



2024 Annual Report

MISSION STATEMENT:

Helping Neighbors - Improving Lives - Spreading Blessings

VALUE STATEMENTS:

We are called to feed and clothe God's people in need.

We believe nutritious food contributes to good health.

We value people with love, hope, compassion and dignity.

6201 North 60th Street
Omaha NE 68104
(402) 453-7649

Web Site: www.projecthopeomaha.org

Veda Keebler, Executive Director
E-Mail: projecthope.execdirector@gmail.com

Executive Report

Project Hope had a challenging and successful year in 2024. We successfully served 21% more households and individuals in the food pantry and 37% more households in the clothing pantry. Challenging because the cost of food continued to increase and even though individuals donated \$10,000 more than budgeted it was a 32% decrease from the previous year. Fortunately, the Food Bank for the Heartland provided 49% more food to us this year at no cost and organizations such as ReRuns donated large amounts of in-season clothing.

Our two satellite food pantry locations called One14 Center pantry at Lutheran Church of the Master and the Loaves & Fishes pantry at St. Matthew Lutheran Church continued to serve households in south central and southwest Omaha.

Project Hope successfully completed the last phase of our drive and parking lot in November of 2024. This was a five-year process of obtaining funding, approval of plans, and completion of work to provide a cement drive to the lower level and parking for our clients. We will no longer have client vehicles and grocery carts stuck in the mud.

Our Board of Directors made a bold decision to use our two sizable financial gifts to strengthen and stabilize our organization for the future. James P. & Patricia Duffy provided in their living trust a gift of over \$83,000 to Project Hope. The Board approved for \$45,000 to be placed in a new Facility Fund for future improvements and \$20,000 in a Capital Equipment Fund. The balance of this gift was used to obtain immediate facility, equipment, and food needs. The entire \$100,000 gift from the Lutheran Service Corp has been invested in our newly developed Endowment Fund called The Lutheran Service Corp Endowment to meet future needs. A new gift policy was also adopted by the Board of Directors.

We are blessed that our board members, employees and volunteers work together to feed and clothe God's people in need, providing nutritious food and clean gently used clothing to others with love, hope, compassion and dignity. With the generosity of our donors including individuals, church organizations, grant providers, and local businesses we were able to help our neighbors and improve their lives by spreading God's blessings. We appreciate our donors, volunteers, staff, board members, and organizational partners who make us successful in our mission.

Client Services

Food Pantries

The Project Hope Food Pantry was open weekly on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 11:00 am until 2:45 pm. The Loaves & Fishes pantry at 60th and Walnut streets was open on the third Saturday morning monthly from 10:00 am – noon. The One14 Center pantry was open the first Sunday of the month from noon until 2:00 pm and the third Monday evening from 4:00 – 5:45 pm monthly.

*We provide a choice pantry service to our clients as needed every 30 days.

*Household paper products, laundry and cleaning products, personal hygiene items, and diapers are provided to our food pantry clients as available. Unfortunately, due to a lack of donations, these items were not available for several weeks this past year.

*We served 6,254 families including 20,689 individuals between our main pantry and our satellite pantries at St. Matthew Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Master.

*We served 21.5% more families and 20.9% more individuals in 2024 than 2023.

Clothing Pantry

The Clothing Pantry was open two days a week on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

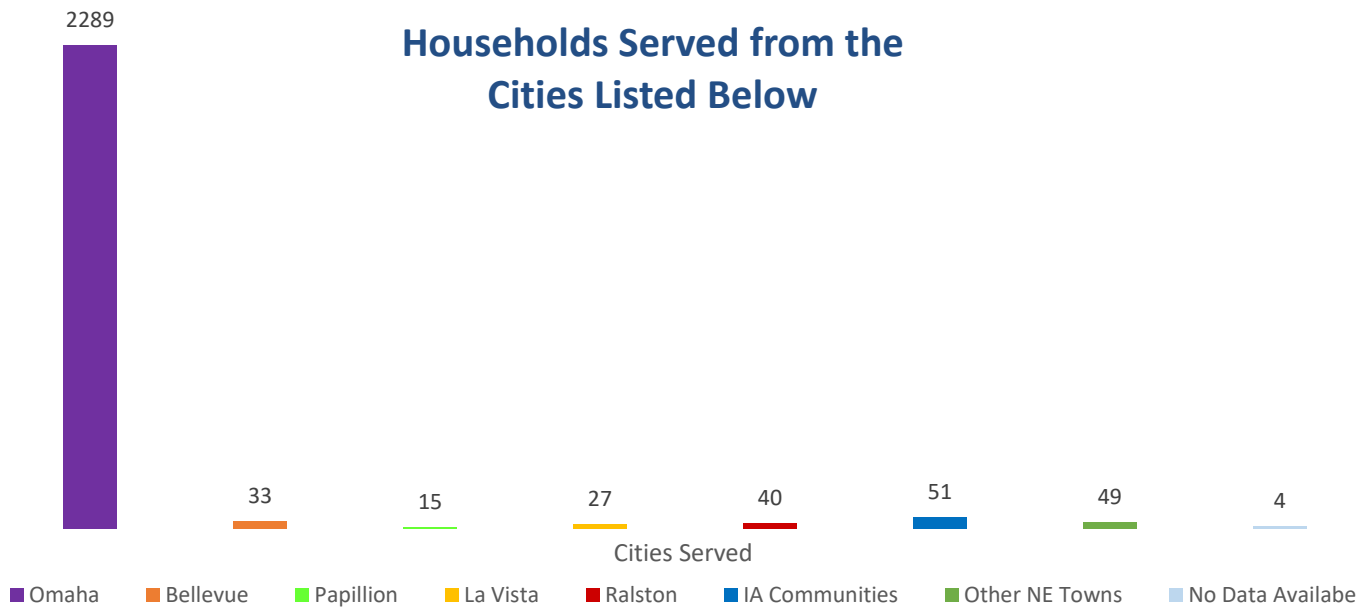
*We served 2,060 households in the clothing pantry during 2024. This is a 36.7% increase over 2023.

*Clients may shop weekly for free clothing items for their household.

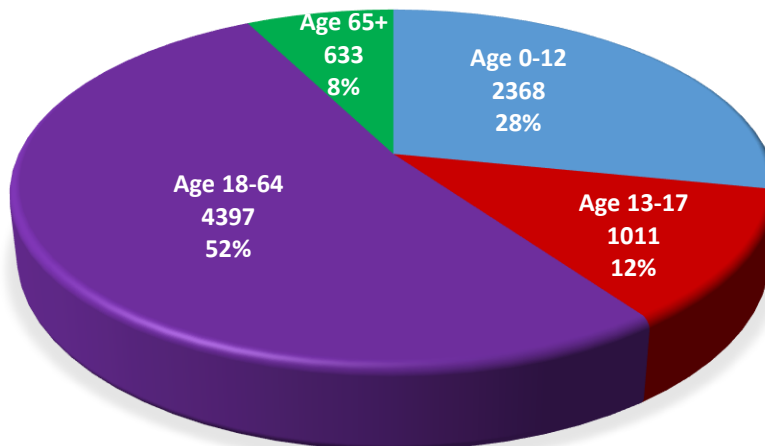
*ReRuns, an organization that sells used women and children's clothing in the Spring and Autumn, donated huge amounts of unsold clothing to Project Hope following each event.

Client Information

The data below reflects unduplicated information for 2,507 households totaling 8,409 individual clients served at Project Hope during 2024.



Age Group Summary



Provisions

We served our clients food provided by the Foodbank for the Heartland, local organizations and churches, individual food donations, and the items we purchased from local grocery stores in Omaha.

- *We spent \$77,922 at the local grocery stores and Whispering Roots purchasing food items needed for the pantry. This was a 23% increase over the amount spent in 2023.
- *44 local businesses and church organizations delivered food, personal hygiene items, laundry and cleaning products, and clothing to Project Hope over 411 times in 2024.
- *Local churches and individuals provided fresh produce in the summer and fall from their gardens.
- *The Food Bank for the Heartland provided free food to Project Hope 50 weeks in 2024. During 2024 we received 69,927 pounds of food from the Food Bank. This was a 49% increase over 2023.
- *The Saving Grace organization made over 88 deliveries to Project Hope with food from local restaurants, grocery and convenience stores on Tuesday and Thursdays.
- *The Whispering Roots organization provided us with donations of food at least 38 weeks this year including our produce boxes weekly except during July, August, and September.
- *Lord of Love Lutheran Church supplied our clients with fresh produce from their parish gardens during the months of July, August, and September.

Time & Talent Donations ~ Our Volunteers

Our volunteers checked clients into our Pantry Soft program, collected the food selections for our clients, sacked all the food, and delivered all the items to the vehicles, loading them into the trunk or backseat, picked up food from the Food Bank for the Heartland, processed food and clothing donations, assisted clients in the clothing pantry, as well as cleaned and organized the facility.

- *Project Hope had 41 volunteers serving in the pantry during 2024.
- *Volunteers served a total of 5,166.25 hours in 2024 for an average of 430.5 hours per month.
- *It would have cost us \$77,493.75 in wages if we needed to pay part-time staff \$15 per hour to do the jobs our volunteers complete. However, the value of volunteering in the State of Nebraska during 2024 was rated at \$31.07 per hour. That puts the value of our volunteers at \$160,515!

Financial Gifts

Grants Received

Project Hope was successful in obtaining some very significant grants for our operating budget this year. The Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation provided us with a \$15,000 Omaha Award. The Pape Family Foundation gave us \$10,000. We received a \$5,000 grant from an anonymous foundation. The St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund awarded us with a \$3,000 grant. The Soener Foundation and the William E and Rose Marie Davis Foundation gave us grants worth \$2,000 each. We also received \$1,000 grants from The Bill and Leona Kernan Family and the Vandervort Family Fund.

Six grants were received to help purchase food for our clients. The MetLife Foundation provided us with a \$10,000 food grant. The International Paper Foundation gave us a \$8,000 food grant and The Farm Credit Service of America awarded us a \$5,000 grant. Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund sent us \$2,500 for our food purchases. Walmart provided \$1,250, The Nebraska Synod ELCA gave a \$1,000 grant, and Costco provided a \$500 grant.

We received a \$2,000 grant from the Food Bank for the Heartland for new equipment. We used this to purchase a large stainless-steel table with wheels and a lower shelf.

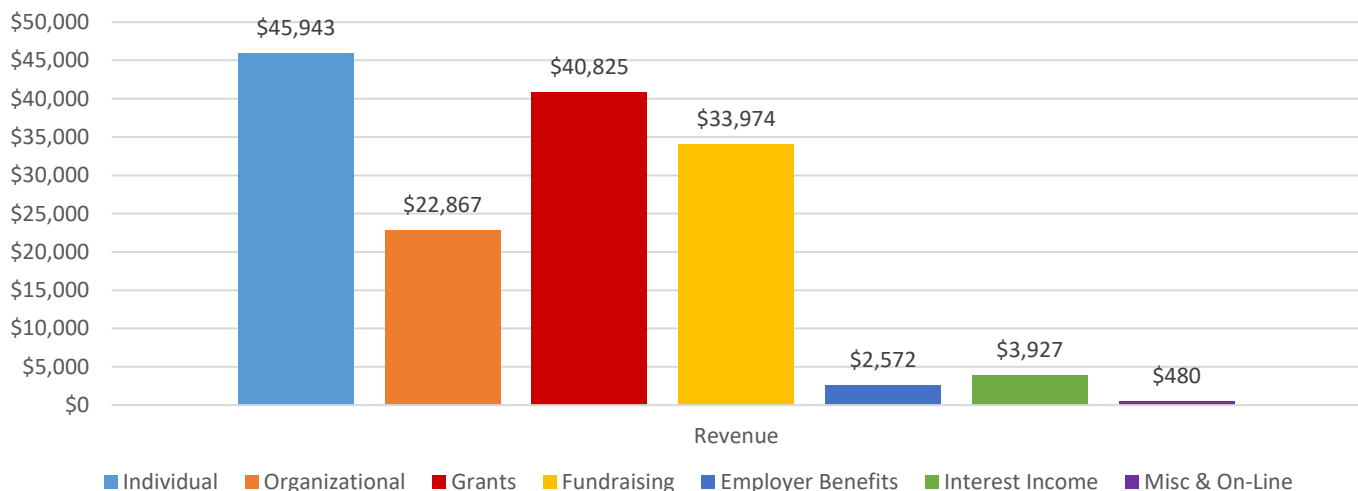
Monetary Donors

We received monetary donations from 200 individuals and 34 organizations or businesses. Individuals provided us with over \$80,000 in financial support, this includes donations made in association with our fundraisers and designated funds. Unfortunately, this is a decrease of 31.6% from 2023. Individuals also donated money through American Online Giving, the Kroger Corporation, Network for Good, Together A Greater Good (TAGG), Benevity, Conagra Brands Foundation, Omaha Community Foundation, and Thrivent National. Churches and other business organizations provided over \$33,000 in monetary gifts. In addition to cash and checks, donations can be made with debit or credit cards via our website and with investment transfers to our Charles Schwab account. Legacy Gifts can be made to our Endowment Fund through the ELCA Foundation Ministry Growth Fund.

Fundraisers & Campaigns

We organized and raised funds through three fundraisers and campaigns during 2024. Project Hope raised \$3,500 with the “Do Good Week” campaign in April. On September 22nd we held our sixth “Bread for Life” fundraiser and raised over \$15,000 gross income. We ended the year with our End of the Year campaign starting with Giving Tuesday the week following Thanksgiving and raised over \$15,000. All three fundraisers and campaigns provided less income than the previous year.

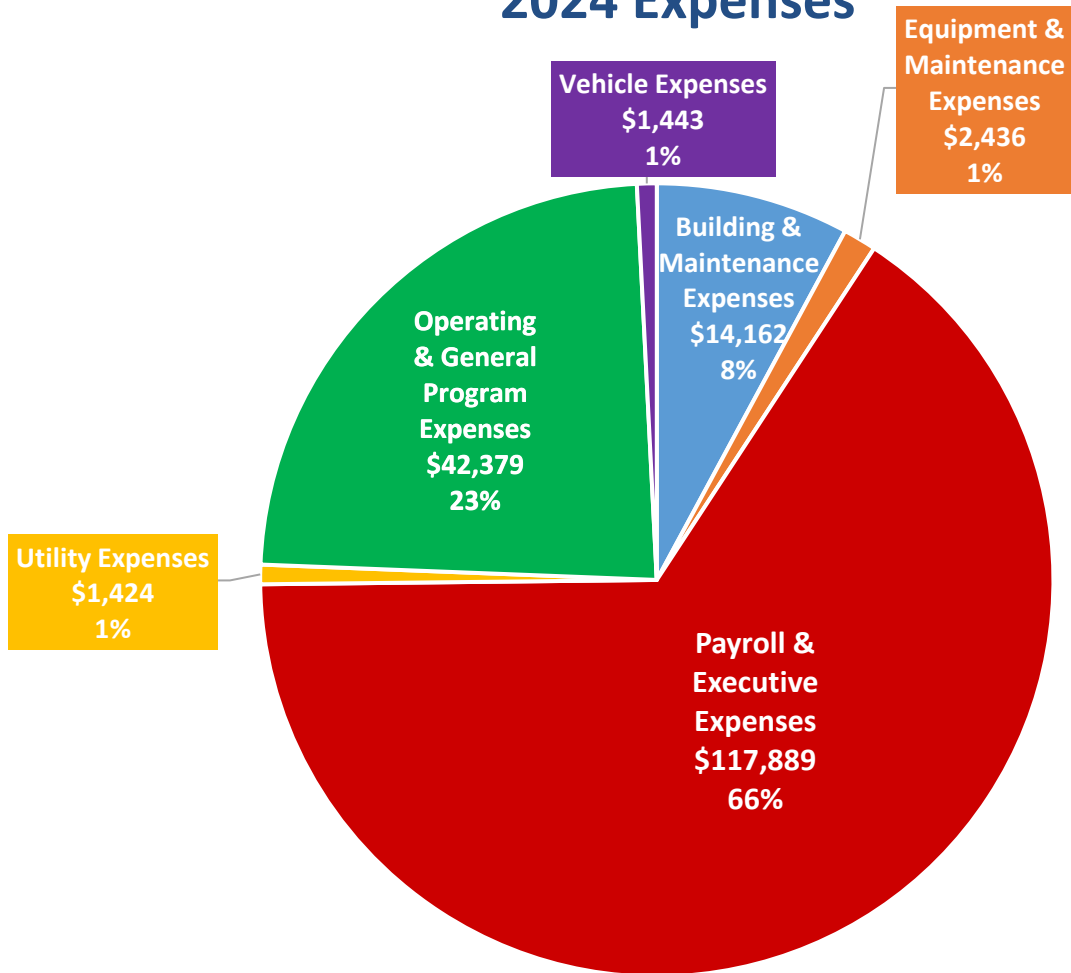
2024 Revenue



2024 Revenue Budget

Individual Contributions	\$35,000
Organizational Contributions	\$30,000
Grants	\$50,000
Fundraising Income	\$35,000
Employer & Benefits Income	\$ 4,500
Interest Income	\$ 2,000
Misc. & On-Line Sales Generated Income	\$ 350
Total Revenue Budget	\$156,850
Actual Total Revenue	\$150,587

2024 Expenses



2024 Expenditures Budget

Building & Maintenance Expenses	\$14,310
Equipment & Maintenance Expenses	\$ 2,100
Operating & General Program Expenses	\$44,850
Payroll & Executive Expenses	\$120,478
Utilities Expenses	\$ 1,886
Vehicle Expenses	\$ 4,370
Total Expenditures Budget	\$187,994
Actual Total Expenses	\$179,733

End of Year Account Balances

December 31, 2024

Business Checking Account	\$190,685.47
Investment Accounts	<u>\$187,588.77</u>
Total Funds	\$378,274.24

Donations of Food, Clothing, Paper Products or Personal Hygiene Items From Churches, Businesses, and Organizations in 2024

Augustana Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church; LaVista, NE
Bethel Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
BFF; Omaha, NE
Calvary Lighthouse Church; Omaha, NE
Creighton University College of Medicine; Omaha, NE
First United Methodist Church; Omaha, NE
Girl Scout Troop 45107; Omaha, NE
Google; Council Bluffs, IA
GraceHill Lutheran Church; Elkhorn, NE
The Humble Lily; Omaha, NE
Hy-Vee Store Cass Street; Omaha, NE
Immanuel Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Immanuel Communities; Omaha, NE
Immanuel Pathways; Omaha, NE
Immanuel Village; Omaha, NE
Liberty Church; Omaha, NE
Lord of Love Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Lutheran Church of the Master; Omaha, NE
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Mount Olive Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Omaha District Dental Society; Omaha, NE
Parkwood Terrace Apartment Complex; Omaha, NE
Phil's Cash Saver; Omaha, NE
Prosource Wholesale of Omaha; Omaha, NE
Resurrection Lutheran Church; Gretna, NE
Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue; Omaha, NE
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Sons of Norway; Omaha, NE
St. John's Lutheran Church; Bennington, NE
St. John Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
St. Mark Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
St. Matthew Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
St. Michael Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
St. Thomas Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
Tenaska; Omaha, NE
Trinity Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
UNO Scott Campus Housing; Omaha, NE
Washington Elementary School; Omaha, NE
Wenninghoff Farm; Omaha, NE
Westside High School Marching Band; Omaha, NE
Whispering Roots; Omaha, NE
Zion Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE

Monetary Donations from Individuals In 2024

David & Robin Adams; Manilla, IA \$500
Douglas & Cathy Aden; Omaha, NE \$800
Tim & Karen Adkins; Plattsmouth, NE \$100
Paul Albers; Omaha, NE \$255
Judith Amdur; Los Angeles, CA \$500
Linda Anderson \$100
Winston & Karen Anderson; Bennington, NE \$350
Emily Barz
Thomas Becka
Marilyn Beig; Omaha, NE \$2,000
Jeffrey & Laurie Beilke; New Ulm, MN \$100
Ann Benson; Omaha, NE \$200
Kathryn Black; Omaha, NE
Darlene Boehnke; Omaha, NE
Amelia Bowen; Omaha, NE
Daniel & Julie Brandt; Omaha, NE
Jimmy & Helen Brasch; Omaha, NE \$1,000
William & Joanne Breiting; Omaha, NE
Deborah Burns
Susan Chavez; Omaha, NE
Christine Chubb; La Vista, NE
Jim & Deborah Ciurej; Omaha, NE
Ladonna A Clary Trust; Omaha, NE \$400
Bruce & Melinda Classen; Omaha, NE
Dave & Karen Coker; Ashland, NE \$1,400
Paul & Kim Coleman; Omaha, NE \$500
John & Jackie Combes; Omaha, NE
Vernon & Dorothy Cornish; Omaha, NE \$500
Pamela Cummings \$150
Randy & Denise Cyr; Omaha, NE \$150
Robert & Cheryl Danielson; Omaha, NE \$500
Duffy Davis \$425
Rick Davis; Omaha, NE
Dave & Anita deFreese; Gretna, NE \$200
Scott Dibble & Scott Hegenbart; Omaha, NE
Doneta Doehling; Omaha, NE \$200
Kay Drain; Omaha, NE
James & Patricia Duffey Living Trust \$83,490
Katherine Duggan; Omaha, NE
Johnnie & Jayne Dunn; Omaha, NE \$200
Mary & Gary Ehlers; Gretna, NE \$200
Gretchen Elliott \$100
Curtis Englund; Omaha, NE \$300
Amy Finkhouse; Denver, CO \$100
James Fosmer \$200
Amanda Fredricks; Omaha, NE \$900
Brett & Jenny Fuller; Omaha, NE \$120
Brian & Angela Galloway; Omaha, NE \$400
Charles & Veronica Galloway; Omaha, NE \$150

Monetary Donations from Individuals In 2024

Brad Gatzlaff \$150
Sandra Gaube
Noreen Gilquest; Omaha, NE \$200
Scott Glaser; Omaha, NE
Alvin & JoAnn Glasshoff; Gretna, NE \$100
Lynn & Cindy Gray; Omaha, NE \$500
Xavier Hairston
Linda Hammer; Omaha, NE \$4,000
Deanna Hansen; Omaha, NE \$190
Lois Hanusa; Council Bluffs, IA \$700
Gerhart Wehrbein & Nancy Harms; Elkhorn, NE \$100
Jann Harrington; Omaha, NE \$500
William & Sondra Harrold; Springfield, NE \$450
Lee Harrow; Omaha, NE
Nelda Hartwig; Omaha, NE
Steve & Denise Hasse; Omaha, NE
Erica Heiden; Omaha, NE \$280
Gail & Sally Hennings; Papillion, NE \$500
Leslie Heydorn; Omaha, NE \$700
Barry & Cheri Higgins; Omaha, NE \$500
Ingrid Johnson & Thomas Hilgendorf; Omaha, NE \$1,100
Caroline Hill; Omaha, NE \$700
Rodney Hoesley
Robert Hoff; Omaha, NE \$1,000
Jordan Hoff \$1,000
John & Susan Hollenbeck; Omaha, NE
Ronald & Judith Holling; La Vista, NE \$200
Frank & Marla Holmes; Omaha, NE
Dennis Hopple; Ashland, NE \$300
Tom & Bev Hornig; Omaha, NE \$1,600
Theresa Hospodka; Omaha, NE
Pamela Humphrey; Omaha, NE \$100
Rebecca Hurt; Omaha, NE
Gertrude Hutton; Blair, NE
John Hutton; Omaha, NE
Reverend Roland & Suzan Jank, Jr.; Omaha, NE \$1,350
Danette Johns; Omaha, NE
Janet Johnson; Omaha, NE
Lee & Jean Johnson; Omaha, NE \$350
Virgil & Ruth Johnson; Omaha, NE \$100
Felecia Jones; Omaha, NE \$150
Michelle Kalin; Springfield, NE
Roger & Shirley Kamprath; Omaha, NE \$350
Marilyn Karr
Spencer Kearney \$2,800
Robert & Kathleen Keasling; Omaha, NE \$1,000
Dorothy Keebler; Adams, NE
John & Amber Keebler; Omaha, NE \$2,500
Katrina Keebler; La Vista, NE \$250

Monetary Donations from Individuals In 2024

Debra Knight; Omaha, NE \$1,600

Frank & Connie Kompare; Ralston, NE \$150

Beth Kramer \$500

Michael & Sandra Krick; Omaha, NE \$300

June Kroeger; Omaha, NE \$1,100

Larry & Janet Kronebusch; Winona, MN

William Kronebusch

Diana Kuhl; Omaha, NE

Joan LaClair

Anita Larson Andres; Omaha, NE \$450

Rachel Larson; Omaha, NE

Sharon Larson; Omaha, NE

David Lee

Marcy Lillethorup; Omaha, NE \$1,000

Patricia Lundahl; Omaha, NE \$325

Kristy Lundstrom; Cambra, CA \$100

Linda Madgett; Omaha, NE \$150

Michael Makar & Elisa Velez-Makar \$1,100

Cheryl Matthews; Omaha, NE \$200

Thomas & Gloria McDaniel; Omaha, NE \$125

Michael & Paula McDonald; Omaha, NE

Janis McLaughlin; Omaha, NE

Mary Meyer; Omaha, NE \$2,200

Steve & Nancy Meyer; Omaha, NE \$1,000

Garnet Miller; Omaha, NE \$200

Joseph & Linda Miller; Omaha, NE \$500

Karen Milton

James & Mary Pat Moeller; Charlotte, NC \$100

Reverend Bill & Martha Moorhead; Omaha, NE \$600

Thomas McGinn & Annamaria Nagy; Omaha, NE \$100

Nelson & Sharon Newman; Omaha, NE

Sharon Cleo Novotny; Omaha, NE \$100

Gregory Oliver; Omaha, NE

Kris Olson

Victor & Jody Wells Padron; Omaha, NE \$2,050

Carl & Mary Peters; Omaha, NE \$2,000

Janelle Petersen & Sandra Joons; Omaha, NE

Lukas Petersen; Omaha, NE \$200

Noel & Ruby Petersen; Omaha, NE

Lorraine Planck; Omaha, NE \$150

Colleen Powers

Thomas & Melissandra Prohaska; Omaha, NE \$100

Larry & Joyce Raabe; Omaha, NE \$500

Glen & Ruth Rademacher; Omaha, NE \$850

Gary Ramsay; Omaha, NE

Paula Rasmuss; Omaha, NE

Timothy Rendall

Mary Retzlaff

Thomas & Debra Risinger; Omaha, NE

Monetary Donations from Individuals In 2024

Douglas Rohring
Everett Rokahr; Omaha, NE
Donald Rowen; Omaha, NE
Keith Rummel \$150
Joseph Sacco
JoAnne Sanders
Therese Sather
Debra Saure; Omaha, NE \$100
Jolene Scalzo; Omaha, NE
Matthew & Jennifer Schell; Omaha, NE \$900
James Schneider \$220
Sam & Ellen Schroeder; La Vista, NE \$100
Larry Schultz
Joan Schwien; Omaha, NE \$1,500
Sharon Semler; Omaha, NE \$200
Thomas & Roxanne Senne; Omaha, NE \$200
Marla Serflaten; Omaha, NE
Margret Sexton; Omaha, NE \$140
Bruce & Suzanne Sharp; Omaha, NE
Hope Shotbolt
Sue Simmons \$175
Delores Snodgrass; Gretna, NE \$200
Mark Sorensen; Omaha, NE \$250
Roger & Karen Southward; Pickerington, OH \$150
Barbara Stacy; Omaha, NE \$150
Mark & Karen Stiles; Gretna, NE \$550
David & Cynthia Strovers; Omaha, NE \$150
Ric & Veda Swanson; Council Bluffs, IA \$100
Kumy & Ann Thariani; Omaha, NE \$500
Richard Thies; Omaha, NE \$110
Donald Thomsen; Omaha, NE \$175
Kristi Ties
Michael Ties \$100
Susan Toelle; Elkhorn, NE \$120
Diane Townsend; Omaha, NE \$120
Gregory & Karen Trost; Elkhorn, NE \$700
Kip Tyler \$150
Mary Underwood
Mary Vankat; Omaha, NE
Debra Walz \$100
Phillip Wandrey; Omaha, NE \$1,200
Tom Westman; Omaha, NE \$100
Bonnie White; Omaha, NE \$12,843
James & Pamela Wilcox; Omaha, NE \$100
Carol C Williams; Omaha, NE \$200
D Max & Linda Williams; Omaha, NE \$1,000
Dwight & Carol Williams; Elkhorn, NE \$100
Bernice Yates; Omaha, NE \$100
John & Sara Young; Omaha, NE \$150

Monetary Donations from Churches, Businesses, and Organizations In 2024

American Online Giving \$255
Augustana Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$560
The Blackburn Giving Fund/Your Cause; Charleston, SC \$5,000
Benevity \$100
Bethany Lutheran Church Women; Omaha, NE \$200
Bethel Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$868
Calvary Lighthouse Church Women; Omaha, NE \$650
Conagra Brands Foundation Matching Gifts \$100
FiberFirst; Omaha, NE \$500
Food Bank for the Heartland; Omaha, NE \$2,000
Forever Yesterday Thrift; Omaha, NE \$100
Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund; Omaha, NE \$2,500
GraceHill Lutheran Church; Elkhorn, NE \$4,416
Hope Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$350
International Paper Foundation; Memphis, TN \$8,000
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church Women; Omaha, NE \$283
Kroger Corporation \$300
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$546
Luther Memorial Lutheran Church Women; Omaha, NE \$280
Lutheran Church of the Master; Omaha, NE \$2,108
Lutheran Service Corp; Omaha, NE \$100,000
Lutheran Women of Omaha; Omaha, NE \$399
Miloma Lodge #328; Omaha, NE \$300
MetLife Foundation; Tampa, FL \$10,000
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$1,856
Mount Olive Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$6,543
Nebraska Synod ELCA; Omaha, NE \$1,000
Network for Good
Omaha Community Foundation; Omaha, NE \$12,300
Omaha Track, Inc; Omaha, NE \$500
PayPal Giving Fund; Omaha, NE
Resurrection Lutheran Church; Gretna, NE \$3,156
St. John Lutheran Church; Bennington, NE \$322
St. John's Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$2,850
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund; Omaha, NE \$3,000
St. Matthew Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE
St. Matthew Lutheran Church Women; Omaha, NE \$100
St. Michael Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$958
St. Thomas Lutheran Church; Omaha, NE \$2,367
Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation; Omaha, NE \$15,000
The Soener Foundation; Omaha, NE \$2,500
Spartan Nash; Minneapolis, MN
Thrivent National \$2,068
Together A Greater Good; Omaha, NE
William E & Rose Marie Davis Foundation; Omaha, NE \$2,000
Walmart Foundation \$1,250

Board of Directors 2024

Victor Padron, President
Dennis Magnuson, Vice President
Michael McDonald, Treasurer
Amy Bowen, Secretary
Reverend Paul Albers
Reverend Chris Andersen
Denise Cyr
Angela Galloway
Cheri Higgins
Ingrid Johnson
Felecia Jones
Anita Larson Andres
Reverend Diana Kuhl, Advisor
Reverend Roland Jank, Jr., Advisor

God has truly blessed our ministry and provided the resources needed to serve our clients.

Veda Keebler, Executive Director