



**Annual Report
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**

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, with a mission of providing 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 update our website regularly and it contains information on the status of our plans to reopen the dining room; an interesting column by one of our directors, Doug Heacock, entitled "Food 4 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

The 2021–22 fiscal year presented continued challenges to LINK as our community continued to weather the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. But, despite those challenges, LINK was able to maintain its mission of serving meals four days a week to anyone in the community, no questions asked. And, once again, that outcome was the product of LINK's dependable staff, dedicated volunteers, and generous donor base.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, LINK still was serving meals in a to-go format and not allowing guests to eat inside the building in the dining room for safety reasons. But, on Thanksgiving Day 2021, LINK opened up its dining room for the first time since March 2020, to welcome guests inside for a Thanksgiving meal. To do this safely, LINK implemented certain safety protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19, including installing air purifiers in the dining areas, complying with masking requirements, and imposing social distancing measures. LINK was able to host about 60 guests in-person who ate at their Thanksgiving meals at the dining tables, sipped on warm cups of coffee with their meals, and enjoyed each other's company. The following week, LINK opened up its dining room for all meal services, inviting guests inside to eat their meals during LINK's serving hours from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Also, to assist with cleaning and sanitizing the dining room, LINK hired a part-time custodian for the weekday meal services. This change back to in-person dining has allowed our guests to come back inside, out of the weather, and enjoy the community and fellowship of gathering together for a meal. At the same time, LINK also has continued to offer guests the opportunity to take meals in to-go containers for those guests who prefer, for safety reasons, to take their meals home or elsewhere.

Along with opening up the dining room on Thanksgiving Day, LINK successfully served about 100 meals (both in-person and to-go) to guests at LINK and delivered 675 meals to Lawrence residents on Thanksgiving morning. Once again, Deb Engstrom led the effort, coordinating the food donations from volunteers, working with Maceli's to provide the turkey, and organizing the preparation and packaging of the meals at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. LINK is incredibly grateful to Deb and its volunteer partners who put together another successful Thanksgiving meal, serving more than 775 meals to those in our community.

Over the past year, LINK has continued to receive funding from generous donors and grant opportunities. LINK was honored to receive grant funding in the 2021–22 fiscal year from Hallmark, FEMA, and #BeMoreLikeClaire. Also, LINK was incredibly grateful to receive a significant gift from the Kathy Peters family in honor of their mother who was one of LINK's very first volunteers and long-time LINK coordinator for Westside Presbyterian Church. LINK used the Peters family's gift to create an endowment fund at the Douglas County Community Foundation: the LINK Endowment in honor of M. Kathleen Peters. LINK is looking forward to watching the Peters family's gift grow and support LINK for many years to come.

As noted at the outset, LINK relies on its dependable staff to run LINK's daily operations and its dedicated volunteers to donate, prepare, and serve the meals. Again this year, LINK is incredibly grateful for its staff—Bonnie Reedy and Darrell Vann—who successfully have managed the transition back to serving meals in-person while adhering to important safety and sanitization procedures, and for the individuals who cheerfully served as custodians, cleaning

and sanitizing the dining room. LINK also thanks its many serving groups who have continued to provide food, monetary donations, and volunteer support, even in the uncertain times of the pandemic. Also, LINK appreciates the continued support of the First Christian Church which houses LINK's operations, maintains a serving group who regularly serves meals at LINK, and supports the overall mission of LINK of providing meals to those who are hungry in the Lawrence community.

LINK's Board of Directors is looking forward to another successful fiscal year in 2022–23. Thank you to all who have supported LINK and its mission of providing meals to anyone who is hungry, no questions asked, during the 2021-22 fiscal year!

Anne Emert, President
LINK Board of Directors

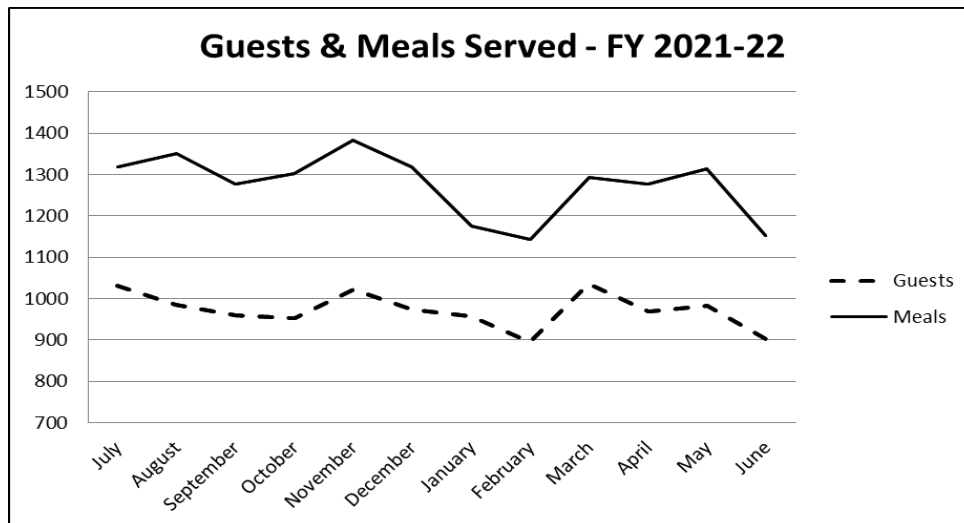
Coordinator's Report

We are happy to report that the number of guests that we served during our 2021-22 fiscal year increased 24% over the prior year, although we have not yet reached the level of guests we had before the start of the pandemic.

Our response to the coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve. Starting with our 2021 Thanksgiving meal, we reopened the dining room and allowed our guests to eat there, but our meals are still packaged in the "to go" format, giving our guests the option to take the food with them instead of eating the food in the dining room. The board continues to evaluate the safety of fully opening our dining room and returning to serving from a buffet line.

Total Meals Served During FY:		
	Guests	Meals
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
2021-2022	11,663	15,297

Total Meals Served Since LINK Began	
Guests	Meals
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
732,120	831,372



Bonnie Reedy,
Weekday Coordinator

LINK Financial Report - July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022

LINK continues to be financially healthy and the Lawrence community continues to generously support us. Most of our serving groups have resumed providing food and volunteers for their meals, so donations from serving groups are down. I am excited to report that LINK received a \$10,000 donation in memory of M. Kathleen Peters, which was used to establish an endowment at DCCF. Our regular DCCF account experienced significant losses in the 2022 fiscal year, which adversely affected our bottom line.

LINK expenses increased 6% in FY 2022, with the largest increase being in payroll and contract services. The cause of the increase in payroll and contract services is three-fold: our employees received a well-deserved increase in pay; we hired a part-time custodian to help with cleaning and disinfecting when we reopened the dining room; and we paid for contract services that had been provided in earlier years. Below is a summary of 2022 fiscal year receipts and expenses.

		FY 2020-2021		FY 2021-2022	
	Net Assets (start of Fiscal Year)		\$109,464		\$149,469
RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Donations	35,020		35,315	
	Donations from Serving Groups	9,856		6,800	
	Restricted Donations	3,334		3,000	
	Grants	15,719		8,719	
	Earnings on DCCF Account	7,923		-10,032	
	Interest Income	60		26	
	Other Receipts	1,200		0	
	Endowment Donations	0		10,000	
	Endowment Earnings	0		-533	
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$73,112		\$53,295
EXPENSES	Operating Expenses	6,484		7,489	
	Thanksgiving Meal Expenses	3,520		3,203	
	Equipment Purchase & Repair	2,846		637	
	Rent	3,600		3,600	
	Payroll & Contract Services	14,182		17,843	
	Administrative Expenses	2,452		2,321	
	Fundraising Expense	23		27	
	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$33,107		\$35,120
	NET REVENUE		\$40,005		\$18,175
	Net Assets (end of Fiscal Year)		\$149,469		\$167,644

The cost of our 2021 Thanksgiving meal decreased from the prior year when Maceli's made more components of the meal and assembled the dinners for delivery. This year, our volunteer groups provided most of the food and Corpus Christi Catholic Church allowed us to use its facilities to assemble the meals with volunteers. Maceli's continues to provide the turkeys and gravy.

Like last year, our cost per meal is higher than historic levels, because of the lower level of guests and meals served. 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.

FISCAL YEAR	GUESTS SERVED	MEALS SERVED	OPERATING EXPENSES	COST PER MEAL
2021-2022	11,663	15,297	\$35,120	\$2.29
2020-2021	9,407	13,255	\$30,261 ¹	\$2.28
2019-2020	16,208	20,463	\$33,994 ¹	\$1.66
2018-2019	16,642	21,165	\$33,708 ²	\$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 ³	33,544	\$31,169	\$0.93
2012-2013	23,218 ³	32,743	\$28,787	\$0.89

¹ 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)

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

³ Only total meals served are counted. Guest counts are estimated based on 1.41 meals per guest.

Roberta Renz,
LINK Treasurer

APPENDIX

Budget for Link Fiscal Year 2022-2023

EXPENSES

Administrative Expenses

Bank Fees & Charge	5
Fund Raising & Marketing	500
Insurance	1,500
Corporation Fees	40
PO Box Rent	175
Postage & Delivery	100
Professional Fees	1,000
Telephone	660
Misc. Admin Expenses	500
Total Administrative Expenses	4,480

Operating Expenses

Supplies	3,000
Food Purchases	4,500
Thanksgiving Expenses	3,500
Contract Services	500
Equipment	1,000
Equipment Repair	500
Rent	4,200
Payroll	19,765
Misc. Operating Expenses	100
Total Operating Expenses	37,065

TOTAL EXPENSES 41,545

LINK Officers

	<u>FY2021-22</u>	<u>FY2022-23</u>
President	Anne Emert	Anne Emert
Vice President	Amy Carlson	Amy Carlson
Secretary	Jason Schmitz	Jason Schmitz
Treasurer	Roberta Renz	Ji Yeon Lee
Liaison Officer	Deb Engstrom	Deb Engstrom

LINK Directors

	<u>FY 2021-22</u>	<u>FY 2022-23</u>
Terms Expiring in August 2022:		
Director	Doug Heacock	
Director	Chaney Finkeldei	
Director	Maddie Field	
Terms Expiring in August 2023:		
First Christian Church Rep	Hugh Rundell	Hugh Rundell
Director	Jen Marsh	Jen Marsh
Director	Michele Dillon	Michele Dillon
Director	Roberta Renz	Roberta Renz
Liaison Officer/Director	Deb Engstrom	Deb Engstrom
Director	Lucas Grand	Lucas Grand
Terms Expiring in August 2024:		
President/Director	Anne Emert	Anne Emert
Vice President/Director	Amy Carlson	Amy Carlson
Secretary/Director	Jason Schmitz	Jason Schmitz
Director	Krista Parks	Krista Parks
Director	Christopher Cushing	Christopher Cushing
Terms Expiring in August 2025:		
Director		Doug Heacock
Treasurer/Director		Ji Yeon Lee
Director		David Pratt