



**URBANDALE
FOOD PANTRY**

ANNUAL REPORT



GREETINGS FROM THE URBANDALE FOOD PANTRY!

Following another year of unpredictability and uncertainty, it feels necessary to pause and reflect on the many highs and lows we experienced this past year. 2021 gave us many things, and for the Urbandale Food Pantry, one was the ability to serve more families in different ways.

Growing food-service partnerships within the community increased our food rescue efforts immensely. Additionally, strong relationships with local gardeners provided more than 13,000 pounds of fresh garden produce to our families throughout the summer.

In 2021, the Urbandale Food Pantry rescued almost 350,000 pounds of food that otherwise would have been discarded. Rescued food is available to our families on a daily basis and adds to the food items they are already receiving.

In 2021, the Urbandale Food Pantry had a total of 22,963 pantry visitors. We continually welcomed new families to our pantry almost daily, serving an average of 53 new households every month and 634 new families for the year. Of all individuals served, 83% were minors (below working age), seniors (above working age), on disability, or employed. As a border-free food pantry, we provided services to families in 66 different zip codes.

As I look back, I think about the constant changes that our community has been navigating with the ebb and flow of our environment. I think about the steadfast dedication of our volunteers and staff over the past two years and know that we would not be able to do the great work without them. In 2021, our volunteers logged a total of 10,644 hours of volunteer work. Equally important, I think about and am continually humbled by the support of the community.

We know the effect of the pandemic will be long-lasting as COVID-19 financial support is gradually reduced. We know our families will need our services more than ever. But, I am hopeful. I am excited by the progress being made on our strategic priorities and all of the hard work being done to tackle food insecurity in Central Iowa.

-Patty Sneddon-Kisting | Executive Director

22,963

Number of Pantry Visits

10,644

Volunteer Hours

Expenses By Category

Operating Expenses

17.3%

Occupancy

6.1%



Food &
Personal Care Items

76%

2021

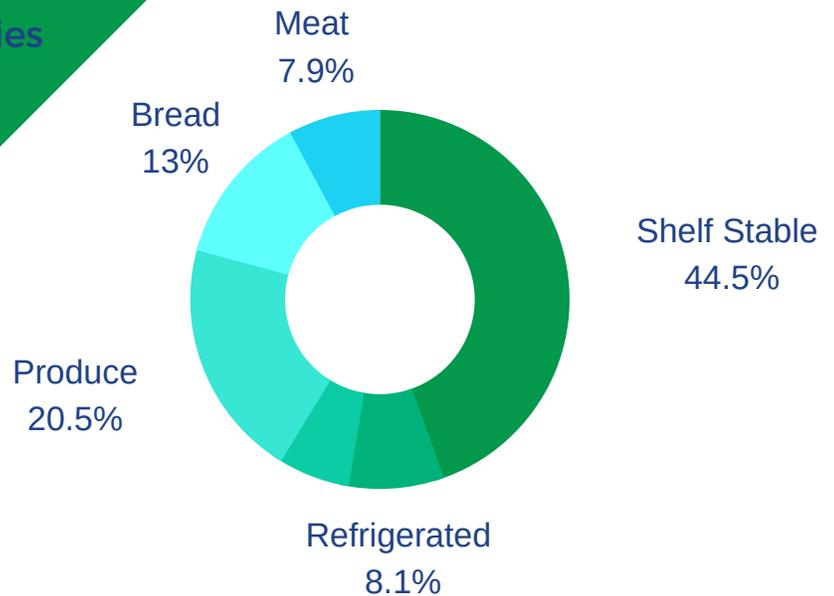
FOOD RESCUE

377,308

Pounds of food rescued

The Urbandale Food pantry partners with a variety of local grocers, convenience store in receiving their food surplus or "short shelf life" and make them available to our families on a daily basis.

Rescued food by type



URBANDALE FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

Serving an average of 2,000 individuals each month

2,000



53 NEW

Reaching an average of 53 new families every month

Seeing a third of those served are under age 18

1 in 3



369

Averaging 369 seniors using the pantry a month





Hello, Friends of the Urbandale Food Pantry!

This 2021 Annual Report gives a small view into the many great things happening at the Urbandale Food Pantry. My goal is to give you a vision for the pantry at the end of 2022.

First, I want you to imagine a renovated and more modern space that serves our clients, staff and volunteers.

Imagine coming inside a food pantry that is updated, modern and comfortable for all our clients. It's morning and as the pantry opens a new family is coming in a new front door and is being helped by a staff member. There's a comfortable and private room where this first-time-to-the-pantry family -- parents and several kids -- can meet with the smiling staff person during what is a tense moment. It's the first time they have reached out for help with supplying food for their family, and they feel grateful, uncertain and shame. They immediately feel at ease. In the meantime, a big truck pulls up with a delivery of big food boxes for unloading. Volunteers head out of the new unloading door to bring in these boxes to a redone storage area. Other clients stop by to pick up some bread and rescued food.

Next, please picture a record-setting Pedal 4 the Pantry on Aug. 28 with hundreds of bicyclists swarming several trail routes to bike in support of the pantry.

Pedal 4 the Pantry began as a virtual fundraiser when COVID struck in 2020 and most in-person events were canceled. It grew in 2021, raising \$28,000 and adding new sponsors and participating breweries. In 2022, we are leveling up again and hope you will join us.

Lastly, the board, Patty and I will look to the future and the pantry can best serve Central Iowa in the years to come.

There are four new board members as of this annual report's publication: Aline Alves da Costa, Christopher Han, Rick Levi, and Sarah Spilman. In addition, I'd like to thank the rest of the board: Aaron Friess, Bill Fugenschuch, Judy Kendzora, Janet Cole, Nathan Gast, Mark Hood, Kelly Moore, and Derek Zarn.

I'll end with a **thank you** to the great and flexible team at the Urbandale Food Pantry, staff and volunteers. To our clients, please know **we are here** for you.

Looking ahead,
Suzanne Behnke

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**URBANDALE
FOOD PANTRY**



2021 DONORS

THE URBANDALE FOOD PANTRY WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS GRATITUDE TO OUR COMMUNITY DONORS

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City of Urbandale

Churches:

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Gospel Assembly Church
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New Hope United Methodist Church
St Pius X Church
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
Urban Heights Covenant Church
Urbandale Baptist Church
Vine Street Gospel Chapel Church
Westkirk Presbyterian Church
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church
Windsor Presbyterian Church

2021

We make our best attempts to include and recognize all donors. If your organization is missing from this list, please contact us at info@urbandalefoodpantry.org.