



**URBANDALE  
FOOD PANTRY**

# ANNUAL REPORT



## GREETINGS FROM THE URBANDALE FOOD PANTRY!

It was hard to imagine what 2022 was going to bring. We knew the effects of the pandemic were going to be long standing and we tried to anticipate what the future would hold for our community. Although we anticipated an increase in need, we could not have predicted that 2022 would set a record in the number of families visiting the Urbandale Food Pantry.

The combination of COVID-19 financial support being reduced + soaring prices due to inflation forced more families to seek food assistance. November ended with the highest number of people served in pantry history at 1,790 families. What's more, the need is going to continue to grow. 10 out of the past 13 busiest months in the history of the pantry have happened in the past 10 months: June of 22' - March 23'.

Growing food-service partnerships within the community increased our food rescue efforts immensely. Additionally, strong relationships with local gardeners provided more than 16,000 pounds of fresh garden produce to our families throughout the summer.

In 2022, the Urbandale Food Pantry rescued over 450,000 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 2022, the Urbandale Food Pantry had a total of 33,998 pantry visitors. We continually welcomed new families to our pantry almost daily, serving an average of 103 new households every month and 1,235 new families for the year. Of all individuals served, 82% 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 78 different zip codes.

Amidst all the challenges that 2022 brought us, the Urbandale Food Pantry was able to respond with resilience, compassion and dignity. That is, in part, thanks to our amazing staff and our steadfast volunteers. In 2022, our volunteers logged a total of 11,946 hours of volunteer work. Equally important, I think about and am continually humbled by the support of the community.

While the state of our economy continues to be unknown. I can tell you we are here. Our staff, volunteers, and partners are determined to meet our community's growing need. 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**

# 33,998

Number of Pantry Visits

# 11,946

Volunteer Hours

## Expenses By Category



# 2022

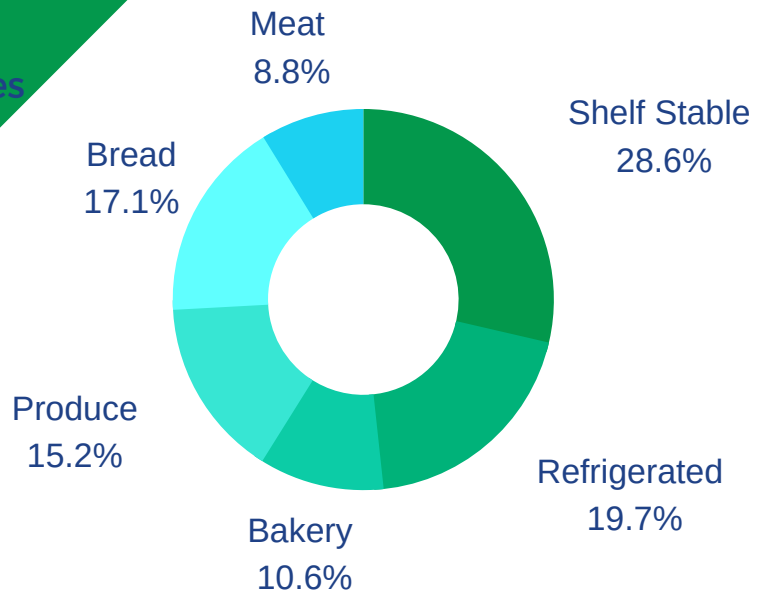
# FOOD RESCUE

# 450,000

## Pounds of food rescued

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

## Rescued food by type



## URBANDALE FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

Serving an average of 2,833 individuals each month

# 2,833



# 103 NEW

Reaching an average of 103 new families every month

Seeing one-third of those served are under age 18

# 1 in 3



# 500+

Averaging over 500 seniors using the pantry a month



Hello, again, Friends of the Urbandale Food Pantry,

When I joined the Urbandale Food Pantry board of directors in January 2019, there was no thought of a pandemic, doubling the number of clients served, navigating rising prices of basic food items in our inventory, or managing and creating relationships with new and longtime partners in different ways.

The three constants: change, change and change (and unwavering support!).

So let's talk about 2023.

No. 1: Renovations in words and space. Our current location has been improved with a loading door that fits a pallet jack, among other items. This is a game-changer for operations, contributing to our goal to treat clients, volunteers and staff with compassion and dignity. Also: While not a physical renovation, the Board of Directors approved a vastly updated set of bylaws that are modern but flexible. The bylaws, like a loading dock, improve how we operate.

No. 2: Maintaining and building relationships. Helping neighbors — in Urbandale and beyond — is more important than ever. We can't do what we do without each and every relationship. The pantry's team has cultivated excellent connections with those who come in our doors and with the community at large. We strive to deepen those bonds with our clients, inventory partners, food recovery collaborators, donors, volunteers, staff and board.

No. 3: Managing, adding and respecting our resources. There are 16 excellent board members, 5 dedicated and compassionate employees, 150+ volunteers, and thousands of clients. 2023 was a year to renew, review and/or add or change in ways that bring us back to our mission. Every decision or matter that crosses my attention as board president comes back to that commitment.

To Patty Sneddon-Kisting, Linzi Winton, and the rest of the Urbandale Food Pantry team, thank you for relentlessly and kindly being examples of servant leadership.

To board members — Aline Alves da Costa, Caleb Cooper, Greg Dockum, Aaron Friess, Bill Fugenschuh, Nathan Gast, Chris Han, Mark Hood, Judy Kendzora, Rick Levi, Kelly Moore, Joan Racki, Sarah Spilman, Danielle Williams and Derek Zarn — thank you for showing up and actively and selflessly serving.

To the community, volunteers, and partners of all kinds, thank you for helping us do what we do.

To our clients, thank you for trusting us to serve you in your time of need.

Looking ahead,  
Suzanne Behnke

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**URBANDALE  
FOOD PANTRY**



# 2022 DONORS

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New Hope United Methodist Church  
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Vine Street Gospel Chapel Church  
Westkirk Presbyterian Church  
Windsor Heights Lutheran Church  
Windsor Presbyterian Church

# 2022

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](mailto:info@urbandalefoodpantry.org).