

Hope Food Distribution 2025 Annual Report

Hope Food Pantry continued its work in 2025 serving neighbors facing food insecurity in Lake County. We served an average of 101 families each pantry, up from 89 families in 2024 and 76 in 2023. During the government shut-down and SNAP debacle, we saw a significant increase in neighbors needing food but also an increase in monetary and food donations, as well as inquiries to volunteer. Many thanks to all who reached out during this turbulent time. The community response was truly heart warming. A big thank you to Rustoleum, Amcor and Village Green Montessori for their awesome food drives!

We also managed the stress of the ICE raids in this area. While no food pantries reported ICE activity, we had to prepare for this possibility and certainly have since seen a decline in certain segments of our neighbor population.

We provide each family with a selection of shelf stable items, fresh produce, basic household items, meat, dairy and bread. We have seen big growth in the demand for baby and adult diapers and feminine care products. All these items are sourced from our partnerships with Northern Illinois Food Bank, Keeping Families Covered Diaper Bank and donations from Aldi Mundelein and Vernon Hills, Sunset Foods Long Grove and Jewel Libertyville. These retailers donate huge quantity of meat and shelf stable items to our pantry every month and deserve our sincere thanks.

The other challenge in the first half of 2025 was the sudden and severe rise in the cost of eggs. Since eggs are our most popular item at the pantry, we felt it was important the pantry continue to provide eggs to our neighbors during this time despite paying almost \$10 per dozen at one point. Luckily this spike in prices was short lived and NIFB was soon able to offer their agencies more competitive prices.

At the end of November, Hope Food Pantry expanded its hours to include Fridays. The Friday volunteer shift is now 4-6pm. This includes one hour of set up from 4-5pm and one hour of serving our neighbors from 5-6pm. This will open up some capacity for growth during our Saturday morning pantry from 8 - 10 am.

Lastly, some much needed work in the pantry will be done in early January and we will be replacing the old carpet with new vinyl flooring! This will be a huge improvement in the look and cleanliness of the pantry! Thank you Betsy Swank for helping make this a reality!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Holiday Box fund-raiser and to all the wonderful volunteers who serve our neighbors week after week with grace and good humor. We literally couldn't do it without you!