



Extended Hands Pantry

2024 March Newsletter

Where We're Growing & Serving More Families Than Ever Before



Annual Report

Visit the website at extendedhandspantry.org to see the 2022-2023 Annual Report. This report includes events that were held to benefit patrons in the past year as well as a detailed financial overview of the year.

This report highlights:

- In 2023 we served 11,743 households, a massive 300+% increase since 2020.
- During the holiday season, nearly 600 gifts were delivered to families living in Section 8 housing
- Introduction of Reverse Advent program



Coats and Those that Need Them

As we all know, winter in Wisconsin can be harsh and unforgiving. Unfortunately, many of our shoppers are forced to brave the frigid temperatures without proper winter gear. It is a common sight to see individuals standing in line for groceries, shivering in the snow without a jacket. In order to help those in need, our pantry keeps a rack of donated coats in the back for anyone who may require one.



Recently, we had a heart wrenching encounter with a family whose six-month-old baby arrived at the pantry without any winter gear. His tiny hands and feet were exposed and cold, as evidenced by the tear tracks on his face. Despite facing a language barrier, our volunteers were able to provide a warm winter bodysuit that fit him perfectly. Though they could not communicate through words, the gratitude from this family was evident as they thanked our volunteers profusely for getting their precious baby warm.



Extended Hands Pantry

And We Couldn't Have Done Any of it Without You

Without our individual donors, we could never fulfill our goals to eradicate hunger in the Madison area and focus on those families often overlooked. You, our neighbors and friends, funded 44% of our work last year, making you the largest group of supporters we have!



You can sign up as a monthly donor via the button on our Donate page or scan this QR code. We also have a

consistent need for new volunteers to help us serve guests at the pantry. Email Jenny at jenny@extendedhandspantry.org to express your interest.



County Funds

We are extremely grateful for the support and dedication of the County Board and all those who played a key role in passing the bill to allocate much-needed funds for our pantry.

How We'll Spend the Money

Using county dollars, we have also purchased a walk-in cooler that will help us stock food when it is most cost effective and keep it safely longer.

Another allotment of the county funds will be used to purchase culturally sensitive products, as our monthly food costs have increased up to \$12,000.

Most of this money will be spent on infrastructure improvements including pallet racking and a new refrigerated truck to help us move food between our warehouse and the pantry.



Jim's Testimony



At Extended Hands, we are blessed to have dedicated volunteers like Jim (above, right) who embody the spirit of kindness and compassion. When asked about his experience

volunteering with us since 2020, Jim humbly shared: "For me, it was a simple 2-part question and a simple answer. What is God doing and how can I be a part of it? God is looking for people to help the needy."

Jim's personal connection to our mission is deeply rooted in his childhood, where he witnessed his parents' resourcefulness in stretching their food budget to provide for their family of nine. This experience resonates with him as he sees the joy on the faces of those we serve at the food pantry, who are able to extend their food budgets thanks to our efforts.

As Jim so eloquently put it, "I've always enjoyed serving more than leading, and it fit easily into my retirement time frame." His selfless dedication to our cause is a shining example of how each of us can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. We are grateful for volunteers like Jim and for the generosity of our donors. Together, we can create a ripple effect of kindness and compassion in our community.



Tell them you're volunteering for Extended Hands Pantry. Volunteers and their supporting organizations

are the most integral part of the World's Largest Brat Fest! Public Link to volunteer will be LIVE on Friday March 15th!

A Thank You That We'll Remember

We were humbled and inspired by a recent gesture from one of the families we serve at our food pantry. Each week, this family from Ukraine visits our pantry to collect their groceries, and on a recent Friday, they presented us with a touching gift that epitomizes the spirit of compassion and gratitude.



The gift, a beautifully decorated cardboard heart adorned with pictures of their family and their native Ukraine, was crafted by the children

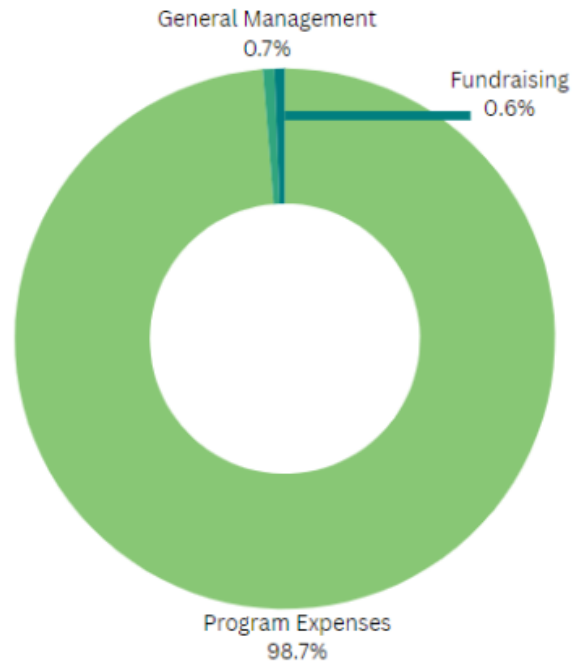
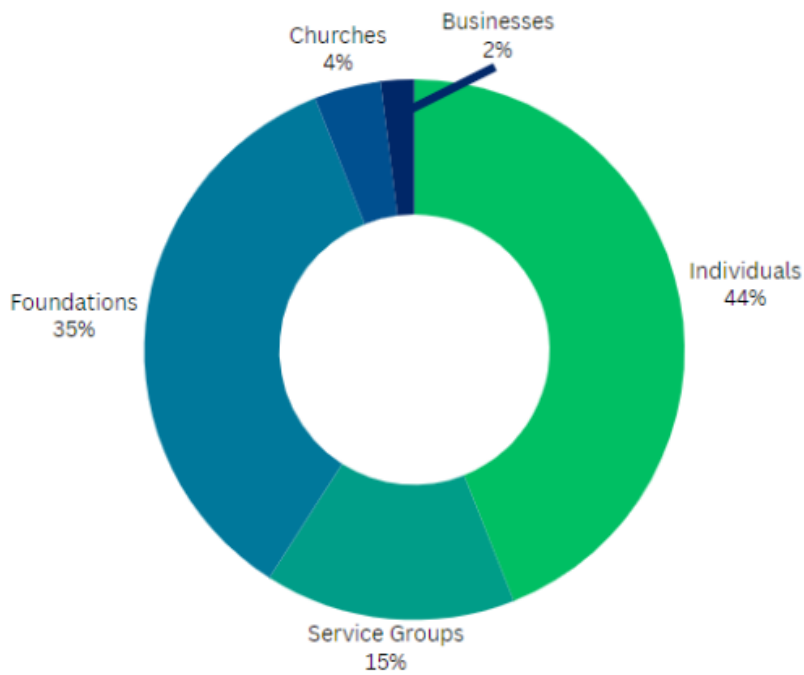
with love and care. As the youngest child proudly held the homemade gift, his mother, with a gentle voice and a grateful heart, expressed how much our pantry means to them and how welcomed they feel in our community.

This heartfelt gift serves as a powerful reminder of the profound impact our organization has on the lives of those we serve. It is a testament to the importance of fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment, where families from all walks of life can find solace, support, and a sense of belonging.

Peek at the Annual Report

Total Revenue = \$1,176,799

Total Expenses = \$1,362,993



Adults Served
2020 - 7,009
2023 - 30,417  **Growth 334.02%**



Children Served
2020 - 6,446
2023 - 19,458  **Growth 261.88%**



Households Served
2020 - 2,821
2023 - 11,743  **Growth 316%**