



**WasteLess**

**2024  
Annual  
Report**

***FEED MORE PEOPLE,  
WASTE LESS FOOD.***



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## About WasteLess Solutions

We are a nonprofit with the goal of reducing food waste in Utah through education, prevention, and diversion. We envision a community that works together to provide sustenance and promote a healthy planet by preventing edible food waste.

## Why We Do What We Do

In Utah, 600,000 tons of food is wasted every year. At the same time 400,000 individuals experience food insecurity. Additionally, when food rots in the landfill it releases methane gas which is up to 80 times worse for our environment than carbon dioxide.



# WasteLess Solutions Founder & CEO

## Letter from Dana Williamson



Dear Supporters,

As I reflect on another year, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Seven years ago, I founded WasteLess Solutions with a vision of community-driven change, and you have exceeded every expectation. From being entirely self-funded in our first year to generating \$277,000 in grant and donation revenue by 2024, our journey has been remarkable. Today, we proudly serve four counties—Salt Lake, Box Elder, Weber, and Summit—united in the mission to reduce food waste.

Inspired by Project Drawdown's research highlighting food waste as a top solution to reverse greenhouse gases, we remain committed to creating both environmental and humanitarian impact. By rescuing surplus food, we not only prevent waste but also provide nourishment to those in need.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Volunteer Impact: 75 volunteers rescued 65,000 pounds of food in just 5 hours at the KeHE Food Produce Convention.
- Volunteer Growth: 194 new volunteers joined our mission.
- Partnerships: 68 new food donors committed to donating surplus food.
- Food Rescues: 2,920 successful rescues completed this year.

While we made strides, challenges also shaped our path. A food waste audit with the Salt Lake City School District taught us valuable lessons about scaling education programs, leading us to pause until we can expand staffing. These experiences guide us to adapt and grow smarter for the future.

As we look to 2025, our focus is on strengthening our foundation. To sustain and amplify our impact, we need more resources, more food donors, and continued community engagement. Together, we can make an even greater difference—for our planet, for those in need, and for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support fuels our progress and inspires hope.

With gratitude and determination,

Dana Williamson  
Founder & CEO

### Board of Directors

Kathleen Stone - Board Chair  
Wendy Cowley - Treasurer  
Adriana Callahan - Secretary  
Jason Utgaard  
Kelli Dempsey  
Palak Gupta  
Sarah Puzzo

### Employees

Dana Williamson  
Brent Ottley  
Isaac Vialpando  
Julianne Carone  
Laila Hakkarinen

# Our Impact

## In 2024 we...



saved 507,273 pounds of food from ending up in the landfill



served the equivalent of 422,728 meals to the underfed in our community



diverted 326 tons of CO2 emissions



saved 58 million gallons of water



# Food Rescue Highlights

## *KeHE Food Show, our largest food rescue yet!*

WasteLess organized over 50 volunteers to rescue **58,717 pounds of surplus food** from all 700 vendor booths at the KeHe Food Show event on February 8th. Volunteers collected, palletized, wrapped, and loaded donations onto five semi-trucks, saving food that provided meals for 45,000 people. This effort, in partnership with Utah Food Bank, Catholic Community Services, Community Action Services, Christian Center of Park City, Kiwanis Club of Box Elder, and United Way of Northern Utah, also prevented 60 tons of CO2 emissions—equivalent to removing 13 cars from the road for a year. This historic one-day rescue showcased the power of collaboration between nonprofits and businesses.



## *Farm Gleaning in Weber County*

Gleaning is the process of collecting surplus produce from backyards and farms to provide nutritious food to those in need. During the 2024 growing season, Isaac Vialpando, our Weber Food Rescue Coordinator, led over 32 gleaning events, rescuing an impressive **10,185 pounds of produce**. Highlights included a late-season onion harvest, which saved 4,858 pounds of onions, and a potato glean, which rescued over 3,000 pounds of potatoes. By rescuing this local produce, we not only deliver fresh, nutritious food to our community but also support local farmers and ensure that no labor, water, or resources are wasted in producing this beautiful food.



# Prepared Meal Program Highlights

## *Prepared Food Distribution with Comunidades Unidas*

At Comunidades Unidas, we have joined forces to provide the Latinx and immigrant community access to healthy prepared foods through their basic needs events. Approximately **1,477 lbs of prepared food** from Salted Honey Hospitality (the Delta Center) has been rescued and diverted to families and individuals in need of food. On average, 125 people came through at each of these events. At these events, Comunidades Unidas has their clientele bring their own containers and fill up with however much they can eat or freeze. Not only does this event eliminate food waste, it also reduces waste of single-use containers. We love our partnership with CU!



Whilst serving this food, a Spanish speaking gentleman spoke into his phone and it translated to English. He said, "*I was hungry and didn't know how I would get food. Then I came here and you kind people are offering me healthy, delicious food. I was hungry, now I can eat. Thank you.*" This was a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do.

*"Our clientele at Neighborhood House love these prepared meals. They are beautifully prepared, delicious, and fly off the shelves in our pantry refrigerator. The convenience and accessibility to these meals make a huge difference in food access for our clients. Thank you for what you do!"*

Maria Gonzales  
Neighborhood House Kitchen Manager

## *Making Prepared Meals*

According to the USDA, barriers to healthy eating include time, transportation, knowledge, kitchen equipment, limited cooking skills, and rising food costs. Our Prepared Meal Program helps address this issue by utilizing some of the healthy surplus food from the Delta Center rescues and packaging it into family size or individual size meals. Our volunteers deliver these to our nonprofit partners, who then provide them to families and individuals they serve.



# Food Waste Education



## *Tabling & Speaking Opportunities*

In 2024, WasteLess Solutions expanded its reach through food waste education by **tabling and speaking at 16 events** across Utah. These engagements allowed us to connect with **over 600 individuals**, raising awareness about the environmental and social impacts of food waste. By sharing actionable insights and practical solutions, we empowered communities to reduce waste, conserve resources, and make a positive impact on both the environment and food security.



 @WASTE\_LESS\_SOLUTIONS

 WASTE LESS SOLUTIONS



## *Help us Start a Social Movement*

Reducing food waste is one of the top five solutions to combating climate change, and with consumers responsible for the largest share of food waste, we all have the power to make a difference. Together, we can create a social movement that transforms how we think about food. Join us by following @waste\_less\_solutions on Instagram and Waste Less Solutions on Facebook, where we share practical tips, eye-opening facts, and ways to take action. Let's work together to build a sustainable future, one meal at a time!





# Our Incredible Volunteers

## In 2024 we...



accrued over 4,100 volunteer hours.



gained 266 new volunteers.



accomplished 2,925 food rescues.

**Our volunteers are a critical element of our organization. Across all our programs, their dedication makes an enormous impact in our community!**



KeHe Food Rescue



Preparing meals with rescued food



Utah Philanthropy Day



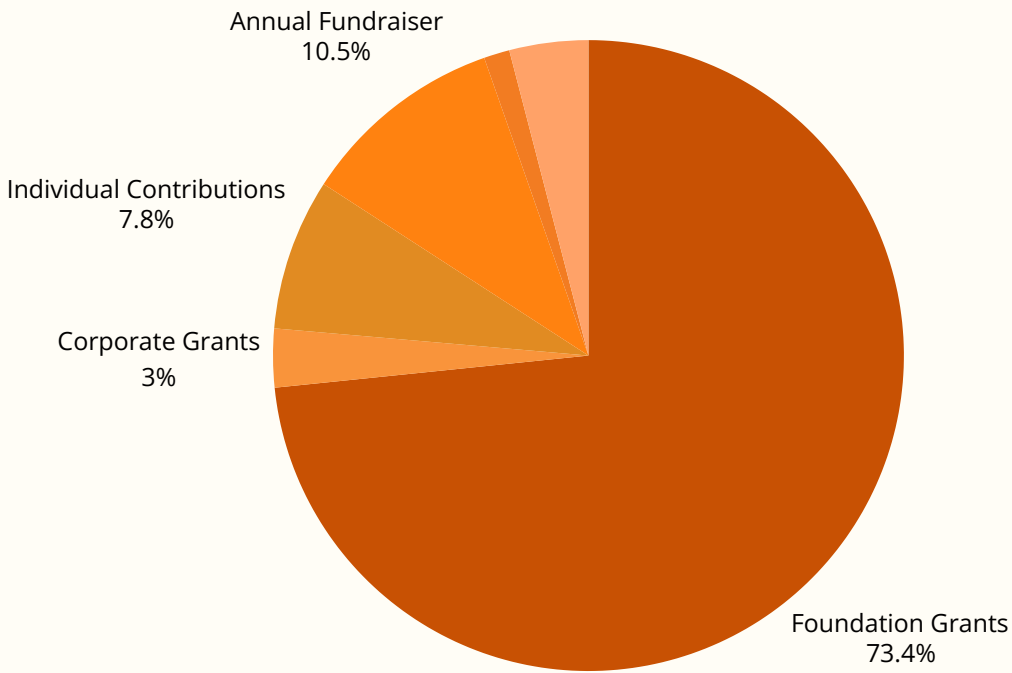
Volunteer appreciation event

Interested in volunteering with us? Find opportunities here:

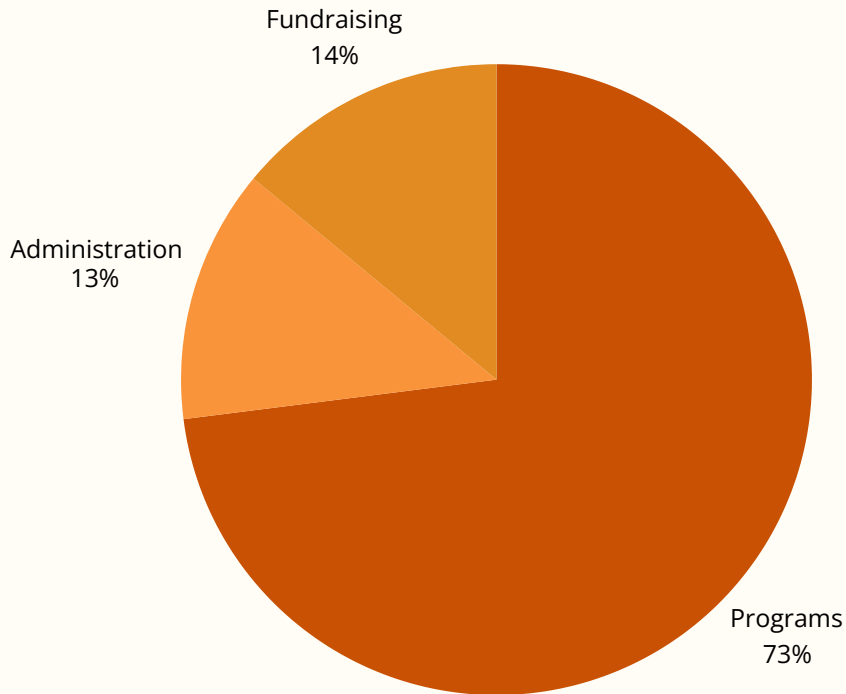
<https://www.wastelessolutions.org/i-want-to/volunteer>



## Revenue \$277,000



## Expenses \$229,090



# Financials



# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS!



United Way of Northern Utah





# WasteLess

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