

# FAST FACTS OF THE FOOD BANK



NEIGHBORS.  
EMPOWERED.

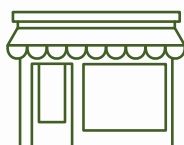
Northern Illinois Food Bank has been fighting hunger for years... and so much has happened since we first opened our doors.

This document will help you keep track of the facts you need to effectively tell the Food Bank story!

## General Stats



Over **90 million** meals were distributed in FY 2024.



Network of **over 900 agencies** – pantries, feeding sites, soup kitchens, school-based pantries.



Almost **200 employees**, some seasonal and/or part-time.



Volunteers contribute roughly **140,000 hours** every year – equivalent to over 60 full-time employees.



**We own and operate our own fleet:** we have 38 vehicles (including 13 semis) and our 27 drivers cumulatively logged 757,317 miles last year.



We held **564 Mobile Markets** last year, distributing meals to neighbors who for assorted reasons cannot get to a brick-and-mortar pantry.

## Food Bank History

- Founded as Bethlehem Center in 1983 by Sister Rosemarie Burian.
- First located on Easy Street in Carol Stream.
- In 1994, Bethlehem Center joined America's Second Harvest, now called Feeding America.
- The Food Bank relocated to St Charles in 1995.
- Bethlehem Center was rebranded as Northern Illinois Food Bank in 2000.
- The North Suburban Center opens in Park City (Lake County) in 2001.
- Merged with Hunger Connection, a similar organization in Rockford, in 2005.
- Northern Illinois Food Bank was named "Food Bank of the Year" by Feeding America in 2010.
- Our main location, the West Suburban Center, is a 169,000 square-foot office, warehouse, shipping, and volunteer hall in Geneva. Built in 2011, it was one of the first LEED Gold-certified facilities in the Feeding America network.
- The Northwest Center relocated to Loves Park in 2012, and then back to a larger facility in Rockford in 2015.
- In 2018 we opened the South Suburban Center in Joliet.
- Opening in 2025, The Northwest Center will move to an even larger facility on Sandy Hollow Rd in Rockford and will be called the Northern Illinois Food Bank Neighborhood Market

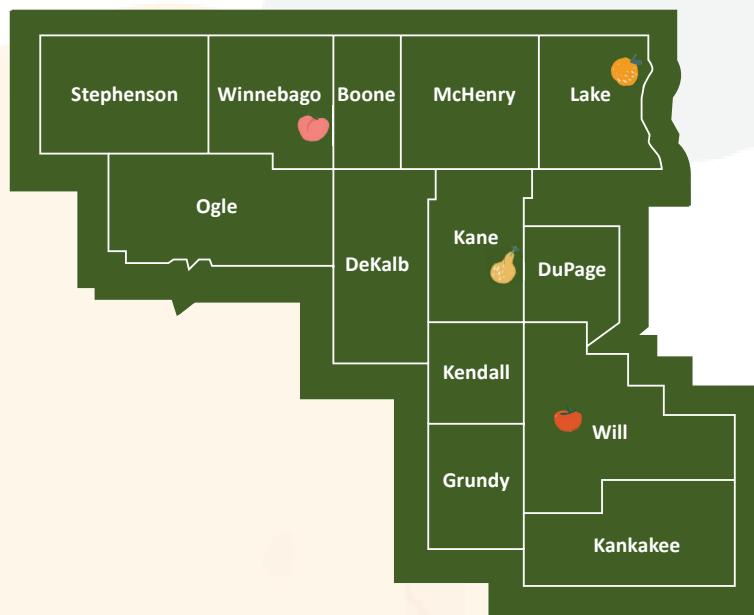
Learn more at [SolveHungerToday.org](https://SolveHungerToday.org)

## Program History

- The first distribution was 288 lbs. of food.
- By 1984, 80 agencies in 10 counties were receiving food from the new Food Bank.
- The Holiday Meal Box program, Mobile Pantries, and Child Nutrition programs all began in 1999.
- In 2018 we opened the Winnebago Community Market at our Northwest Center, our first direct-to-neighbor pantry.
- My Pantry Express was piloted in 2019, one of the first online pantries in the country.
- At the height of the pandemic, Northern Illinois Food Bank distributed 100 million meals through our network of over 900 agencies. We currently distribute over 80 million meals every year.

## Counties Served

- Boone
- DeKalb
- DuPage
- Grundy
- Kane
- Kankakee
- Kendall
- Lake
- McHenry
- Ogle
- Stephenson
- Will
- Winnebago



## Addresses of Food Bank branches



### North Suburban Center – Lake Forest

13950 Business Center Drive  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
Phone: 847.336.3663



### Northwest Center – Rockford

765 Research Parkway  
Rockford, IL 61109  
Phone: 815.639.1257



### West Suburban Center – Geneva

273 Dearborn Court  
Geneva, IL 60134  
Phone: 630.443.6910



### South Suburban Center – Joliet

171 South Larkin Avenue  
Joliet, IL 60436  
Phone: 815.846.1041

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