

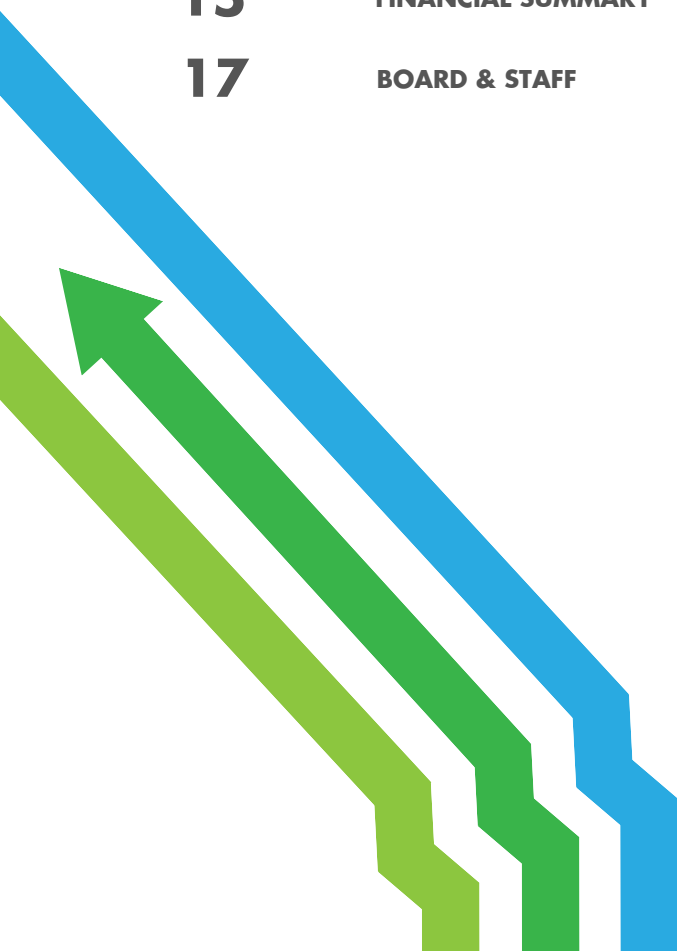
SHEBOYGAN
COUNTY
FOOD BANK

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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DEAR FRIENDS,

While we take a moment to reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together. At the beginning of the year we were honored to be awarded **Nonprofit of the Year** by the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce for the third time in the last six years—recognition that belongs to everyone who supports our mission.

In the spring, offices, a meeting room, and additional storage space attached to our warehouse opened up and we moved in. This has allowed us to boost our productivity and collaboration.

As the year went on, it was clear that the impact of inflation was continuing to make it difficult for families. The good news is that, together, we distributed enough produce, healthy snacks, meal ingredients, and other food pantry staples to feed our neighbors.

Thanks to incredible levels of generosity from our community, we collectively raised **\$170,000** through our Fund Food for Thought and Holiday Lights Hunger Run/Walk fundraisers, and received an impressive **137,565 pounds** of food at our community-wide food drives in partnership with the **National Association of Letter Carriers, Boy Scouts of America (Bay-Lakes Council)**, and the local **Rotary's Making Spirits Bright**.

These successes helped make sure we could get easy-to-eat food in the hands of an unprecedented **550 kids facing weekend hunger** during the fall semester and prepare a record-breaking **21,120 meals** for guests visiting our Community Cafe. Likewise, we kept up with supporting an average of **5,766 family visits** each month at our Sheboygan Cares Food Pantry and network of partner organizations, which was the most ever next to 2020.

In 2024 we remained committed to prioritizing nutritious food. To highlight a few initiatives, we launched a salad bar at our Community Cafe and regularly supplied it with fresh tomatoes, strawberries, green beans, and other produce harvested straight from our new raised garden beds. This was a huge hit with guests! We also worked closely with a nutrition expert to ensure we're giving children enrolled in our Food for Thought for Kids program sources of health-building nutrients and fuel for learning.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by what we can do together. Each volunteer, donor, sponsor, food drive coordinator, partner, staff and board member are essential to our fight against hunger in Sheboygan County. Thank you for your exceptional and thoughtful support!



Patrick Boyle

Executive Director



Bert Sartori

Board President



Lizabeth Kroll

Senior Director of Programs
& Community Impact

**Make a donation
today or become
a monthly donor:**



OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

PARTNERS

- 21** food pantries
- 4** shelters
- 2** low-income housing units
- 2** community meals
- 11** additional partner organizations

FOOD DELIVERED

1,207,023 pounds of food distributed through entire network

\$2,322,252 total value of food

12,972 miles driven to transfer food to partners—the same as crossing the width of Wisconsin nearly 50 times!



117,565
pounds of produce distributed



126,174
pounds of dairy products distributed



188,708
pounds of meat and fish distributed

NEIGHBORS SERVED

1,760 is the average number of meals served each month at the Community Cafe

5,766 is the average family visits supported each month through partner food pantries & organizations

38 is the average number of staple food boxes (Stockboxes) delivered to seniors each month

550 children given meals & snacks for weekends during the fall semester at **26** schools

HOLIDAY SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



HOLIDAY LIGHTS HUNGER RUN/WALK

\$109,000 in net income raised **150+** volunteers

51 sponsors & in-kind partners **2,585** walkers & runners

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

117,324 pounds of food donated

VOLUNTEERS

13,772 volunteer hours

\$461,224 is the estimated value of volunteer hours

4 Food for Life classes taught by a volunteer nutrition expert for community members to learn easy, cost-effective cooking tips & health benefits of eating plant-based foods

FOOD DRIVES

119 food drives coordinated by individuals, businesses & organizations

FUND FOOD FOR THOUGHT: A GROWING MOVEMENT TO SUPPORT KIDS FACING HUNGER



To enroll more children in need of weekend snacks and meals through our Food for Thought for Kids program for the 2024-2025 school year, we teamed up with [FifthColor](#) for our second-ever Fund Food for Thought crowdfunding campaign. FifthColor helped us craft a high-quality campaign by generously producing a heart-warming video, providing images for social media and printed collateral, and designing our billboard.

We kicked off the campaign on National Teacher Appreciation Day (May 6) with a focus on using social media to rally the community to join the movement by donating and helping circulate the campaign online. As little as \$5 provided easy-to-eat snacks and meals for one child for one weekend during the school year. Every \$1,000 locked in feeding five children on the weekends for the entire school year. Every dollar made a difference.

Kids are at risk of experiencing hunger on the weekends while they're away from free school meals. Studies show that children who are hungry have a hard time focusing in school, are likely to fall behind academically, become at risk for illness and poor attendance, and often have low self-esteem and lack of energy.

"This program has been amazing for our multi-cultural families. I've received phone calls from the families saying how much they appreciate it and how much it helps," [Marisol Muhs](#) said, a Bilingual Family Liaison and After School Program Coordinator at Sheridan Elementary School.

Watch our Fund Food for Thought campaign video:



GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY:



DELTA Club (Sheboygan North High School) and Interact Club (Sheboygan South High School) members are key to the program's operations. They help assemble bags of food once a month at our warehouse, and pick up and deliver over 80% of the bags to schools throughout Sheboygan County each week. Full of compassion to support their fellow students in need, they shared our Fund Food for Thought stories and posts on their personal Instagram accounts to engage their followers and inspire them to donate.

"I want all kids, not just my kids, to have an opportunity to learn how to make a difference and learn how your heart feels when you help people. It's really important for them to learn that there are hungry kids in Sheboygan and then do something about it. That is powerful and it's incredible to be a part of it," [Anjenette Pond](#) shared, DELTA club organizer and one of our three co-lead volunteers for Food for Thought for Kids.



Thanks to the kindness of FifthColor, everyone who helped spread the word and 119 donors, about **\$58,000** was raised in a little over three months to help grow the program to have the capacity to support **550 children—100 more than the 2023-2024 school year and the most ever since the program began in 2018.**

STAYING COMMITTED TO PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS FOOD YEAR-ROUND

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

In the beginning of summer we were eager to take Food for Thought for Kids a step further. We worked with Dr. Dan from Francis Chiropractic Clinic who conducted a nutrition analysis on the food items we purchased for the program. Dr. Dan recommended that we swap a few of the snacks and meals with options that contain more protein and less sugar. We made his suggested adjustments for the 2024-2025 school year, prioritizing quality fuel for play on weekends and learning on Monday mornings, giving the most vulnerable children in our community nutrients to grow strong and healthy into the future.

On top of opening a salad bar at our Community Cafe and regularly stocking it with fresh produce harvested from our new raised garden beds outside our warehouse, we partnered with Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization to collect locally-grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs donated by their farmers market vendors. Representatives from a sub-committee of the Sheboygan County Activity and Nutrition Coalition took turns each Wednesday picking up the haul of produce at Fountain Park, delivering over **2,600 pounds** to our warehouse for the season.

From chicken and cabbage stir fry, to mushroom-bamboo soup, we were thrilled to provide our partners, JoinUs Hmong Cafe, culturally-appropriate vegetables and meats to help bring their traditional Hmong meals to life every Thursday through the year.

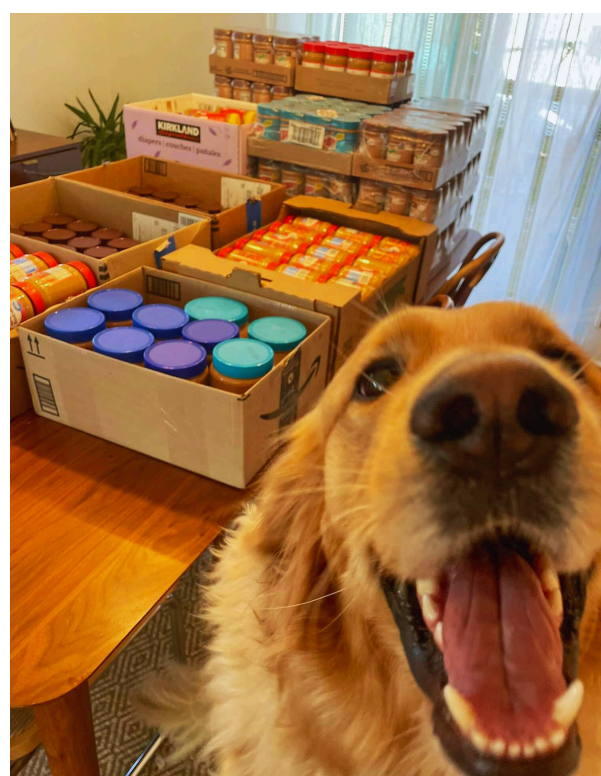


“ I loved sharing my passion for nutrition with the participants and seeing the changes they made (some dramatic!) in their way of healthy eating within the four-week series. ”
– Dayna Comstock, MS Applied Nutrition, Licensed Food for Life Instructor.

NOVEMBER DECEMBER

We partnered with Dayna, who has a MS in Applied Nutrition, to coordinate a series of free, plant-based food demonstration classes. Participants learned cost-effective cooking tips and the health benefits of eating plant-based, and even received a complimentary bag of groceries at each class to prepare what they learned at home.





NATALIE BLACK KOHLER: HONORING A LEGACY OF EXTRAORDINARY COMPASSION & GENEROSITY

On September 10th the world lost **Natalie Black Kohler**. Natalie was an extraordinary person who lived a life of profound impact. Her influence as a strong and innovative businesswoman at Kohler Company was global, yet she held compassion for her fellow community members struggling with hunger and acted on it with remarkable generosity. Natalie Black Kohler and Herbert V. Kohler, Jr. will be forever appreciated and honored for their support for Sheboygan County Food Bank and the community.

Over the past decade, Natalie's support has been instrumental—it allowed us to respond to increasing levels of demand and develop exponentially as an organization. Thanks to Natalie, we made sure enough food reached families at the onset of the pandemic in 2020 and as effects from the once-in-a-lifetime health crisis lingered into the following months and years. We were able to open the doors to our Herb Kohler & Natalie Black Community Cafe in 2022 and more effectively support our neighbors experiencing homelessness. And by the summer of 2024, we realized the significance of the cafe's existence for fighting childhood hunger when we saw an influx of parents bringing their children who didn't have access to the free school meal programs, **sometimes serving over 100 guests per day**.

"I will never forget personally witnessing Natalie's compassion for others when she visited our food bank and cafe," said Patrick Boyle, Executive Director of Sheboygan County Food Bank. "Her insights were extremely pertinent and it was clear that she deeply cared about our community. We're forever grateful for Natalie."

Natalie reminds us of the compassion that exists in all of us and how we can harness that emotion as fuel to make our own version of a difference, no matter how big or small. Her memory will live on in the work we do every day and continue to inspire us as we strive to build a more food-secure Sheboygan County.



SHOWING UP BIG TIME FOR OUR NEIGHBORS BEHIND THE SCENES & ON THE FRONT LINE

From preparing lasagna for guests visiting our Community Cafe, to sorting and packing food into boxes at our warehouse during our busy holiday season, and even sharing stories internally about our work to inspire their employees to make an impact outside of the office, [Sargento](#) continued to be one of our biggest corporate supporters.

“As a family-owned company, we believe that everyone should have access to nutritious food. Hunger relief is important to us. That’s why Sargento is proud to support Sheboygan County Food Bank and the staff and volunteers who help feed our community,” said [Louie Gentine](#), Sargento Chairman & CEO.





Rose Lee Eissner is a shining example of one single person doing good for her neighbors struggling with hunger. To start off, Rose Lee manages [St. Luke United Methodist United Church's food pantry](#), one of our 40 partner organizations. In 2024 she worked diligently to help stock the shelves, including collaborating with a local Kwik Trip twice a week to pick up food items that are at their "sell-buy" dates and placing orders on our online store for pantry staples, produce, cheeses, and meat products. "I love that Sheboygan County Food Bank is all about serving healthy food," Rose Lee said. "We get lots of fresh produce. They always offer fresh and healthy options, which we don't necessarily get (directly) as a donation."

While reminiscing about her interactions with clients visiting the food pantry, she shared, "We get to know their names. We know about their families and their pets. They talk to us about their month. When we know it's somebody's birthday, we sing happy birthday and we make a big deal about it. We hug them when they're having a bad day. It's not just people coming here and getting the food that they need. We all are connected and they are our neighbors."

On top of overseeing the food pantry, Rose Lee devoted time to regularly helping serve guests upstairs in the church at our Community Cafe and the [Sheboygan County Warming Center](#). In fact, she sits on St. Luke's board and was involved in approving our Community Cafe to open at their facility, and most recently, welcoming two of our other partners, [BabyCare](#) and the Sheboygan County Warming Center, to have a space inside the church for their services.

"A young father visited BabyCare, but got there before it opened. Our secretary told him about the food pantry being open down the hall. When he came to our food pantry he said to me it was like Christmas to be able to also get food," Rose Lee shared.

What drives Rose Lee's passion? She explained, "I believe that everyone, no matter what their circumstance or situation in life is, deserves a roof over their head and food to eat. I think about that every day when I wake up. I'm very lucky that I'm in the situation I'm in. Because I'm so lucky, I feel like it is my purpose in life and I need to give back."

BRIGHT LIGHTS & BIG IMPACT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Together, we made history with our 7th Annual Holiday Lights Hunger Run/Walk that took place through [Making Spirits Bright](#) on November 20th. We welcomed [Acuity Insurance](#) as our first-ever presenting sponsor and food trucks that donated a portion of their proceeds. To further drive up our income, we offered light-up merchandise for sale, more VIP parking spaces in exchange for a \$50 donation, and individual and team fundraising options for participants to take bigger steps against hunger. The fundraiser ended with a record-breaking [51 sponsors and in-kind partners](#) as well as [2,585 registered participants](#). This all contributed to raising over [\\$109,000](#) in net income—the highest yet by a \$20,000 margin.

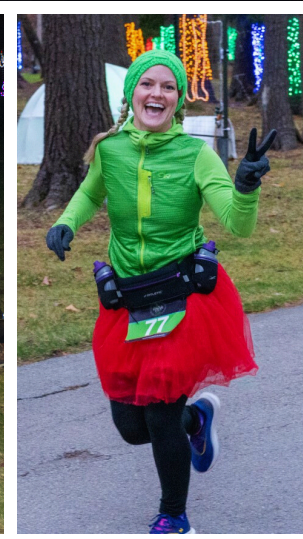
[Joanna Wassink](#) has been running the 5K every year since it began in 2017. A Sheboygan native at heart and now a Madison resident, she has corralled a group of fellow Madisonians to join her in making the four-hour round-trip to attend the last few years and again in 2024. Joanna shared, “Running the 5K is always a fun challenge, especially tackling that big hill three times! It feels amazing to know that every step helps support my home-town food bank and the incredible work they do. Combining community, fitness, and giving back makes this event truly special.”

We’re grateful for the generosity from our committee members who helped staff coordinate throughout the year, all of our day-of-event volunteers, runners and walkers, and each of our sponsors and in-kind partners.



From the Friday after Thanksgiving all the way through New Year’s Eve, Making Spirits Bright pulled off another impactful event for our community with the help of hundreds of faithful volunteers. An average of [738 cars](#) drove through and [3,666 pounds](#) of food were donated each night to support local families. One visitor shared, “We have had to utilize the food bank this year despite my wife and I both working full-time because of rising costs. It feels good to give back.”

Making Spirits Bright continues to live up to its name and shines bright as our biggest food drive. The Rotary Clubs’ event accumulated an impressive [117,324 pounds](#) of donations in 2024, contributing to a grand total of over [1.2 million pounds](#) over the 13 years.



ONGOING & SEASONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Cafe (ongoing)

Our Community Cafe at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Sheboygan serves free, warm meals to guests over the lunch hours, Monday – Saturday. Volunteers help with light food prep and set up, serving the meal, greeting guests, and cleaning up. Volunteers can also prepare soup or another bulk meal that will be served to guests.

Sheboygan Cares Food Pantry (ongoing)

Sheboygan Cares Food Pantry is our onsite, drive-thru distribution that provides nutritious and fresh food to families in need Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. Volunteers help prepare bags of food, direct clients safely through our garage, and load food into clients' vehicles. Volunteers must be able to lift 30 pounds.

Produce Packing (ongoing)

Monday and Tuesday mornings, pairs of volunteers pack approximately 150 bags with a variety of fresh produce that will be distributed to individuals and families visiting our Sheboygan Cares Food Pantry.

Stamp Out Hunger (Saturday, May 10, 2025)

Throughout the day, volunteers help with organizing incoming food donations at our warehouse. Other volunteers use their personal vehicles to assist mail carriers by helping collect and drop off food to our warehouse.

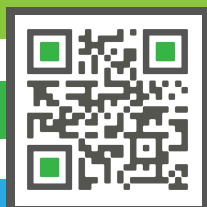
Holiday Lights Hunger Run/Walk (Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025)

Over 150 volunteers help with packet pickup, gear check, shuttle bus stops, water stations, the course, and clean up on the day of the event.

Making Spirits Bright (Friday, Nov. 28 – Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025)

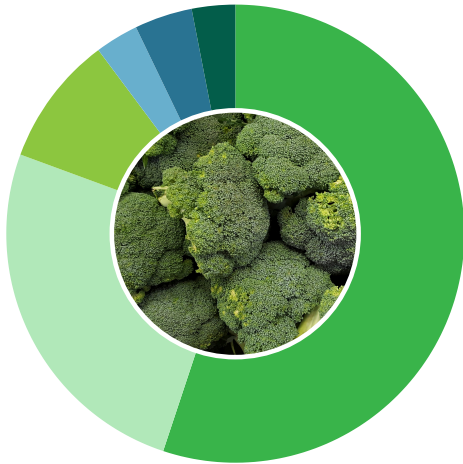
Each evening, pairs of volunteers help collect food donations at Evergreen Park and then transfer the collected food to our warehouse using our trucks. Groups of 10-15 volunteers also sort and pack food donations into boxes at our warehouse.

Sign up to volunteer:



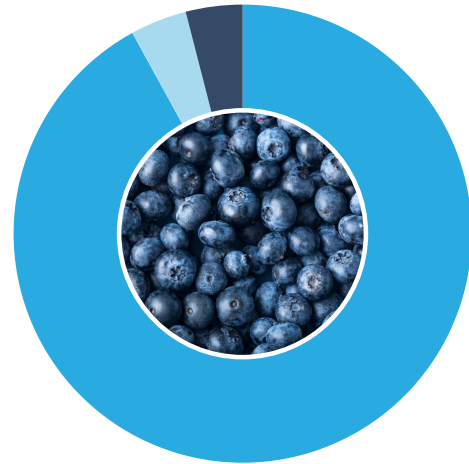
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Every dollar we receive goes towards ensuring nutritious food reaches Sheboygan County families, seniors, veterans and children facing hunger. In fact, 92 cents of each dollar donated goes directly to our hunger relief programs at the core of our mission.



REVENUE

- In-Kind Food Donations: 54%
- General Contributions: 25%
- Other: 9%
- Grants: 4%
- Designated: 3%
- Holiday Lights Hunger Run/Walk: 3%



EXPENSES

- Programs: 92%
- Management and General: 4%
- Fund Development: 4%

Please note these figures have not been audited yet.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Carr
Vollrath Company (retired)

Jenn Gutschow
Community Volunteer

Kathy Kane
Richardson Industries, Inc.

Kathie Norman | Secretary
KEES, Inc.

Matt O'Connor
Rockline (retired)

Erin Price | Vice President
Sargento Foods

Jennifer Rindt
Koher Company

Bert Sartori | President
Sartori Cheese

Nicki Stayer-Suprick
Community Volunteer

Heather Torke
Kohler Company

Eric Zufelt | Board Treasurer
Windway Capital Corp.

STAFF

Todd Arnoldi
Warehouse and Program Assistant

Patrick Boyle
Executive Director

Erin Bremser
Administrative Assistant

Donna Klein
Community Cafe Manager

Katie LaCosse
Administrative Assistant

Tracy Krause
FoodShare Assistant

Lizabeth Kroll
Senior Director of Programs and Community Impact

Kim LaPoint
Director of Finance and Operations

Lauren Smith
Director of Development and Marketing

Jodie Zajkowski
Logistics and Warehouse Manager

SPECIAL THANKS & WARM WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

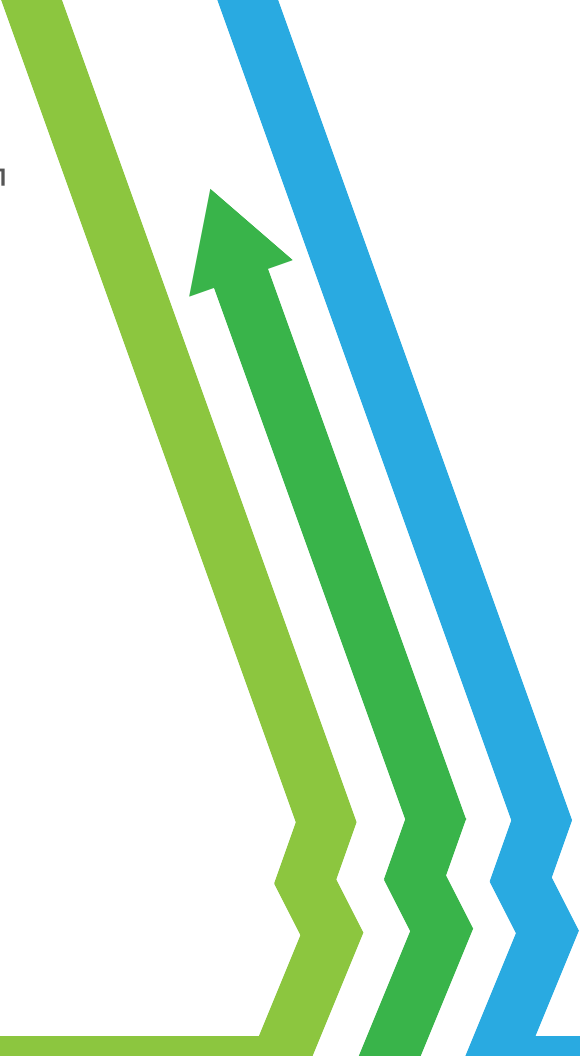
2024 marked [Bert Sartori's](#) last year as our Board President. We're incredibly thankful for his years of service. Bert helped us navigate COVID, was instrumental in our strategic planning efforts, and provided professional guidance.

We're grateful to [Erin Price](#), General Manager at Sargento, who has helped provide counsel and professional expertise for years. She was key in guiding our rebrand in 2019 and the development of our current three-year strategic plan that is driving our mission forward with ambitious goals. Erin takes on the role of Board President for the next two years.

In 2025 we welcome [Stephanie Fitzgerald](#) and [Matt Zingsheim](#) to the board. We appreciate their compassion for the community and alignment with our mission.



3115 N. 21st Street, Suite 1
Sheboygan, WI 53083



MISSION: Lead Sheboygan County's efforts to increase the food security of its residents by distributing healthy emergency food and fostering innovative partnerships.

SheboyganCountyFoodBank.com

920.453.0169

