

## WELCOME

To the newly reorganized  
Table-to-Table Volunteer  
Newsletter!

This newsletter aims to provide consistent and clear information for all volunteers so everyone is on the same page.

Articles are informative, offering insights, tips, and resources that empower volunteers to make a difference. Each bi-monthly issue will also showcase the incredible efforts of individuals who share their knowledge and inspire action.



## News and Events

### ● Volunteer Hangout

Join us at the Big Grove on **Tuesday, September 24th from 4-6pm** for the Volunteer Hangout!

### ● T2T's New Partners: North Liberty Aldi's/Hyvee and Bread Garden.

### ● New Van Introduction

Van 12 is a 2022 Ford Transit Cargo High Roof purchased through a grant received from Johnson County. **A few important things to note:**

- Clearance is 9 feet 6 inches.
- There is a running board/step under the side cargo door.
- The van currently does not have grab bars, but they'll be installed soon.
- The temperature gauge is located behind the seats.

## Volunteer Spotlight

**For those who have not met her, we would like to introduce you to Traci Wagner.**

**Traci is our Data Entry person.** She is an Iowan native who grew up in Cedar Falls, moving to Iowa City in 1993. She likes to read, exercise, and scrapbook. Her favorite ice cream flavor is a chocolate vanilla twist.

You can find Traci at Table to Table on Thursdays. She has been with us for two years.

About her favorite memory of volunteering for Table to Table, she said, "Interacting with all the Table-to-Table staff has been so fun! Hearing them navigate the situations they run into (30,000+ pounds of potatoes, Rice-a-Roni, etc.) has been so interesting." She noted that there are many ways to help with Table-to-Table and that each part contributes to the overall process. She wishes more people knew how many volunteers it takes to move that quantity of food, and how much food is saved.

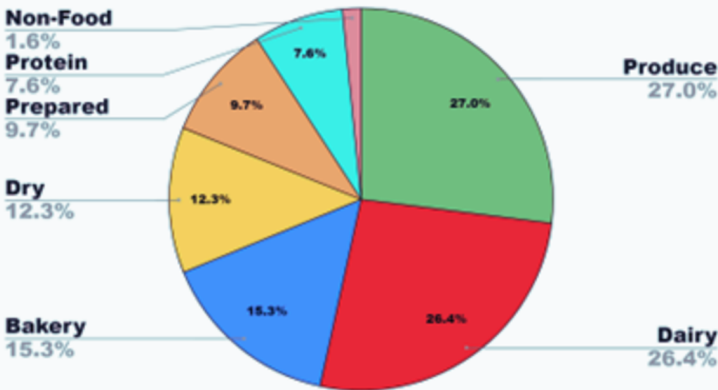


# What We Do With Our Data

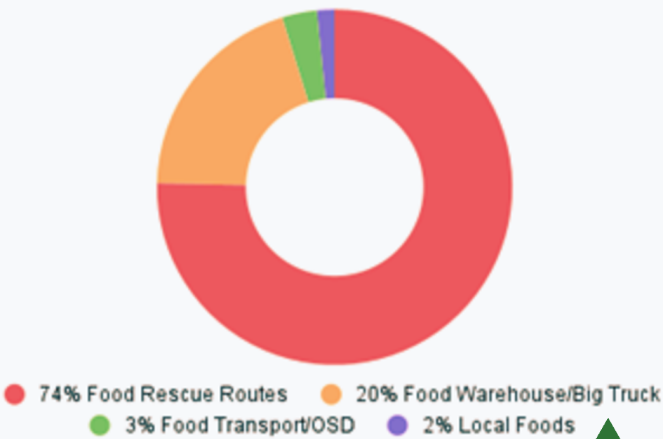
The data our volunteers record on their routes is fundamental to our program evaluation! With the help of our data volunteers, route sheets are entered into our Food Force software, where we can then pull reports to determine statistics on the food we collect.

Knowing the weights and types of food collected on our routes helps us evaluate our program and find ways to improve. Below are several charts reflecting data from our last fiscal year, collected by our volunteers!

FY24 Distribution by Food Type



% of Total Food by Initiative



2.7 million pounds

Of food was recovered by Table to Table this year.

61% was produce, protein and dairy. In 2019 T2T food reached 19,000 individuals. This year we served 33,000.

Food insecurity continues to grow at an alarming rate. Local emergency hunger relief partners report a 50-80% increase in the number of community members seeking their services.



## Thanks to our staff and volunteers:

- Drove vehicles 42,397 miles on 2,529 routes, including 13,469 picks and deliveries.
- Volunteers served 8,618 hours on 4,597 route shifts.
- Staff and AmeriCorps completed 82 routes to recover 137, 437 pounds of food.
- From FY23 to FY 24 the amount of produce distributed doubled (22,725 pounds)



## T2T History

The history and evolution of T2T can be documented by describing the three locations that have housed the organization: Old Brick, Capitol Street, and Pepperwood Place. The concept of T2T is food rescue and delivery to those in need. Yet, something came before.

T2T began as an idea from Frank Lalor, a retired principal in the Iowa City Community School District. He saw both a need and a solution. He was an innovator, a pioneer. Why not match the hungry of Iowa City with the surplus food supply, much of which ended up in the landfill? Frank called local grocery stores to ask whether they had any food to donate. If the stores could donate, he would pick up the food in his own car and deliver it to many of the non-profits around Iowa City, such as Free Lunch.

Frank watched a broadcast of a congressional hearing on food waste and hunger in America, and thought this was the kernel of an idea, one that could be applied in Johnson County. He enlisted the help of Meg Kiekhäfer, the director of the Free Lunch Program, by asking her whether they needed more food. Her answer was “yes.” Together, they discussed what could be done. This led to meetings with other community leaders.

In October 1995, they held a conference that brought together donors, recipients and community leaders from around Johnson County. Everyone present agreed that rescuing food in Iowa City was worth pursuing. They decided to make their decision formal, and T2T was granted nonprofit status in April 1996. This need and solution grew exponentially as the gap between abundance and hunger widened over the years. The model was simple: pick up food from donors and distribute it to nonprofit social service agencies. Yet, how did T2T evolve from this idea? The three locations which housed T2T may hold the answer.



# T2T History Cont. – Old Brick

**In this newsletter edition,** we will discuss the time spent in Old Brick. Offices were rented in Old Brick, a church on the corner of Clinton and Market Streets in downtown Iowa City. This became the location of T2T from April, 1996 to December, 2016.

Old Brick was owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. Old Brick had a space available. The 700 square foot office space, no larger than a storage closet, was available for rent. The staff consisted of three people: David Wellendorf, Emily Meister, and, later, Bob Anderlick. Meg Kiekhaefer became the first T2T director.

Volunteers used their personal vehicles for the collection and distribution of food. John’s Crane Service also let T2T use a truck weekly, without cost to T2T. In addition, David and Emily developed a relationship with Frontier Natural Products. This resulted in the donation of a refrigerated truck.

By now, vans had been purchased for food pickup. There was no dedicated box storage or workspace, and volunteers got their own boxes from the storage room.

Staff members drove around Iowa City to secure more boxes. At first, vans were parked in the Old Brick parking lot, but they were moved to 5 meters on Clinton Street as the organization grew.

T2T was a much smaller operation in those days. 44,00 pounds of food were collected during the first year of operation.

During the last year at Old Brick, T2T was doing 36 routes per week, with 72 volunteers. 1.5 million pounds of food, valued at \$4.8 million, were rescued during that last year. Exponential growth caught up with the organization, and a move was needed.

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