

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Picking up Food Pantry donations at Northbrook Farmers Market



Communications Coordinator Roaxanne Dunn at NSYMCA Seniorpalooza



Interns staff Township table at the D34 Resource Fair



Trustees Schack, Ottenheimer and Spears at Cancer Wellness Open House



Facilities Manager Bill Sturgis reviews proposed remodeling plans



Road District cleans and burns brush for area residents



Trustee Spears and Road Commissioner Rueckert participate in Shermerfest



Northfield Township
2550 Waukegan Road
Suite 100
Glenview, IL 60025

Office Hours Of Operation
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (M, T, W, and F)
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Township Offices
Phone: 847-724-8300
Fax: 847-724-8310

Road District
847-724-7055
Emergency: 847-471-7055



NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

COMING TOGETHER. MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

2024 WINTER APPEAL WAYS TO DONATE

Online donations: Visit northfieldtownship.com/food-pantry/. Make sure to type **2024 HOLIDAY** in the special instructions box.

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____ for highest priority needs to be paid: monthly quarterly one-time

Visa/MasterCard: Account # _____ Exp. Date _____
(Security code from back of card _____)

Check (made payable to Northfield Township Food Pantry)

Acknowledgement information

Name _____
Address _____
City, State & Zip _____
Email _____

In memory of / In honor of (circle one)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State & Zip _____
Corporate match information included _____

Please return to: **Northfield Township Food Pantry**
2550 Waukegan Road, Suite 100
Glenview, IL 60025

The Northfield Township Food Pantry is a 501(c) (3) Organization – Greater Chicago Food Depository Affiliate Agency
All donations are fully tax deductible.

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP PROGRESS UPDATE

YEAR END 2024

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Neighbor,

As we continue working to meet the evolving needs of our community, I'm excited to share important updates about Northfield Township and the Food Pantry and the positive impact these changes will have for all of our residents.

One of the most pressing challenges I had to address once I became Supervisor in 2021 was the significant space limitations for the Township staff offices as well as the Food Pantry. After evaluating several options, we acquired additional office spaces within our current building, including the former PNC Bank suite. This expansion will allow the Township and Food Pantry to grow, improving our capacity to serve more families and to offer a wider variety of services, while streamlining and organizing our operations more efficiently.

Recently, the Northfield Township Food Pantry launched a capital campaign titled "Growing for Good: Expanding Our Food Pantry Together" in order to pay for the build-out of the new space. This initiative represents an important next step in our efforts to better serve Northfield Township residents, providing the support necessary for those facing resource constraints and unexpected life challenges such as job loss, divorce, or the death of a provider.

For many residents, a sudden change in life circumstances could mean the difference between getting by and falling into crisis, often leading to eviction or utility shut-off. Our expanded Food Pantry will provide not only more space but also a greater variety of nutritious food options. Through early intervention, the Food Pantry helps families and individuals before they experience full-blown crisis that are much more costly to recover from.

Some of you may wonder why we don't simply use a greater percentage of Township tax dollars to fund this expansion. While the Township has already used tax dollars to purchase the additional space for the Food Pantry, and we continue to use public funds to cover operational costs such as staff salaries and utilities, we're turning to the generous support of our community to help cover the remaining project expenses. The "Growing for Good" capital campaign is designed to help us complete the expansion without placing an additional financial burden on taxpayers. Our goal is to continue operating efficiently as responsible stewards of public funds while leveraging the strength and generosity of our local donors.

In the meantime, while we wait for construction to begin on the new Food Pantry space, the Township has partnered with Youth Services, another agency we proudly support through our Human Services Funding program. Youth Services, which offers crucial mental health services

to children and adolescents in our northern suburbs, had difficulty in finding a temporary and affordable location while their permanent site underwent construction. The Township has been happy to lease our empty space to Youth Services during this time, and they have been a wonderful neighbor. Their unique, activity-based programming provides early intervention, education, crisis response, and support services for children and families dealing with a range of issues, including sexual and gender identity challenges, health education, and mental health concerns.

"Your commitment to helping one another is what makes Northfield Township a truly special place to live"

I also want to highlight a significant achievement that impacts the financial assistance available to Township residents. This past year, I worked alongside other township supervisors, legislators, and advocates to successfully pass Illinois HB3424, a new law that expands how General Assistance (GA) funds can be used. Historically, the scope of GA funds was so limited that very few Township residents qualified for assistance. With the passage of this legislation, we now have greater flexibility to address a wider range of community needs.

As we move forward with these initiatives, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the support we've received from our generous donors, volunteers, and community members. Your commitment to helping one another is what makes Northfield Township a truly special place to live.

If you have any questions, ideas, or feedback, please feel free to reach out to me directly at shiva@northfieldtownship.com. Together, we can continue to build a stronger and more resilient community for all.

Kind Regards, **Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Supervisor**

HOLIDAY HOURS

A reminder that Township Offices will be closed for the following holidays in the coming weeks:

- **Thanksgiving:** Nov. 28 and 29
- **Winter Holidays:** Dec. 24 & 25 and Dec. 31 & Jan.1
- **MLK Jr. Day:** Jan. 20, 2025
- **President's Day:** Feb. 17, 2025

46 HUMAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE FUNDS

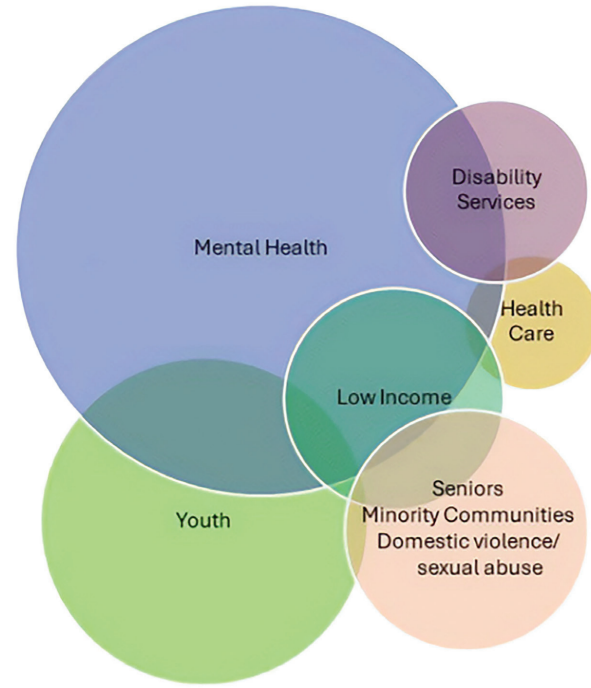
Northfield Township's Human Services Review Commission is busy reviewing FY 2025 grant applications after a record \$725,000 was awarded last year to 48 local organizations.

These agencies encompass a wide variety of services and communities, exemplifying the Township's mission to serve every corner of the community. For example, the North Suburban YMCA used part of the funding from the Township to underwrite scholarships for summer camp, which helps young campers and their families in need of productive summer activities. "The funds allowed us to continue to offer programs to all, and charge fees on a sliding scale according to income," noted NSYMCA CEO **Kathy Fielding**.

Recognizing the growing need for mental health services, at least 14 agencies that received 45% of FY 2024's total funding offer mental health support. Several of them also specialize in another major category: youth. Six agencies which received 27% of the funding target young people while two others focus on seniors.

Almost a quarter of the organizations help differently abled residents and received 12% of the funding. Another nine aid the low-income populations and received 15% of the funding. Other common areas of funding include support for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, legal aid, housing, and various health care services.

HUMAN SERVICES ALLOCATIONS BY PRIMARY SERVICE



STAFF MEMBERS ENHANCE SKILLS AND CONNECTIONS THROUGH TRAINING

Providing the best services possible to residents requires our staff to keep their skills sharp, and learn about additional strategies and tools from colleagues in other townships. To that end, the Board and Administrator **Gayle Curcio** have invested in professional development for long-time and new staff members over the last year to ensure our operations and service levels are high quality. Here are just some of the learning they have completed.

Further development for our Case Management Team, **Hilda Morales** and **Lizbeth Melgoza**, included de-escalation training offered by Northern Illinois University and Mental Health First Aid, as well as General Assistance training related to services for the unhoused and low-income individuals.

Sam Chandler, who joined our finance team in 2023, participated in Fraud Protection training in addition to a symposium focused on maximizing revenues and projecting expenditures.

It was a busy year for our Assessor's office with township properties undergoing reassessment. Nevertheless, the team found time to complete training on property tax exemptions which they are already putting to use to help residents.

Our communications and outreach coordinator, **Roxanne Dunn**, and Township Administrator **Gayle Curcio**, continued their participation in peer quarterly meetings, and attended social meeting training as well as sessions devoted to compliance with the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Acts.

RESIDENTS' EXPERTISE TAPPED TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS

Northfield Township is fortunate to have residents with a wide variety of valuable skills who are willing to apply them to strengthen the community.

• **Bill Sturgis** of Northbrook brings decades of operations and facilities management experience to the township to help improve the day-to-day operations and development of the township's building in Glenview. So far, he has led an operations audit, implemented an energy conservation plan, and reconfigured rental space now used by Youth Services. Bill has been working diligently to get routine maintenance and upkeep scheduled for various parts of our building.

• **Rachel Siegel** of Glenview is using her extensive experience as a professional editor and communicator to assist the Food Pantry in applying for grants, to support our expansion and build-out of the new Pantry space. Rachel's success as an editor at the American Bar Association, as well as Nelson Hall and Bantam Doubleday Dell is invaluable.

• We were lucky to have two interns this past year. **Danielle Joseph** (currently a senior at Glenbrook South) and **Jacob Blomquist** (currently at Indiana University) staffed outreach events, developed print and digital communications, and lent a hand whenever needed throughout the summer. Thanks for your help and good luck on finals Danielle and Jacob!

Thank you all for your commitment to the township.



FOOD PANTRY THRIVES WITH DONATIONS FROM AREA GROUPS

The Food Pantry works with dozens of area organizations to secure food and other products available to qualified residents. We are grateful for their generosity and support. Companies and organizations providing items on a weekly basis include:



| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Costco | Medline |
| GFS | Northbrook Farmers Market |
| Glenbrook Hospital | Sunset Foods |
| Glenview Farmers Market | Three Tarts Bakery |
| Heinen's | Trader Joe's |
| Jewel/Osco | Whole Foods |
| Max and Benny's | Yardhouse |

We also receive occasional donations from FoodHaul Wilmette, Kraft Heinz (Northfield), Topco, and Your Backyard Florist, and discounts from Ground Up Coffee and IRBN, a food distributor out of Indiana. Residents can donate dry goods at our office, and through the bins located in grocery stores and public buildings across the township.

Julie Schaeffer, Food Pantry coordinator, says these and other providers are key to the variety and availability of goods stocked in the pantry.

FOLLOW THE FUNDING VIDEO SERIES LAUNCHED

The township elected officials are committed to transparent, open communications about our operations and decision-making. Among the most frequently asked questions we field is: where does the taxpayer money go and how is it used to help our community? You can view or download the 2024-25 annual budget from our annual website: <https://northfieldtownship.com/township-government/>.

Additionally, we have started posting short interviews with leaders of organizations that have received financial support from the township. Look for the *Follow the Funding* videos on our website landing page.



Many people know that Northbrook was originally incorporated as **Shermerville**, after the farming family who donated land for the village center. But did you know that:

- The Shermer family bought its land from Joel Sterling Sherman
- Mr. Sherman purchased his township property for **\$1.25/acre** in the late 1800s
- Shermerville became known for its saloons (among other things), prompting a **name change to Northbrook in 1923**.

ASSESSOR'S CORNER: EXEMPTIONS ARE PROPERTY TAX SAVINGS!



- World War II Veterans Exemption - NEW 2024
- Returning Veterans Exemption
- Veterans with Disabilities Exemption

The Cook County Assessor's Office administers property tax exemptions that contribute to lowering a homeowner's property tax bill. Are you receiving all the exemptions you qualify for?

Homeowner Exemption: Eligible Northfield Township residents saw an average of approximately \$750 in savings last year.

Senior Exemption: Eligible Northfield Township residents saw an average of approximately \$600 in savings last year.

Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Exemption: The eligible property assessed value is "frozen" for property taxes. This contributes to keeping property taxes overall lower and more predictable.

If a homeowner believes they are entitled to exemptions for previous tax years, a Certificate of Error application can be filed to redeem past savings.

These savings can add up!



Assessor Nally assists a veteran resident with his property tax questions.

For a complete list of exemptions, qualifications and to apply visit: <https://www.cookcountyassessor.com/exemptions>

If you have questions or need assistance, our office is here to help! Residents can contact us for assistance at:

propertytaxhelp@northfieldtownship.com or (847) 724-8300 X2

Alida E. Nally, CIAO Northfield Township Assessor

ROAD DISTRICT COMPLETES REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND RECYCLING INITIATIVES

Following a relatively calm winter, the spring and summer months of 2024 have been busy for the team at the Northfield Township Road District. The Road District provides road and sewer upkeep and rehabilitation for unincorporated areas of township municipalities and holds a number of household maintenance events for area residents.

Highlights of the team's work include:

- Holding five sensitive document shredding days, which resulted in recycling 70,000 pounds of paper material. Two more shredding days are scheduled.
- Partnering with Tradebe Inc. to conduct the first of two household hazardous waste recycling events, which allowed residents to properly dispose of everything from lawn fertilizer to various cleaning products and bug killers.
- Completing six brush pick-ups from unincorporated residences and disposing of the same.
- Maintaining the safety of the township's roads by both removing storm related debris and repairing potholes and cracks in the 23 miles of streets in unincorporated Northfield Township.
- Responding to requests from the Cook County Sheriff's Police to remove gang-related graffiti from the exterior walls of apartments and other locations.
- Reviewing and issuing an estimated 50 permits for building projects in unincorporated areas.

The Road District also has several projects in the works or out for bid for this fall and winter. These include:

- Requesting bids for work on Sanders Road from Mission Hills Road to Oak Avenue for a new sidewalk, pedestrian safety signal and improved drainage, as well as bids to resurface Greenleaf Lane in Northbrook.



- Working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) on improving the drainage systems along Central Road from Glenwood Lane to the Des Plaines River in Unincorporated Glenview, and in the Northbrook West area of unincorporated Northbrook. The projects are planned to start in mid-2025.



NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Supervisor
Shiva@northfieldtownship.com

Caryn Flegler, Clerk
Caryn.flegler@northfieldtownship.com

Alida Nally, Assessor
Assessor@northfieldtownship.com

Tim Rueckert, Highway Commissioner
ntroad@northfieldtownship.com

Scott Ottenheimer, Trustee
Scott.ottenheimer@northfieldtownship.com

Vincent Pace, Trustee
Vincent.pace@northfieldtownship.com

Daniel Schack, Trustee
Daniel.schack@northfieldtownship.com

Kate Spears, Trustee
Kate.spears@northfieldtownship.com

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Gayle Curcio, Administrator
gaylec@northfieldtownship.com

Julie Schaeffer, Food Pantry Coordinator
pantry@northfieldtownship.com

Lisa Marcum, Food Pantry Administrative Assistant
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Lizbeth Melgoza, Case Worker
lizbeth.melgoza@northfieldtownship.com

Hilda Morales, Case Manager
generalassistance@northfieldtownship.com

Sam Chandler, Accounting Clerk
sam.chandler@northfieldtownship.com

Lizz De Bock, Deputy Assessor
deputyassessor@northfieldtownship.com

Denise Silver, Receptionist
denises@northfieldtownship.com

Roxanne Dunn, Community Outreach Coordinator
roxanne.dunn@northfieldtownship.com

Julie Moon, Admin Assistant
julie.moon@northfieldtownship.com

Township Board of Trustees Meetings:
Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month and begin at 6:00 pm. For more info, please visit northfieldtownship.com/township-government/