

Green Bay Press Gazette

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<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/door-co/2025/10/02/door-county-food-pantries-to-get-food-grown-on-washington-island/86467598007/>

Nearly 1,500 pounds of fresh produce heads to Door County food pantries from Washington Island



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Produce grown on Washington Island will help feed hundreds of families in need throughout Door County this fall.

Nearly 1,500 pounds of onions, garlic, shallots and butternut squash will make its way across Death's Door to help provide families with produce that will last well beyond the harvest season.



The effort is a collaboration between the Door County Food Pantry Coalition and Gathering Ground to bring fresh, locally grown produce to all 10 food pantries in the county.

On Oct. 7, trucks and trailers loaded with Gathering Ground produce will board the Washington Island Ferry. For many pantries, this collaboration will infuse varieties of unique produce that food pantries typically wouldn't have available.

"This new partnership makes a real difference for our pantry," Mike Longley, pantry manager at Sturgeon Bay Community Church Food Pantry, said in a news release. "The fresh, shelf-stable produce allows us to offer nutritious options that our families might not otherwise have access to."

More: [Washington Island teaching farm more than doubles in size with plans to expand programs](#)

The crops were planted this past spring at Gathering Ground, a nonprofit farm committed to sustainable agriculture, conservation and education, with the goal to assist food pantries. Alongside the produce, Gathering Ground also will provide recipes and educational resources to help families enjoy and prepare the food in new ways.

“We are very excited that our recent expansion of our farms and programs has allowed us to contribute to the food security of our friends and neighbors in Door County,” Alessandra Rolffs of Gathering Ground said in the news release. “We hope to see this partnership continue to grow next year.”

The Door County Food Pantry Coalition, a fund of the Door County Community Foundation, and collaboration with United Way of Door County, includes the following member pantries:

- Bay View Lutheran Food Pantry, Sturgeon Bay
- Door of Life Pantry, Sister Bay
- Feed and Clothe My People of Door County, Sturgeon Bay
- Holy Name of Mary Food Pantry, Maplewood
- Klaud’s Food Pantry at Shepherd of the Bay, Ellison Bay
- Koinonia Kupboard at First Baptist Church, Sister Bay
- Lakeshore CAP Food Pantry, Sturgeon Bay
- Stella Maris CARE 24/7 Food Pantry, Fish Creek
- Sturgeon Bay Community Church Pantry, Sturgeon Bay
- Washington Island Community Health Program Food Pantry, Washington Island

Gathering Ground is a teaching farm focused on sustainable farming practices and how the growing and cultivation of food creates a connection between people and nature.

For more information about Gathering Ground, visit gatheringgroundwi.org.

For more information about The Door County Food Pantry Coalition, visit doorcountycommunityfoundation.org/door-county-food-pantry-coalition.