



PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRESS

Food Pantry of Waukesha County

Strategic Alliance Case Study

The Food Pantry of Waukesha County and the Food Recovery Program joined forces in a strategic alliance to foster and promote the recovery and safe distribution of food that would otherwise be wasted. The strategic goals include: more efficient administration, enhanced services, and a major impact on food waste and hunger relief in Waukesha County. The program was developed through the efforts of the Waukesha County Food Recovery Task Force.

From the beginning, the program has been a collaborative effort with the task force members representing a variety of organizations including the county departments of recycling and solid waste, aging and environmental health, UW-Cooperative extension's nutritional program, members of the Nutritional Coalition of Waukesha County, and WasteCap Wisconsin.

In order to efficiently accommodate the program and administrative activities, the Food Pantry is the fiscal sponsor and the participating agencies provide advisory, technical, and resource support. Currently, there are 61 organizations involved and the donations are delivered to or picked up by 71 agencies representing local food pantries, meal programs, and shelters. The alliance was designed to create the infrastructure and the collaboration necessary to provide local businesses with an efficient and reliable system to donate quality food items.

"This strategic alliance is an opportunity to look at other ways to create access to nutritional food and give families their dignity in Waukesha County."

Waukesha Hispanic Collaborative Network

Collaboration Case Study

Another type of partnership is a formal collaboration that brings organizations together to identify needs and resources and achieve results, which cannot be accomplished independently. The Waukesha Hispanic Collaborative Network illustrates such an approach in working with each other and the Hispanic community to benefit residents by meeting identified health and social needs.

As background, ProHealth Care (formerly Waukesha Memorial Hospital) was one of four partners to launch the Hispanic Health Initiative in 1999 to better serve the area's growing Hispanic population. An outgrowth of that initiative was the Hispanic Community Health Resource Center, established in 2001 to promote health, reduce barriers to obtaining care, and provide individualized services to the Hispanic community, including the uninsured and undocumented. Shortly after the Health Resource Center was established, the coordinator called on existing health and social service providers to identify challenges and brainstorm possible opportunities for collaboration. The first meeting was filled to capacity with community leaders and representatives from various organizations; excited and energized, the participants decided to move forward as the Waukesha Hispanic Collaborative Network, which now includes more than 20 organizations.

The collaborative was also able to attract discreet funding for the Network, which enabled them to develop a website jointly. As the Hispanic community in Waukesha County continues to grow, the Waukesha Hispanic Collaborative Network reaches out to this underserved population, linking them with the resources they need, and providing access to culturally-enhanced health care services.