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## Mission

The mission of Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry is to help end local hunger by ensuring that everyone has access to enough nourishing food, thereby helping our overall community stay healthy and productive.

# 1 in 8 Children in Illinois is **Food Insecure**

For too many families in our community, food insecurity is not a new concept, but a pervasive problem that has plagued them over the course of their lives. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 7 percent of Kane County residents were food insecure, meaning they lacked consistent access to enough nutritious food to have an active, healthy life. Due to the impact of the pandemic, including illness, unemployment, lost wages, closed schools, shelter-in-place directives, and increased food and gas prices, 1 in 10 Kane County residents is now food insecure. The pandemic has highlighted the stark reality that many families in the Fox Valley area live paycheck to paycheck and cannot afford unforeseen expenses.

Over the past 21 months, Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry has stepped up in response, pivoting its operations and innovating its partnerships to help our community



navigate the new normal while ensuring the safety and health of its neighbors, volunteers and staff. We have invested deeply

of people served"

in finding new ways to achieve our mission with increase far fewer volunteers and reinventing fundraising activities on which we have traditionally relied, to serve the 400 percent increase in need we experienced at the pantry during the pandemic.

We continue to break down food-access barriers by creating programming that brings food to the people who need it most. Our Pantry To-Go program delivers emergency food boxes once a week to those who lack transportation, have mobility issues, or are housebound. Additionally, our other mobile pantries serve families with children, low-income seniors and women.

Enacting a drive-thru system, our regular weekly distributions at the pantry have kept our neighbors, volunteers, and staff safe during a pandemic while still meeting our mission. In February of 2022, we hope to welcome our neighbors back inside for our new client-choice marketplace where people can browse the aisles to make choices based on their taste, dietary and cultural needs.

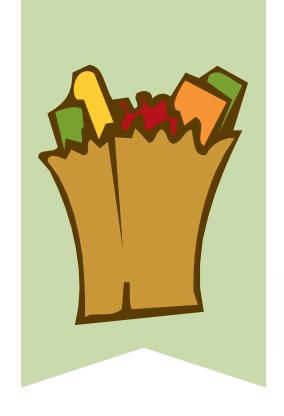
While the pandemic has been a tremendous challenge, it has allowed tremendous opportunities for growth. It has renewed our deep commitment to combating food insecurity and

the issues of cyclical poverty. This year we celebrated our 40 years of service to the Fox Valley region. We are so grateful to our founders, a group of concerned community members that saw the profound need in 1981 and answered the call



to feed their neighbors. We are inspired by their actions, and we think they would be proud of the progress we have made over the past four decades. Just like in the beginning of our formation, it takes community members like you who care deeply for the dignity, health and vitality of their neighbors that allow our organization to thrive.

Without your support, we could not have met the intense needs of our community. Because of you, we were able to serve 100 percent of those who came to the pantry in 2021, In addition to the increased number of neighbors served, 2021 also presented the challenge of a need for a new roof, the



purchase of a refrigerated truck and update the marketplace with new shelving. These were all big-ticket items that could be catastrophic for a non-profit in an already demanding year if not for the concerned efforts from people like you and our community partners. Your support is necessary to help us fulfill our mission and help those in our community reimagine and rebuild a better future. We are so thankful for your generosity and care of our neighbors. Thank you for all you have given of yourself in 2021.

With deep gratitude,

Dave Bohm

Dave Bohman **Board President** 

Shannon Cameron Executive Director

# POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED **HOLIDAY MEAL BOX VISITS - HOUSEHOLDS**

**HOLIDAY MEAL BOX VISITS - INDIVIDUALS** 

**LOW-INCOME SENIORS** 

**PANTRIES** 

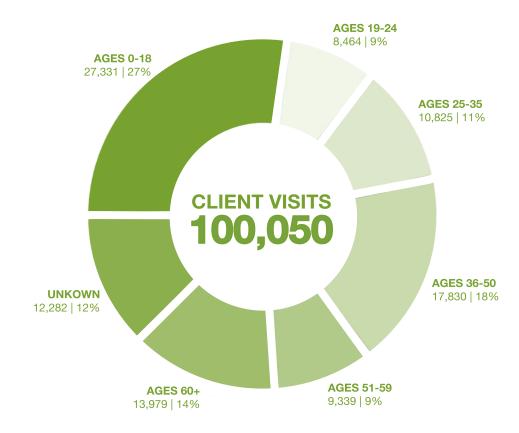
SERVED

HOUSEHOLDS

**RUSH-COPLEY CANCER CENTER** 

**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT** 

**KIDS' PANTRY** 



**HESED HOUSE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING** 

22 weekly



Easter Baskets Distributed





Christmas Stockings Distributed

Pet Pantry Households Served

Vaccine Clinics

Pantry To-Go Boxes Delivered

# Thank You, Donors!

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donors for their generosity and support of the Aurora Food Pantry. This list reflects donors who made gifts of \$250 or greater between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Donations and grants are the pantry's only stream of revenue, making every single dollar count. On behalf of the thousands of neighbors whose lives have been improved through the services of the pantry, THANK YOU to all our donors for your generosity. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify Heather Short of any inaccuracies or omissions by contacting her at hshort@aurorafoodpantry.org. We regret any errors.

#### \$100.000+

City of Aurora Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley

#### \$25,000-99,999

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Michels Plumbing Inc. Midwest Waste Consultants - In Honor of Dan Dolar

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Women of the Moose Batavia Chapter #722 Nancy Yaros Nicole Yingst

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View All Donors!

## **Financial Statement**

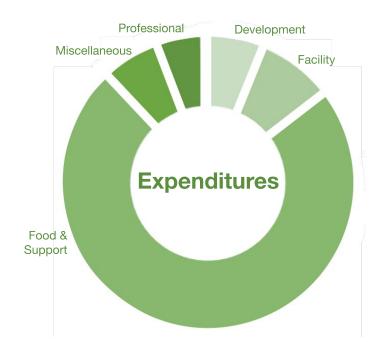


## **Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry Statement of Activity**

January - December 2021

Revenue	
Contributions	\$ 723,663.50
Campaign/Direct Mail	26,203.40
Events	\$ 174,670.21
Interest Income	277.66
Grants	\$ 53,706.86
Restricted Support	\$ 217,060.40
Uncategorized Income	258.00
Total Revenue	\$ 1,195,840.03
Expenditures	
Development	\$ 59,310.08
Facility Expenses	\$ 78,211.65
Food & Support	\$ 698,711.28
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 59,070.89
Professional Expenses	\$ 48,393.95
Volunteer Expenses	\$ 4,458.14
Total Expenditures	\$ 948,155.99
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 247,684.04





# Our Hunger Heroes

Last year over 200,000 hours were logged by over 700 volunteers. Each distribution day requires 25+ volunteers to ensure operations run smoothly. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their time, service and dedication.

A typical day during distribution for a volunteer involves being assigned a station at one of our aisles: produce, refrigeration, frozen, bakery, warehouse and loading. Volunteers will keep their station stocked and check for expiration dates on the product being placed for our neighbors.



Tonya Beach, far left, receving the Claire Perez Volunteer of the Year Award

**NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS** 

749

**VOLUNTEER HOURS** 

20,393

**MONETARY BENEFIT** 

\$582,015

In 2021 we annouced our first inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award, dedicated to long-time volunteer Claire Perez. Perez was instrumental in helping our distributions run smoothly, and was a regular volunteer since the 1990's.

We would like to congratulate Tonya Beach on being selected as this year's award recipient. Beach has been an Aurora area community member most of her life and started volunteering at AAIFP in June, 2020. "After retiring, I wanted to do something meaningful," said Beach. "Volunteering has made me a better person. You don't always have to be paid to do what you know is right."

The AAIFP has become a second family for Beach and has given her a new purpose. A typical day at the food pantry involves a lot of hustle and bustle, she stated. Beach manages the produce section where she helps bag and distribute the items to our neighbors.

"We all have a focus on what we do, and we all do it well," said

Beach. "Everyone has a heart for this [volunteering at the food pantry]. Some people just have to be here once and then they keep coming back!"

Beach arrives early on distribution days to get her team set up for the day and when she is here, she is always a ray

of sunshine. "Tonya is thoughtful, considerate and an all-around awesome person," said Eddie Galvan, AAIFP Program Director. "She is a very hard worker who has

Do you or your organization want to become a volunteer? Click here to view our volunteer webpage for more information!



## **Meet Our Staff**



**Shannon Cameron** Executive Director



**Katie Arko** Senior Director of Development



**Kevin Ruebensam** Senior Director of Finance & Data Management



**Eddie Galvan** Program Director



Jesus Galvan Warehouse Manager



**Alyssa Edwards** Marketing Manager



**Becky Dunnigan** Outreach & Special Programs Coordinator



**Marcy Robles** Volunteer Coordinator



**Heather Short** Development Assistant



**Jose Gonzales** Warehouse Assistant



**Christian Lopez** Food Recovery Specialist



**Jazmin Smiley** Grant Writer

## **Board of Directors**

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President Retired, Lucent Technologies Aurora University Board

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Vice President Retired, Moose International

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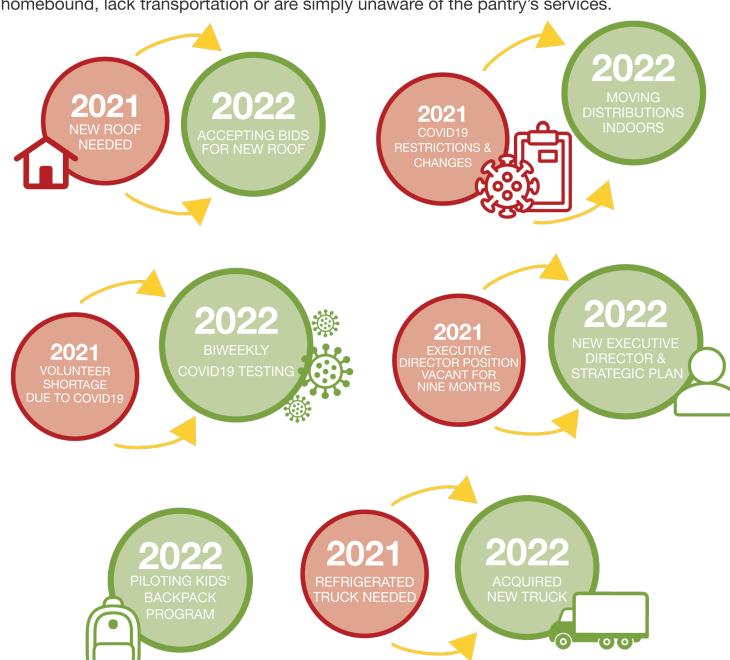
**Lynn Flores** First Midwest Bank Ralph Mooney Mooney & Thomas **CPAs** 

**Eva Serrano Aurora University** 

**Marilyn Weisner** Retired, AAIFP

# **Challenges & Growth**

The Aurora Food Pantry will continue to feed thousands of individuals and families from its location on Jericho Road in Aurora. 2022 presents an opportunity to focus on going into the community to help those who need it most. Mobile pantries will reach individuals who are homebound, lack transportation or are simply unaware of the pantry's services.



### There is no greater good than feeding those in need...

2021 marked the Aurora Food Pantry's 40th year serving the Fox Valley. Through community partnerships, donations, volunteers and a dedicated staff and board of directors, the pantry will be feeding those in-need for another 40 years and beyond...

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## **Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry** 1110 Jericho Road, Aurora IL, 60506

(630) 897-2127 | aurorafoodpantry.org