

Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County, Wisconsin

2025 Annual Report

About the Hunger Prevention Council

The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County (HPC) is a nonprofit coalition dedicated to ensuring that all residents have reliable access to nutritious food. Since 1999, HPC has served as the coordinating backbone for food-assistance efforts across the county, bringing together local food pantries, community organizations, volunteers, and public agencies to strengthen the countywide hunger-relief network.

HPC focuses on collaboration, resource-sharing, and strategic planning. By supporting independent food pantries and fostering partnerships, the Council works to reduce food insecurity, improve service consistency, and build a more resilient community support system.



Supporting Pierce County residents' quality of life by
providing equitable access to food and resources.

OUR VISION

Pierce County residents will have consistent access to quality food and resources by
expanding our network of community partnerships.

2025 Board of Directors

- **President:** Kathleen Hunzer
- **Vice President:** Katie Bartko
- **Treasurer:** Jackie Slocum
- **Secretary:** Daric Snyder
- **Board Member:** Andy Johnson
- **Board Member:** Kathi Jensen
- **Board Member:** Sue Galoff
- **Board Member:** Open position
- **Board Member:** Barb Turner

About the Pantry

The Pierce County Food Pantry, located in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, serves as a vital resource for individuals and families facing food insecurity across the county. Staffed by volunteers and supported by the Hunger Prevention Council, the pantry provides emergency food assistance in a welcoming, accessible environment. In addition to distributing USDA TEFAP foods and donated groceries, the pantry offers personalized support to help clients navigate available resources and reduce barriers to food access.

Pierce County Food Pantry

Supporting Families with Dignity and Consistency



Hours of Operation

- **Tuesday, Thursday:** 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
 - **Monday, Wednesday:** 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 - **Closed Friday–Sunday**
 - **Phone:** 715-273-2070
 - **Email:** hungerprevention@gmail.com
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2025 Highlights & Impact

Despite continued economic pressures and rising demand, the Pierce County Food Pantry remained a cornerstone of community support in 2025. Volunteers, donors, and partner organizations helped ensure that no one in Pierce County went without access to nutritious food.

Estimated Service Statistics

Category	Estimated 2025 Total
Total Individuals Served	9519
Total Families Served	2570
Children Served	2288
Seniors Served	1401
Pounds of Food Distributed	208567 lbs
Pantry Visits	3410

2025 Highlights

- Maintained consistent pantry hours and volunteer staffing despite increased demand.
- Participated in countywide resource-sharing and TEFAP distribution coordination.
- Improved client intake and tracking systems to better understand community needs.
- Strengthened partnerships with local farms, donors, and community organizations.
- Continued efforts to reduce stigma and promote equitable access to food assistance.

To donate please visit hungerpreventioncouncil.com
and click on **GIVE** or Call 715-273-2070

Thank you!

Mobile Pantry Program

Overview

The Mobile Pantry program is a vital extension of the Hunger Prevention Council's commitment to equitable food access. Designed to serve individuals and families who face transportation barriers, the Mobile Pantry delivers groceries directly to clients' homes across Pierce County. This service ensures that rural residents, seniors, and those with mobility challenges are not left behind in the county's hunger-relief efforts.

Because of our community commitment to ensure that every household in Pierce County has access to healthy, reliable food, we are thrilled to share that the new mobile pantry van has been purchased and is officially on the road serving our community.



2025 Highlights

- **Expanded Home Delivery Service:**
Delivered food to dozens of households each week, prioritizing clients with limited transportation or mobility.
- **Food Recovery Operations:**
Picked up surplus and donated food from participating grocery stores and food marts nearly every day, ensuring timely redistribution to pantries and clients.
- **Volunteer Coordination:**
Maintained a dedicated team of drivers and logistics volunteers who ensured safe, reliable delivery and pickup routes throughout the county.
- **Community Partnerships:**
Strengthened relationships with local retailers and suppliers to increase the volume and variety of recovered food.

Backpack Program

Weekend Nutrition for Students



2025 Backpack Program Impact

- **Students served weekly: 24**
- **Total backpacks distributed: 274**
- **Schools participating:**

Ellsworth, WI

Elementary School, Middle School and High School

The Backpack Program continues to provide essential weekend food support for students who might otherwise face hunger when school meals are unavailable. Each backpack contained easy-to-prepare, kid-friendly items designed to reduce food insecurity and help students stay focused and healthy.

2025 Highlights

- Weekly distribution across participating schools
- Strong collaboration with school staff and counselors
- Community donations that kept shelves stocked
- Volunteers who packed and delivered bags with care



Pantry Garden Program

Fresh, Local Produce for Families



Overview

The Pantry Garden Program provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to clients of the Pierce County Food Pantry. Managed by volunteers and supported by community donations, the garden enhances the nutritional value of pantry offerings and promotes seasonal eating, food education, and community engagement.

The garden spans approximately 10 feet by 30 feet and includes a mix of annual vegetables and perennial fruit trees. Produce is harvested weekly during the growing season and distributed directly to pantry clients.

2025 Crops Grown

- **Vegetables:** Beans, radishes, cilantro, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, mint, rhubarb, onions, broccoli
 - **Fruits:** Strawberries, raspberries, apples, plums, pears
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Impact Snapshot (Estimated)

Metric	Estimated 2025 Total
Pounds of Produce Harvested	567
Volunteer Hours	200+
Harvest Weeks	20+
Households Served	300+

No Waste Commitment

Overview

The Hunger Prevention Council and its partner pantries are committed to minimizing waste and maximizing the value of every donation. Whether through food recovery, recycling, or redistribution, the goal is to ensure that surplus resources benefit the community in every possible way.

2025 Highlights

Food Recovery for Local Farms

Food items that are past expiration, improperly wrapped, or damaged — and therefore unsuitable for pantry distribution — are routinely diverted to local pig farmers. This practice not only prevents waste but supports sustainable agriculture. In a gesture of gratitude, some farmers occasionally donate pork back to the pantry after butchering a hog, creating a full-circle moment of generosity and community care.



Pantry-to-Pantry Sharing

When one pantry has a surplus and another faces a shortage, food is redistributed across the county. This collaborative approach ensures that resources are used efficiently and that no pantry operates in isolation.

Recycling & Sustainability

Cardboard and soft plastic packaging from food deliveries is routinely recycled, reducing landfill waste and promoting environmentally responsible operations. Volunteers help sort and manage recyclables as part of regular pantry operations.

Diaper Distribution Program

Supporting Families with Infants and Toddlers

The United Way Diaper Distribution Program helped relieve financial pressure for families with young children by providing diapers, wipes, and related essentials. This program continues to be one of the most appreciated services offered by HPC.

2025 Impact

- Families served: 157
- Diapers distributed: 45,040

Community Partnerships & Donors

- HPC's work is made possible through the generosity of local farms, businesses, civic organizations, faith communities, and individual donors. Their contributions — whether financial, in-kind, or volunteer time — directly support families across Pierce County.



Our Volunteers: The Heart of Our Drive-Through Pantry

The Hunger Prevention Council is powered by **34 extraordinary volunteers** who keep our drive-through pantry running smoothly, safely, and with genuine compassion. Many of them serve **up to six days a week**, ensuring that every neighbor who comes through our line is met with efficiency, dignity, and a friendly face.

What Our Volunteers Do

Our volunteers support every part of our mission — from the first greeting to the last box loaded. Their work includes:

Direct Service & Customer Support

- Welcoming customers in our drive-through line
- Handing out shopping lists and answering questions
- Collecting customer information with care and confidentiality
- Logging data on the computer, including customer details and food weights in and out
- Shopping for customers based on their selections

Food Movement & Logistics

- Stocking shelves and keeping the pantry organized
- Unloading semis and sorting large food deliveries
- Picking up food from local businesses
- Delivering food to partner pantries across the county
- Delivering food directly to customers with transportation barriers
- Recycling cardboard and managing waste responsibly



Community Service Partnerships

The Hunger Prevention Council is proud to partner with the Pierce County court system and the Ellsworth School District to provide meaningful community service opportunities for individuals who are required to complete service hours. Through this collaboration, participants contribute directly to hunger-relief efforts while gaining experience in a supportive, structured environment.

Community service workers assist with a wide range of tasks — from stocking shelves and sorting donations to helping with recycling and supporting the flow of our drive-through pantry. Their contributions strengthen our operations, reduce strain on volunteers, and ensure that food moves efficiently to the neighbors who need it most.

This partnership reflects our shared commitment to accountability, dignity, and second chances. By offering a place where individuals can give back in a tangible way, we help build stronger connections within our community and support pathways toward stability and growth.



Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County – 2025 Financial Report

Overview

In 2025, the Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County experienced significant financial growth and stability. Community support was especially strong through the “**Flood the Pantry**” program, organized by local businesses and residents in response to the shutdown of SNAP payments. This initiative provided vital funding to sustain pantry operations. Additional highlights included contributions toward the purchase of a new van to expand food distribution capacity, as well as several generous grants from foundations and partner organizations.

Balance Sheet – Assets

Category	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)	% Change
Current Assets	218,493	151,983	+43.8%
Fixed Assets	135,904	130,408	+4.2%
Total Assets	354,397	282,390	+25.5%

Balance Sheet – Liabilities

Category	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)	% Change
Current Liabilities	4,199	4,072	+3.1%
Long-Term Liabilities	90,934	94,636	-3.9%
Total Liabilities	95,133	98,708	-3.6%

Income Statement – Income

Category	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)	% Change
Direct Public Support	147,022	109,833	+33.9%
Grants	51,500	31,186	+65.1%
Other Income	400	200	+100%
Total Income	199,301	141,210	+41.1%

Income Statement – Expenses

Category	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)	% Change
Facilities & Equipment	19,435	32,123	-39.5%

Food Programs	46,035	43,696	+5.4%
Payroll Expenses	31,335	30,477	+2.8%
Other Operations	26,913	27,670	-2.7%
Total Expenses	123,718	133,966	-7.7%

Key Highlights

- **Flood the Pantry Program:** Raised substantial funds to offset the impact of SNAP payment shutdowns.
- **Van Purchase Contributions:** Community donations and grants supported acquisition of a new van, strengthening food delivery capacity.
- **Grant Support:** Multiple foundations provided significant funding, ensuring program sustainability.

HPC – 2026 Budget

Narrative Overview

- **The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County continues to strengthen its impact in 2026, expanding access to nutritious food while investing in the infrastructure needed to serve families with dignity and consistency.** Community generosity remains a cornerstone of our work, with strong individual contributions, business support, and grant funding sustaining our programs throughout the year.
 - On the expense side, 2026 reflects both the day-to-day costs of operating a busy pantry and several strategic investments designed to improve long-term service capacity. The most significant of these is the purchase of a new cargo van, a critical asset that will allow us to reach more rural households, transport fresh produce safely, and respond quickly to emergency needs across the county.
 - While the budget shows a deficit, this is largely driven by the one-time van purchase and other planned improvements to pantry operations. These investments position HPC to serve more families, reduce maintenance costs, and strengthen our mobile outreach for years to come.
 - **Every dollar in this budget reflects our commitment to reducing hunger, supporting neighbors, and building a healthier Pierce County.**
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Income

Income Category	Amount
Businesses	16000
Club and Membership Orgs	8000
Gov State & Local Contributions	15300
Individual Contributions	50000
Other Pantry Donations	6000
Fundraising	3200
Grants	32000
Interest – Savings, Short-term CD	270
Total Income	146,770

Expenses

Category	Amount
Pantry Facilities	20,390
HPC Administrative & Community Support	67,620
Pantry Operations & Programs	120,520
Total Expenses	208,530

Totals

Category	Amount
Total Income	146,770
Total Expenses	208,530
Difference (Income – Expenses)	–61,760

Conclusion

The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County closed 2025 with stronger financial footing, increased community engagement, and expanded capacity to serve residents in need. Net income rose sharply, reflecting both prudent expense management and exceptional fundraising efforts. The Council is well-positioned to continue its mission of hunger prevention into 2026 and beyond.

Looking Ahead to 2026

HPC will continue strengthening partnerships, expanding outreach, and improving program efficiency. Priorities include:

- Enhancing pantry accessibility
- Expanding garden production
- Increased public awareness of hunger issues through outreach, partnerships, and participation in community events.
- Continued efforts to reduce stigma around food assistance and promote equitable access to nutritious food.
- Analyzed countywide pantry visit data to identify trends and guide strategic planning.
- Established 2026 goals focused on improving food access, strengthening infrastructure, and enhancing volunteer support.

Thank You

To our volunteers, donors, partners, and community members — thank you for supporting hunger relief efforts across Pierce County. Your commitment ensures that every family has access to nutritious food and compassionate support. To donate online please go to hungerpreventioncouncil.com and click on GIVE.