

Hope Food Distribution Services, NFP
2025 Annual Report

The Hope Food Pantry had another record year, serving more neighbors than ever since its creation by a St. Lawrence youth group in 2004. In 2024, we served an average of 89 households each pantry day, up from 76 in 2023 and 50 in 2022. We served a record 132 households on November 9th, 2024! We had 590 unique households visit the pantry in 2024, helping over 2000 individuals with supplemental groceries, diapers and household items. Of these 2072 individuals, 26% are children under the age of 18 and 29% are 60 and over.

It is no small achievement that we have been able to serve these increasing numbers in the two hours we are open. Our volunteers are enthusiastic and efficient, chasing down carts outside, running to get eggs and milk, and patiently working with new families to get them registered. We would also like to thank the team of people who pick up at Northern Illinois Food Bank or meet the monthly delivery of product, as well as those who pickup donations at Aldi, Sunset, Jewel and the diaper bank. We distributed over 100,000 pounds of food and household items last year. We literally couldn't do it without you!

Thanks to an energetic demo crew, we removed built-in shelves in the food pantry and made room for new wire shelving and a new commercial cooler for our growing purchases of milk and eggs. The cooler (our 5th appliance!) was purchased with a grant from NIFB.

Another big thank you to all who donated to our Holiday Meal Box fund-raiser. It was a huge success and allowed us to purchase 260 hams and turkeys over the holiday season. I was incredibly moved and grateful for so many generous donations.

We still need paper bags, although we are trying to reuse boxes as much as possible! We will continue to face whatever new challenge 2025 brings (egg prices?) with faith and a firm belief we are making a difference in our little corner of the world. Thank you for your time, treasure and prayers.

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