



**DARIEN
LIONS CLUB**
DISTRICT 1 J



1702 Plainfield Road • Darien, Illinois 60561
www.darienlions.org

June 17, 2026

Honorable Commissioners Lucy Evans,
Kari Galassi and Brian Krajewski
DuPage County Board- District 3
421 N. County Farm Road,
Wheaton, IL 60187

RE: Darien Lions Club Foundation
Food Basket Program Grant Request

Honorable Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully request a Grant in the amount of \$30,000 to support the Darien Lions Club Foundation Food Basket Program (the "Program"). Last year with your Small Grant Application 2, the Program helped over 260 families with ten tons of food and over 2,000 toys.

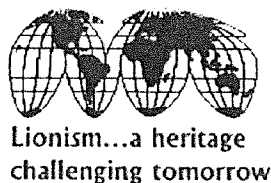
This Program supports all in our District 3 area: Darien, Willowbrook, Burr Ridge, Westmont, Downers Grove and Woodridge. One hundred percent of the Grant request will go directly to food. All of our volunteers work for the benefit of the surrounding community. I have attached last year's 2025 Food Basket Committee Final Report and have photos of last year's Program for your reference.

The City of Darien fully endorses our request. In addition, the Program involves the Darien Park District facility, Sportsplex, the area High Schools and many social agency referrals. We look forward to seeing the Program help those in need.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding this Program, please do not hesitate to contact our volunteer Program CPA Arthur P. Donner at (630)789-6709 or via email at Cpadonr@msn.com.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]
Andy Derosa
Darien Lions Club
Food Baskets



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www.darienlions.org ++ [www.Facebook.com/DLCIL](https://www.facebook.com/DLCIL)

Darien Lions Club Foundation

Food Basket Committee

Final Report From 2025 Chairman Andy DeRosa

1. Committee Members

- a. Art Donner
- b. Jake McConnell
- c. Andrew Brunsen
- d. Deneen Ruffolo
- e. John Galan
- f. Andy DeRosa
- g. Greg Ruffolo
- h. Brian Rzepka
- i. Mark Lewis
- j. Mark Piccoli
- k. Bill Christenson
- l. Ryan Wahlheim
- m. Wayne Scharnak
- n. Karen Piccaoi

2025 Darien Lions Club Food Basket Program Report

The 2025 Darien Lions Club Food Basket Program stands as a powerful example of what service, commitment, and community partnership can achieve. Over the past six months, the Food Basket Committee worked with exceptional dedication — planning, coordinating, ordering, and ensuring every detail was handled with care and precision. Their leadership and teamwork formed the backbone of this year's success.

Program Impact

This year, the Darien Lions Club proudly served 260 families, delivering hope, stability, and compassion during the holiday season. Through the combined efforts of our committee, volunteers, and partners, we distributed:

- 10 tons of food
- 2,000 toys
- Thoughtfully prepared baskets that reflected dignity and care

Any undelivered food was donated to Our Lady of Peace and Our Lady of Mount Carmel churches in Darien, ensuring that nothing went to waste and that even more families in our community benefited

from this program.

Committee Appreciation

The Food Basket Committee devoted six months of planning, vendor coordination, budgeting, wrapping toys and logistics to make this program possible. Their hard work, attention to detail, and unwavering commitment ensured that every family received a complete and meaningful basket. Their service exemplifies the very best of Lionism.

Club Member Contributions

Our club members did far more than provide financial support — they showed up with heart, strength, and unity. Members stepped up assisting with:

- Unloading deliveries
- Packing baskets
- Organizing distribution
- Completing every delivery with care and pride

This hands-on involvement is what transforms a program into a mission, and a mission into a legacy

. Youth Engagement & Community Leadership

One of the most inspiring aspects of the 2025 Food Basket Program was the extraordinary involvement of local youth. Their energy, professionalism, and willingness to serve played a vital role in the success of this year's effort.

Hinsdale South High School – Students

A team of 20 students from the Hinsdale South Spanish program volunteered their time to conduct professional outreach calls to all 260 families.

They confirmed delivery times, answered questions, and ensured every household felt informed and supported. Their courtesy and communication skills reflected maturity beyond their years and set a high standard for service.

Downers Grove South Football Team

The Downers Grove South football players provided essential physical support throughout the program.

They handled much of the heavy lifting, including unloading food, moving pallets, and assisting with large-scale packing operations. Their strength, teamwork, and positive attitudes made a tremendous difference during the busiest moments

. Local youth Baseball Teams

Local baseball teams stepped up to help with the toy collection and sorting process, ensuring that every child received the correct toys designated for their family. Their attention to detail and enthusiasm helped us deliver more than 2,000 toys with accuracy and care.

Lions' Children and Grandchildren

Perhaps the most heartwarming sight was seeing the children and grandchildren of our Lions Club members working side-by-side with us.

They packed baskets, carried bags, and helped with deliveries — learning firsthand what it means to serve their community. Their involvement represents the future of Lionism and reinforces the values we hope to pass on to the next generation.

2025 Food Basket Program – Financial Summary

Revenue

Cash Donations

DuPage County Grant – \$30,000.00

Club Members (Checks) – \$12,025.00

Club Members (Cash) – \$150.00

Mayslake Council Knights of Columbus 4053 – \$500.00

Christmas Tree Lighting Donations – \$125.00

The Imbrogno Investment Group, Inc. – \$250.00

Darien Memorial VFW Post 2838 – \$500.00

Navaspect Holding Inc. – \$100.00

F&J Tan, LLC dba Smiles on Cass – \$100.00

PayPal Contributions – \$2,442.24

In-Kind Donations

Gencare Truck

Darien Park District

Cancer Smashers

Total Revenue: \$46,192.24

Expenses

Tischler Finer Foods – \$33,252.04

Ring Tone – \$240.00

Toy Processing Expenses – \$307.70

Truck Rental – \$830.00

Fuel – \$17.00

Thermal Bags – \$2,990.00

Fliers Printed – \$63.77

Pizza and Water (HSBS Spanish Club Calling Night) – \$243.89

Football Team Donation – \$150.00

Gloves for DGS Football Team – \$56.02

Coffee for DGS Football Team – \$28.45

PayPal Charges – \$79.14

Mail Merge – \$106.36

Deneen – Misc. Toys – \$40.00

Total Expenses: \$38,404.37

Program Surplus

\$7,787.88

Closing Message

To every committee member, volunteer, partner, and Lion who contributed: thank you. Your dedication defines what our oath truly means.

"We Serve."

Because of you, hundreds of families felt supported, valued, and remembered this year. The 2025 Food Basket Program is a testament to what happens when service leads the way.

Thank you for giving your time, your energy, and your kindness to our neighbors in need.

Andy DeRosa

2025 Food Basket Chairman

Darien Lions Club

"We Serve."