

Carma Mohler & *IUMF Hunger Grant 2024

- **West Bend Cares Community Food Pantry – West Bend United Methodist Church**
 - This is a start-up of a new food pantry in the church of a small town in northwest Iowa. They are currently in phases of getting the space set up, purchasing items for pantry and acquiring donors/donations. Funds provided will be used to purchase a freezer.
- **Hand of Luke – Des Moines, New Hope United Methodist Church**
 - Hand of Luke provides an evening meal on the 14th of each month at Central Iowa Shelter Services. They prepare and deliver food to CISS and then serve meals there, serving around 250 people a month. The funds provided will be used to purchase steam pans for food transportation and other supplies.
- **Food Nook – Waterloo First United Methodist Church**
 - This food pantry is in the Church Row Neighborhood, a lower income area in Waterloo. They provide food and hygiene products to those in need. Outside of their pantry, they supply clients with information about SNAP benefits, calendar of community meals and connect them with a program that provides information to “break the cycle of poverty.” Funds will be used to purchase food items.
- **Open Table – Creston First United Methodist Church**
 - After a 4-year hiatus due to the pandemic, this group has decided to reopen their Open Table that provides a free meal to the community twice a month. Pre-covid they were serving around 100 people; their first two meals they served around 45. As they get their name out, they’re hopeful to reach more of those in need. Funds provided by the grant will be used to purchase food for meals along with supplies to serve the food.
- **Atlantic Food Pantry – Atlantic United Methodist Church**
 - This pantry services the town of Atlantic and all of Cass County. They currently serve around 65-75 households a week. Funds from this grant will pay for the cost of food to fill the pantry.
- **Fresh Start: Well Time Weekly Meal – Women at the Well United Methodist Church**
 - Fresh Start is a transitional work release housing facility for women transitioning from prison back to their home. This program provides a hot meal twice a month to the 48 women living there. This meal not only provides healthy food but also forms community with women and the volunteers. The funds provided by the grant will help purchase food.
- **After School Snack Program – Cambridge United Methodist Church**
 - This small congregation prides itself on serving the local community. This ministry provides after school snacks to children that come to church for after school care. They serve over 60 children and have recently added free books to kids during this time. Funds provided will go toward snacks.

- **Feeding Kossuth County Thru SERVE – Algona First United Methodist Church**
 - SERVE is a 24/7 accessible food site. It is stocked with non-perishable foods. This year they were fortunate enough to add bags of macaroni and cheese prepared at church for local missions. The community and schools have generously provided food contributions through various ministries. This funding will allow them to continue to purchase needed items to fill shelves.
- **Blessing Boxes – Knoxville First United Methodist Church**
 - Seeing an increase in homelessness and food insecurity, Blessing Boxes provides shelf stable foods in the boxes and a home cooked free meal once a month where they serve approximately 160 individuals in person or through take out. The funds will purchase an upright freezer to stock perishable foods for their free meal.
- ***Asbury-Grace Garden Ministry – Asbury United Methodist Church**
 - Covering 1.2 acres, this ministry grows and provides locally grown vegetables and fruit to the many community pantries and ministries in need. With such a large garden/farm they have equipment that needs to be properly stored to protect the integrity of it for future use. They are requesting funds to help cover costs along with their host church for a storage building.
- **Free Community Meal – Des Moines Grace United Methodist Church**
 - This ministry is working on providing a weekly nutritious meal to the community in conjunction with a weekly free medical clinic and a low-cost mental health clinic. They also have been supported by local restaurants that help provide a portion of the meal each week. The funds provided will help sustain this program by covering food costs.
- ***Decorah Community Food Pantry**
 - While they are a food pantry for the community, they also support the Decorah Farmers Market which is held on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings, June to October. This ministry’s goal is to provide those who are food insecure with healthy food options, while at same time supporting local food producers. The pantry provides coupons to those in need based on their household numbers to use at the farmer’s market. Funds will be used to print coupons for those in need to purchase food at the market.
- **Smile Sack Garden Ministry – Ruthven United Methodist Church**
 - This ministry started with a few seeds and the garden has blossomed. The produce provided through this garden fills these “Smile Sacks” to those 40 households who are vulnerable/food insecure. The funds provided will allow them to purchase food outside of the garden such as meat and other staples.
- **Grace Garden – Ottumwa Grace Fellowship**
 - The purpose of this garden is to provide fresh produce to residents in Ottumwa who may be food insecure. This garden has evolved and has an efficient watering system that utilizes four different watering tanks to help reduce the costs to the church. The funds will be used to purchase expendable supplies that will enhance the productivity of the garden.

Resources to consider:

Iowa Gardening for Good in Madrid, Iowa

<https://www.iowagardeningforgood.com/about>

Food Rescue programs, look for one in your area! Contact Feeding America Network partner food Bank for more information

<https://www.eatgreaterdesmoines.org/food-rescue>

Check with local farmers markets