vice-President |
| Don<br><b>Smith</b>          | — | Secretary      |
| Lee<br><b>Bluske</b>         | — | Treasurer      |
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| Margaret<br><b>Herlitzka</b> |   |                |
| Barb<br><b>Kruse</b>         |   |                |
| Jerry<br><b>Saterbak</b>     |   |                |
| Judy<br><b>Seifert</b>       |   |                |



### Administrative Staff

|                                  |   |                              |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Heidi Griminger<br><b>Blanke</b> | — | Executive Director           |
| Susan<br><b>Clements</b>         | — | Assistant Executive Director |

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