



**Annual Report
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025**

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 LINK's serving calendar; updates on LINK's activities; a Sign-Up Genius LINK for volunteering opportunities; 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

After taking on the role as Board President for LINK this past fiscal year, we set to the task of understanding the ramifications of the prior year as LINK tried to get “back in the saddle”. Our pressing needs were to stabilize staff and payroll as well as improve operations. At about the same time, issues surrounding homeless peoples’ behaviors caused strained relationships with FCC. Their concern was that LINK was a catalyst for trespassing, loitering, and property damage done by homeless people. So along with focusing on how to better implement the basics of LINK’s mission, we also found ourself in a strained position with our landlord, something we’ve never experienced before. This has been a year that fits the description of “two steps forward, one step back”. Yet, through the challenges, LINK has managed to power through, increase lunch service, and celebrate 40 years of providing lunch to anyone who comes through our serving line.

Steps forward:

- LINK has been fortunate to tap the input and talents of newer board members, namely, Kate Konie, Brennan Clark, Barbara Clinger, and Tom Ruddy. Our organization is stronger because of their enthusiasm, critical thinking, combined knowledge, and generous hearts.
- We finally have had the time to discover the depth of the need for managerial co-ordination at LINK and what that entails. By implementing oversight, asking questions, and input from board members and staff, LINK operations are on a smoother footing, recovering from the loss of Bonnie, and perhaps being guided by her.
- Personnel issues have settled with Calvin Barnes taking on the weekday prep and clean schedule, and Darrell Vann continuing with the weekend routine.
- LINK continues with enthusiasm for volunteering from community and churches, including the newest groups, the National Charity League and Worden Cornerstone Church.
- LINK met with a committee from FCC to discuss ways to minimize loitering by LINK guests. LINK implemented signage and worked with HRC to discourage loitering when LINK is not open. And conversations with people when they are on church grounds outside of serving hours.

Steps backward:

- LINK was blindsided when our lease with FCC was replaced with a “Users Agreement”, and a 283% increase in monthly fees. LINK cooperated with FCC so they could make a plea to serving groups to pay “their fair share.” Groups that have the ability to donate more have done what they can.
- Substantial grant funding dried up due to the federal government’s DOGE dismantling of human service funds for FEMA.

The backward steps point in one direction: LINK must develop connections to get more donations for managerial operations and overhead costs with respect to rising costs and diminished grant funding.

Service:

As the data you will see in the rest of this report illustrates, meals served continue to rise. Still we ended the year strong financially in spite of the user's fee. Guided by our treasurer, Brennan Clark's understanding of our fiscal position, LINK approaches our finances with cautious optimism, knowing there is work ahead for 2025-2026. It's fair to say that this can be said for nearly all non-profit entities in the current socioeconomic climate.

And finally, February, 2025 marked [LINK's 40th anniversary of service](#). LINK continues to serve hot, nutritious meals to anyone and everyone who shows up. This is inspirational.

I cannot thank our board members, staff, and volunteers enough for all of their work and other contributions to the LINK effort. I am grateful for the community that continues to embrace the LINK mission and enable us to have the privilege to honor our truest human nature with the basic, yet not so simple act, of serving lunch.

Amy Carlson, October 2025

Daily Operations Report

This year LINK was in transition with respect to the Weekday Co-ordinator's position. Amy Carlson worked to organize LINK's operations and strengthen their staff. As a result LINK's board has had time to analyze our need for a manager's position.

The number of guests that we served during our 2023-24 fiscal year increased 11.5% over the prior year. This increase mostly came on in the 4th quarter of the year. This trend is expected to continue. LINK partnered with Just Food for food donations and on several occasions with volunteer groups to do cleanup and maintenance at LINK, and those who did kind gestures, like treat bags during the holidays and food drives. LINK also received a new gas range from Plymouth Congregational Church.

Total Meals Served During FY:			Total Meals Served Since LINK Began	
	Guests	Meals	Guests	Meals
2012-2013	23,218	32,743	574,955	618,976
2013-2014	23,710	33,544	598,665	652,520
2014-2015	22,612	33,300	621,277	685,820
2015-2016	21,646	30,348	642,923	716,168
2016-2017	18,000	23,184	660,923	739,352
2017-2018	17,277	21,840	678,200	761,192
2018-2019	16,642	21,165	694,842	782,357
2019-2020	16,208	20,463	711,050	802,820
2020-2021	9,407	13,255	720,457	816,075
2021-2022	11,663	15,297	732,120	831,372
2022-2023	13,592	16,704	745,712	848,076
2023-2024	16,958	20,960	762,670	869,036
2024-2025	18,910	22,004	781,580	891,040

LINK Financial Report - July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025

This has been a good year for LINK financially. Generous contributions from the Lawrence community increased 28% year-over-year. We were not able to secure grants as we have done in the past, but the increase in donations limited the sting of grants not received.

LINK's expenses decreased by 12% in FY 2024-25, with the largest decreases in operating expenses and payroll, primarily due to an active board taking on responsibilities that were performed by paid employees in years past. The Thanksgiving meal was down, which might just be a difference in how it was documented on the financial statement. However, food costs were also down overall, so it is likely that Thanksgiving expense was down for the year. Our volunteer groups provided most of the other food, and Corpus Christi Catholic Church graciously allowed us to use its facilities to assemble the meals with volunteers.

Below is a summary of 2024-25 fiscal year receipts and expenses.

		FY 2024-2025		FY 2023-2024
	Net Assets (start of Fiscal Year)		\$216,529	*\$189,815
RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Donations	36,283		
	Donations from Serving Groups			
	Restricted Donations			
	Grants			
	Earnings on DCCF Account	5,038		
	Interest Income	850		
	Other Receipts			
	Endowment Donations	12,795		
	Endowment Earnings	4,090		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$59,056	\$72,524
EXPENSES	Operating Expenses	10,846		
	Thanksgiving Meal Expenses	2,201		
	Equipment Purchase & Repair			
	Rent	4,661		
	Payroll & Contract Services	18,468		
	Administrative Expenses	4,322		
	Fundraising Expense			
	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$40,498	\$45,811
	NET REVENUE		\$18,558	\$26,714
	Net Assets (end of Fiscal Year)		\$235,087	\$216.529

The cost per meal decreased 16% year over year while LINK served 5% more meals than last year. Since many of LINK's operating costs, such as rent and payroll, are fixed regardless of the number of meals served, the cost per should decrease as the number of meals goes up.

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
2024-2025	17,910	22,004	\$40,498	\$1.84
2023-2024	16,958	20,960	\$45,811	\$2.18
2022-2023	13,592	16,704	\$37,151	\$2.16
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	33,544	\$31,169	\$0.93

¹ Only total meals served are counted. Guest counts are estimated based on 1.41 meals per guest.

Brennan Clark,
LINK Treasurer

APPENDIX

LINK Officers

	<u>FY2024-25</u>	<u>FY2025-26</u>
President	Amy Carlson	Amy Carlson
Vice President	Barbara Clinger	Barbara Clinger
Secretary	Jason Schmitz	Jason Schmitz
Treasurer	Brennan Clark	Brennan Clark
Liaison Officer	Deb Engstrom	Deb Engstrom

LINK Directors

	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Terms Expiring in August 2025:		
President/Director	Doug Heacock	Doug Heacock
Terms Expiring in August 2026:		
First Christian Church Rep	David Nanne	David Nanne
Liaison Officer/Director	Deb Engstrom	Deb Engstrom
Vice President	Barbara Clinger	Barbara Clinger
Director	Kate Konie	Kate Konie
Terms Expiring in August 2027:		
Director		Anne Emert
President		Amy Carlson
Secretary/Director		Jason Schmitz
Treasurer/Director		Brennan Clark
Director		Tom Ruddy