

Feeding Brookings continues to be a vibrant program for the Brookings community. In 2024, we served an average of 416 households each week. This is a 15% increase over 2023, when we served an average of 360 households each week. There have been several challenges as we work to serve this growing need in our community, including:

- Finding space for storing food and supplies
- Recruiting and maintaining strong and dedicated volunteer support
- Fundraising
- Managing the planning, organizing, and logistics of a growing program

We want to thank the community for its continued support. Key this year was the installation of a new shed dedicated to storing the 400+ boxes volunteers collect, which we use each week for distribution. Storing these boxes in the shed has opened up indoor storage space so that we can appropriately store food staples. We want to thank Steve Ust for all his efforts in managing the shed project, including installing a new sidewalk and repairing the existing sidewalk, which makes it easier to move supplies. We anticipate that we will need to begin replacing and/or upgrading some of our current refrigeration and freezer units during the coming year. We would be grateful if anyone who may be interested in donating to or supporting this effort would please contact one of the Feeding Brookings Committee members.



We need 30+ volunteers each week to help make the food distribution possible. We cannot say thank you enough to all the volunteers who continue to make Feeding Brookings possible. Volunteers come from many walks of life and various local organizations and institutions. It takes many volunteer hours every week to make this program successful. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping in any way, please let us know. There are a number of tasks that need to be done over the course of the week, including:

- Picking boxes and dropping them off at the church during the week
- Collecting food donations from local businesses and bringing them to the church (Hy Vee, KFC, Starbucks etc.)
- Unloading Feeding South Dakota deliveries on Monday morning
- Meeting Dakota Layers to drop off and store eggs on Wednesday morning
- Helping with distribution set up on Thursdays starting around 11:00 AM
- Packing boxes on Thursdays between 2:00-4:00 PM
- Loading boxes in guests' vehicles on Thursdays between 3:00-5:00 PM (we need people who can come prepared to work in all kinds of weather)
- Driving the truck on Thursday afternoon (12:00-2:00 PM) to pick up ordered items and donations
- Grant writing and fundraising
- Participating on the Feeding Brookings committee

If you and or your organization would like to help, please contact a committee member or sign up to volunteer on the Feeding Brookings website.

Feeding Brookings is again looking at an increase in our annual budget for 2025. Expenditures in 2024 totaled \$174,048.39 (as of 12.19.24) and below is a breakdown of where the income for 2024 came from:

Church Member Donations	15%
Non-Church Member Donations	48%
Community Grants	27%
<u>Thrivent</u>	<u>10%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

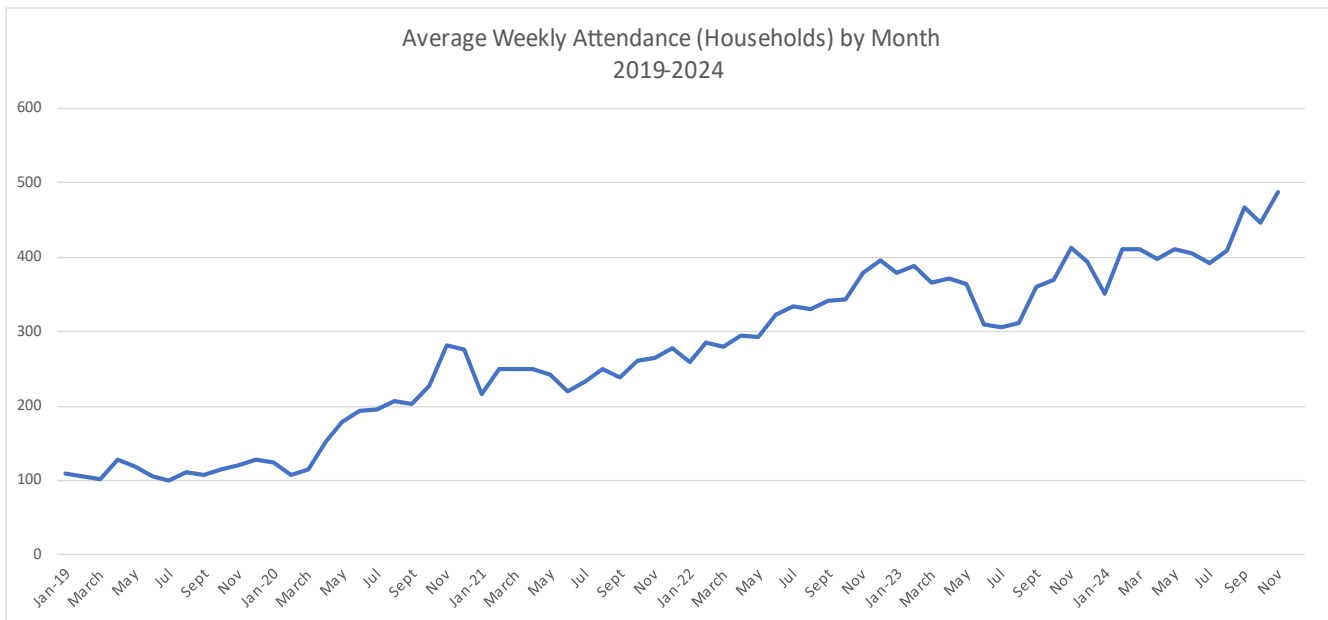
We are projecting a budget of nearly \$200,000 for Feeding Brookings next year. We are grateful to the many local businesses and organizations listed below that provided funding and/or in-kind donations in support of Feeding Brookings in 2024.

Bethel WELCA of Astoria, SD	KFC
Brookings Lions Club	Kool Beans
Brookings Optimist Club	Lake Campbell Lutheran WELCA
Brookings Woman’s Club	Larson Manufacturing
Carl Madsen Gardens	Mills Property Management
City of Brookings	Northwestern Energy
Church Mutual Insurance Company	Pioneer Lutheran Church, White SD
Daktronics	Sanderson Gardens
Elks Lodge 1490	SGS
Farm Credit Services	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Brookings
First Bank & Trust	Starbucks
First Lutheran Church, Brookings	Svec Farms
First Presbyterian Church of Brookings	Thrivent Financial
Hy Vee	Wal Mart
Insomnia Cookies	Women Without Limits

Additionally, many organizations, churches, and businesses held food drives throughout the year. We hope that the generosity of the community will continue to keep this program vibrant.

Below is a graphic showing the growth in numbers Feeding Brookings has experienced over the past six years. Again, this year we served an average of 416 households each week. Feeding Brookings now serves over 800 **unique** households throughout the Brookings community each month. The second table below includes the total number of both non-unique and unique households that Feeding Brookings served in November 2024. We track this data to ensure eligibility for purchasing food through government-subsidized programs. As you can see, in November 2024, those 800 unique households provided food to **over 1,000 individual children** in the Brookings community!





**November 2024 Total Number served**

<b>Non-unique Households (Total number of guests served)</b>	<b><i>Unique</i> Households (Individual households served)</b>
1,946 Households	815 Households
1,683 Children	<i>1,038 Children</i>
2,352 Adults	1,447 Adults
938 Seniors	623 Seniors
<b>4,973 TOTAL GUESTS SERVED</b>	<b>3,108 INDIVIDUALS SERVED</b>

All are invited to see how this program runs on Thursday afternoons and experience the impact Feeding Brookings is making on the lives of so many in the community! If you are interested in learning more, making a donation, or in helping in some way, please contact a committee member. We can use new ideas and new energy! The Feeding Brookings committee consists of Michelle Nelson, Bill Alsaker, Roberta Olson, Tim Hayes, Sarah Dammen, Carley Landmark, and Jeremiah Bergstrom.



**Email Feeding Brookings at:**

[feedingbrookings@gmail.com](mailto:feedingbrookings@gmail.com)

**Please consider signing up to volunteer at:** <https://www.feedingbrookings.org/>