



FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by GM Silva

BASTROP COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES

Executive Director Report by Tresha Silva



As I reflect on the past year, I recall the challenges we overcame and the successes we celebrated as our amazing team of staff and dedicated volunteers worked to provide the community with the support they needed to weather all of the storms that 2021 brought us: global pandemic, historic winter storms, rising inflation, and rising rates of hunger in our County (20% increase since 2019).

My goal remained to maintain safety. At the beginning of the year, with soaring COVID cases, we made the difficult decision to cancel our Bastrop Empty Bowl Event. We also maintained our efforts to keep the staff and volunteers safe and healthy by continuing our curbside model for Emergency Food Assistance.

The beginning of the year also brought the historic winter storms that caused the Food Pantry to close its doors for several days and resulted in a burst pipe in one of our buildings. Despite the challenges we faced, we partnered with Ascension Catholic Church and Bastrop County Long Term Recovery to hold a special food distribution to help the individuals and families that lost food during the blackouts. We were able to help 121 households on that day!

We were also excited to bring back the popular monthly Fresh Food for Families distribution. The program continues to grow with additional families participating in it each month. This means more and more people in our community are getting fresh produce and whole grains! Another success came as a result of a grant that allowed us to purchase more produce and protein for the seniors in our Brown Bag program, which improved their overall health and wellbeing. We also expanded our NIBBLES program with the help of a grant to serve 89 additional students with weekend meals and snacks.

The Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center remains committed to fighting food insecurity and providing the community with nutritious food in their time of crisis. This last year came with lots of challenges including an increase in need, but we rose to the occasion. And the community responded with generosity and supported us through it all. Thank you for supporting the work by donating and volunteering, we could not do this without our partners. In 2022, we look forward to growing our efforts to serve our community as the number of people experiencing food insecurity rises.

Tresha Silva

Executive Director





MISSION

The mission of the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center is to serve Bastrop County residents going through periods of transition by providing emergency food assistance, education, and support.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Emergency Food Assistance: The Pantry provides 30-days of emergency food, referrals, and assistance in applying for SNAP benefits. **The Pantry provided 2,088 individuals with 176,953 pounds of emergency food in FY '21. They brought back Fresh Food For Families in July and gave out 14,510 pounds of food to 505 individuals.**

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Brown Bag: The Pantry provides low-income seniors with 25 lbs. of shelf-stable food every month; weekly access to produce, whole grains, and protein; assistance in filling out SNAP and Medicare applications. Due to COVID, the Food Pantry suspended the senior activities at the Food Pantry. **The Pantry provided 198 Brown Bag seniors with 30,242 pounds of healthy food and 130 with additional commodity boxes. They also provided 188 seniors weekly access to fresh produce, whole grains, and protein which totaled 167,883 additional pounds of food to the Brown Bag program participants.**

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Open Arms: The Pantry provides differently-abled, low-income individuals under the age of 55 with a supplemental supply of nutritious food and hygiene items. **The Pantry provided 13 differently abled, low-income individuals with 733 pounds of food in FY '21**

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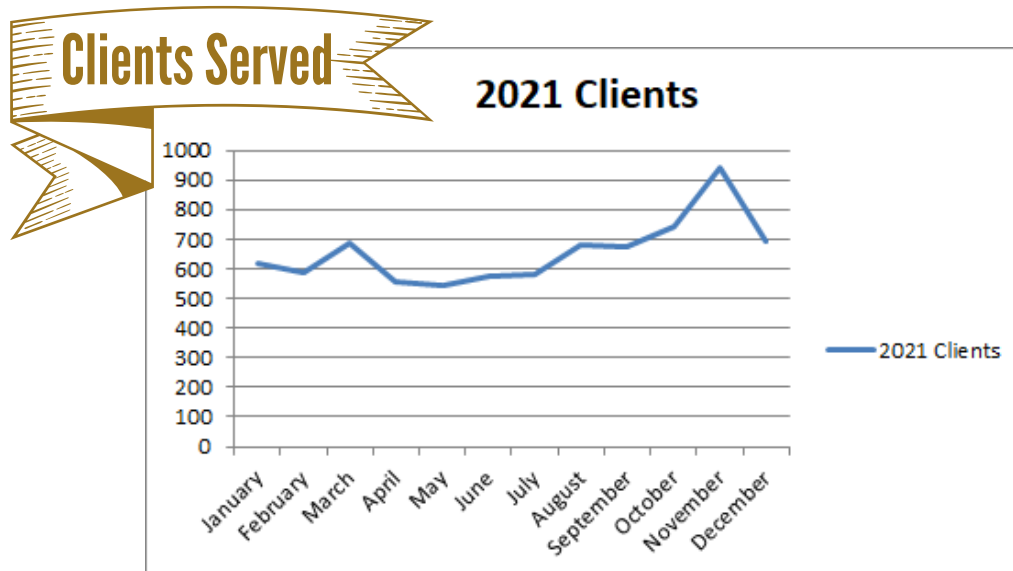
NIBBLES: The Pantry provides 5lbs. of weekend meals and snacks during the school year for children in low-income families at Lost Pines Elementary, Red Rock Elementary, Emile Elementary, Bluebonnet Elementary, Cedar Creek Intermediate, and Bastrop Intermediate School. **The Pantry provided 240 children with 23,960 pounds of healthy out of school time food in FY '21**

FY 2021: A CLOSER LOOK

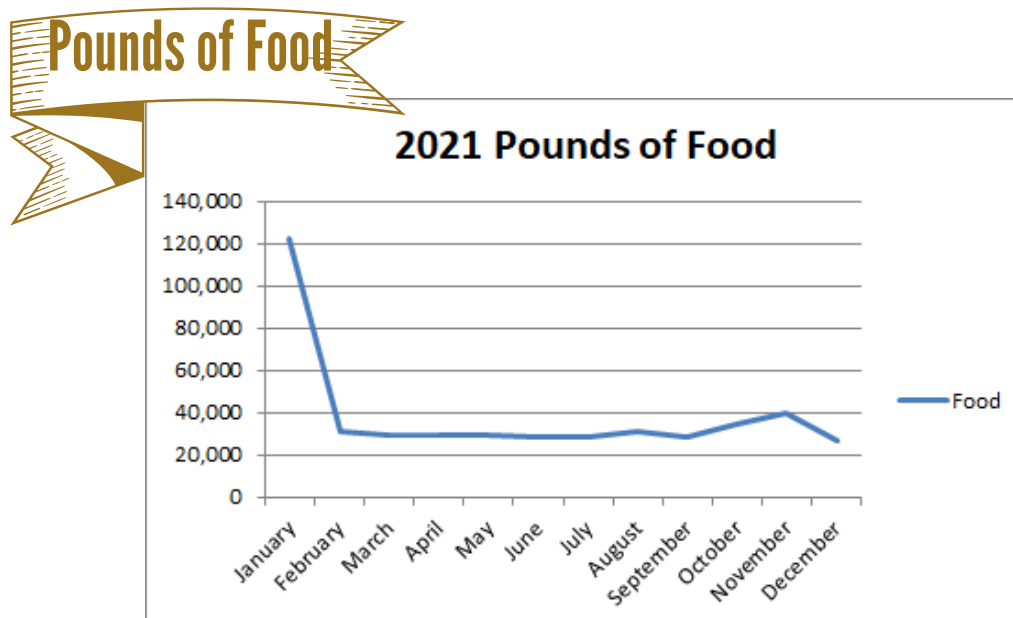


The Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry is the first and sometimes only line of defense against hunger for individuals and families in crisis. Due to COVID, clients received food assistance through a pre-bagged curbside model and a contactless delivery for at-risk and homebound seniors for half of the year. The other half of the year, the Food Pantry began to open its doors to clients again and reintroduced client choice. In July, we also brought back the Fresh Food for Families distribution. This popular program is made in part through a partnership with the Central Texas Food Bank and is intended to increase the community's access to fresh produce and whole grains.

In FY 2021, the Food Pantry also assisted people in the community that were impacted by the historic winter storms. They hosted a special distribution for the community and provided emergency food assistance to 121 households in partnership with Ascension Catholic Church and Bastrop County Long-Term Recovery. Due to an increase in community services available County-wide, the Food Pantry saw less clients in FY 2021. As these services dwindle and the need continues to rise, the Food Pantry anticipates serving more people in FY 2022.



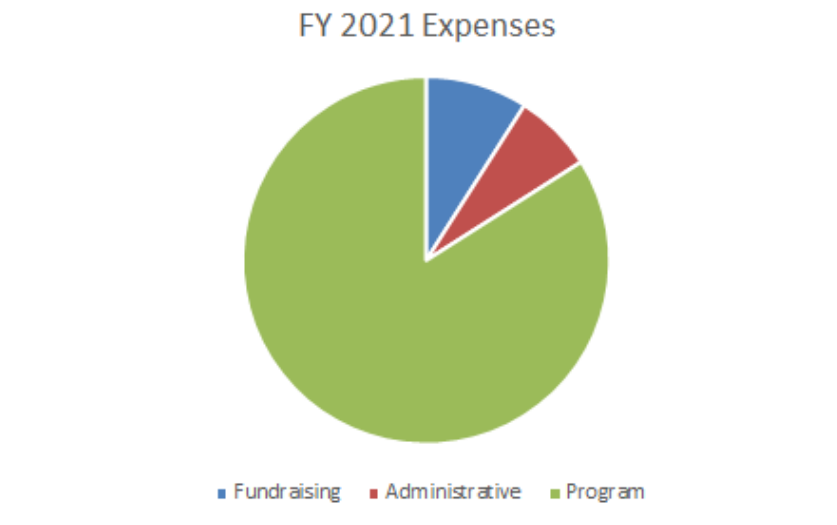
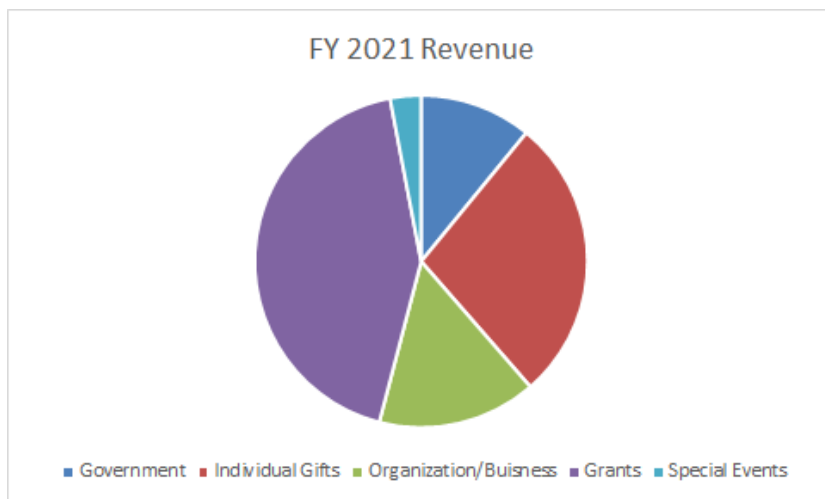
In 2021, the Food Pantry provided 3,267 individuals with 457,101 pounds of food!



2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Bastrop County continued to show its deep commitment and support for the Food Pantry this year. Due to special COVID-related grants, the Food Pantry was able to provide more specialized support for clients like rent and utility assistance.

This increase in funding allowed the Food Pantry to make necessary infrastructure purchases like several commercial refrigeration units to replace the old residential ones. It also allowed us to purchase additional nutritious fresh foods for our seniors.



SUCCESS SOUNDS LIKE THIS...

"Betty", a senior Brown Bag client, lost power and her ceiling caved in after a pipe burst during the historic winter storms. She lost all of her food as a result of the rolling blackouts. The Food Pantry helped replenish her lost food and referred her to Bastrop County Long Term Recovery to repair her home.

"Very nice intake people, willing to go the extra mile. Get enough groceries for a month."

- "Frank" an emergency services client

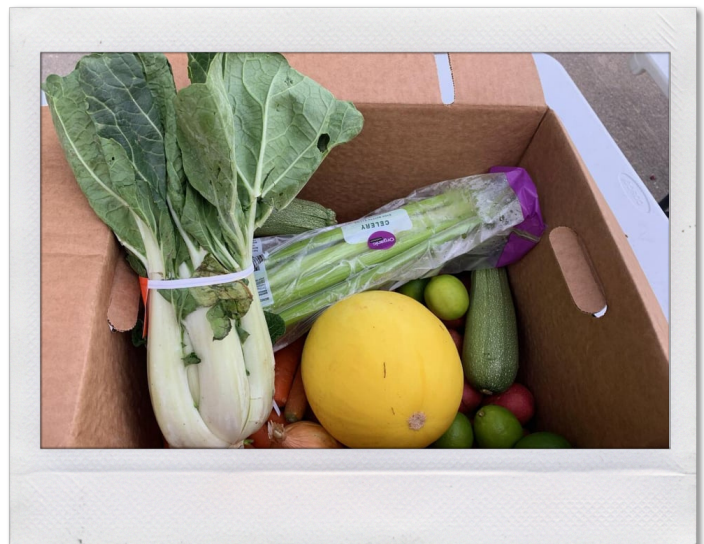
INFRASTRUCTURE

This year the Food Pantry received a grant to purchase a new freezer chest and refrigerator.



THE RETURN OF FRESH FOOD FOR FAMILIES

This July we brought back our popular Fresh Food for Families distribution. The goal of this amazing program is to increase the community's access to fresh produce and whole grains. This is vitally important in a community with many food deserts (an area that has limited access to affordable and nutritious food).



VOLUNTEERS

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

– Elizabeth Andrew

Our amazing volunteers deliver food to seniors, answer the phone, assist in food distributions, date and process food donations, and so much more. In 2021, we welcomed back many volunteers and brought new ones into the Food Pantry family. We are so thankful for the 79 dedicated volunteers that gave 3,151 hours of their time and talents.

Because of our volunteers, the families in our community have meals on their tables. Our school children have food for the weekends. Our programs that assist the elderly and differently-abled function because of our amazing volunteers. Their involvement impacts our community in such a huge way, and we are so very grateful!

thank you



"Volunteers are one of our most valuable resources and we couldn't complete the organization's mission without them. They make things happen!"

–Tresha Silva

WHO WE ARE

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Tresha Silva

Executive
Director

Kelly Manfredini, M.S.W.

Director of Development &
Marketing

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Julia Dunn

Financial
Administrator

Diane Garrard

Administrative
Assistant

Jody Wright

Volunteer
Coordinator

PROGRAM STAFF

Sandra Dougan

Transportation and
Support Clerk

Kirista Avery

Intake Coordinator

Beverly Anderson

AmeriCorp VISTA

INVENTORY STAFF

Nycole Thorpe

Inventory Manager

Anthony Chavez

Inventory Support
Specialist

Board of Directors

Steve Dunn

Board President

Rene Flores

Treasurer

Barbara Adkins

Board Secretary

Judy Seymore

Board Member

Stephanie Wood

Board Member Emeritas

Deflora Thorne

Vice President

Tonda Owens

Board Member Emeritas

Josue Limon

Board Member

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Tell others about the Pantry and the work we are doing for the community!
- ✓ Call the Food Pantry and ask about volunteering. 512-303-0033
- ✓ Consider making a gift or increasing your yearly giving this year.