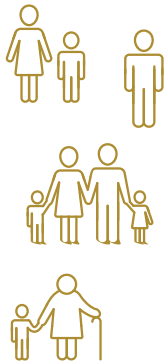


Measuring Our Impact

2024 by the Numbers

5,100
pantry patrons from
2,100
families
(↑ 17%)



18,000
shopping visits from
pantry patrons
(↑ 20%)



1,200,000
pounds of food
distributed
(↑ 20%)



\$3,700 in
change collected
from donation
boxes



15,000
volunteer
hours



43,000
gallons of food
waste converted
to compost for
our gardens.



1 ton of
fresh produce
grown



\$377
from 7,540
redeemable
bottles and
cans



\$8,500
in donated
food



1 part-time
paid employee

\$267,000
of food
purchased



The Year in Review

Loaves & Fishes kept pace with surging demand for supplemental groceries without limiting shopper visits or our service levels. While meeting this challenge, we also fulfilled our vision of becoming “more than a food pantry.”

In 2024, Loaves & Fishes:

- **Ran more than 20 life-skills programs** at the pantry, focusing on meal planning, nutrition education, and healthy eating on a budget.
- **Strengthened community connections** with Healthy Acadia, WIC, Jackson Labs, Ellsworth Schools, the Hancock County Food Security Network and many others.
- **Worked with Heart of Maine United Way** to engage with the broader community on alleviating poverty.
- **Completed our capital plan** — finishing our teaching kitchen, updating our phone system, building a new office for volunteer staffers, adding safety railings and building a potting shed.
- **Continued our major community fundraisers** like Fill the Grand and Darling’s Drives Out Hunger.
- **Held our first-ever appreciation events** for our donors and volunteers.
- **Operated within budget and strengthened our reserves** for the coming year to ensure the pantry’s future sustainability.

Volunteer-led and volunteer-driven, we do more with less — providing more food, to more families, more often, as efficiently as possible.

More than a Food Pantry

Looking Ahead to 2025

In the coming months we'll continue to honor our donors' vision of becoming more than a food pantry:

- Our fully equipped **computer lab** will enable pantry patrons to apply for benefits, create resumes, search for employment and apply for jobs online.
- Our partnership with **Ellsworth Adult Education** will let us offer an expanded curriculum of life-skills education, from nutrition to finance, free of charge to our pantry shoppers.
- Our expanded collaboration with the **Good Table Foundation** will mean broader community access to locally and sustainably grown, hydroponic produce, year-round – as well as an educational program for getting more fresh produce into shopper meal plans.
- Our **community gardens** will be completed for the 2025 growing season.
- Recruiting **additional staff** will let us realize our plans to offer benefits and resource navigation for the neighbors we serve.

Where Community Gathers

In the year ahead, we'll continue our work to address the root causes of food insecurity in Hancock County. We'll offer increased access to healthy food and the know-how to plan meals around it. And, we'll continue to place a premium on responsible stewardship of donor dollars, building on our reserves while providing the most food with the lowest possible overhead, thanks to the 200+ active volunteers who drive our operations.

Running a mid-sized market costs money. As a true community endeavor, the pantry relies on individual donors, local businesses and grantors to keep the doors open, the lights on and the shelves stocked. Loaves & Fishes is profoundly grateful to all of our supporters for being willing to give of themselves to their neighbors, and to one another. Please let us hear your ideas at president@loavesandfishesellsworth.org as we move forward into the new year.

With firm confidence in our mission, we look forward to an exciting 2025.



Loaves & Fishes
FOOD PANTRY

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