



Eastern Illinois
FOODBANK

IMPACT REPORT

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



**The need is
great—but our
community is
greater.**

Your support means families like Jordan's have food on the table.



There's no denying it—the need is great.

In the last year, the people who help feed our neighbors facing food insecurity—including foodbank staff, volunteers, and our agency partners—have worked tirelessly to continue meeting the sustained, increased need in eastern Illinois.

Feeding America's annual Map the Meal Gap study confirmed what we've seen day in and day out: a historic amount of our neighbors are seeking food assistance as they see their budgets strained by relentless increases in grocery and living costs. At any given time, more than 134,000 members of our community are experiencing hunger; we've seen the highest amount of food insecurity in Coles County at 16.1% of the population, while Vermilion County has the highest amount of food insecurity in children: one in four children in Vermilion County don't know where they'll get their next meal.



Kelly W. Daly

Kelly Daly
President & CEO

In last year's report, we shared the exciting reimagining of our Foodmobile program. These changes allowed us to bring meals to families, seniors, and veterans in 100 primarily rural and underserved towns each month, helping our neighbors overcome the obstacle of transportation.

Our agency partners are serving 90% more people now than in 2022, and their dedication to feeding their communities is not only inspiring, but is what brings our mission to life each day throughout the 18 counties we serve.

It's also been a challenging year: EIF isn't immune to the rising costs and food shortages that are impacting the families we serve. But we have met, and will continue to meet, those challenges with your support.

So yes, the need may be great—but our community is truly greater. I see it each day in what we're able to achieve with your support. Thank you for joining us in alleviating hunger and nourishing stronger communities!



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Kelly W. Daly
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President & CEO,
Eastern Illinois
Foodbank



What we do is simple. **How we do it isn't.**

5,634

FOOD & FUND DONORS

9,573

HOURS DONATED BY VOLUNTEERS



201,548

MILES TRAVELED BY OUR FLEET

992

FOODMOBILE DISTRIBUTIONS

157

AGENCY PARTNERS



3,400,454

POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE PROVIDED

11,068,388

MEALS SERVED



**1.6 MILLION
NEIGHBORS FED**





Alleviating Hunger Through Community

When our neighbors facing food insecurity visit Mattoon Community Food Pantry, they quickly see the reason “community” is included in the name. As Jordan shopped for groceries at the pantry, her kids were consistently her priority. When she saw that the person shopping ahead of her got the last bags of frozen strawberries, she offered to trade her soft pretzel bites for the strawberries because her kids would love them. However, there was no trade—instead, he offered the strawberries to her and told her to enjoy them.

“I’ve been coming on and off for years. I’m a local, born and raised here. I only come when I absolutely need it. Just recently I graduated college and started working as a nurse, so now I don’t get food stamps because I make ‘too much,’” Jordan said when we met her. “They look at the gross income instead of net for those benefits. So gross pay, I would be okay, but not on my net income. If I were getting food stamps, I wouldn’t be living paycheck to paycheck like I am now. And groceries are so expensive. But whoever’s running the Arizona tea, they’re doing great, because those are still the same price!”

Jordan shared that the amount of mouths to feed can be a strain on her budget. “I’ve got two kids, a four year old and a one year old, and I take care of my little brother who just turned 18 and is going to Lakeland Community College. He eats like a horse, so I’m trying to keep up and make sure my kids have food to eat, that I’m eating, that my brother has food.” Though having her young children in daycare and preschool is pricey, it gives Jordan the peace of mind that they’re eating nutritiously during the day. “I know that they’re going to have breakfast and a nice, well-balanced lunch, and then I just have to worry about dinner.”

Adding to the stress of keeping her family fed, Jordan works long shifts. “Sometimes I work 16-hour shifts; the longest I’ve worked is 28 hours in a shift. So it’s nice to have easy things to eat.” Jordan currently works as a nurse at a local nursing home, and enjoys caring for the residents. “It’s a different ballgame, but I enjoy it because I’m taking care of people who have already lived their life. I don’t think I could do pediatrics or an emergency room!”

Jordan grew up wealthy, raised by her grandparents. “My father was a nomad and just

Since the eggs had passed their best-by date, pantry volunteers told Jordan to take as many as she could. “That’s great, because I can do so much with these!”



lives off the grid, and I really turned my nose up at it for a long time. My grandpa was a pillar of this community; we lived out by the country club, actually, and food was never an issue for us.” In recent years, Jordan has come to appreciate some of her father’s waste-reduction habits.

Shopping the pantry’s choice section offered a wide variety that empowered Jordan to tailor her selections to her family, including applesauce packets and Dunkaroos for her son. But one of the best finds? Diapers! “My daughter is still potty-training and the nights are tough, so these will be a big help.”

Volunteers at Mattoon Community Food Pantry prioritize providing a welcoming environment to any neighbor seeking food assistance, always striving to emulate a traditional grocery shopping experience for anyone visiting the pantry. They helped Jordan load her cart with jugs of milk and eggs, and she finished shopping by finding Pedialyte for her son and hot sauce for her teenage brother.



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”

When she opened her trunk, she had to move a box of shoes. “I need to donate those. When I don’t need something anymore, I give it to someone else who needs it. When I have extra food at home, I bring it here and give it to the pantry.” As we loaded her car with her groceries, we discussed how part of the stigma around food assistance is that many people can’t imagine themselves in that position. “I just wish people didn’t think there was something wrong with those of us who visit pantries—we’re not the scourge of the earth, we’re hardworking people!”

As Jordan left, she shared the difference this visit made after recently finding out she needed an expensive car repair.

“It would have meant some bills wouldn’t have gotten paid this month. So I’m grateful I’m able to come here to get food, because it’ll help make ends meet for my family.”





Locally-Sourced Protein: A Win-Win for Neighbors and Farmers

This March, EIF received grant funding through the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement (LFPA) to purchase food directly from socially disadvantaged farmers for distribution to the community at no cost—a win-win for local farmers and neighbors served by the foodbank. While protein is an important staple, it’s also one of the foods most impacted by rising costs, causing local families to wonder how they’ll stretch their budget to afford nutritious meals.

As locally-sourced protein started being distributed on Foodmobile routes throughout EIF’s 18-county service area, the impact was immediate, and our neighbors couldn’t wait to share their excitement. “Meat is the biggest issue, it’s so expensive. The meat we got last time

came from Eureka, and I couldn’t believe what I was reading, that it was local,” Doug told us at a food distribution in Watseka. “I tried it and was like ‘THAT’S good meat!’ [This] is what makes the difference between going hungry.” In Ashmore, Laura shared that she’s looking for new recipes, because she’s been inspired to get creative with the variety of fresh protein she’d been receiving lately.

“Knowing that the food we lovingly work so hard to grow is now ending up in the hands of those who need it most gives us immeasurable joy and pride.

— Ed Dubrick,
DuChick Ranch



One of the farms partnering with the foodbank in the program is DuChick Ranch of Cissna Park. “Thanks to the LFPA program and Eastern Illinois Foodbank wanting to partner with us, we were able to invest in our farm’s infrastructure,” said Ed Dubrick, owner of DuChick Ranch. This included doubling their production, transportation, and cold storage capacities.

“We try to keep our prices as low as we can, but unfortunately our fresh, highly nutritious, local food is often too expensive for our food insecure neighbors. Knowing that the food we lovingly work so hard to grow is now ending up in the hands of those who need it most gives us immeasurable joy and pride.”

MISSION IMPACT AWARDS

Our growth and success would not be possible without the support of our community.

These dedicated individuals and organizations have helped Eastern Illinois Foodbank further our mission of alleviating hunger and nourishing stronger communities.

COMPEER FINANCIAL

As a valued partner of EIF for several years, Compeer's impact includes a generous grant that allowed us to purchase an ink jet printer for our Volunteer Center, and annual support of our Foodmobile program totaling \$77,500 since 2019.



DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES CENTER

Our friends at DSC bring contagious joy to our Volunteer Center, and tell us that knowing they're helping others is what keeps them coming back. They've volunteered a collective 72 hours this year, and are always excited to help with any project from sorting donations to packing produce.

HY-VEE

In addition to contributing \$161,000 through their gifts and 100 Million Meal partnership with Feeding America, Hy-Vee has pledged to match up to \$25,000 in donations this holiday season. As a Retailer Against Hunger partner, they've donated 42,715 pounds of food. Their team is invested in our community, even donating shopping carts to local pantries and helping them stock their shelves.



ICON COLLECTIVE

I-L-L! The Fighting Illini are a dependable source of help in our Volunteer Center each week, providing 225 hours of service last year and bringing excitement to community events. In addition to supporting student-athletes in their involvement, the ICON team coordinated the Illini Tackling Hunger food and funds drive at St. Matthew, providing meals to more than 50,000 of our neighbors.

MARTINELLI'S MARKET

Martinelli's not only believes in providing fresh and locally-sourced food, but also in supporting the foodbank in providing access to nutritious meals for our community. They hosted our April Foods Day event this year, and their support as title sponsors of the Prom Benefit for Hunger Relief alone provides 30,000 meals each year.



TEASDALE FOODS

This year, a generous donation of 83,700 pounds from Teasdale provided both a fun project for EIF volunteers, and nutritious food for the neighbors we serve. Their team is passionate about giving back, and looks forward to partnering in the future to deepen their impact.



JENNY CAUSEY & MICHELLE VANDIVER

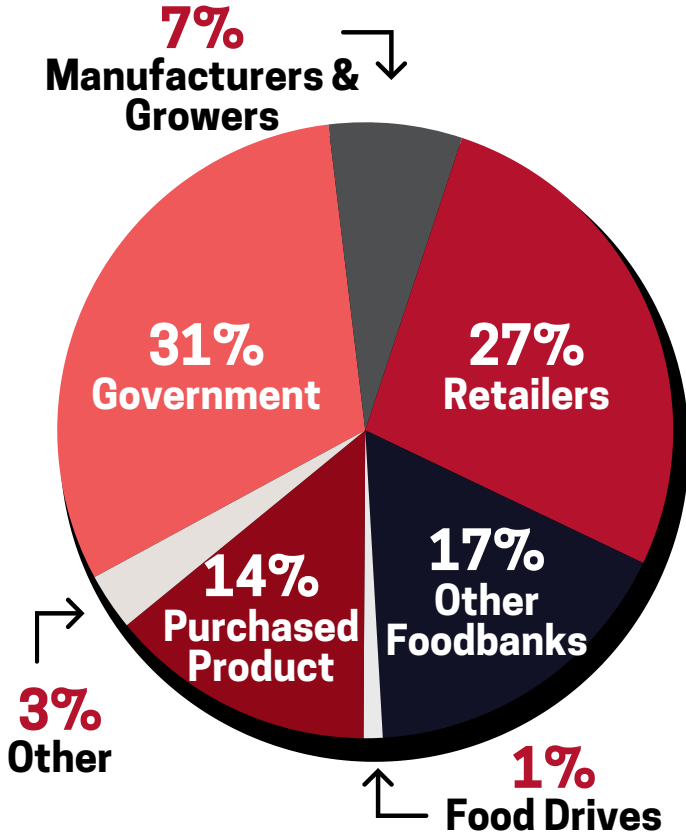
Jenny and Michelle spend an hour and a half commuting both ways to volunteer at EIF, and have donated a collective 240 hours of their time this year. They're the first to assist with special projects such as sorting donations from the annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive, or volunteering at the Prom Benefit for Hunger Relief.

FINANCIALS

Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

FOOD SOURCES

Where did our food come from this year?



Public Support & Revenue

Value of donated food	\$22,578,215.00
Contributions	\$3,639,816.69
Government grants & contracts	\$968,036.61
Other grants	\$744,981.53
Program revenue	\$230,457.60
Other income	\$167,526.89

Total Public Support & Revenue **\$28,495,183.97**

Expenses

Program services	\$26,418,000.08
Fundraising	\$853,250.98
Management & general	\$514,213.33

Total Expenses **\$27,785,464.39**

Non-Operating

Investment income (expense)	\$166,149.65
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Total Non-Operating **\$166,149.65**

Change in Net Assets **\$709,719.58**

Net Assets (Beginning of Year) **\$12,455,279.75**

Net Assets (End of Year) **\$13,164,999.33**

**Non-audited financial results*

Stay connected to the work you support! Visit eifoodbank.org to learn more.



HERE IS MY HOLIDAY GIFT TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Yes, I'll help ensure local kids, families, and seniors have the nourishing food they need to make this season special!

I'm sending a gift of:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Please send me information about the FEED 365 monthly giving program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to:

Eastern Illinois Foodbank
2405 North Shore Drive | Urbana IL 61802

Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send you a receipt for your records.



Eastern Illinois
FOODBANK

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
FEEDING AMERICA **ILLINOIS**

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Visa MC AMEX Discover

CARD NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____ EXP. DATE _____

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