



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northern Illinois Food Bank Awards \$454,000 in Grants to Improve Access to Food

(GENEVA, IL – Dec. 27, 2021) – [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) awarded 18 grants totaling \$453,864 to local food pantries and food assistance programs to give better access to food and other resources for neighbors in need.

For many recipients, the funding will go toward building out their infrastructure – purchasing vehicles, installing new equipment such as refrigerators or freezers, or expanding their facilities. Some organizations will use the grants to better engage their community by improving communications and technology. Barb Food Mart in DeKalb, for instance, is creating materials and videos in Spanish to connect with their Spanish-speaking neighbors.

“These grants are critical for reaching underserved individuals, especially people of color,” said Jacqui Hebein, Director of Agency Relations for Northern Illinois Food Bank. “Our intention in providing these grants is to help our network improve and transform access, convenience and dignity so that our neighbors have the food and resources they need to thrive.”

Collectively, these 18 organizations, located in seven of the 13 counties the Food Bank serves, provided 11.3 million meals last year. Five recipients are in communities that the Food Bank has identified as having numerous barriers to accessing food and other resources. Such barriers include few, if any, food assistance programs, convenience of time and location to food sources, and stigmas about using charitable food resources.

“We selected these organizations after analyzing the community’s food insecurity and demographics, the organization’s capacity, and the pandemic’s impact on neighbors,” Hebein said. “Investing in our network’s capacity so that our neighbors have choices in obtaining food and resources is at the heart of our mission and our Strategic Plan UNITE.”

The food pantries and food assistance programs receiving grants include:

- Avon Cares Food Pantry, Round Lake Park
- Barb Food Mart, DeKalb
- Bensenville Wood Dale Food Pantry, Bensenville
- Disciples Food Pantry, Villa Park
- Food for Greater Elgin, Elgin

- Forest Park Community Center, Joliet
- HCS Family Services, Hinsdale
- Holy Angels Food Pantry, Aurora
- Kankakee County Community Services Inc., Kankakee
- Kuzma Care Cottage, Wilmington
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services, Naperville
- Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry, Lombard
- New Lenox Township Food Pantry, New Lenox
- Rahmah Interfaith Food Pantry, Lake Villa
- St. Vincent DePaul Weekly Food Pantry, Downers Grove
- The Salvation Army DeKalb Corps Community Center, DeKalb
- Spanish Community Center, Joliet
- Stone Soup, Marengo

Northern Illinois Food Bank provides financial grants on a quarterly basis to members of its network that spans 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, and child and senior meal programs. The grants are funded through private donations and government funding. To learn more about the Food Bank's mission and plans, visit <https://solvehungertoday.org/about-us/our-mission/strategic-plan-unite/>.

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ABOUT NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK

Our vision at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) is for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and proud member of [Feeding America](#), we serve our neighbors in 13 counties with dignity, equity and convenience, providing 250,000 meals a day. We bring together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate food and funding, and each week nearly 1,000 volunteers help us evaluate, repack, and distribute food. We also proudly partner with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources. Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Park City, Rockford and Joliet. Find out how you can [get help](#), [volunteer](#), [donate](#) or [get involved](#) at [SolveHungerToday.org](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

For media seeking interviews or photos:

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