
2024



ANNUAL REPORT

**North Liberty
Community Pantry**

89 N. Jones Blvd.
North Liberty, IA 52317

(319)-626-2711

*Engaging our community in feeding,
clothing, and connecting our neighbors
to resources and services.*





89 N. Jones Blvd. North Liberty, IA
director@nlcpantry.org
(319)-626-2711

Dear Neighbors,

What a year! 2024 continued the trend at the North Liberty Community Pantry (NLCP) of breaking service records for distributing free food and clothing. When data are plotted on a graph, it looks like a staircase but feels more like an escalator because of how fast we've grown.

In 2024, NLCP served a record 3,389 unique individuals in Johnson County, or 1,082 unique families. NLCP also set several records for food and clothing distribution, which is a bittersweet reminder of the increasing need in the community. NLCP distributed over 732,644 pounds of food in 2024, far surpassing 2023's distribution record of 588,386 pounds. In total, NLCP had 19,760 visits in 2024 compared to 16,492 visits in 2023. I'm so thankful for all of our staff, volunteers, and community supporters to help us meet this need from our neighbors.

To help us better serve our neighbors NLCP is Planting New Roots! In April, NLCP purchased 350 W Penn St in North Liberty. This 3-acre lot will allow us to build a 10,500-square-foot facility, bringing food and clothing under one roof, moving us closer to neighbors we serve, and providing ample space for food storage, private case management, and so much more! NLCP broke ground on this new facility on my birthday - October 1, 2024! What a present! Construction continues and 2025 - the Pantry's 40th Birthday - will be a year to remember!

With gratitude,



Ryan Bobst, MSW, LMSW
Executive Director

NLCP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice Chair
Sam Fordyce

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Abdouramane Bila

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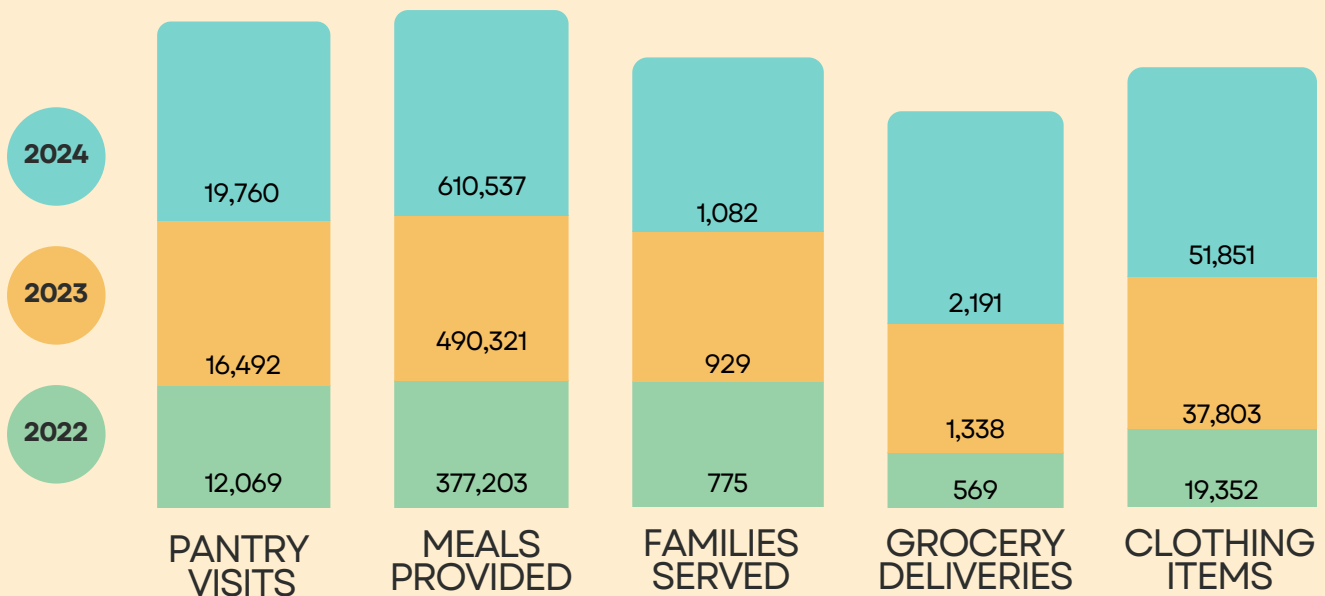


2024

BY THE NUMBERS

NLCP shattered every distribution record in 2024, marking the busiest year at the pantry since its founding in 1985.

Distribution Records Over Time



IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY



Nine out of ten pantry families reported that the Pantry helped their family access enough food for a healthy, active lifestyle.

1,000+ FAMILIES SERVED

11,000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

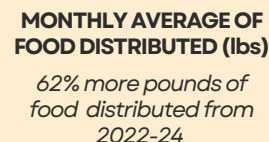
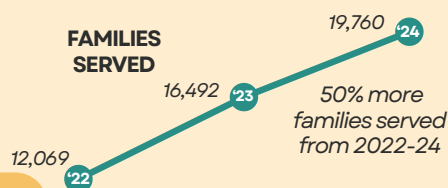
\$600k+ DOLLARS RAISED

OUR SERVICES

The North Liberty Community Pantry engages our community in feeding, clothing, and connecting our neighbors to resources and services.

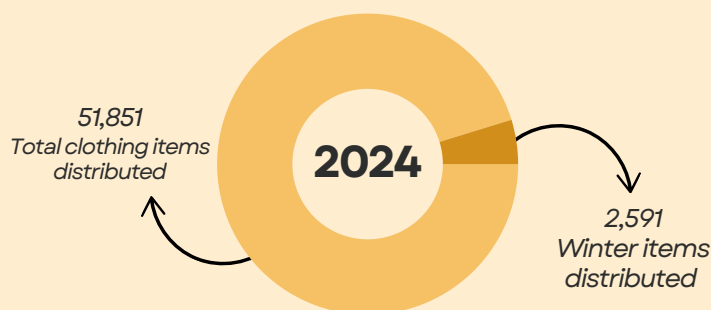
FOOD PANTRY

Families in North Liberty and rural Johnson County can shop at the pantry or receive grocery delivery each week. Each family has different needs, which is why the Pantry follows a client-choice method of shopping, allowing families to shop for the food they need for the week. In 2024, we removed all limits on food to ensure an equitable shopping experience for our families.

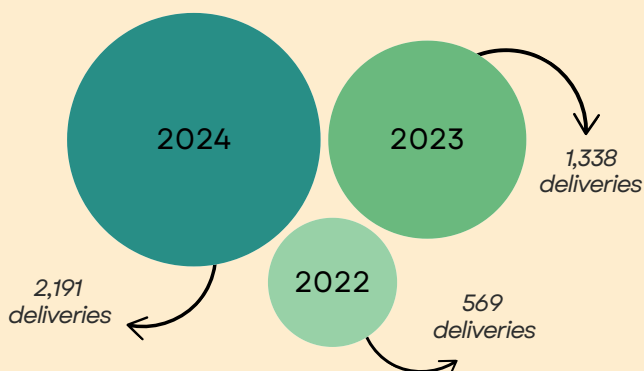


CLOTHING CLOSET

The Community Closet is a clothing "pantry," with gently used in-season clothes and shoes for all ages throughout the year. Winter outerwear is available at our coat distribution in the fall. Pantry families can shop for 10 items of clothing, one pair of new underwear, and one pair of new socks per family member each month.



GROCERY DELIVERY



+289% DELIVERIES!
From 2022-24

Grocery delivery is now the fastest growing program at NLCP. Since the pandemic, there has been an increased need for families who cannot physically shop at the Pantry. We offer grocery delivery services for families in North Liberty, Oxford, Swisher, and Solon on Monday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Beyond our food and clothing pantries, NLCP provides additional resources to foster community and education for volunteers, families, and students.

GROWING TOGETHER GARDEN

The Growing Together Garden is a collaborative learning space open to anyone in the community. In 2024, our garden director Anne Miller guided families and volunteers through growing and harvesting fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Anne also organizes classes to educate and guide community members on gardening practices. Everyone at the garden is welcome to take home their harvest, and the rest of the produce is donated to the pantry for shoppers.



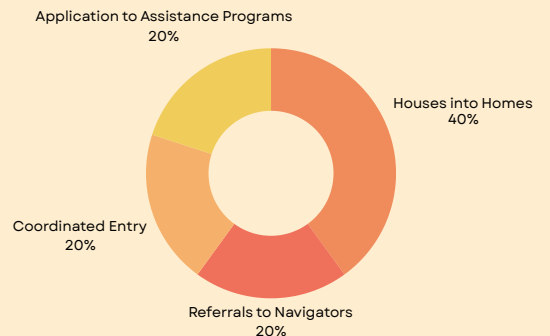
CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2024, our Family Services Coordinator, Rae Mosier, helped dozens of families facing challenges beyond food and clothing. Rae sits down with families in need to help find solutions and assistance with housing, utilities, transportation, legal issues, and more. As of 2024, NLCP became the first Access Point in North Liberty for Coordinated Entry housing referrals, connecting and referring families experiencing homelessness with the resources they need.

Breakdown of Case Management

Rae assists our families with ...

...



STUDENTS & EDUCATION

NLCP partnered with the University of Iowa School of Social Work to bring on four undergraduate and graduate students for their practicum at the pantry. Students assisted with on-shift opportunities, participated in staff meetings, and contributed new ideas to improve our services and outreach at the Pantry. Looking forward, NLCP aims to use its resources to strengthen its relationships with students and serve as a stepping stone in their education and careers.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

"It is my honor and privilege to have partnered with 249 unique volunteers in 2024, who spent 11,383 hours helping provide needed services for our neighbors. These volunteers have helped perpetuate a culture of kindness, respect, and empathy inside the pantry and throughout our community. I am eager to continue serving alongside these 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' and growing our team as we move into our new space and beyond!"



Casey Gaylord

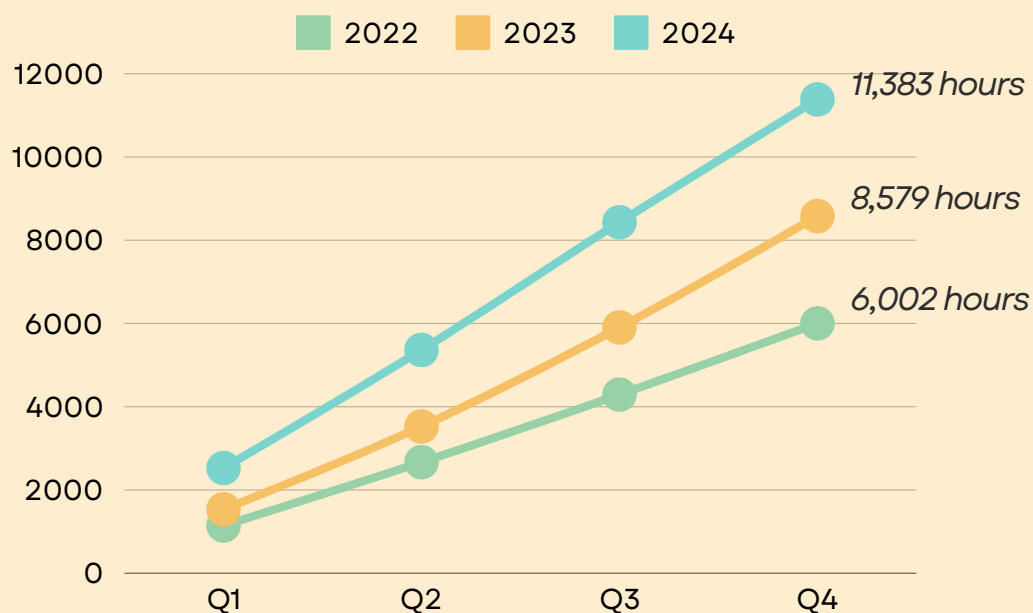
Casey Gaylord, Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEERING BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, NLCP had...

101	Volunteers Complete a Shadow Shift	5	Volunteers Serve 1000+ Hours
135	Volunteers Attend Orientation	18	Volunteers Serve 100+ Hours
161	Open Volunteer Time Attendees	26	Unique Volunteer Groups (and many returning!)

Volunteer Hours Through the Years



PANTRY EVENTS

NLCP hosted a number of events in 2024 to bring neighbors together for warm meals, friendly competition, and community.

JANUARY 2024

STONE SOUP SUPPER

The 15th annual Stone Soup Supper brought together 275 community members for a free, warm meal at First United Methodist Church, with soups sponsored by local North Liberty restaurants.

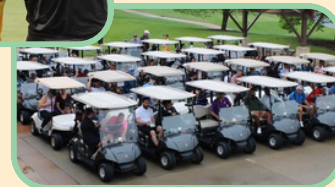


MAY 2024

GOLF TOURNAMENT

NLCP held its 13th annual golf tournament at Brown Deer Golf Club, co-sponsored by Murken-Thompson and Sushiya, with 108 golfers participating in the event.

The tournament aims to bring sponsors together in a friendly game and raise funds for NLCP.



JULY 2024

PANTRYLYMPICS

While many around the globe celebrated the 2024 Olympic Games, NLCP staff and volunteers celebrated the first-ever "Pantrylympics," engaging in friendly competition with our friends at Coralville Community Food Pantry and CommUnity Food Bank of Iowa City. NLCP hosted the event at 350 W. Penn, the new pantry location that will open in 2025.



SEPTEMBER 2024

TASTE, TOUR, AND TRIBUTE

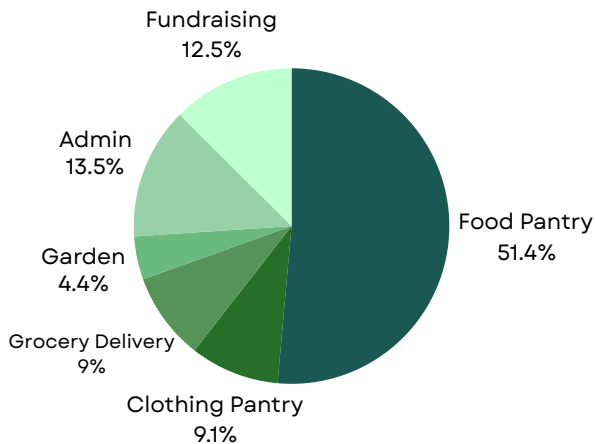
About 400 neighbors attended the annual Taste, Tour, and Tribute, sponsored by United Iowa Financial, in 2024. Neighbors enjoyed food trucks from our local partners, bringing the community together for a night of volunteer recognition, tours of our pantry and garden, and fun games for the kiddos.



EXPENSES & REVENUE

Total expenses:
\$558,866.39

EXPENSES



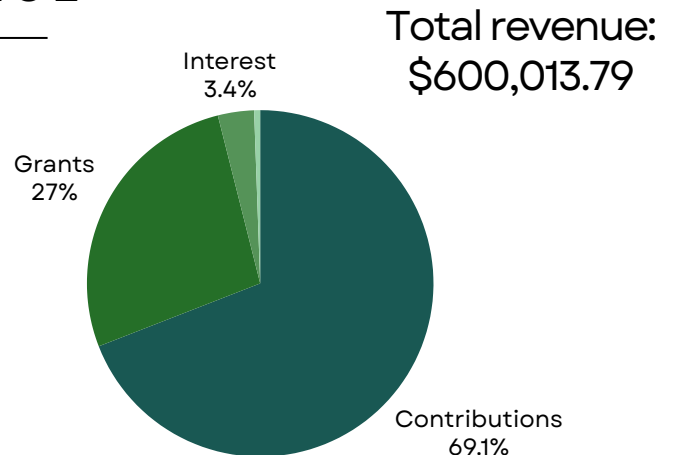
NLCP's 2024 expenses totaled \$558,866, with a majority of funds spent on the food pantry, equating to \$287,257. The clothing closet's expenses totaled \$50,857, with special programs like grocery delivery and the Growing Together Garden totaling about \$75,000 combined. Admin expenses equated to about \$75,000, also, and fundraising initiatives totaled nearly \$70,000.

After expenses, NLCP's net income was **\$41,147.40**.

REVENUE

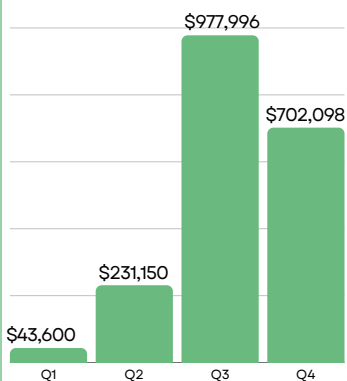
NLCP raised over \$600K in 2024, with over two-thirds of revenue from direct contributions. Grants accounted for nearly one-third of NLCP's total revenue, with interest and endowment covering roughly 4%.

NLCP extends a warm thank you to all of the donors, committee members, volunteers, and staff who pulled in a record year for revenue in 2024.



Total revenue:
\$600,013.79

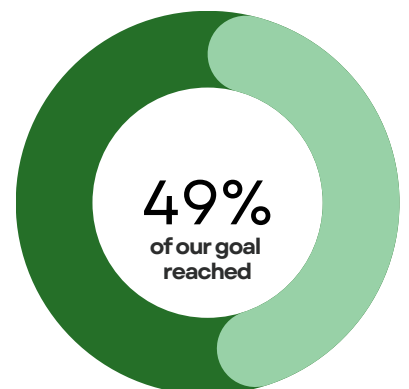
Funds Raised in 2024



THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

NLCP launched its *Planting New Roots* capital campaign for a new building in 2024, reaching 49%, or \$1,954,844.23, of its \$4 million goal from January to December.

Want to learn more about the capital campaign?
See next page! →



THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In 2024, NLCP broke ground on its \$4 million capital campaign for a new building, and raised nearly half of the campaign's goal by the end of December.



Volunteers and staff broke ground at 350 W Penn on Oct. 1, 2024. The building aims to be open late Summer 2025.

The new building will be nearly 4x larger, bring food and clothing under one roof, improve privacy to better serve families, and provide adequate storage to meet the needs of neighbors.



Interested in contributing to the capital campaign? Go to nlcpantory.org/campaign to learn more and make a pledge!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Lauren McDonald



"There are so many ways you can get involved. These are our friends and our neighbors and they need our help."

It's been nearly a decade since Lauren first volunteered at the pantry. In 2015, Lauren brought her Girl Scout troop to NLCP to emphasize the importance of giving back to the community. Since then, Lauren and her daughters have become weekly volunteers, always greeting families with a smile. Lauren's family contributed to the campaign because the new building will help accommodate the growing need.

"I get choked up at how big and beautiful and wonderful [the new building] is," Lauren said. "It's going to be an important pillar in the community. We are honored to get to be a part of it -- it's important to me and it's important to my family."

MAKING AN IMPACT

2024 & BEYOND

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Britta Casander



Photo by Bethany Beck on Unsplash

"You don't have to lose your dignity to accept help when you need it. I felt the outpouring of love and we became part of the North Liberty Community Pantry family."

Growing up, Britta's family relied on food pantries to get through tough times. When her son was diagnosed with autism, Britta accepted a 75-85% pay cut to teach at his school. Soon after, she learned of the Pantry's services.

"I had to prioritize meeting my son's needs and to let go of the shame and guilt I felt," Britta said. "To be able to accept help and keep my dignity is something that I didn't expect and can't describe how much it means."

Britta joined the NLCP Board of Directors to ensure that someone using the services had a voice at the table.

The need is growing *everywhere*.

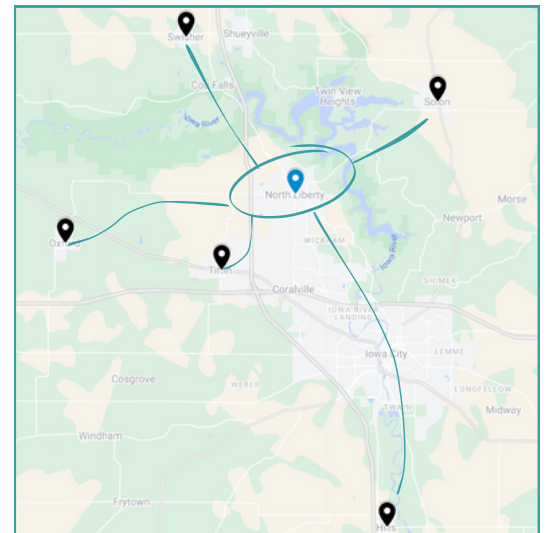
NLCP extends its services to all of rural Johnson County.

According to Feeding America, hunger is more common in rural communities due to lack of transportation and resources.

NLCP is proud to serve nearly 700 residents outside of North Liberty, whether families shop in-person or utilize grocery delivery services.

NLCP's service area continues to grow in population and need. Smaller communities like Tiffin are amongst the fastest growing in Iowa. Because of this growth, NLCP expects to serve more families in rural communities across the county in 2025.

OUR SERVICE AREA



FROM NLCP STAFF

We'll see you in 2025!

Thank you for supporting the North Liberty Community Pantry through another record-breaking year of service. Everyone who walked through the pantry's doors in 2024 contributed to providing a dignifying experience at the pantry. We look forward to another year of *Neighbors Helping Neighbors!*

SINCERELY,

Ryan Bobst, Leslie Alvarez, Casey Gaylord, Anne Miller, Rae Mosier, Laurel Hibbard, Grace Katzer

