

Northern Illinois Food Bank Timeline

- 1982** – Incorporated in November
- 1983** – Sister Rosemarie Burian signed a lease at 170 Easy Street in Carol Stream on January 12. The 6,400 square foot warehouse and office space suited the Center's needs
- 1983** – First distribution of food on April 28 to Family Shelter in Glen Ellyn totaling 288 pounds
- 1983** – Dedication of Bethlehem Center on May 7; 7,000 pounds of food distributed in first month
- 1984** – Over 64,000 lbs. of food distributed to 80 agencies in a ten county service area
- 1992** – Bethlehem Center Food Depository changed name to Bethlehem Center Food Bank
- 1994** – Became a Certified Affiliate of America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network
- 1995** – Moved to 147,000 square foot warehouse facility in St. Charles
- 1996** – The Food bank distributes 6 million pounds of food to hungry neighbors in 13 counties
- 1999** – Youth Nutrition Program launched serving lunch to 50 kids per day during the summer
- 1999** – Mobile Pantry Program initiated to provide direct service to low-income areas
- 1999** – Holiday Meal Box Program kicked off in which about 3,500 meals were distributed to hungry families
- 2000** – Bethlehem Center Food Bank changed name to Northern Illinois Food Bank
- 2000** – Food Rescue Program began with Jewel-Osco to rescue nutritious, perishable foods from being discarded
- 2000** – 75,823 people were unemployed in the 13 counties served by Northern Illinois Food Bank
- 2001** – Lake County branch of Northern Illinois Food Bank opens in Park City in October with 9,600 feet of office and warehouse space
- 2001** – 21,035 different people received food assistance each week through the Food Bank's network
- 2004** – Received America's Second Harvest's "Hunger's Hope" award for Hunger Awareness activities
- 2005** – Hunger Connection Food Bank in Rockford becomes a center of Northern Illinois Food Bank with 23,000 square feet of space
- 2005** – The number of people in poverty reaches 260,308 people in the area served by the Food Bank
- 2007** – Volunteer program increased to 50,059 hours annually
- 2007** – Received Food Sourcing Model of the Year Award from America's Second Harvest
- 2007** – Holiday Meal Box Program provided over 26,775 meals to families
- 2007** – The Mobile Pantry distributed more than 1.7 million pounds of food through 214 visits
- 2008** – Northern Illinois Food Bank's 25th anniversary of Fighting Hunger and Feeding Hope
- 2008** – Received Innovative Advocacy Model of the Year Award from Feeding America
- 2008** – Saved 3.3 million pounds of food through the Food Recovery Program
- 2009** – Received Volunteer Group of the Year Award from Feeding America
- 2009** – The number of people unemployed in northern Illinois hits 235,328 people
- 2009** – Northern Illinois Food Bank delivered 27.2 million pounds of food
- 2010** – The Youth Nutrition Program provided over 1 million meals to kids
- 2010** – Northern Illinois Food Bank feeds more than 61,600 people each week
- 2010** – Received Food Bank of the Year Award from Feeding America; this is the fifth national award in six years
- 2011** – Northern Illinois Food Bank distributes 35 million pounds of food to more than a half million people in need
- 2011** – Poverty numbers surge to a record high of 339,481 people
- 2011** – Northern Illinois Food Bank moves into the new Community Nutrition and Food Distribution Center in Geneva
- 2012** - Northern Illinois Food Bank awarded LEED® Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, becoming the first new-construction food bank in the country to hold this prestigious accolade. The energy savings realized through these environmentally-friendly features will allow the food bank to provide 300,000 more meals for hungry neighbors
- 2012**- Northern Illinois Food Bank renames its Centers: **West Suburban Center** (Geneva), **North Suburban Center** (Lake County), **Northwest Center** (Loves Park), **South Suburban Office** (Joliet)
- 2012** - Northern Illinois Food Bank's Northwest Center moves from Rockford to Loves Park
- 2012** - Northern Illinois Food Bank introduces new logo and updated mission and vision
- 2012** – Northern Illinois Food Bank launches Milk2MyPlate program, delivering fresh low-fat milk directly to food pantries

- 2013** – Northern Illinois Food Bank celebrates the 30th anniversary of its first distribution
- 2013** – Volunteers donate a record 105,000 hours of time to Northern Illinois Food Bank
- 2014** – Northern Illinois Food Bank provides a record 50 million meals to hungry neighbors in our community
- 2014** – Northern Illinois Food Bank names Julie Yurko as president and CEO
- 2014** – Northern Illinois Food Bank serves more than 71,000 hungry neighbors each week
- 2015** – Northern Illinois Food Bank moves the Northwest Center from Loves Park to Rockford