The Harvest Report

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard 2025 Annual Report • Feb. 2026

Friends,

As many of you know, 2025 deepened ongoing challenges for our community. New federal budgets have reduced access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and budget negotiations delayed these benefits for the first time in their history. In a moment of crisis, you showed up for your neighbors, offering increased support – including from more new donors than we had seen since during the pandemic. You demonstrated that we are here to care for each other. When times get harder, we hold onto each other tighter.

There is so much joy and community-building coming to the Hub this year that I can't wait to share with you. But before we're swept into a new season, I want to share the words of our community members as they reflected on the work you supported in 2025.

One program participant shared, "The Hub has provided me with learning opportunities that you don't get many other places, with the tools provided! Often, I'll leave a class with groceries to recreate what I've learned. The garden also provides herbs and produce fresher than at the grocery store – and way easier on the budget."



A child works with their grownup to make spring rolls at a family-friendly workshop.

Another shared, "The garden saved me a few times this year, as well as the pantry, but the classes are the most fun!" And one volunteer shared, "I am a pantry volunteer and enjoy getting to know patrons at food workshops. It's a fun environment to learn and try new things!"

While folks may first arrive looking for a way to give back through volunteering or to ensure they don't experience meal gaps, they often find their way to other programming, building enduring relationships and skills that extend well beyond the Hub. Thank you for helping us make space for these moments; we know they make the moments of stress and uncertainty more manageable, because we have a space to ask questions and a network of connections to draw on for support.

In the next few pages, you'll hear from one of our recurring community educators, get a snapshot of fundraising successes, and learn about the impact you supported and participated in across programs in 2025.Thank you for investing your time and energy in growing community over shared meals, redistributed resources, and skill swapping. You bring so much joy to this work.

As you review this annual report, I wonder if now is a moment when you could consider joining our Harvest Team, sustaining your impact of this critical work through recurring contributions? We have included an envelope here for however you may choose to give.

With gratitude,

Megan Betz
CEO and President

A word from one of our educators

Hello! I'm Mads, MHC's sourdough sage. I've had so much fun teaching sourdough workshops at the Hub since Fall 2024. I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into, but I knew that I could simplify the sourdough baking process and make it less intimidating. I decided to come to the Hub to test the ovens and kitchen setup and handed out the freshly baked bread to patrons – and a few staff members got to sneak in a taste-test as well. The bread was a hit, so I knew it was time to start teaching others how to maintain their own starter and bake delicious bread and treats. My first participants were so excited to learn and peppered me with great questions. I loved this, since it pushed me to learn even more about bread baking and think of ways to incorporate this new knowledge into my workshops.

I love working with our community members of all ages, from all walks of life, and with varying skills and comfort levels. I really enjoy teaching the nervous beginners and showing them that they too can bake great tasting bread more affordably and without having a lot of tools. I also love seeing the same faces in my different workshops, and it is clear that people have taken workshops with one another before. There is a great sense of community and support in these workshops, and I love being a part of that. I always leave feeling energized. Come and join us!



Madeleine "Mads" Gonin has taught nearly a dozen sourdough workshops in our kitchen classroom over the last two years.

Thank you so much

Each donor, program participant, volunteer, and team member truly makes the Hub all that it is. Here are a few special shoutouts for 2025:

Thank you to the 145 volunteers who offered 4,179 hours to our pantry and garden in 2025. This labor would have added over $75,000 to our payroll expenses without your generosity.

Thank you to our Harvest Team members, whose recurring contributions add stability to our work. In 2025, we gained 20 new members, and the Harvest Team contributed a total of $51,860.

Thank you to the local growers who filled our pantry with fresh produce, including the tons delivered via our partners at Farm to Family Fund and the farm partners who sold their produce to us through the Farmer Support Initiative this year: Barnhouse Farms, Blue Hour Farm, Outlier Farm, People's Cooperative Market, Seven Ridges, and Three Flock Farm.

Thank you to our Gala sponsors, who together raised $7,500 to support our educational programming. Sponsors included Bloomington Insurance Agency, Boston Scientific, Cook Medical, Curry Auto Center, Deep Roots, Duke, IU Credit Union, IU Health, Jazzercise, Loren Wood Builders, Old National, The Bomba Stallsmith Rabadi Group at Baird, and Uplands Network of the Sierra Club's Hoosier Chapter. Additional thanks to our incredible, generous catering donors Pizza Monkey and Sandy's Pizza, as well as Meadowlark Farm, Alexander Landerman and the Tiny Type Cart, and SoulCraft.

Our Team

Board of Directors

Sherri Dugger, *Chair*
Linda Grove-Paul
David Lyman, *Treasurer*
Mitch Rice, *Secretary*
JR Stallsmith, *Vice Chair*

Staff Members

Liz Barnhart, *Outreach Coor. (Jan-Mar) / Development Dir. (Mar. onward)*
Megan Betz, *CEO and President*
Kai Nix, *Garden Coordinator*
Sam Glidewell, *Operations Manager*
Mercury McGill, *Admin. Assistant*
Georgia O'Connor, *Youth Garden Educator*
Erika Wheeler, *Development Dir. (Jan-Mar)*

Financial summary

This year's financials offer an income profile we expect to see more of in coming years: far less grant support, particularly from the public sector, and more individual contributions as we grow relationships and you all respond to a moment of incredible need.

Individuals showing up to feed their neighbors resulted in a robust end-of-year campaign that let us start 2026 strong. We are also thankful that "other" includes our first payout from the Hub's endowment. Thank you, endowment donors, for growing this stable funding for our work!

This financial summary does not include in-kind support, predominantly from Hoosier Hills Food Bank to fill our pantry. Removing this line does not minimize their impact, but allows a clearer picture of our financial standing. The impression of surplus here is in fact allowing us to rebuild an operating reserve, working toward a six-month cushion to support us as our aging HVAC system and cold storage need repairs and replacement.

Income

Individual contributions	$392,388.70	65%
Grants	$168.617.71	28%
Special events	$39,152.51	6%
Other	$5,900.33	1%
Total	**$606,059.36**	

Expenses

Personnel	$350,301.46	66%
Program	$32,769.45	6%
Food purchasing	$52,468.84	10%
Fundraising	$23,706.71	4%
Org. expenses	$74,242.96	14%
Total	**$533,489.42**	

What we accomplished together in 2025



The pantry served 114,635 duplicated individuals, a 13% increase over 2024. We again purchased $50,000 of local produce for the pantry.



We distributed over 1,000 samples of recipes in our pantry and shared dozens of kombucha starts and sourdough starters to expand what pantry shoppers can make at home.



We shared 4,500 seed packets during our major distribution push in spring and grew over 5,000 plants for the community. We purchased more seeds than in past years to keep pace with demand and extended distribution.



We gathered for community meals at least 16 times, offering drop-in Hub Lunch once monthly during pantry hours and hosting Dig & Dine during one garden workday each month of the garden season.



We hosted 68 workshops, including 9 garden workshops, and hosted over 500 participants. Twelve community members and two interns expanded our team of educators in 2025.



We gathered for Kids Cook 43 times and hosted volunteer and educational opportunities for numerous youth partners, helping Girl Scouts earn badges and teens expand their kitchen and civic skills.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard
1100 W. Allen St.
Bloomington, IN 47403

Food Pantry
Tuesday through Thursday
12 to 6 pm

Follow us!

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

@MHCfoodpantry

our Mission: Mother Hubbard's Cupboard increases access to healthy food for all people in need in ways that cultivate dignity, agency, and community.

our Vision: At Mother Hubbard's Cupboard we envision a community in which everyone has equal access to nutritious food, waste is minimized, and all members are healthy and empowered to reach their goals.

special thanks to our community partners

Barnhouse Farm, Blue Hour Farm, Closing the Hunger Gap, Farm to Family Fund, Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Indy Hunger Network, Monroe County Public Library, Monroe County Humane Society, Outlier Farmstead, People's Cooperative Market, Sacred Heart Church, Seven Ridges Farm, Three Flock Farm, and United Way of South Central IN

Hub Happenings



Annual Seed Swap: Find us at the downtown location of the Monroe County Public Library on Saturday, March 21 from 11 am to 1:00 pm. We'll be in meeting room 1B with our seed collection. Grab what you need, share what you have, and prepare for a new growing season.

Kids Cook: Drop into the kitchen classroom at 4:30 pm each Wednesday for this set-aside time for the kids. They'll learn kitchen skills while preparing a seasonal recipe, then enjoy the finish product and reflect on what they've made.

Join in Advocacy Programming: This spring, we are launching ongoing partnerships with the Monroe County Public Library and Bloomington Fine Art Supply. Stay tuned for free, hands-on programming where we will get crafty and chatty while building our mutual aid networks and exploring new ways to enhance our advocacy skills as we foster the community we most want to see.

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