



P.O. Box 77  
Elizabeth, IL  
61028



# IMPACT REPORT

# 2025

## MISSION

We foster giving to improve the lives of people in Jo Daviess County.

## VISION

A growing and sustainable County with resources and opportunities for all.

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2025 By the Numbers

**\$379,385** Total Donations

**\$194,569** Grants to Nonprofits

**\$23,250** Scholarships to Students

## 2025 Highlights

- The Community Foundation's food security initiative is making an impact for families in need and by engaging donors in supporting the local food system.
- 94 donors made gifts to the Food Insecurity Fund totaling nearly \$15,000, to help families in need make it through gaps in SNAP funding.
- 51 donors made gifts to the JDLF Collective Fund totaling over \$17,000 to support the organization's work to expand the marketplace for local farmers & producers.
- A group of leaders in Elizabeth launched the Elizabeth Community Fund to support needs in their community and will launch a campaign to grow the fund in 2026.
- Total donations to the Community Foundation grew to \$3.34 million and we have awarded more than \$1.54 million in grants & scholarships to charities & students in Jo Daviess County.

## Building Stronger Communities Through Community Vitality

In 2025, the Community Foundation of Jo Daviess County launched a new Community Vitality Initiative as part of its strategic plan to help strengthen communities across the county. Community vitality is about bringing people, organizations, and local systems together to improve quality of life and create thriving, resilient communities for generations to come.

Strong communities rely on engaged leaders, inclusive decision-making, and the ability to respond to changing needs. Rural communities, in particular, often face unique challenges such as aging populations, limited resources, and shrinking tax bases. The Community Foundation's goal is to help communities build local momentum, develop long-term strategies, and create sustainable funding for future needs.

We're excited to have a team from Elizabeth leading the way. The Elizabeth Steering Committee is building on the success of the Energize Elizabeth effort and will soon launch a campaign to grow a community fund dedicated to supporting local priorities and opportunities.

Through the Community Vitality Initiative, the Community Foundation helps communities:

- Engage local leaders and residents around a shared vision
- Identify strategies for growth and long-term sustainability
- Establish endowment funds to support community needs now and in the future

To learn more, visit [cfjodaviess.org/vitality](https://cfjodaviess.org/vitality) or contact [hello@cfjodaviess.org](mailto:hello@cfjodaviess.org) to explore starting a Community Vitality Initiative in your town.



Elizabeth Community Fund members from left to right: Ashley Chambers, Kevin Nicolin, Doug Nicholas, Emily Nicolin, Kristin Patterson, Cory Walters. Not pictured: Jessica Engle, Brian Engle, Joe Ambrosia, Mike Dittmar.

# INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

In 2025, the Community Foundation awarded \$194,569 in grants to support projects and programs that are making a real difference across Jo Daviess County. From expanding opportunities for children to protecting our natural resources, these grants are helping strengthen our communities in meaningful ways.

A grant from the Jo Daviess County Future Fund helped the Galena ARC launch new intergenerational programming that brings young people and seniors together, while another provided transportation to swimming lessons so more children can learn this critical life skill.

Additional grants from the CTE Foundation Fund supported capital improvements, technology upgrades, and program enhancements totaling more than \$93,000. Grants from the CFJC Food Insecurity Fund—totaling more than \$15,000—helped families bridge SNAP benefit gaps and supported coordination, marketing, and transportation efforts for local food pantries.

Another grant supported monitoring efforts connected to the Jo Daviess County Water Resource Management Plan, helping protect the health of our local waterways.

Every gift made to a fund at the Community Foundation stays at work right here in Jo Daviess County, supporting charitable organizations and community needs through impactful grantmaking. That's the power of a community foundation—neighbors coming together to invest in the future of our communities.

Learn more or make a gift at [cfjodaviess.org/give](https://cfjodaviess.org/give) or contact [hello@cfjodaviess.org](mailto:hello@cfjodaviess.org)



## Working Toward Food Security

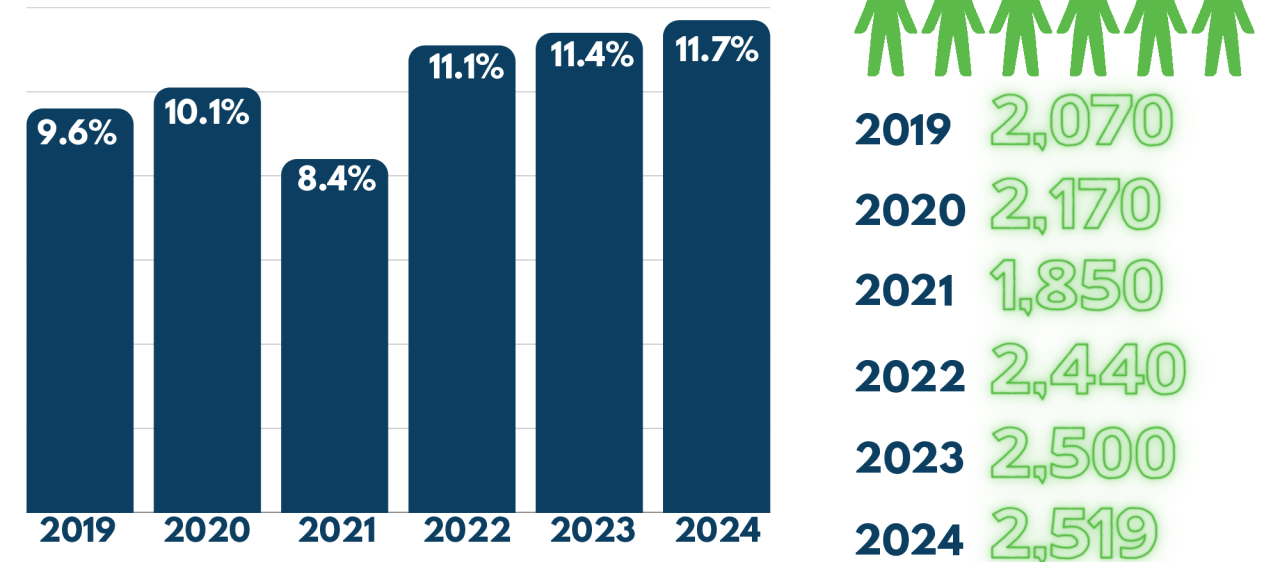
The chart below highlights a growing challenge in Jo Daviess County: too many families experience marginal, low, or very low food security. For many households, that means relying on lower-quality meals, reducing portions, or skipping meals altogether because of limited financial resources.

The Community Foundation is addressing food insecurity on two fronts. First, we work alongside food pantries, food banks, and other local partners to strengthen coordination and improve access to food for families in need. Second, we partner with organizations like JDLF Collective, a farmer-led nonprofit food hub, to expand access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food through initiatives like the JDLF Gives Farm to Food Pantry program.

While pandemic-era funding helped reduce food insecurity for a time, the expiration of those programs, combined with rising costs for housing, groceries, medicine, and healthcare, has caused food insecurity rates to climb again. The need remains significant, and there is still more work to do.

You can help support local food access by giving to the Food Insecurity Fund or the JDLF Collective Fund at [cfjodaviess.org/give](https://cfjodaviess.org/give).

### Food Insecurity Rates



# ACCREDITED WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS

We're pleased to announce our accreditation with Community Foundations National Standards! Community Foundations National Standards indicates our commitment to excellence and accountability. Learn more at [cfjodaviess.org/about](http://cfjodaviess.org/about) or [www.cfstandards.org](http://www.cfstandards.org).



# IL STATE TAX CREDIT FOR GIVING

Now gifts to endowment funds at your Community Foundation are eligible to receive a 25% IL State Tax Credit thanks to the Illinois Gives Tax Credit. There are currently 4 Endowments Funds at the Community Foundation you can support to earn a tax credit for your donation, they include:

- The Jo Daviess County Future Fund
- The CTE Academy Endowment Fund
- The Jo Daviess County Water Resources Management Fund
- River Ridge Alumni Scholarship Fund

Learn more about the IL GIVES Tax Credit at [cfjodaviess.org/ilgives](http://cfjodaviess.org/ilgives) or contact us at [hello@cfjodaviess.org](mailto:hello@cfjodaviess.org).

# POWERED BY GENEROSITY

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