



**Annual Report  
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

**Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen, Inc.**

**Lawrence, Kansas**

<http://www.linklawrence.org>

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## **Introduction – Who We Are & What We Do**

Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen, Inc (LINK) was established on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1985, to provide healthy, home-cooked meals in a safe environment for the homeless, hungry, lonely, physically or mentally disabled, and low socioeconomic individuals at no cost to them. Diners are treated as guests and members of the LINK family. Thirty-six years later, this continues to be LINK's mission - to feed people regardless of their circumstances.

LINK is committed to improving the quality of life and honoring the dignity of those it serves when providing a hot meal to any member of our community who wants one.

Currently, LINK is supported by about 45 religious organizations, businesses, and civic groups which provide and serve the food, as well as many individuals who contribute to the organization. LINK is grateful for the support of the leaders and congregation of The First Christian Church, which allows LINK to use the church's basement as a kitchen & dining room for minimal rent.

LINK is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit Corporation which operates out of the basement of the First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky, Lawrence, KS 66044. LINK's dining room and kitchen can be accessed through the north basement door of the church, on 10th Street. LINK's employer identification number is 48-1071888.

LINK's Board of Directors encourages you to visit our website <https://www.linklawrence.org/> We refreshed our website this year and it contains updates on our plans to reopen our dining room, an interesting column by one of our directors, Doug Heacock, entitled "Food for Thought", LINK's serving calendar, and a link to make online donations to LINK through the Douglas County Community Foundation. You can also follow LINK on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/link4lunch/>

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## **President's Report**

Last year, I was honored when the LINK Board of Directors elected me to serve as President of the Board. As I write my first President's Report, it's hard not to reflect on all of the challenges that LINK has faced during the last fiscal year. Like every organization in this time, LINK has had to adapt and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. But, thanks to LINK's dependable staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donor base, LINK is effectively managing the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic.

In March 2020, LINK transitioned from serving meals in its dining room to providing meals in a to-go format. This change has prevented LINK from offering one of its most important services—a sheltered place for its guests to relax and socialize while they eat their meals. But, the Board agreed that this change was necessary to protect staff and volunteers from the risks of transmitting COVID-19—particularly during the part of the fiscal year when no vaccine was available yet. LINK has continued its mission of providing meals to anyone in the community, no questions asked, by serving a to-go meal four days a week—Tuesdays, Thursday, Saturdays, and Sundays—and all federal holidays. LINK is grateful to its staff—Bonnie Reedy and Darrell Vann—who successfully implemented the transition to the to-go service and who are adhering to important safety and sanitization procedures, including handing out masks and providing hand sanitizer to all guests. Also, LINK appreciates the flexibility and commitment of serving groups who have continued to provide meals or monetary donations to cover the cost of the meals. And, LINK is grateful for those serving groups who have continued to provide volunteers to assist Bonnie and Darrell with handing out the meals to LINK's guests. Also, LINK could not have made this transition without the continued support from the First Christian Church which houses LINK's operations and supports its mission of serving those who are hungry. As noted in the Treasurer's Report below, the number of meals served in this fiscal year has declined from past years despite the need for food assistance during the pandemic. But, LINK attributes the lower numbers to some guests not wanting to leave their homes for safety reasons and other guests choosing to eat meals from other community resources and restaurants that expanded services because of the pandemic.

One of the greatest achievements of the year was LINK's Thanksgiving Dinner. Board Liaison Officer Deb Engstrom put together a detailed plan and safety protocols that allowed LINK to serve its annual Thanksgiving meal both by delivery and in-person to-go service. Deb worked with Maceli's, a local banquet hall and catering company, to provide the turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes and volunteers donated other food from green beans to cranberry sauce to delicious pies. Maceli's allowed LINK to use its banquet hall to assemble to-go meals, and LINK volunteers delivered more than 800 meals to Lawrence residents at their homes on Thanksgiving Day. Also, at LINK, volunteers provided about 100 to-go meals to guests. LINK applied for a city permit close 10th Street, and the KU Alumni Association loaned its tailgating tents to LINK for the day. Volunteers set up tables and chairs under the tents in the street, offering LINK's guests a place to sit and enjoy their Thanksgiving meals and a warm cup of coffee on what turned out to be a beautiful fall day.

LINK is grateful for the support that it has received from the Douglas County Community Foundation in this fiscal year. DCCF awarded LINK a grant for COVID-19 expenses in April 2020. LINK used those grant funds throughout this past year to purchase cleaning supplies, protective equipment for staff and volunteers, and packaging products needed to serve the meals in the to-go format. Also, DCCF awarded LINK a grant in February 2020 that it used in December 2020 to purchase 3 new refrigerators and a new deep freezer.

LINK is planning to reopen its dining room to in-person dining beginning Thursday, September 2, 2021, subject to change depending on local COVID-19 conditions. LINK will continue serving meals in a to-go format, but it will allow guests to come into the dining room to eat at the tables. LINK is implementing additional safety protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19, including air purifiers in the dining areas, masking requirements, social distancing measures, and the hiring of a part-time employee to assist with cleaning and sanitation. Also, LINK hosted the Douglas County Health Department for a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in early June 2021. It hopes to offer another clinic in the fall, coinciding with flu vaccines, to offer these services to any of LINK's guests who have not yet had access to a vaccine.

The Board is looking forward to another great year at LINK, serving those in the community who are hungry for a meal and getting back to its mission of providing a sheltered, safe, and clean space for guests to eat and socialize as a community. Thank you for all who have supported LINK and its mission during the 2020-21 fiscal year!

Anne Emert, President  
LINK Board of Directors

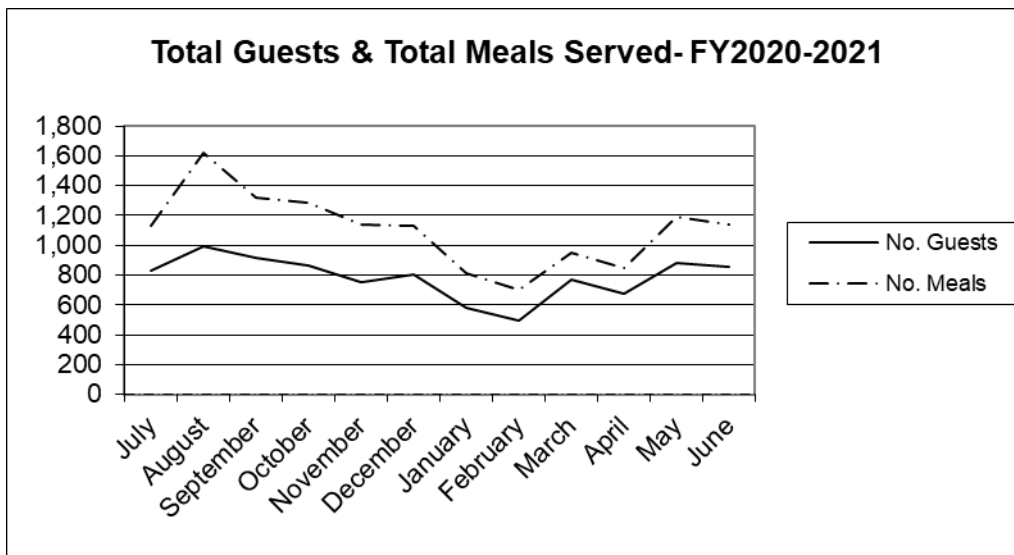
## Coordinator's Report

During this entire fiscal year, the coronavirus pandemic impacted how we served our meals. We closed our dining room in March 2020 and have served our meals to-go since then. We dearly miss hosting our guests in the dining room, but it was a decision the Board made to protect the health of guests and volunteers.

The number of guests that we served this year dropped significantly for a number of reasons – some of our guests didn't come because they could not eat their meals out of the weather; others did not dine with us because of fear of the virus; and others chose to get their meals from several restaurants in downtown Lawrence, which were also serving meals to-go over the lunch hour. However, the decrease in the number of meals that we served was smaller because guests were allowed to take a second meal with them to eat later in the day.

<b>Total Meals Served During FY:</b>		
	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Meals</b>
2011-2012	26,648	35,503
2012-2013	23,218	32,743
2013-2014	23,710	33,544
2014-2015	22,612	33,300
2015-2016	21,646	30,348
2016-2017	18,000	23,184
2017-2018	17,277	21,840
2018-2019	16,642	21,165
2019-2020	16,208	20,463
2020-2021	9,407	13,255

<b>Total Meals Served Since LINK Began:</b>	
<b>Guests</b>	<b>Meals</b>
551,737	586,233
574,955	618,976
598,665	652,520
621,277	685,820
642,923	716,168
660,923	739,352
678,200	761,192
694,842	782,357
711,050	802,820
720,457	816,075



Bonnie Reedy,  
Weekday Coordinator

## LINK Financial Report - July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021

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LINK continues to be financially healthy. In its fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, LINK experienced an 11.5% increase in total receipts compared to the previous year. The Lawrence community continued to provide generous support to LINK throughout the year and our serving groups were also generous in their support of LINK, when they did not provide meals and volunteers. Included in our receipts is the forgiveness of our \$1,200 Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan that we had obtained early in the pandemic; this is a one-time source of funds. Our DCCF account experienced significant gains in the 2021 fiscal year, as compared to the prior fiscal year, which gave significant boost to our bottom line.

LINK expenses declined slightly in FY 2021, with the largest decrease being in payroll and contract services. This decrease is the result of a decision made in December 2019 to terminate our agreement with the Salvation Army to provide onsite personnel for our weekday meals and hire a weekday coordinator. Equipment purchases were higher in FY 2021 because LINK was able to take advantage of a DCCF grant to replace some of our aging appliances and purchase a new freezer and 3 new refrigerators (this grant was included in FY 2020 grants). Below is a summary of 2021 fiscal year receipts and expenses.

		FY 2019-2020		FY 2020-2021	
	<b>Net Assets (start of Fiscal Year)</b>		<b>\$78,611</b>		<b>\$109,464</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Unrestricted Donations	34,449		35,020	
	Donations from Serving Groups	3,281		9,856	
	Restricted Donations	3,000		3,334	
	Grants	25,693		15,719	
	Earnings on DCCF Account	-912		7,923	
	Interest Income	36		60	
	Other Receipts	0		1,200	
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$65,547</b>		<b>\$73,112</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Operating Expenses	7,879		6,484	
	Thanksgiving Meal Expenses	2,274		3,520	
	Equipment Purchase & Repair	1,138		2,846	
	Rent	3,600		3,600	
	Payroll & Contract Services	17,083		14,182	
	Administrative Expenses	2,523		2,452	
	Fundraising Expense	197		23	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$34,694</b>		<b>\$33,107</b>
	<b>NET REVENUE</b>		<b>\$30,853</b>		<b>\$40,005</b>
	<b>Net Assets (end of Fiscal Year)</b>		<b>\$109,464</b>		<b>\$149,469</b>

The cost of our 2020 Thanksgiving meal was higher than in prior years because we used Maceli's to make more components of the meal and to assemble the dinners for delivery. The Board chose to do this because we did not see a way to safely bring in volunteers to assemble the meals like in prior years. For our 2021 Thanksgiving meal, the Board hopes to return to our prior practice of having volunteers make most of the meal and assemble the dinners for delivery, which should bring this cost closer to prior years' cost.

With the decrease in the number of guests and meals served, our costs per meal jumped dramatically, from \$1.66 in FY 2020 to \$2.28 in FY 2021. Many of LINK's operating costs are fixed, regardless of the number of meals that we serve (for example, our rent and payroll do not change regardless of how many meals are served), so there was little the Board could do to bring down the cost per meal. The table below presents a history of LINK's cost per meal over the past decade.

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>GUESTS SERVED</b>	<b>MEALS SERVED</b>	<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>COST PER MEAL</b>
2020-2021	9,407	13,255	\$30,261 <sup>^</sup>	\$2.28
2019-2020	16,208	20,463	\$33,994 <sup>^</sup>	\$1.66
2018-2019	16,642	21,165	\$33,708 <sup>+</sup>	\$1.59
2017-2018	17,277	21,840	\$33,649	\$1.54
2016-2017	18,000	23,184	\$33,293	\$1.44
2015-2016	21,646	30,348	\$31,163	\$1.03
2014-2015	22,612	33,300	\$29,795	\$0.90
2013-2014	23,710 <sup>*</sup>	33,544	\$31,169	\$0.93
2012-2013	23,218 <sup>*</sup>	32,743	\$28,787	\$0.89
2011-2012	26,648 <sup>**</sup>	35,503	\$29,419	\$0.83

<sup>^</sup> Operating expenses do not include the purchase of new appliances (one stove in 2019/20 for \$700; 1 freezer and 3 refrigerators in 2020/21 for \$2,846)

<sup>+</sup> 2018-19 operating expenses do not include the purchase of chairs for \$2,375. Total expenses for the year were \$36,083.

<sup>\*</sup> Only total meals served are counted. Guest counts are estimated based on 1.41 meals per guest due to reduced size of serving trays.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Only total meals served are counted. Guest counts are estimated based on 1.33 meals per guest.

Roberta Renz,  
LINK Treasurer



# APPENDIX

## Budget for Link Fiscal Year 2021-2022

### EXPENSES

#### Administrative Expenses

Bank Fees & Charge	5
Fund Raising & Marketing	500
Insurance	1,500
Corporation Fees	40
PO Box Rent	150
Postage & Delivery	100
Professional Fees	0
Telephone	660
Misc Admin Expenses	500
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>3,455</b>

#### Operating Expenses

Supplies	3,000
Food Purchases	4,000
Thanksgiving Expenses	3,000
Contract Services	500
Equipment	1,000
Equipment Repair	500
Rent	3,600
Payroll	17,720
Misc Operating Expenses	100
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>33,420</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 36,875

## 2020-21 LINK Officers

President..... Anne Emert  
Vice President ..... Amy Carlson  
Secretary .....Jason Schmitz  
Treasurer .....Roberta Renz  
Liaison Officer ..... Deb Engstrom

## 2020-21 LINK Directors

### Terms Expiring in August 2021:

President/Director ..... Anne Emert  
Vice President/Director..... Amy Carlson  
Secretary/Director .....Jason Schmitz  
Director ..... Chaney Finkeldei

### Terms Expiring in August 2022:

Director ..... LaRen Gwin  
Director .....Doug Heacock  
Director ..... vacant  
Director ..... vacant

### Terms Expiring in August 2023:

First Christian Church Rep (Jul-Apr) ..... Paul Studebaker  
First Christian Church Rep (Apr-Jun)..... Dave Aikins  
Director ..... Jen Marsh  
Director ..... Michele Dillon  
Treasurer/Director .....Roberta Renz  
Liaison Officer/Director..... Deb Engstrom