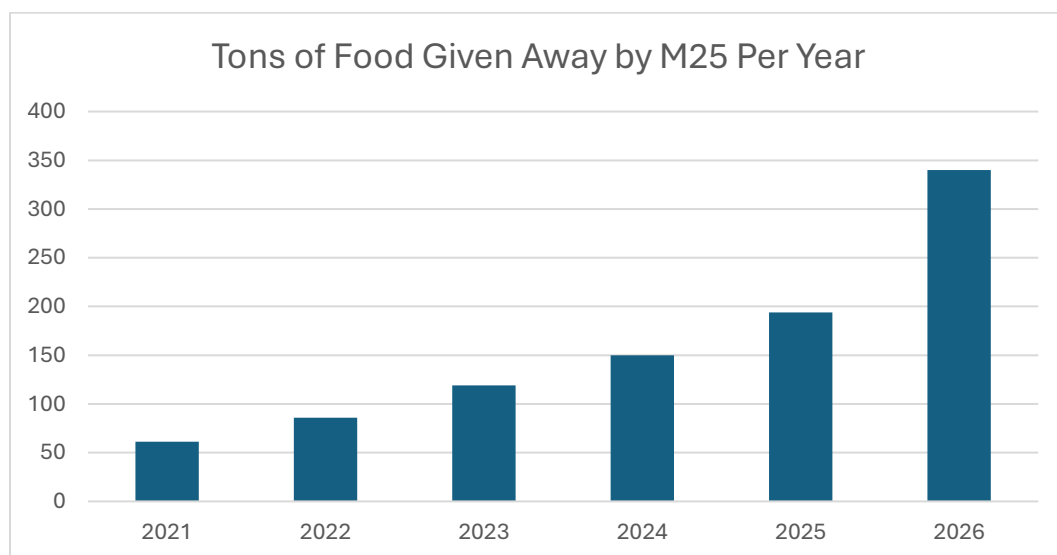


2026 Mid-Year Report: Spirit of Matthew 25

Spirit of Matthew 25 renews hope through generosity and love by offering food to people in need in the region surrounding Coon Rapids, Minnesota, while reducing the environmental impact of food waste.

- Did you know that up to 40% of the food in the United States goes uneaten? In this country, we throw away 400 pounds of food *per person* every single year. And, at the same time, one in five US children face hunger. It just doesn't make any sense.
 - If the people of the US could redirect just one-half of the food that is now thrown away and give it to people instead, it would more than cover our country's unmet food needs. We can begin to do that through programs like Spirit of Matthew 25.
 - At Spirit of Matthew 25 events, every week we see and meet all kinds of people... some who are just barely making it, hoping for an easier time, and others who are living in their cars or even outside somewhere. We meet people of every age and ability, senior citizens through to children, including parents with babies. In some cases, we have high-school age youth coming *on their own* to get food for their families. While all are thankful for the support, some are truly desperate. Sometimes, people even eat some of the food they receive as soon as they go outside or get to their cars. This is heartbreaking.
1. In the first six months of this year, Spirit of Matthew 25 held 56 food giveaway events and donated 170 tons of food worth \$957,739 to 20,592 people in need.
 2. We are primarily a volunteer-run organization. As program manager, I am paid for 15 hours per week. Volunteers donate an additional 250 hours each week to make things run smoothly.
 3. We are on track to give away 75% more tons of food in 2026 than we did in 2025!



**2026 numbers are projected based on January through June metrics*

4. Spirit of Matthew 25 is unique in that we use 98% rescued food in our giveaways. So far this year, our food rescue efforts have prevented the release of 588 metric tons of CO₂e which has the same effect as removing 140 cars from the road for a full year.
5. We work with a chicken farmer and a horse rescue to deal responsibly with the waste that we produce. We also have a composting program and have composted over 1,500 pounds of material on site with our own compost tumblers. This compost will be used to fertilize the Community gardens next season. Additionally, we brought 5,908 pounds of material to the organics recycling at the Coon Rapids Recycling Center.
6. Spirit of Matthew 25 Programs:
 - a. Tuesday and Friday Choice model Food Giveaways
 - b. 2nd Sunday Drive-thru Food Distribution
 - c. Delivering food to two subsidized apartment complexes each month
 - d. Packing food in kids' backpacks at Mississippi Elementary on Fridays during the school year so they will have food over the weekend when school meals are unavailable
 - e. Supporting the Dignity Pantry at Coon Rapids High School where they have over 100 homeless students at any one time
 - f. Community Garden
 - g. Composting program
7. In 2026, we received several grants that are essential to our functioning:

MPCA: Prevention of Wasted Food & Food Rescue Grant	Floor scale Tammy's wages Mileage Reimbursement	\$91,325.98 over three years
Spirit River Foundation	Unrestricted	\$30,000
Neeb Family Foundation	Flooring project	\$15,000
Love Boldly: Mental Health in Ministry Grant	Mental Health Community outreach coordinator	\$3,000
Global Missions UMC: Feeding Our Neighbors Grant	Food	\$2,000
Ministry Builders Microgrant	Food	\$1,000

8. Fundraising is a growth area for us. We are currently looking at ways to develop the board's expertise and confidence in fundraising.

Peace and joy!
Tammy

