

The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry

HODAG KIDS 2023-24 REPORT

Because Full Bellies Make Strong Bodies, Smart Brains & Healthy Hearts.

Our Hodag Kids Programs aim to fill the nutrition gap often experienced by children and teens during the school day, over the weekend, and through the summer.

12% of children and teens experience food insecurity in Oneida County.

Many live in households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but below the basic cost of living. 1 out of 4 of households in Oneida County live at this threshold.

These households cannot afford basic living essentials and often do not qualify to shop at RAFP.

Hodag Kids supports households with children by reducing barriers and increasing access to quality, nutritious food choices.

Our goal is to provide our youth with the nutrition they need to learn and grow.

Hodag Kids keeps families strong. When we invest in our kids, we invest in our community.

"It is more useful than you know."
- Parent

"The programs that you have are amazing & are a great help for me & my family."
- Parent

**HODAG
SNACK ATTACK**

In partnership with the School District of Rhinelander, the Hodag Snack Attack provides students with healthy snacks during school hours.

Students can access snacks through the office, school counselors, and study groups. This program is available in all 4 elementary schools, the middle and high school, and the Hodag Connections Learning Center.

The Hodag Snack Attack is also available to kids at the Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital Emergency Room through a grant from the Rhinelander Health Foundation.



In partnership with the School District of Rhinelander, Weekend Food For Kids sends students home with a bag of kid-friendly food each week.

Over 8,100 food bags were given out during the 2023-24 school year. Student enrollment nearly *tripled* from the previous school year.

The average cost per food bag is \$5 to \$8.

"Food insecurity is definitely an issue for students & families. We often hear students say that they only eat at school because they don't have food at home."
- SDR School Counselor

"Having food during the day helps students to focus in their classes & feel more capable in their abilities."
- SDR School Teacher

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When children and teens do not have access to free and reduced school breakfast and lunch during the summer break, the Hodag Food Wagon provides a free weekly food bag and fresh produce.

The cost of childcare during the summer can put financial pressure on many households. The Hodag Food Wagon is open to all and does not have income eligibility guidelines or require registration. Households are able to leverage their budget and keeps kids well fed.

The Hodag Food Wagon provided 1,441 food bags along with fresh vegetables and fruit in just 8 weeks in 2024. The need for summer supplemental nutrition increased in 2023 by 825 bags and then by 175 bags in 2024.

The average cost was \$12 to \$15 per bag.

In summer 2024, we featured samples and recipes for quick, healthy meals that adults and children could prepare together.



"The recipes were awesome! The fresh produce was super good."
- Parent

"Love the Hodag Food Wagon! It helped with keeping my kids fed in the summer."
- Parent

"So grateful for this program. It is a lifesaver for us."
- Parent



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Thank you to our donors and community partners.

