

FEED IOWA FIRST

Nourish Iowa VISTA

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

The goal for this project is to increase targeted food distribution in a safe and efficient environment that removes barriers and increases access. Members will also build a marketing plan and social media presence to increase awareness, generate program visibility, educate the public, and build long-term partnerships.



Accomplishments

- Leveraged \$90,000+ cash resources
- 46 hours spent on community outreach
- Delivered ~1,000 seed packets to libraries for community gardeners/growers
- Worked with 11 community pantry produce partners to help stock pantries
- Distributed produce at 7 weekly stops



Feed Iowa First 23-24 Annual Report

Scan the QR code to view or visit
www.feediowa1st.com/annual-report



Partnerships & Collaborations

Greenspace meals, Horizons, Catherine McAuley, CR Public Library, Marion Library, Hiawatha Public Library, Center Point Library, Xavier HS, Metro HS, Prairie HS, Marion HS, LDS Church, Hoover Elementary Pantry, and Bethany Lutheran Church Pantry.

Feed Iowa

FIRST

Sarah Steinmeyer, VISTA Program Coordinator

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Kara Burrack, VISTA Member Site Supervisor

ceee.uni.edu/nourish-iowa-vista



Stories from Service

“I coordinated a delivery to Wellington Heights Community Church's outdoor fridge yesterday. When I got home, I saw they made a post about it on their Instagram story, to 270 followers. In our current state of social media, that isn't a big following. However, this organization is incredibly local, and someone not within their reach doesn't have much of a reason to be following their page. It really hit me that I was instrumental to offering at least 270 people (but most likely a larger amount) access to food for themselves and their families. That feels good, especially in a time when it is becoming more and more difficult to access food due to the policies targeting our most marginalized communities.”

A.J. Mortale, 2023-2024 VISTA

Member Spotlights



A.J. Mortale

A.J. completed his role as the Food Access Coordinator during his service year of 2023-2024. A.J. currently attends the University of Iowa, Majoring in Environmental Planning and Policy. His favorite part of service was getting to know the community during food distribution stops.

Briana Wagner

Briana began her service term in December 2023 as the Marketing and Education Coordinator shortly after graduating with her Bachelor's in Business Administration. She is actively pursuing her Master's degree from Mount Mercy University. Briana hopes to be a resource for her community within the non-profit sector and throughout her career



Melanie Totten-Fetter

Melanie began her service term in February of 2024 as the new Food Access Coordinator. She is a graduate of Iowa State University, recently coming back to the Cedar Rapids area. During her term she hopes to learn more about agricultural operations.