



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Feeding Wisconsin Receives \$106,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation for SNAP Education, Outreach, and Capacity Building Efforts

Statewide – Feeding Wisconsin today announced a \$106,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help fight hunger in Wisconsin through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as FoodShare in Wisconsin) education and outreach. SNAP is the largest federal program dedicated to helping millions of families, children and seniors living at risk of hunger. Yet, 17 percent of Americans eligible for SNAP currently do not receive this benefit. Only 42 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled.

With the grant, Feeding Wisconsin will continue to provide high quality, statewide access to program information and application assistance through its Helpline service and will support its participating food banks to provide on the ground SNAP assistance to families with children, and other vulnerable populations in local communities throughout the state. Recognizing the growing need on college campuses and the complicated eligibility rules for college students, Feeding Wisconsin will also be expanding its capacity to provide outreach and assistance at two-year tech colleges.

“According to the 2016 national study, “Hunger on Campus,” about 20% of college students are estimated to be food insecure. This means that about 1 in 5 college students have limited or no access to nutritious food. At the same time, knowledge about SNAP among students is extremely limited. We are excited that this grant will allow our outreach program to expand its reach to help eligible students get connected to the nutrition benefits they might need to study, learn and train to get the skills for a good job without having to worry about their next meal,” said David Lee, Executive Director of Feeding Wisconsin.

SNAP provides more than nutrition assistance; it helps improve participants’ 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 project, local FoodShare Outreach programs, 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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