



2017 Hunger and Health Summit: Forward Together Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker

Bevan K. Baker was sworn in as the 16th Commissioner of Health of the City of Milwaukee on August 6, 2004. He was nominated by Mayor Tom Barrett in 2004 and re-confirmed for a second term by the City's Common Council on June 10, 2008. As the 16th Health Commissioner in a line dating back to 1867, Mr. Baker serves the city as the city's chief adviser on health. As Commissioner, Mr. Baker is responsible for providing leadership and oversight of the agency's departments in their collective efforts to provide health and well-being of the people of Milwaukee. Before this appointment, Baker served as the Chief Operating Officer for the City of Milwaukee Health Department from 2001 to 2004. Mr. Baker has also held progressive positions of responsibility as Chief Operating Officer with the Health Choice Network, Inc. in Miami, Florida and the Associate Director of Administration for the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation in Brooklyn, New York.

Opening General Session

Katharine Broton is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a researcher in the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, the nation's first translational research lab focused on issues of college affordability and aimed at improving equitable outcomes in higher education. She studies educational inequalities and her current research focuses on experiences of poverty among college students. Broton's research has appeared in The New York Times and Inside Higher Ed and has been featured on Wisconsin Public Television and American Public Media. Prior to graduate school, she worked with low-income middle and high school students in pre-college programs and as a community-based program evaluator. This fall, she will join the University of Iowa as an Assistant Professor of Higher Education.

Breakfast Panel Discussion

Jennifer Casey is the Executive Director of the Fondy Food Center, a local non-profit that connects neighborhoods to fresh, local food through its farmers markets, farm project, and city-wide healthy food access initiative. She is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and professional cook whose work focuses on building a more resilient, diverse, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system. Before coming to Fondy, she ran the Diabetes and Community Health programs at Milwaukee's only American Indian Health Center – where she had the opportunity to experience the power of renewing cultural food

traditions to improve public health. Jennifer is a long-time volunteer with Slow Food locally and nationally.

David Lee brings 15 years of non-profit experience, specializing in community relations, public affairs, hunger relief and food systems programming, and advocacy to Feeding Wisconsin. Previously at Feeding America, the nation's largest anti-hunger charity, David managed partnership and program development and led its state policy and grassroots advocacy. He has served as an adviser to the National Conference of State Legislatures' Hunger Partnership and the Farm Foundation's Dialogue Project for a 21st Century Agriculture. David is an alum of the American Express/Independent Sector NGen Fellows program and the American Express/Aspen Institute Academy 2.0 Non-Profit Leaders program. He attended Vassar College, where he holds an A.B. in film and drama. He lives in the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee with his wife where they stress out over their backyard garden and whether their dog Molly is living a rich and fulfilling inner life.

Paul Kelleher is Associate Professor of Bioethics and Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He received his bachelor's degree from Colgate University and his Ph.D from Cornell University, both in Philosophy. Prior to coming to UW-Madison, he was a post-doctoral fellow in the Program in Ethics and Health at Harvard University. Professor Kelleher works in areas of applied ethics and political philosophy that address the health of populations. He has published widely on topics including the foundations of social justice and its implications for health policy; issues in public health ethics concerning government paternalism and the restriction of free choice; the ethics of climate change; and clinical ethics issues such as conscientious refusal to serve certain patients and ethical issues at the end of life. He is currently writing a book about what it means to properly value the health and well-being of future generations.

Rob Zeaske, as Chief Executive Officer, a position he has held since 2008, has overall responsibility for leadership, planning and management of Second Harvest Heartland. Under Rob's direction, Second Harvest Heartland has not only grown in size and scale, but also has earned a reputation as an innovator and national thought leader in hunger relief. Rob is helping change the conversation about hunger relief by bringing together partners from private and public organizations that have a stake in closing the missing meal gap. Prior to joining Second Harvest Heartland, Rob led fundraising and government relations for Boston-based Jumpstart, which is nationally recognized for preparing schoolchildren for success, and served as a Harvard Business School Service Leadership Fellow for Mercy Corps. Rob holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and a B.A. in political science from Stanford University.

Session Speakers

Teresa Arnold earned her bachelor of science degree from UW Stevens Point in 2005 and is currently working toward a graduate degree in Community and Organizational Leadership. She has been working in the communities of Vilas County with limited income individuals since 2008. As a UW-Extension nutrition educator for FoodWise, a federally funded program by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP- Ed), she assists people in choosing healthy food and becoming more food secure by stretching food dollars. Teresa's goal is to empower Vilas County residents to achieve healthy lives and reduce health disparities through the choices they make. Each month, she collaborates with food pantry leaders to offer a food sample from a featured recipe, and provide nutrition education and recipes to food pantry guests. The mutually collaborative and trusting relationships that Teresa has built

over the years created the opportunity for engaging local recipients and service providers for the feasibility study.

Dr. Lori Bakken has over 25 years of experience leading and conducting evaluation studies in the medical, public health and education fields. The early part of her career focused on evaluating and improving laboratory performance in medicine and public health. In 1995, her focus shifted to designing, implementing and evaluating educational programs to improve the quality and quantity of clinical research conducted in the US. She developed one of the nation's first and highly successful education and career development programs for clinical researchers and established a NIH-funded research program to study the career development of clinician-scientists. In 2010, she joined the University of Wisconsin (UW) School of Human Ecology's faculty and became an evaluation specialist for UW-Extension. Dr. Bakken is a member of the American Evaluation Association and holds degrees in Medical Technology (BS, 1980), Medical Microbiology (MS, 1991) and Continuing and Vocational Education (PhD, 1998) from UW-Madison.

Peter Bakken is Coordinator for Public Policy at the Wisconsin Council of Churches and Executive Director of Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light. He received his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He is the author of the WCC publications, *Hunger at Our Doorstep: A Study-Action Guide for Wisconsin Congregations* (2006; 2014) and *Becoming Welcoming Communities: Immigration in Light of Biblical Faith* (2011). Other publications include: *Church on Earth: Grounding Your Ministry in a Sense of Place* (with Jeff Wild; Augsburg Fortress 2009); *Ecology, Justice and Christian Faith: A Guide to the Literature* (co-compiled with J. Ronald Engel and Joan Gibb Engel; Greenwood Press, 1995), among others. He was a member of the task force that produced the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America social statement, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice." He lives in Madison, Wisconsin, with his wife and daughter, where they are members of Advent Lutheran Church.

Kate Burggraff has over 10 years' experience in hunger relief and non-profit management. Currently Kate serves as the Program Innovation & Impact Manager, focusing on continuous quality improvement and data-driven decision making to maximize the impact of the Second Harvest Heartland network of food pantries and other partners. In this role and her previous role of Agency Relations Manager, Kate provides expertise in both standardizing compliance measures in the SHH Hunger Relief network and strengthening Agency Partners' capacity to implement best practices aimed to improve operational efficiencies and a client-centered approach to service provision. Kate has also championed a number of internal and external initiatives to increase access to fresh food and produce. Prior to joining the SHH team, Kate worked on the front lines of hunger relief as the Volunteer Coordinator and Food Shelf Manager at St. Louis Park Emergency Program (STEP) in St. Louis Park, MN. During her time with STEP, Kate doubled the number of volunteers engaged with the organization and led such quality improvement initiatives as establishing a full client-choice model of distribution. Kate earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) in 2003.

Mary Canales: bio unavailable

Amber Canto, MPH, RDN received her dietetics degree from the University of WI-Madison, and completed her master's degree in public health nutrition with a global health emphasis with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health. Amber has worked as a nutrition consultant with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Dominican Republic where she coordinated infant and young child feeding interventions on the Haitian-Dominican border. She previously held the position as Poverty and Food Security Specialist with University of Wisconsin-

Extension where her work addressed food systems and food security, poverty awareness and education, and nutrition education with low-income audiences. She currently serves as the State Coordinator of FoodWise at the University of WI-Extension.

Jennifer Casey is the Executive Director of the Fondy Food Center, a local non-profit that connects neighborhoods to fresh, local food through its farmers markets, farm project, and city-wide healthy food access initiative. She is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and professional cook whose work focuses on building a more resilient, diverse, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system. Before coming to Fondy, she ran the Diabetes and Community Health programs at Milwaukee's only American Indian Health Center – where she had the opportunity to experience the power of renewing cultural food traditions to improve public health. Jennifer is a long-time volunteer with Slow Food locally and nationally.

Dr. Alison Craig is a general pediatrician and the Chief of Staff at Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin, which is a locally managed, primary care focused, non-profit, health cooperative. GHC-SCW provides health care and insurance for 70,000 members in Dane and Sauk counties. With deep Wisconsin roots, Dr. Craig is a fourth-generation Badger alumna and began her Madison pediatric practice in 2002. She was named as a Top Doc in Madison Magazine between 2004-2012. Dr. Craig has professional interests and expertise on a wide-range of health care topics including injury prevention, child development, adolescent medicine and health equity.

Nancy Coffey has been the coordinator of the Eau Claire County UW-Extension, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), called FoodWise in Wisconsin, for over twenty years. FoodWise advances healthy eating habits, active lifestyles and healthy community environments for WI residents with limited incomes through nutrition education at the individual, community and systems level. Nancy collaborates with community partners to help implement comprehensive nutrition and food security strategies that focus on policy, system, and environmental community change. Community projects have included development of community resource directories; the FNV fruit and vegetable healthy retail initiative; Market Match, an incentive program at Eau Claire's largest farmers' market; editor of Hidden Hunger quarterly e-newsletter and part of the Food as Medicine Partnership leadership team. Nancy is also an advisor to seven SNAP-Ed coordinators in the state. Nancy is a graduate of UW-Stout.

Sheila De Forest: bio unavailable

Francie Dekker is the FoodWise Program Administrator for Milwaukee County UW-Extension. In her role, Francie leads Milwaukee's team of community nutrition educators in teaching families with limited resources how to choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare nutritious food, and become more food secure by spending their food dollars wisely. In addition to direct education, FoodWise works to address lack of access to nutritious food in communities by collaborating with local food pantries, schools, farmers markets and community gardens to help make the healthy choice, an easier choice in Milwaukee County. Before joining UW-Extension in February 2016, Francie spent four years as the Education Coordinator at Wellspring and NuGenesis Organic Farms. She is also a Culinary Trust Food Writing Fellow, contributing pieces to Edible Milwaukee and Madison Magazines that highlight stories at the intersection of local food, gardening and healthy communities.

Melissa DeNemie: bio unavailable

Catherine Draeger-Pederson, MA is a nonprofit entrepreneur with over 13 years of experience empowering people to make a difference in their community. As the Executive Director of Friedens Community Ministries, 2016 BBB Torch Award recipient, she oversees a network of four food pantries who served 51,000 individuals with 2,000 volunteers in 2016. She has received numerous awards including the Philanthropic 5 recipient in 2016 from United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County and the Ten Outstanding Young America's (TOYA) award in 2015 from the United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees). She earned her Master's Degree in Christian Studies with an emphasis in leadership from Trinity International University. She is a published author: Faith, Hope and Love: When the World is Not as It Should Be. She lives in Milwaukee with her husband and three children.

Karen Early coordinates the Brown County UW Extension FoodWise Program. She is a registered dietitian with a Master's degree in Leadership in Education and has been providing nutrition education in numerous settings for the Green Bay area since 1975, with occasion to also speak statewide and nationally. Through her Extension work she has been extensively involved with local food security and obesity prevention education and interventions. She has personal interests in gardening, holistic living, music, outdoor recreation and eating good food with good friends.

Allison Espeseth is the Development and Operations Manager for Covering Wisconsin, where she has worked for nearly 13 years. Covering Wisconsin (CWI), whose mission is to connect residents with - and promote effective use of - insurance coverage and other programs that support health, has worked closely with the state's schools and Department of Public Instruction on health insurance and nutrition issues since 2007. Ms. Espeseth conducted the initial assessments of Wisconsin's implementation of direct certification in 2011 and has since overseen outreach and communication to improve school understanding of and compliance with the program. She received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Oberlin College and her Master's degree in Consumer Behavior and Family Economics from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Amber France is the Nutrition and Lactation Program Supervisor at the Wood County Health Department. She has a bachelor's degree in dietetics, a Masters in Nutrition Education from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and a Masters in Public Health from Concordia University. She also has been an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant since November 2011. She is the chair of the Wisconsin Breastfeeding Coalition and the Wood County Breastfeeding Coalition, past-chair of the Wisconsin WIC Association, and serves on the Statewide Breastfeeding Friendly Childcare Workgroup. She focuses on policy, systems, and environmental changes related to breastfeeding (breastfeeding friendly childcare and worksites), community health, and chronic disease prevention.

Helena Gilbertson is the Direct Certification Specialist as well Program Support for Covering Wisconsin (CWI), where she focuses on training and supporting Wisconsin school districts as they use computer programs to certify eligible school children for free lunch through the federal School Nutrition Program. She also manages CWI events and meetings. Helena earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Anne Gargano Ahmed, MPH, MPA graduated from UW-Madison in 2014 with Master's degrees in Public Health and Public Affairs. As a student, Anne worked as the Project Assistant for the Evidence-Based Health Policy Project – a partnership between the La Follette School of Public Affairs, the UW Population Health Institute, and the Wisconsin Legislative Council. Prior to returning to school, Anne was the Coalition Manager of the Wisconsin Identity Theft Coalition and Consumer Advocate for the Elder Financial Empowerment Project at the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. Previously, Anne worked at

the Champaign County Health Care Consumers in Champaign, IL as a Community Organizer on a wide range of health care issues, including Medicare Part D, Access to Care, and Environmental Justice. She received her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007. Originally from Chicago, IL, Anne now lives in Madison, WI with her husband.

Lane Hanson, MSW, works as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Center for Patient Partnerships at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This work focuses on coordinating a Resource Navigator Program in a local primary care clinic. The program involves pre-health undergraduate students in direct patient engagement by screening patients for social determinants of health and connecting them to existing community resources. Lane is also a member of the HungerCare Coalition. She graduated from UW-Madison with a Bachelor's degree in political science and Master's degree in Social Work. She has additional work experience teaching and working in both health care and nonprofit administration.

Nick Heckman: bio unavailable

Vanessa Herald is a Farm to Institution Specialist at the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural System (CIAS). Current projects focus on providing resources and support for Wisconsin and Great Lakes Region institutions - like schools, early care centers, hospitals and universities - to purchase and serve Wisconsin and regionally grown food items in their cafeterias. Vanessa works with organizations including National Farm to School Network, School Food Focus and Wisconsin Farm to School to develop resources, provide direct training, and align local supply and demand for various audiences. This work is informed by experience in garden-based education, production agriculture, and an MS in Nutrition from the Friedman School at Tufts University, with the goal to improve institutional food environments and increase economic opportunities for agricultural producers.

Jill Herz is a Registered Dietitian and FoodWise Nutrition Education Coordinator for Waukesha County UW-Extension. After completing her Bachelor's degree in Dietetics from UW-Madison in 2009 and Dietetic Internship at Mount Mary University in 2010, Jill began working for UW-Extension as a Nutrition Educator, teaching limited-income kids, teens, parents, and seniors skills to choose and prepare healthy foods on a budget. Jill received her Master's Degree in Dietetics from Mount Mary University in 2014. In 2016, Jill became Coordinator of Waukesha County's team of six FoodWise educators, who provide evidence-based nutrition education programs to youth and adults at schools, food pantries, meal programs, and other Waukesha County sites. As a member of the Healthy Shelves team, Jill has enjoyed training Mount Mary interns on food pantry education techniques and helping to develop and revise Healthy Shelves materials and edit website content.

Cindy Huber: bio unavailable

Emily Kaiser: bio unavailable

Robert Kraig has played a significant role in the Wisconsin public policy arena over the past 16 years. Robert is a leading strategist in the Wisconsin progressive movement, and is especially known for developing innovative approaches to strategic communication and issue campaign design and implementation. Robert is leading in the development of new progressive communications models which are more effective and fully integrate traditional organizing with earned, social, and new media strategies. Robert frequently appears in Wisconsin media on health care and economic issues. He has

also appeared on major national and international media outlets such as Fox News, MSNBC, Al Jazeera, Democracy Now, and many syndicated radio programs, and has been quoted in national newspapers and magazines such as the New York Times, Washington Post, The American Prospect, The Atlantic, and Mother Jones.

Melissa Kono is a Community Resource Educator with the University of Wisconsin-Extension in Clark County. Ms. Kono has a Masters Degree in Public Policy and Economic Development from the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities and a Bachelors Degree in Global Studies and Sociology also from the University of Minnesota. Ms. Kono has worked with several non-profits on food security and health issues including the Hmong Mutual Assistance Agency in La Crosse, Minnesota International Health Volunteers, and the United Nations Association in Minnesota. She has been working with the U.S. Agency for International Development Farmer to Farmer program since 2014. In her current position, she works with the Clark County Health Department on administering the Center for Disease Control's Worksite Health Assessment, Cancer Clear and Simple Training, farmers markets, and building capacity with the Eat Right Be Fit Coalition on obesity-reduction efforts.

Jim McPhetridge: bio unavailable

Robert Kellerman is the Executive Director of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources which is the Area Agency on Aging that supports and funds aging programs in seventy Wisconsin counties and all of the eleven Tribes. Prior to working with Area Agencies on Aging, Mr. Kellerman was the Director of the Manitowoc County Aging Resource Center for seventeen years after serving as the Director of a multi-county Elderly Nutrition Program in Northern Wisconsin. He is the President of the WI Association of Area Agencies on Aging and is a member of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Board of Directors. Mr. Kellerman holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point.

Brian Larson's varied path has taken the occasional twist and turn to keep things interesting. A couple of themes that have been consistent have been food and community involvement. In other words, he likes to eat with people. Once he located to beautiful, remote Richland County his high school teaching morphed into social work. After his stint doing outreach for Badgercare was cut short by the great recession – it was time for Second Harvest Foodbank and Foodshare Outreach in the Hinterland. For the last 8 years he has spent time developing relationships and weaving himself into varied settings of SW Wisconsin – educating and offering assistance for people in regards to Foodshare. Outside of the workplace Brian continues to be involved in broad based community organizing in Richland County. More importantly, he has the good fortune to be married to someone who loves to ride bike as much as him – and he has time to do it because his kids are in Florida and Utah.

Nick Levendofsky is the Government Relations Associate at Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. Prior to joining WFU in August 2016, Nick worked in a number of roles for Kansas Farmers Union, namely in government relations, special projects, and communications. A graduate of Kansas State University, Nick resides in Madison, WI, but finds time to get back to north central Kansas where his parents still farm and reside.

Dr. David Nelson has a PhD in Adult Education from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, an MA in Agency Counseling from the University of Colorado and an MS in Epidemiology from the Medical College

of Wisconsin. Dr. Nelson's research interests involve working with community partners to increase physical activity; improve food access; increase social support; and the process of community engagement. He has an interest in health care including behavioral health. Dr. Nelson teaches Community Health Improvement I for the PhD in Public and Community Health Program. Dr. Nelson also teaches in the MPH Program. He has led projects in communities in Tennessee, Maine and Wisconsin. Dr. Nelson has been supported by federal, state, and local grants as well as national and local foundations.

Lisa Olson serves as Director of Policy and Programs for the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, the member association of Community Health Centers in Wisconsin. Lisa supports the work of Community Health Centers by leading the strategic policy and regulatory work of the Association, with a focus on improving public benefits and health insurance access for low-income families. She also oversees the Wisconsin HealthCorps, an AmeriCorps program focused on building Community Health Center capacity. Lisa has been with the Association since 2009. She earned her Master in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jennifer Park-Mroch: bio unavailable

Jon Peacock has nearly 40 years of experience working on public policy issues in Wisconsin. Since 1999 Jon has been the research director for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF), where he has been actively involved in issues relating to BadgerCare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. In addition, Jon directs the work of the Wisconsin Budget Project, which is an initiative of the Council that analyzes the impacts of state fiscal policy decisions, particularly as they relate to low- and moderate-income families in Wisconsin.

George Reistad is the Food Policy Coordinator for the City of Madison. He comes from a sustainable agriculture and local food systems background, formerly serving as the Associate Policy Director at the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute. In his relatively new role at the City, George focuses on creating and continuing programs and advancing policies that increase food access for residents of the City of Madison, with particular focus being paid to initiatives that create healthy affordable food access and build more robust community food systems. Examples of initiatives that George has worked on in this role include: Assisting community gardens in the City through the Gardens Network partnership; launching a new Wholesome Wave-funded Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program on the Northside of Madison; and staffing the Madison Food Policy Council, which uses the expertise and dedication of community volunteers to create and move many food-based policies through the City process.

Carletta Rhodes: bio unavailable

Kristie Rauter Egge is the Community Health Planner and Health Promotion Supervisor for the Wood County Health Department. She oversees the Healthy People Wood County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan focusing on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Mental Health & Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, and Healthy Growth and Development. Kristie's work focuses on policy, system, and environmental changes at the local level and she has experience working with diverse populations and numerous community organizations including non-profits, school districts, worksites, city/county planning, and the health care industry to name a few. She received her undergraduate degree from UW-Eau Claire in Biology and earned her Master's in Public Health through Concordia University. Kristie and her husband are proud to call Wisconsin Rapids home and have a 18 month old daughter named Avery and a 4 legged-furry-5-year old named Lucy.

Manuel Ravelo Jr. is the program coordinator for the Health Resource Center located in the CentraCare Family Health Center. His work includes assessing patients for basic social needs that may have an impact on overall health, and providing resources that help meet those needs. Other recent work includes: facilitating meetings for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients and how to manage their health with the condition, and working on a state-wide initiative with the New Mexico Council on Asthma in developing a comprehensive online source of Centennial Care coverage information for Pediatric Asthma Medications and Spacers.

Leslie Ruffalo: bio unavailable

Sarah Salewski is the Health Promotion and Communications Specialist for the Wood County Health Department. She oversees the Healthy People Wood County Recreate Health Coalition; leading projects such as Farm to School, River Rider Bike Share, Community Food Center work, and Non-Pharmaceutical Prescriptions to name a few. She received her bachelors of business administration degree from Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. A native of Wisconsin Rapids, Sarah is energized by the opportunity to work with a variety of community organizations; she sits on the steering committee of Current; Wisconsin Rapids' Young Professional Group, Mayors Sustainability and Beautification Councils, 2018 Wood County Farm Tech Days, and the regional advisory board of an initiative by Why We Work Here; a program in local high schools. Lastly, her musical talents have been displayed through ODC's Locals on Stage and her musical duo with Pam Ross, coined "The Antonettes".

Paul Savides: bio unavailable

Kara Skarlupka, the UW-Extension Shawano County Family Living Support Staff, assists office educators with various community development, youth, food and nutrition programs. She is currently a Strong Bones instructor, on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Shawano County, and teaches gardening and canning programs in the community. Outside of work, Kara serves on the Bonduel School Board and is the clerk for the Town of Washington.

Nancy Schultz is currently the Family Living Educator for the Shawano County UW-Extension office. She has a degree in dietetics and accounting, and MS degree in Food Science and Nutrition from UW-Stevens Point. She also has a degree in accounting from Lakeland College in Sheboygan. She is actively involved with many community projects, such as the F.R.E.S.H. project, Healthy Shawano- Menominee County – Community Health Act Team, Shawano Pathways – Bike/Pedestrian pathways, Safe Routes to School, Strong Women, Strong Bones strength training program, SAM 25 – Homeless Shelter, Boy and Girls Club, Share the Bounty and the Dreams of Green Community Garden project. In her spare-time she loves gardening, cooking, and taking long walks with friends and family.

Liz Seefeldt comes to the nonprofit world by way of her leadership experiences in the legal and local government fields. Currently the Executive Director of The BRICK Ministries, she has also been the Clerk for the Town of Kelly in northwest Bayfield County, Wisconsin for the past 17 years. Liz is active in her community and currently sits on the board of the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Throughout her adult life Liz has volunteered with numerous and varied nonprofit organizations, serving at every organizational level. When she is not in a board room, Liz can be found watching the diverse bird population of the Northwoods or kayaking on Lake Superior.

Alan Shannon is the USDA's Food & Nutrition Service Public Affairs Director for the Midwest Region. In that role, he raises awareness of and makes connections to FNS' 15 nutrition assistance programs—from school meals to SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program), as well as other USDA programs and grants. FNS does no direct program administration, so the agency relies on its many partners—Departments of Education, food banks and Departments of Human Services—to administer its programs. Alan also serves as facilitator for GoodGreens, a nearly 1200 network of individuals and organizations throughout the Midwest that seek to build and support local food systems. In that role, he facilitates the exchange of news and opportunities which cover every aspect of local food systems and serves as a connector and convener.

Lisa Stark is a registered dietitian, Associate Professor in the Dietetics Department, and Director of the Dietetic Internship program at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee. She holds degrees in food and nutrition and international studies from IA State University, in dietetics from Mount Mary University, and in public health from the University of MN-Twin Cities. After working primarily in hospital settings, she changed her focus to prevention of chronic diseases and health promotion efforts. Lisa has a strong interest in promoting an environment that supports healthy eating, activity and living, and often involves dietetic students in those efforts. She has worked on a variety of initiatives with businesses, coalitions, community centers, schools, restaurants, and other organizations. On the Healthy Shelves team, she enjoys collaborating with organizations that conduct Healthy Shelves food drives.

Tami Syverson has been working with non-profits that have an emphasis on eliminating hunger since 2010. Previously at The Community Table in Eau Claire. Currently her role at Feed My People food bank brings her out into the community to help connect people in need to FoodShare and other available resources. In addition, she has the opportunity to visit partner agencies in a 14 county area to continue building relationships and offer support for growth to continue working towards the Feed My People mission of ending hunger in West Central Wisconsin. When not working, she enjoys working with her husband and children on their hobby farm.

Ruth Schmidt leads Wisconsin's largest membership organization for early childhood educators and NAEYC state affiliate. Ruth is a registered lobbyist with extensive executive leadership experience that includes management consulting with organizations, associations, counties and municipalities. She's actively involved with the Wisconsin Early Learning Coalition, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and the United Way of Dane County's "Born Learning" delegation. On the national level, she is active in the Alliance for Early Success and serves on Congressman Mark Pocan's K-12 and Early Childhood Education Advisory Group and previously. She served on the Early Childhood Advisory Committee convened by former Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. Ms. Schmidt earned her bachelor's degree from Grinnell College.

Kathy Splett is the FoodWise Coordinator for Barron/Polk County(s) residing at the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Barron County office in Barron, Wisconsin. Kathy has been with UW-Extension since July 2012; serving 2 years as an Educator and the last 3 years as a Coordinator. Before working for UW-Extension, Kathy was the Food Service Director for the School District of Turtle Lake (WI) for 17 years and prior to that, partnered with her husband on their dairy farm in Almena, WI.

Kathy received her Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics in Business with a double minor in Business Administration and Speech from UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI. She is active in many aspects of her church and enjoys assisting in their dairy business and helping maintain the farmstead. Kathy's family, besides her husband of 37 years, includes two children who both live and work in the Twin Cities.

Ken Taylor: bio unavailable

Alex Tyink is the Director of Programs for Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. There, he is launching an indoor agriculture program to serve schools and food pantries with an educational indoor farming system that can grow over 800 pounds of food per year in 9 square feet of space. He manages organizational innovation and continuous improvement projects, while overseeing the grants, mobile pantry, school pantry, backpack and health outcome/nutrition programming. He is proud to serve on the Farm Link team, which works to connect local farmers with local buyers and hunger relief agencies as a critical next step in Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin's mission to Solve Hunger. He is passionate about fresh foods and what they can do for community health and resiliency. Alex was previously the Program Director of Goodwill Grows, a farm-to-school, farm-to-business and community garden program of Goodwill Industries of North Central WI. He began his career operating socially-focused urban farms in New York, NY.

Nancy Vance is the Family Living Educator for Clark County, WI. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois with both a Master's of Science degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in the area of Family and Consumer Science. Nancy has had many diverse careers in the field of Family Science ranging from middle school teacher to program director for a domestic violence agency in Illinois where she worked with families impacted by violence and abuse. Nancy has been a University of Wisconsin Extension educator since 2013 where she has focused her work around families and poverty issues in rural Clark County WI.

Erin Waldhart has worked in the non-profit sector for 20 years. She currently serves as Executive Director at WAFER Food Pantry in La Crosse, WI, which provides 1500 families with food monthly and distributes 1.6 million pounds of food annually. During the past four years, Erin's leadership has resulted in a more than 100 percent increase in food package delivery for seniors and rural families, a transition to "client choice," a backpack program in the Bangor School District and implementation of a "Nutrition Education and Tools Project". Currently, Erin is leading a team charged with designing a "food pantry on wheels" program to decrease the transportation barriers associated with food insecurity. Erin enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, photography, music and outdoor activities such as hiking, running and paddle boarding. Erin and her husband, Ryan, have three children - Connor, Isaac, and Grace.

John Wedge is Executive Director of the Wisconsin Education Association Council Region 6. He works with educators, schools and communities in the South Central and Southwestern part of the state to support public education.

Kristen Williamson, a Registered Dietitian and Program Coordinator, provides nutrition council for Second Harvest Heartland's FOODRx healthcare work and Food Assessment Scoring Tool (FAST) project. Her most recent work includes developing patient centered approaches to food insecurity and chronic disease management, fostering collaboration with health professionals and directing operations related to the chronic disease pilot. Kristen has also been working to address the need to quantify the healthfulness of food through the work of the Food Assessment Scoring Tool (FAST).

Dan Wilson is currently the Program Director with Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank in Duluth, MN. He's been with the team for five years. Dan oversees the Backpack program, Mobile Pantries, CSFP Senior Feeding program. His team helps to get more food out to people in need by educating food

pantries to utilize all they can access from their partner food bank. Dan lives in Superior, WI with a fabulous wife, somewhat moody teenager, and a Siberian Husky that sheds too much hair.

Marlie Wilson has been involved in the Wisconsin Farm to Institution Procurement Project since spring 2016 and has served as its Project Coordinator at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection since January 2017. She has previously worked on farm to school efforts and local/regional food systems development in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York. Her M.S. in Agroecology and Urban & Regional Planning at UW-Madison is expected in August 2017.