



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Feeding Wisconsin Receives \$102,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Support SNAP Education and Outreach

Statewide – Feeding Wisconsin today announced a \$102,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help fight hunger, improve health and strengthen communities through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) education and outreach, known as FoodShare in Wisconsin. SNAP is the largest federal assistance program working to fight hunger in America. More than 70% of SNAP benefits go to households with children. Yet, 17 percent of Americans eligible for SNAP currently do not receive this benefit. Only 41 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled.

With this grant, Feeding Wisconsin will be able to provide statewide access to SNAP through its FoodShare Outreach program and FoodShare Helpline. The Helpline assists income-eligible people living in all counties of Wisconsin with accurate program information, connections to local resources, and high-quality application assistance. In FY 17, Feeding Wisconsin's statewide outreach program had over 8,000 client contacts helped with over 5,000 people with program "assists," equaling over 3 million meals for families, children, seniors and individuals living with low-incomes.

"No one should worry about where they will find their next meal. Every day, the Feeding Wisconsin network of food banks and food pantries are working in local communities to provide food to the over 700,000 food insecure people living in Wisconsin. But we can't end hunger alone. SNAP plays a critical role in ensuring that people have the resources they need to buy the food their families need to work, learn, and live healthier lives," said David Lee, Feeding Wisconsin's executive director.

SNAP provides more than nutrition assistance; it helps improve families' overall well-being. With lower grocery bills, people are better able to pay for other basic necessities—rent or mortgages, medical expenses, utilities and transportation. According to the USDA's Economic Research Service Report, SNAP is critical to moving families into long-term food security.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. In Wisconsin, Walmart Stores provide an incredible source of retail products for the Feeding Wisconsin network of food

banks. The Walmart Retail Store donation program is the largest source of fresh food donations in the state and The Walmart State Giving Council has also supported Feeding Wisconsin and its network of food banks on a number of initiatives, including an innovative product transformation/food processing project, local FoodShare Outreach, and other programs.

For more information about how Feeding Wisconsin helps its food banks, partners and stakeholders fight hunger, improve health and strengthen communities, visit www.FeedingWI.org.

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Feeding Wisconsin is the statewide association of the six regional Feeding America food banks that provide emergency food assistance and access to benefit assistance in every corner of our state. Its mission is to coordinate, support and enhance the statewide work of its members by securing food and funds, raising public awareness and creating the partnerships necessary to end hunger.

The Feeding Wisconsin network of food banks provides over 40 million meals every year to nearly 600,000 people. Together, we are leading the way forward toward a hunger free Wisconsin.

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