

### EXTENDED HANDS PANTRY

# 2024 IMPACT REPORT



**Extended Hands Pantry** 

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October 2024

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

If we had to capture the essence of our last fiscal year (July 2023 to June 2024) in one word, it would undoubtedly be growth. Extended Hands Pantry has seen an incredible 118% increase in the number of families we serve compared to the previous year. While this surge has brought significant challenges, we are proud to say we've met them head-on and closed the year on a positive note.

When we founded Extended Hands Pantry in April 2019, we began building the infrastructure necessary to serve over 500 families each week. Yet, the reality is that the demand has outpaced our preparations. In the past year alone, the need has soared, and we've had to grow alongside it.

We were tremendously fortunate to receive \$425,000 in assistance from Dane County, a one-time grant that allowed us to purchase critical equipment: walk-in coolers, freezers, electric pallet trucks, pallet racking, and more. We also have a new refrigerated truck on order, expected by the end of this year. A portion of these funds was also allocated for food, rent, and personnel expenses, helping us manage the rapid growth. This support has truly been a blessing, but with so many more families turning to us for help, we need ongoing assistance to keep pace with the growing need.

Our team, which now includes two part-time and one full-time staff member, has worked tirelessly to serve our community. However, as the number of families we serve increases each month, we face a constant challenge in scaling our staffing and resources accordingly.

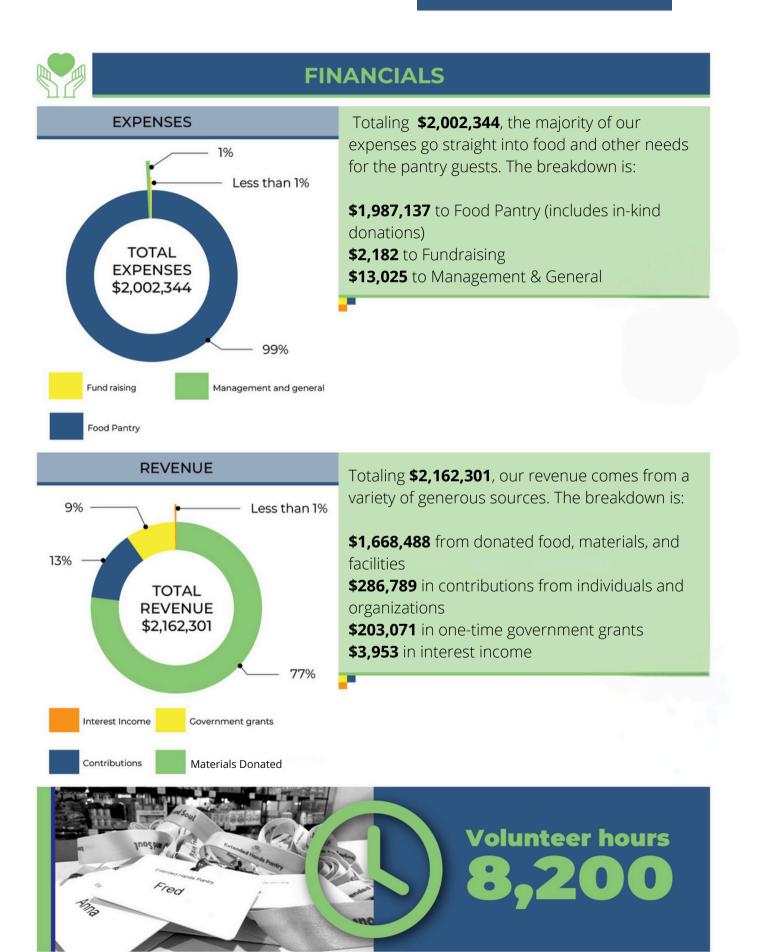
This year, while we celebrate five years of the pantry's operation, we also mark 25 years of ministry to two lowincome neighborhoods on the north side of Madison. Since 2000, we have provided back-to-school supplies, Christmas gifts, meals, after-school snacks, and more, but none of this would have been possible without our volunteers—the heart and soul of our mission. Your dedication and selflessness are the backbone of our work. To each volunteer who has served alongside us over the years: thank you for your unwavering support and compassion. We are immensely grateful for your contributions.

As we look to the future, we urgently need your help to continue this work. Our ability to serve the increasing number of families depends on the ongoing generosity of people like you. Whether through donations, volunteer time, or spreading the word, we invite you to stand with us as we grow to meet this overwhelming need. We're excited for what the next 25 years will bring, but we cannot do it without your support.

Thank you for believing in our mission to be a servant-hearted expression of love and community. Together, we can continue making a difference.

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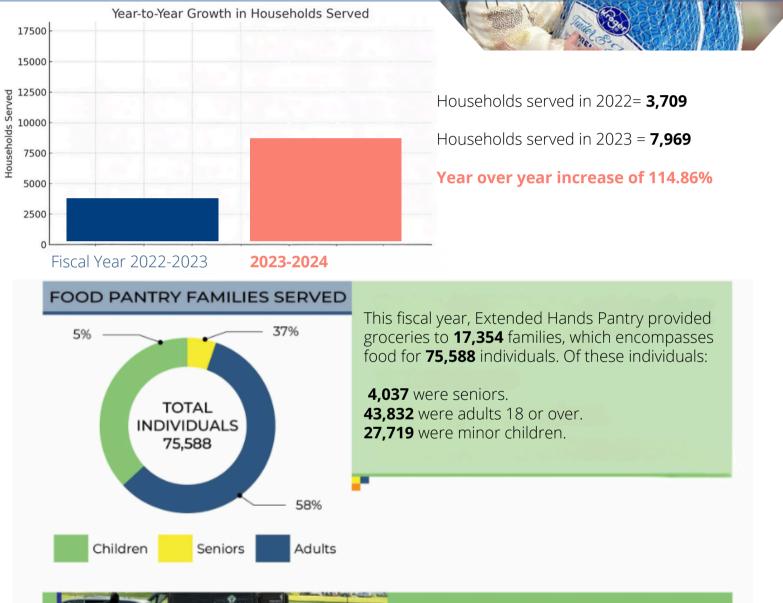
## With gratitude, Jenny & Andy



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# A STORY C GROWTH











#### OUR PARTNERS

Our work at Extended Hands Pantry would not be possible without the support of key community partners who share our mission to serve this county's most vulnerable. We are proud to share our building with Lighthouse Church and School, Madison's premier fully bilingual school. They create a learning experience that focuses on strong academics while nurturing the growth of each child in body, mind, and faith.

Our partnership with Second Harvest ensures that our community has access to nutritious, affordable, and meaningful food. They help us source and distribute food while also providing essential outreach services like FoodShare, giving families the opportunity to thrive.

We also collaborate with Madison Area Food Pantry Garden, which provides fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant produce that many families would otherwise be unable to afford. Since their inception, they have donated over 2 million pounds of fresh produce to Dane County's emergency food system.

As we continue to grow, we invite others in the Madison area to join us. By partnering with Extended Hands Pantry, you can help make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. Together, let's turn dedication into action and strengthen our community.

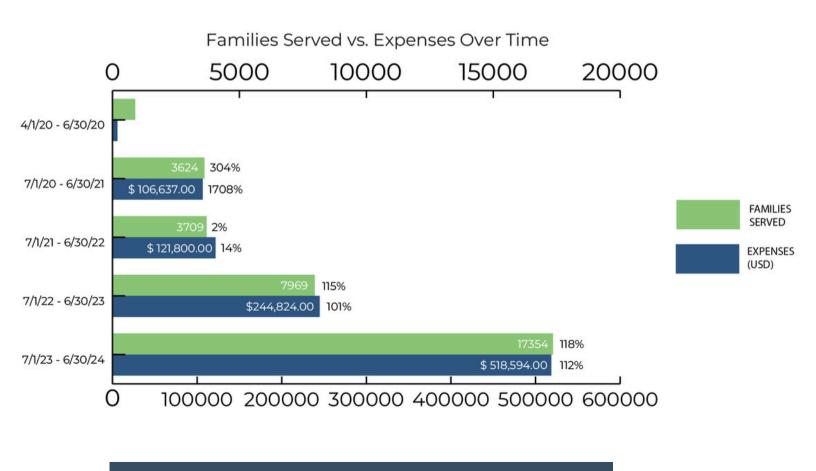




**To meet the rapidly growing demand**, Extended Hands Pantry must expand in every way possible. This means forging new partnerships with youth groups, scouts, and organizations like Attic Angels, who graciously host live food drives at local grocery stores. We need to increase our base of monthly donors while finding meaningful ways to recognize the generosity of one-time donors.

**Our guests' needs are evolving**, and we must grow to meet them. Specialty items like masa harina, chipotle peppers, and halal meats are in high demand. For homeless guests, easy-to-carry and easy-to-open canned goods are critical lifelines.

**Since our first year**, when we served just a few hundred families, we've grown to serve over 17,000 Northern Wisconsin households annually. As the housing crisis continues to strain our community, the need for food assistance will only increase. To continue expanding our operations and meeting these challenges, we rely on the help and dedication of our community. Together, we will ensure no one goes hungry.



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