



**For Immediate Release**  
**Date:** November 30, 2022

**Contact:** Kim Cable, Housing & Community Services Director  
**Phone:** 608-787-9890  
**Email:** [Kim.Cable@couleecap.org](mailto:Kim.Cable@couleecap.org)

### **Couleecap Purchases New Van for Food Deliveries in Monroe County**

Couleecap has recently purchased a new refrigerated van to deliver food to households throughout Monroe County. The van will also allow Couleecap to pick up food donations from various food pantry supporters in our area to ensure their food pantry is stocked with food resources for those in need.

“Accessible, healthy food options are fundamental to creating thriving children, families, and communities,” said Theresa Rogalla, Couleecap Food Programs Coordinator. “By removing barriers to healthy food for all residents, we make our community stronger and a better place to live.”

Grant funds from the Otto Bremer Trust, WI Department of Health Services’ TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program), and WI Department of Children and Families’ Community Services Block Grant made the purchase of this van possible. “Adequate food and housing are essential for helping people achieve stability and self-sufficiency,” said Charlotte Johnson, co-CEO and trustee, Otto Bremer Trust. “Couleecap has been an important provider of programs to people of low income in western Wisconsin.”

The van will allow Couleecap to expand its capacity to serve more people through their emergency food program and reach those who live in communities surrounding Sparta, such as Norwalk, Leon, Melvina, and Angelo.

Couleecap utilizes TEFAP funds along with donations of food and other personal/household items from many local supporters, including Century Foods, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Hansen’s IGA, Walmart, Cow 97, 1<sup>st</sup> Community Credit Union, Morrow Home, Theisen’s, Mayo Clinic Health System, Kiwanis Club, Shifty’s Shack, St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sparta, Sparta EMS, and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Viroqua to keep the food pantry stocked. Couleecap will use the van to deliver food pantry items, such as fresh produce, dairy products, eggs and meat, and canned goods, to households unable to get to our food pantry in Sparta.

“Immanuel Lutheran Church-Viroqua is excited to partner with Couleecap and other area food banks to provide fresh produce to area residents. We are very excited about Couleecap's van that allows outreach to areas that are underserved such as Norwalk, Wisconsin. Since the start of our



garden in 2014, we have averaged 6,000 pounds of fresh produce that has been distributed to three area pantries. Providing fresh produce to the Norwalk area is a new outreach and we appreciate that the van will assist in getting the produce to area residents,” said Michele Engh, Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Viroqua.

In November, to celebrate the purchase of this van, Couleecap took the van on the road to thank many local food pantry supporters and picked up food and/or personal hygiene items through drives that were initiated by some of the supporters as well.

Couleecap's mission is to fight poverty and promote self-sufficiency, economic development, and social justice for people and communities in Monroe, Vernon, La Crosse, and Crawford counties. As the area's Community Action Agency for more than 56 years, we are dedicated to supporting individuals and families by providing comprehensive programming such as emergency food assistance, disaster recovery assistance, housing counseling, supportive housing and case management, home weatherization, emergency furnace repair or replacement, housing rehabilitation assistance, down payment/home purchase funds, loans to purchase or repair vehicles so they can get to work, education and training assistance, and business development assistance.

To learn more about the emergency food program, please visit Couleecap's website at [www.couleecap.org](http://www.couleecap.org) or call 608-782-4877.

#end#