

YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Name

Address

Amount

Detach and mail to:

Watseka Area Food Pantry
c/o First United Methodist Church
301 South Fourth Street
Watseka, IL 60970



- **In 2024**, a \$42 Donation supported a cart of groceries for one household valued at \$150.
- **100% of every dollar** donated is used to benefit clients.
- The Food Pantry receives the benefits of the church's status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; therefore, **donations may be tax deductible.**
- **Donations may be sent** using the form provided or through the church's website at watsekaumc.org.
- Follow us on Facebook.



WATSEKA AREA Food Pantry

2024 IMPACT REPORT



Serving All Residents of Iroquois County

Watseka First United Methodist Church
301 South Fourth Street • Watseka, IL 60970
815.432.0122

Open Monday—Friday, 9:00-11:00 am
Closed on Holidays

IN 2024, the Watseka Area Food Pantry served **5,380 INDIVIDUALS** and **1,962 HOUSEHOLDS** throughout Iroquois County.

In 2024, we experienced a 12.4% increase in households served, including 144 new households. These households varied in size from one person to families of eight. The 1,416 children we served represented a 14.6% increase from 2023.

To be served by the Food Pantry, people must live in Iroquois County and meet federal income eligibility guidelines.

Food insecurity, according to the USDA, means lacking access to sufficient food for a healthy life. **In Iroquois County, one in eight people experience food insecurity**, which is increasing faster than in any of the 18 counties served by the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

The Watseka Area Food Pantry diligently strives to minimize food costs. This effort is supported by donations of food and other goods from the Midwest Food Bank, as well as contributions from individuals, churches, and organizations. Here volunteers are sorting and organizing donated foods.



Monetary donations help purchase over 150,000 pounds of food and goods from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank and Midwest Food Bank and thousands of pounds of perishable items from local stores including such things as milk, bread and eggs. **The value of a grocery cart provided to households is \$150, with the cost being \$42.**

To maintain the Food Pantry's stock, resources from the Watseka First United Methodist Church are used, including multiple rooms for storage. These rooms contain several shelving units and a total of twelve commercial freezers and refrigerators. We added two freezers to enable us to provide more meat products through the IL-EATS Program. Above are volunteers unpacking a delivery from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank.



The Nicor Gas Foundation provided a generous gift in 2024.

THERE'S ALWAYS A NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS!



The Food Pantry is a completely volunteer-run agency. In 2024, over 60 volunteers helped with deliveries, filling daily orders, shopping for food items, stocking shelves and doing computer work.

The Food Pantry volunteers represent many Iroquois County churches, organizations, and other individuals.

To find out about volunteering, call the Food Pantry at 815.432.0122 or visit at Watseka First United Methodist Church at 301 South Fourth Street between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 am.



The Food Pantry hosted a Watseka Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, highlighting its community works.