



Feeding Our Community Since 2017

Essex • Essex Junction • Jericho • Underhill • Westford



Gratitude Report 2025



2025 REFLECTIONS



Kaki McGeary

KAKI MCGEARY

Executive Director

2025 brought continued growth for Aunt Dot's Place. Visits to our food shelf rose by 25%, reflecting greater food insecurity during a time of shifting policies and a shrinking safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors.

In the face of these challenges, our community responded with extraordinary generosity. Volunteers extended their shifts. New volunteer requests surged—rising by 80% last November alone. Food donations reached record levels, and financial giving grew. Your support allowed us to meet this unprecedented moment with compassion and resiliency.

In September, our Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan to guide and sustain our work in the years ahead.

This included refreshing our mission and vision, and articulating our core values.

We are already turning our plan into action, including implementing a new software system to streamline our intake process and improve our data collection. We also switched to an honor-based residency verification to reduce barriers to access. And, in January 2026, we launched a delivery service to support neighbors who lack transportation or have mobility challenges.

Thank you for being our valued partners in this important work.

Together, we are moving closer to our vision of a healthy, thriving community where everyone enjoys lasting food security.

OUR MISSION

To support our neighbors facing food insecurity by providing nourishing food, essential personal care items, and community connection.



OUR IMPACT IN 2025

Aunt Dot's Place is a community food shelf where neighbors facing food insecurity can select their own groceries to meet their personal needs and preferences. In addition to non-perishable food, we offer fresh produce and bread, frozen meat and fish, and a selection of dairy products. We stock items for people with food allergies, dietary restrictions and cultural needs. Shoppers can also find personal care essentials like hygiene products, laundry soap and diapers.



3,324

**TOTAL
VISITS**



1,052

**NEIGHBORS
SERVED**



545

**HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED**



172

**NEW
REGISTRATIONS**

259,496

POUNDS OF FOOD & PERSONAL ITEMS DISTRIBUTED



“

I was working full time hours but unable to have enough money for food for my family after rent, utilities, and transportation.

—Anonymous, Neighbor Survey



KEY STATISTICS 2025



Did You Know?

Children with food insecurity have increased risk of chronic illness, cognitive delays, and mental illness.

“ I was very unemployed with three small children to feed when I found Aunt Dot's. Coming away from there on my first trip, I had enough food to feed myself more than the once a day I had been down to, as I had been skipping meals to make sure my kids could eat.

—Anonymous, Neighbor Survey



25%

Increase in visits



29%

Increase in households served



67%

Increase in our food spending since 2022

OUR DEMOGRAPHICS



27% of people served were children & 8% were seniors



10% of people served were disabled



20% of people served were unemployed



7% of households had special dietary needs

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Every week, more than 100 volunteers make our mission possible—doing everything from picking up donations, doing inventory, weighing and sorting food, to welcoming customers, assisting shoppers and delivering food to seniors.



OUTREACH, EVENTS & PROGRAMS



2025 Highlights

L4 Community Garden
Addi's Big Beautiful Life
Blood Drive & Run, Walk, Roll
BeCause Craft Fair
Community Appreciation Night
Essex Alliance Church Monthly Drive
National Night Out
Matt Lumsden Memorial Day Drive
Recipe Kits & Cooking Demos
School Backpack Outreach
Senior Living Delivery Program
Thanksgiving Meal Kits & Turkeys
Volunteer Painting - Welcome Room
& Over 70 Food Drives!



STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS 2026-29



People

We have the people power to achieve our mission through community collaboration, shared values & mutual respect.



Program

We ensure equitable and consistent access to nutritious food & personal care items by sustaining partnerships with community organizations.



Money

We cultivate a stable and diverse funding portfolio with sound financial management to sustain programs & meet growing need.



Narrative

We regularly communicate our mission and impact to key audiences to increase awareness, participation, leadership & engagement.



Capacity

We are organized and efficient in our operations and governance, with strong leadership, systems & infrastructure.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Proud to be a Vermont FoodBank Network Partner

Last year, 60% of all food and personal care items we distributed were made possible through in-kind donations of goods, while the remaining 40% was made possible by generous financial contributions. Thank you to all the individuals, businesses, local farms, school groups, churches and civic groups who help feed our community.



MAJOR COMMUNITY DONORS (\$1,000+)

Anonymous
BTV Local & Indigenous Fund
Bibens Ace Hardware - Essex
Burlington Telecom
Essex Center United Methodist Church
HANDS
HUB International (The Essex Agency)
Lawrence Family Farms
Munson Family Foundation
Louise C. Mussen Trust
NBT Bank
NorthCountry Federal Credit Union
One Credit Union
Pomerleau Family LLC
RevRenewables
SeaComm Federal Credit Union
*& many Private Family Foundations,
Donor Advised Funds and Individuals*



FRESH RESCUE PARTNERS (WEEKLY DONORS)

Costco
Hannaford - Essex
Trader Joe's

*For a complete list of our
community partners, visit
auntdotsplace.com*



LARGEST IN-KIND DONORS (1,000+ LBS)

Blodgett Ovens
Essex Alliance Church
Essex/Westford Schools
Farm Upstream
Hannaford Florist
L4 Collective Community Garden
Matt Lumsden Real Estate Drive
Market 32/Price Chopper - Essex
Pepperidge Farm
Poorhouse Pies
Scout Troop 365
Starbucks - Sunderland Way
Vermont FoodBank



GRANTS

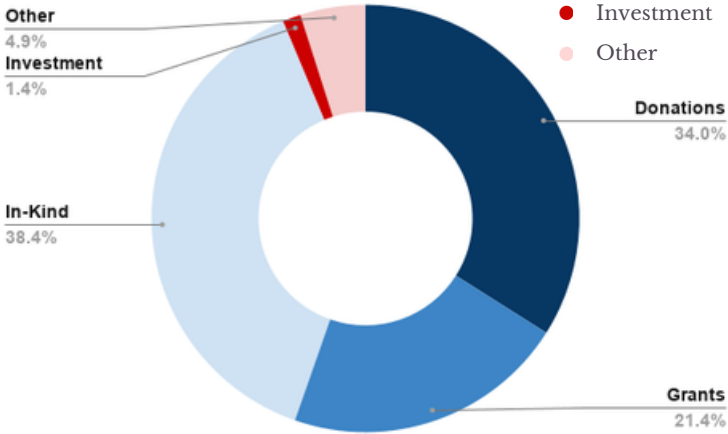
100+ Women Who Care
Chittenden County
Efficiency Vermont
Essex Human Services
Hoehl Family Foundation
National Life Group Charitable
Foundation
Starbucks Foodshare
Vermont FoodBank
Vermonters Feeding Vermonters
Town Fair Tire Foundation
The WaterWheel Foundation

2025 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

\$775,464

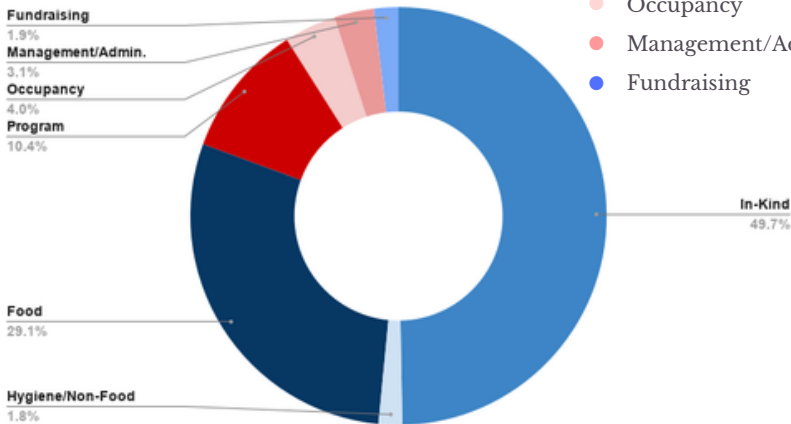
Donations	\$263,521
In-Kind	\$297,394
Grants	\$165,666
Investment	\$10,671
Other	\$38,212



EXPENSES

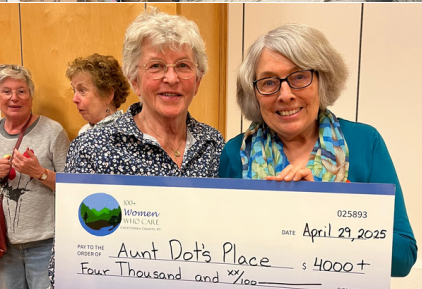
\$598,324

Food Purchases	\$173,845
Hygiene/Non-Food	\$10,979
In-Kind Distributed	\$297,394
Program Operations	\$62,175
Occupancy	\$24,068
Management/Admin.	\$18,491
Fundraising	\$11,372



12/31/2025 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Assets	\$515,724
Total Liabilities	\$11,909
Net Assets	\$503,815



“ Your work and dedication to helping lift our community to a place of independence so they can give back when they do is deeply appreciated by this mom who experienced food insecurity as an unexpectedly pregnant single woman.
—Anonymous Donor



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Boudreaux • *President*
Jonathan Ophardt • *Vice President*
Alice Astarita • *Treasurer*
Aimee Cronin • *Secretary*
Kathie Cheney
Andrea Francalancia
Suzanne Lawrence
Susan Miyamoto
Max Seaton

STAFF

Kaki McGeary • *Executive Director*



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