



## BESSIE'S EXPRESS FACT SHEET

### Contact

Walt Dibbern

Bessie's Express

Chair: Community Outreach

First Church Des Plaines

Cell: 847 924 1113

Email: [dibbern@dibbern.com](mailto:dibbern@dibbern.com)



### About Bessie's Table

This is a church-supported nonprofit serving hot, home-cooked meals every Monday to anyone who is hungry. For 20+ years, our volunteers have served 50,000+ meals with love and compassion. We partner with congregations, high schools, municipal governments, and local neighborhoods to teach youth and neighbors about community service.

### The Challenge: Feeding Homeless Students

Local high school students and their families lack stable housing and proper meal resources. Many have no cooking or refrigeration facilities, making traditional food assistance programs (SNAP, food pantries) unusable. Limited transportation prevents them from traveling to Bessie's for dinners.

### The Solution: Bessie's Express

In partnership with our local high school and Bessie's Table, we deliver ready-to-eat meals directly to unhoused students and their families through safe handoffs coordinated with school liaisons. Besides dinner (entrée, salad & desert), deliveries include a sack lunch and snacks for next day nourishment.



### Our Impact

- Launched October 6, 2025 with 9 meals
- Now serving 135 meals weekly; 540 meals/month
- Meals on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
- Growing to 200 meals weekly by June '26

### Next Goals

- Add an extra delivery in mid-week (Wednesday/Thursday)
- Feed more families by expanding kitchen teams and assets
- Longer term: Bring service to additional school districts

### Asking

- We need \$9,500 to make this expansion possible.