

2025 Annual Report

Prepared By

Refuge board and Staff

January, 2026

What's Inside

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to present this annual report, which celebrates all that God provided and allowed us to do in 2025. This report showcases the hard work and compassion of our community and highlights key achievements and initiatives that have advanced our mission to serve more families than ever before. It is overwhelming when we look back and forward. A lot was done - but so much more is needed.

BURN THE NOTE

We could not be more excited to have paid off our mortgage in 2025! In January of 2020, we took out a loan in order to build out our new building that only had dirt floors and outside walls. We were able to hire a contractor and build the inside exactly how we needed it. Since that year, we expanded the kitchen to include a full commercial stove/hood and sink to cook and serve full meals.

In March of 2025, we paid off this mortgage! 5 years!!

- **Our first-ever Bands Battling Hunger Event** Did we raise money? Yes. Did we raise awareness? Yes. But what was even better, was 5 different worship bands came together for an amazing night of worship. The rain put a little damper on the night, but we hunkered down and worshipped together and had an amazing day outdoors as a community. Stay tuned for the 2026 date!
- **Tee It Up For Hunger** Modern Woodmen hosted a golf fundraiser to raise funds for us to continue doing what we do. Funds went straight into the yearly budget to provide much needed funds for our food pantry. We will do it again - June 19, 2026
- **CNOY** Our 2nd Annual Event was successful, due to team captains leading individuals to raise funds, as they experience a small look at what many of our clients endure every cold season. We walk outside together so that Johnson and Marion County families will receive resources as they face hardships. Join us on 2/28/26 to continue this event! See our website for more details.
- **Turkey Burn** Bailey & Wood hosts a walk every Thanksgiving morning with the proceeds coming to The Refuge. We are so thankful for every person that registered and came out to walk for our families in need.

Record number of families served

When we learned there would be a temporary loss of food subsidies, many new families turned to The Refuge due to unexpected needs. In response, businesses, organizations, churches, individuals—and even families—stepped forward with food drives, food purchases, and countless prayers. We were blessed to receive the additional support needed to continue supplying families with food, and we never once had to turn anyone away.

Record number of food donations received

We received 131,543 pounds of donated food, worth \$252,562 in 2025. This was received from our Tackle Hunger Partners, Churches, businesses like Gleaners, Midwest Food Bank, Impact Center, and many individuals. Because of this, we were able to pass out \$528,900 worth of food !!! THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!

Record number of Oven Mitt Meals prepared

Groups are always looking for ways to serve together. Groups donate \$300 for us to purchase the ingredients and then come prepare the meals to then be frozen and delivered to our homebound families, as well as food pantry clients. In 2025, we prepared 700 meals through this program.

Thanksgiving and Christmas

Once again, we saw record numbers of families seeking additional support. Through partnerships with generous organizations, we were able to provide 300 families with a full Thanksgiving meal and more than 300 children with toys, clothing, and gifts for Christmas. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of so many of you.

Our after-school program continues to provide life changing support

The Drop provides more than academic support to our students. Each week, life skills are taught, words of the week are learned, new foods are tried, recipes are followed, and puzzles are completed—but most importantly, love and support are extended to entire families as they navigate many difficult situations. Our staff and mentors are truly blessed and honored to play even a small role in the lives of these little ones. We are currently at full enrollment due to the size and capacity of our office and building. However, we remain committed to loving and supporting every opportunity we are given.

WHAT'S NEXT??

Each month, we are seeing a need to expand. We continually have to adjust the way we serve - due to the limited space. We don't know what that means for our future - we will see what doors God opens. We are open to expanding where we currently are - but a lot would have to happen for that to be possible. We are open to moving (EEEEKKKK) - but God would really need to open the right place, right price and right timing. Please pray with and for us! And, if you hear about a property that you think would be good - please call us! We are in the seeking and praying stage and want to make sure we follow God's lead.