ANNUAL REPORT **EDUCATION** NO M RE EMPTY POTS **STEWARDSHIP SUSTAINABILITY**

No More Empty Pots | Annual Report 2024 "There is a lot of wisdom held by locals who are working towards self-sufficiency here in Nebraska. No More Empty Pots amplifies this wisdom and helps circulate it. We create opportunities for people to come together, share knowledge, practice new skills, and become more connected with our food system." **Dex Gabriel-Woods** Community Education Manager

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

I am filled with immense excitement and a deep sense of pride for all that we've achieved together in 2024. In partnership with each of you, last year was a time of transformation at No More Empty Pots.

Our accomplishments are a true testament to our growth and the power of thinking boldly and differently about the work we do. Thank you for showing up and showing out.

New strides were made internally to set the team up for success, like rolling out a new operating system that provides the tools and framework to execute our mission with more efficiency and purpose. Also, the introduction of an Accountability Chart was a game-changer for how roles are structured and communicated.

These changes brought much-needed clarity, alignment and responsibility at every level. There's now a clear path for both professional development and personal growth for every team member. This has opened doors for people to step into leadership roles they hadn't taken on before.

And through all of this, we've made sure that every staff member, intern and student of No More Empty Pots earns a living wage. A huge thank you for making this possible. those we serve, wrestling in one of our biggest years of our organization but across the entire community. growth vet!

up from 40 last year. This allowed us to connect with producers, creating an even larger impact on our local food system. Overall, No More Empty Pots served 10% more people in 2024, totaling over 5,043 individuals.

Specifically, our network of vendors saw a 185% increase from last year—a testament to the growing demand and need of our work!

Our educational partners also grew by over 25%, demonstrating our commitment to amplifying the good work already happening in our community and choosing to partner and stretch our impact.

When everyone's energy is going in the same direction, our accumulated drive kicks in and creates exponential force. These accomplishments belong to all of us, and together, we are driven by a clear vision of why we do this work.

But that was just the beginning. Together, we have This is what drives us at No More Empty Pots—to lead expanded our reach and deepened our connection with from a place of purpose that inspires change not just at

We've made tremendous progress, but we're not done The reach of programming expanded into 49 zip codes, yet. We are at a critical point where we have reached ceilings and are ready to break through to even greater more neighbors, food businesses owners, farmers and heights. I know there's so much more to come, and I am excited to continue this work alongside all of you.

> The truth is that before you grow, you'll need to take a leap of faith.

Thank you for your faith in No More Empty Pots!



Talia McGill President/CEO No More Empty Pots



2024 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

We are grateful to everyone who's committed to supporting our mission of making local food a catalyst for systemic change in Omaha, Nebraska, and Iowa. Your generous gifts play a crucial role in making this possible.

Thank you for changing the lives of over 5,043 individuals in 49 zip codes.



We provided technical assistance to over **34 entrepreneurs** to help them start or grow their small food business and become greater contributors to our local food system and value chain.



We sourced 600+ unique produce and food products from over 114 local farmers, producers, ranchers, and food entrepreneurs within a 400 mile radius of Omaha.



We grew **65 unique plant varieties** at the No More Empty Pots Greenhouse and Food Hub using hydroponics and traditional soil growing methods.



We provided over **627 hours of education** focused on nutrition, gardening, cooking, and STEM topics to **1,986 individuals**, ranging from youth to seniors.



We provided culinary certificates to **35 adults**. **83%** of graduates in 2024 are now making a **living wage** in Omaha.



We opened the Micro Market storefront in the Highlander neighborhood of North Omaha and distributed 4,887 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares and 8,972 prepared meals.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

To promote self-sufficiency, No More Empty Pots provides education on **food preparation**, **gardening**, **and nutrition** through tailored programs and partnerships to empower participants with essential life skills and foster a deeper connection to the local food system. In addition, the **Claire M. Hubbard Science Internship** was launched in 2024, offering a paid opportunity for high school students to explore STEM career fields.

627
hours of education provided

1,986 individuals impacted

72%

experienced a positive lifestyle change

high school interns enrolled

1,290 internship hours completed

47

community partners engaged in programming

2024 Community Education Partners

All Saints School B&B Sports Academy Benson High School Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands Central Park Elementary Charles Drew Health Center Civic Nebraska Collective For Youth Completely KIDS Douglas County Health Department Duchesne Academy Durham Museum Druid Hill Elementary Field Club Elementary Florence Elementary Gifford Park Elementary Healing Roots African Diaspora Garden

Home Care Advantage Howard Kennedy Elementary Integrated Life Choices Keep Omaha Beautiful King Science & Technology Middle School Kellom Elementary Kiewit Luminarium Lamp Rynearson Lauritzen Gardens Liberty Elementary Lothrop Elementary Malcolm X Memorial Foundation Metropolitan Community College Minne Lusa Miller Park Neighborhood Association

Morton Middle School

Hitchcock Nature Center

Mount View Elementary Northwest High School Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium Peter Kiewit Foundation Summer Fun Pine Elementary Sacred Heart School Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp. Skatefest Omaha The Nature Conservancy The Union For Contemporary Art University of Nebraska Medical Center University of Nebraska Omaha Washington Elementary Walnut Hill Elementary







"The Claire M. Hubbard Science Internship helped me explore different parts of Omaha and gain new perspectives and information. I really appreciated that the lessons were tied to North Omaha, where I grew up and where I hope to make an impact in my future career."



Dalilah Spring 2024 Intern



"I learned how to make hot sauce from scratch and about the history of peppers. I also learned about knife safety in the kitchen. The biggest change I'm experiencing because of the Healing Roots program is meeting new people in my community and learning more about gardening."



AnonymousHealing Roots Participant

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

No More Empty Pots seeks to address the barriers that many food entrepreneurs face to reach success.

Entrepreneurship programs and opportunities at No More Empty Pots are dedicated to supporting new and existing food business owners with the skills, tools, and resources needed to launch and sustain successful operations. All offerings aim to ensure business dreamers have an equitable opportunity to navigate the competitive entrepreneurial landscape.



"[My award funds] went towards designing a new website, which definitely helped grow my business... The timing was excellent because it was right before the holiday season. The remaining funds are going toward updating our packaging and giving extra emphasis to our use of real butter, which is what makes Dundee Popcorn so special!"



Ericka Whaley 2024 Pitch Contest Winner Owner, Dundee Popcorn



No More Empty Pots staff were trained as Kauffman FastTrac® facilitators

coaching sessions conducted by external business mentors

837
hours of rented kitchens

entrepreneurs competed in a pitch contest

entrepreneurs sponsored to attend the Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship course

new businesses onboarded in the commercial kitchens

23
businesses rented kitchens

renters opened their own brick-and-mortar locations

2024 Kitchen Renters

Alecia Steed - Busy Vegan
Alice Goodwin - Aleece's Sugar Shoppe
Aminata Fall - Ami's Kitchen
Corinne Honan - Sweet Earth Delights
Cosmos Awortwi - Kingdom Catering Services
David "Universal" Arthur- Best Burger
DeVaute Nunn - Haven Express Omaha
Djibril Bah-Traore - House of Bah
Donniel Hardy - Yell's Creation
Ericka Whaley - Dundee Popcorn
Evan Brockman - Sandwich Proper
Ines Dagnon - Ready Délices
Jeremy Wentland - Chicken Bucket Catering LLC

LaRece Blackstone - Leggs & Things LLC Marguerite Shaddy - Inspire Me, Rosa Monique Cribbs - Omaha Cravings Co. Orlanda Whitfield - Still Poppin

Gourmet Popcorn

Ronell Bonner - TopSpoT Catering Inc.
Sarah Wells-Britt - Sarah's Southern Comfort
Tasneem Shaik - Shaik's Catering Services
Tome Sandare Tasta Of Heaven

Tony Sanders - Taste Of Heaven Food Enterprise

Tyler Hangley - Full Prep Fitness Meals **Anonymous**



No More Empty Pots | Annual Report 2024







WORKFORCE

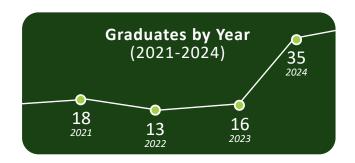
READINESS

The eight-week **Culinary Certificate Program** provides workforce readiness training and hands-on culinary instruction for adults interested in employment within the food service industry. The program is accepted for college credit equivalency and accredited by the **Nebraska Department of Education**. In 2024, six ceremonies celebrated **35 graduates** of the program.

35 culinary certificate graduates

4,655
hours completed by culinary students

83% of graduates make a living wage



2024 Culinary Certificate Program Graduates

Jonny "Devonte" Abram, C. 23

Tareya Burton, Cohort 24 Conswella Cooper, Cohort 27 Char'donnai Holts, Cohort 26 Kelsey Escobar, Cohort 22 Erica "Remedy" Gonzales, C. 25 Mariam Guido, Cohort 24 Lace Hughes, Cohort 23 Jessica Hudson, Cohort 27 John Ramirez, Cohort 24 Blanca Riera, Cohort 24 JaMelle Ray, Cohort 22 Samaja Swift, Cohort 27 MyMy Jones, Cohort 23 Natajia Jones, Cohort 24 Shekinah Kiagiri, Cohort 25 Kamae Mitchell, Cohort 22 Dillon Martinez, Cohort 23 Deleeda Montgomery, Cohort 27 Antasia Montgomery, Cohort 22 Monica Jackson, Cohort 27 LaQuante Maxwell, Cohort 22 Trino Hernandez, Cohort 24 Safari Onyx, Cohort 25 Madeline Lynch, Cohort 25 Peter David. Cohort 27 Lynn Watkins-Tilmon, Cohort 26 Rita Taylor, Cohort 23 Valmore Hernandez, Cohort 24 Jasmine Smith, Cohort 25 Saivyon Wilson, Cohort 23 Anonymous, Cohort 24

VALUE CHAIN

No More Empty Pots strengthens the local value chain - and all the businesses throughout - by helping move food from farm to table locally and regionally. Value chains aim to enhance economic resilience, increase local investment, create and sustain iobs, and improve the quality of life for producers and consumers.

We invest in the economy and food system by promoting the market expansion of area farmers. No More Empty Pots sourced over **600 unique food products** from **114** producers, farmers, ranchers, food distributors and food entrepreneurs. This includes **6 distributors** and **45 new vendors**. We also provided procurement services and support, so other local consumers, businesses, early-education providers, and healthcare institutions can also priortize sourcing locally and regionally.

unique vendors

new vendors sourced from

food entrepreneurs received technical assistance

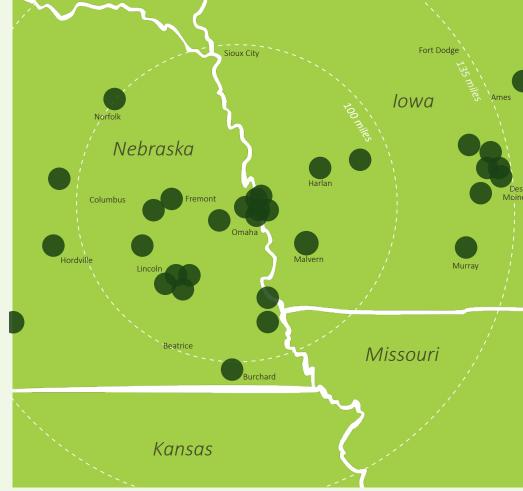
2024 Local and Regional Vendors

Abie Vegetable People - Abie. NE American Hazelnut Company - Viroqua, WI Anchor Meadow Farm - Milford, NE Bartling Family Pork - Unadilla, NE Benson Bounty - Omaha, NE Big Mama's - Omaha, NE * Black Chick Farm - Omaha, NE * Blue Gates Farm - Chariton, IA Bridgewater Farm - Bridgewater, IA Brun Ko Farm - Exira, IA Buffalo Ridge Orchard - Central City, IA Camp Creek Organic Produce - Kalona, IA Capo di Tutto Pasta - Lincoln, NE * Cedar Valley Farm- West Salem, Ohio Central Nebraska Buffalo - Hordville. NE Classen Land & Cattle - Saint Edward, NE * Country View Dairy - Hawkeye, IA Crow Butte Beef - Lincoln. NE * Dan and Debbie's Creamery - Ely, IA * Daniels Produce - Columbus, NE Delish Farms - Hallam, NE Ditmar's Orchard - Council Bluffs. IA Dogpatch Urban Gardens - Des Moines, IA * Dundee Popcorn - Omaha, NE Dutch Girl Creamery - Lincoln, NE Early Morning Harvest - Panora, IA Ellsworth Crossing - Waterloo, NE ** Ensign Beverage - Hastings, NE * Fagerberg Produce - Eaton, CO * Farmers Hen House - Kalona, IA FarmTable Procurement & Delivery - Harlan, IA * Fat Head Honey - Clarkson, NE * Feather Star Farms - Morse Bluff, NE * Flavor Country Farms - Crescent, IA Frisian Farms - Leighton, IA Grain Place Foods - Marquette, NE Grandview Farm - Fremont, NE Great River Maple - Garnavillo, IA Green Stems Farm - Glenwood, IA Halls' Orchard - Madrid, IA Hanna Valley Protein - Des Moines, IA * Hansen Dairy - Hudson, IA * Hillside Farm - Lexington, NE * Hue Hill Farm - Iowa City, IA Hungenberg Produce - Iowa City, IA *

Hunter's Honey - Hickman, NE

Inspire Me. Rosa - Omaha, NE * Iowa Food Hub - Decorah. IA Iowa Orchard - Urbandale, IA Jisa's Farmstead Cheese - Brainard, NE Joyful Greens - Des Moines, IA Junge Produce - Underwood, IA Kalona Supernatural - Kalona, IA Kansas City Canning Co - Kansas City, MO * Kismet Kombucha - Grimes, IA * La Quercia Cured Meats- Norwalk, IA * Lia's Produce - Omaha. NE * Lone Tree Foods - Lincoln, NE * Long Walk Farm- Council Bluffs, IA Lor's Produce - Papillion, NE * Lu's Flowers & Vegetables - Fremont, NE Madsen Stock Farm - Audubon, IA Manifest Acres - Omaha. NE Manley View Farm - Murdock, NE Milkweed Kitchen - Lincoln. NE * Milton Creamery - Milton, IA * Moose's Mad Fresh - Lincoln, NE * Nebraska Food Co-op - Julian, NE * Nebraska Micro Farms - Omaha. NE * Nebraska Vegetable & Protein - Nebraska City, NE No More Empty Pots Greenhouse - Omaha, NE * Oasis Hummus - Iowa City, IA * Old Captiol Food Company - Iowa City, IA * Omaha Sunflower Cooperative - Omaha, NE * Omstead Family Farms - Omaha, NE One Farm-Logan, IA Papa Rico's - Ankeny, IA * Pasta of the Prairie - Marion, IA * Pekarek's Produce - Dwight, NE Picket Fence Creamery - Woodward, IA Pickle Creek Herbs - Fairfield, IA * Picnic Hill Orchard - Lincoln. NE * Plum Creek Farms - Burchard, NE Prairie Rose - Ayr, NE Robinette Farms - Martell, NE * Sandhills Elixir - Valentine. NE Schweizer Orchards - Saint Joseph, MO Shetler Farm - Murray, IA * Simply Sunflower - North Loup, NE Small's Fruit - Lincoln, NE Source Farms - Hoskins, NE

Sown Local Foods - Malvern, IA *

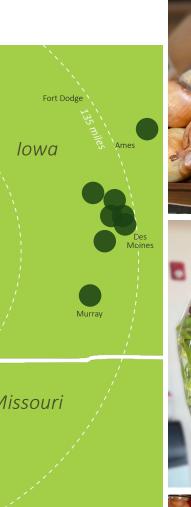


Squeaky Green Organics - Omaha, NE Star Center Farm - Omaha, NE State Line Produce - Lime Springs, IA Sterzings Potato Chips - Burlington, IA * Still Poppin Gourmet Popcorn - Omaha, NE Straight Arrow Bison - Broken Bow, NE Strohauer Farms - La Salle, CO Summer Lor - Papillion, NE * Sunrise - Waukee. IA * Sweet Doe Co. - Keota. IA * The Perennial Homestead - Omaha, NE * Theopiste - Omaha, NE * Top Fox - Converville, IL *

Twin Pines Farm - Treynor, IA Twin Springs Pecans - Bennet, NE Whole Grain Milling Co - Welcome, MN * Wilson's Orchard & Farm - Cumming, IA Wolff Farms - Norfolk, NE WW Homestead Dairy LLC - Waukon, IA Yang's Garden - Omaha, NE * Z Farm - Waukee, IA 3rd-i Water - Bellevue. NE *

*2024 was the first year No More Empty Pots sourced from this vendor

*Vendor identifies as a distributor





COMMUNITY HARVEST

Community Harvest is a local food subscription service that provides year-round, plant-based prepared meals, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) produce boxes, and pantry add-ons like milk, eggs and yogurt. Subscribers can choose to pay full market price or apply for free services, depending on available funding. Additionally, subscribers can use SNAP/EBT to purchase subscriptions, and through our partnership with Double Up Food Bucks, the cost of produce boxes is halved for SNAP/EBT customers, making fresh, local food even more accessible.

The Distribution Center at the No More Empty Pots Greenhouse serves as the hub for packaging fresh, locally-sourced food for the Community Harvest program. Subscribers have the option to pick-up their orders at the No More Empty Pots Micro Market or have them delivered directly to their homes.

43
zip codes served

517
households served

40+

producers supported by Community Harvest

spent by subscribers

\$2,053
of SNAP benefits

4,887
produce boxes distributed

8,972
megls distributed

\$1,718

saved in Double Up Food Bucks by SNAP subscribers

411

households received produce boxes at no cost















HORTICULTURE

Food production and gardening at No More Empty Pots takes place primarily at two of our facility locations, the Food Hub and Greenhouse in North Omaha. In 2024, we launched the greenhouse-level operations at the Greenhouse, establishing it as a yearround urban farm. This initiative focuses on growing food for wholesale distribution to food entrepreneurs and retail sales at the Micro Market storefront and through Community Harvest.

Meanwhile, the Rooftop Garden at the Food Hub continues to serve as an educational hub. Many of our hands-on educational programs are supported by the Rooftop Garden, providing learners with a firsthand experience of the diverse crops that can be grown locally in Nebraska.

53
plant varieties were grown at the rooftop garden

plant varieties were grown at the greenhouse urban farm

753
pounds of produce harvested at the greenhouse urban farm





MICRO MARKET

The **Micro Market**, located in the heart of the Highlander neighborhood of North Omaha, officially opened in April 2024. The storefront serves as a vital source of fresh produce, artisanal food products, and a variety of other local goods for the community.

Making Fresh Food Affordable

Through our partnership with **Double Up Food Bucks**, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) customers received **\$1 off every \$1 spent** on fresh produce and herbs, up to \$20 per day, helping make the market accessible to customers with a variety of budgets. Additionally, **34 Highlander households** shopped at the Micro Market in 2024 for up to \$300 of fresh produce at no cost each, thanks to the Community Health Improvement Grant funded by CHI Health™, a Member of CommonSpirit.

92 local vendors and food entrepreneurs sourced from

608+
unique food products sold

Highlander households served at no cost

\$867
of SNAP benefits used by customers

CUPS CAFE

In 2024, No More Empty Pots announced the highly anticipated reopening of **Cups Café** with regular hours. Located at the Food Hub in the Florence neighborhood, the café offers a selection of coffee, teas, and specialty food items. The grand opening took place in January 2025.

The food menu changes regularly, highlighting the talents of local food entrepreneurs, including kitchen renters at No More Empty Pots.

2024 Cups Café Vendors

Sweet Meatz Desserts
Veg.Edible
Picket Fence Creamery (Milk)
Benson Bounty (Tea)
Hardy Coffee Co. (Coffee Beans)

SUPPORTERS

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In Loving Memory **Edgar J. Hicks**

No More Empty Pots honors a cherished advocate and friend, Edgar J. Hicks, who passed away on June 29, 2024. His unwavering dedication to the community is remembered and celebrated by all of us. Edgar served as a respected board member and contributor for many years, leaving a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire and guide our work.

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EDUCATION STEWARDSHIP SUSTAINABILITY

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