

# CHRIST CHURCH CARES FOOD PANTRY

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2023

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# A LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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Over the past year, our community has faced an unprecedented surge in need due to rising inflation. The cost of living has increased significantly, placing an additional burden on many households, especially those already grappling with financial instability.

In response to this growing demand, we have launched several initiatives to bolster our resources and ensure we can continue providing vital assistance to those in need and expand our services in the coming year.

Our Friends of the Pantry campaign, which sought contributions from individuals and businesses committed to combating hunger, surpassed all expectations. Thanks to the kindness of our community, we raised an impressive \$28,000. Furthermore, our grant writing efforts have proven fruitful, resulting in over \$60,000 additional funding. These grants will play a crucial role in sustaining and expanding our programs, allowing us to adapt to the evolving needs of our community and provide comprehensive support to those facing food insecurity.

Additionally, our recent Farm-To-Table fundraiser raised almost \$13,000 and brought about a heartening community spirit. This event supported our financial needs and introduced eight new passionate volunteers to our dedicated team. Their enthusiasm and commitment will undoubtedly strengthen our capacity to serve those in need. I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who contributed to these endeavors. Your generosity is the driving force behind our ability to make a meaningful impact in the lives of our neighbors.

As we move forward, the challenges of inflation and economic uncertainties persist. The support of our community remains essential to our mission, and we encourage you to continue standing with us in the fight against hunger. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who rely on our food pantry for assistance. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to creating a stronger, more resilient community.

**BETTE MARCHESE**

Program Director

**"IF YOU WANT TO ELIMINATE HUNGER, EVERYBODY HAS TO BE INVOLVED."  
BONO**

# WELCOME ABOARD!

WE'RE THRILLED TO  
WELCOME KOREN  
VOELKEL, A  
LONGSTANDING  
VOLUNTEER WITH A  
PASSION FOR MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE, TO THE  
CHRIST CHURCH FOOD  
PANTRY TEAM AS OUR  
NEW PANTRY ASSISTANT!

KOREN HAS A  
BACKGROUND IN HEALTH  
AND NUTRITION, HAS AN  
UNDYING LOVE FOR  
CHRIST, AND IS  
COMMITTED TO MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE. THIS ADDED  
SUPPORT, MADE POSSIBLE  
THROUGH A GRANT, WILL  
ALLOW US TO EXPAND  
OUR SERVICES IN 2024.



*CARRY ONE  
ANOTHER'S  
BURDENS, AND IN  
THIS WAY YOU  
WILL FULFILL  
THE LAW OF  
CHRIST.  
GALATIANS 6:2*





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

In our ongoing efforts to combat food insecurity within our community, we must underscore the significance of establishing robust partnerships with local farms. Such collaborations are pivotal for meeting immediate hunger needs and fostering sustainable solutions that empower our community and the local agricultural sector.

Firstly, these partnerships guarantee a consistent supply of fresh, nutritious food, elevating the nutritional quality of the assistance we provide at our pantry. Beyond this immediate benefit, working closely with local farms supports the region's agricultural economy, contributing to the growth and resilience of nearby farms in the face of economic challenges.

Establishing partnerships with local farms represents a strategic and impactful approach to addressing food insecurity. This collaborative effort provides immediate relief while laying the foundation for a resilient, sustainable, and interconnected community. We see the potential impact of such partnerships on our mission, and we look forward to nurturing these connections for the benefit of all.

Please consider supporting the farms that so graciously support our mission. Our current partners include:

Audley Farm

Oak Hart Farm

Smith Meadows Farm

Piedmont Envir. Council's Community Farm at Roundabout Meadows



## FUN TIMES AT OUR FARM-TO-TABLE EVENT AT AUDLEY FARM



# A LOOK AT THE 2023 NUMBERS

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**POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED - 55,111 LBS.  
AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEALS  
PROVIDED - 13,304**

**NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS  
SERVED - 233  
(WITH 81 NEW HOUSEHOLDS)**

## **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

**GRANTS - \$62,000  
FARM TO TABLE - \$12,890  
FRIENDS OF THE FOOD PANTRY  
- \$28,750**

**30% OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTED  
WAS RESCUED FOOD**

**33% OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTED  
WAS FRESH PRODUCE**

**14% OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTED  
CAME FROM COMMUNITY FOOD  
DRIVES**

**50% OF THE WASTE WAS SHARED  
WITH LOCAL FARMS**

- With the rising prevalence of diabetes in our nation, especially among the food insecure, we must address the unique dietary requirements of individuals managing this condition. Incorporating diabetic-friendly offerings, such as low-sugar and whole-grain options, into our inventory shows our dedication to our community members' well-being and contributes to their overall health outcomes. To further enhance our support, we plan to collaborate with a nutritionist who will offer educational sessions on healthy eating for diabetics to lower their carbohydrate load and improve their overall health outcomes.
- In 2023, we provided an average of 8-10 meals to each household we serve on a monthly basis. With our newfound partnerships and the benefits of our fundraising efforts, we aim to provide 12-15 meals to each household on a monthly basis. We will do this by extending our services to offer full service on a weekly basis rather than a monthly basis.
- In October of 2023, we learned that SNAP benefit thresholds have increased, meaning more of our clients are eligible to receive these benefits. In collaboration with the Department of Social Services, efforts will continue to assist clients in the registration process, getting them the help they need.
- Beginning in February, we will be reaching out to schools in Clarke County to create a food program where students can donate their unwanted lunch box items to Christ Church Cares Food Pantry.
- Plans are in the works to develop an "Adopt-A-Grandfriend" program, partnering families with children with some of the lonely senior citizens we currently serve. This program will not only enrich the lives of the seniors we serve, and give them a sense of purpose, but it will also provide valuable wisdom and experience to the youth and young families that participate in this program.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS!

