



FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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. This year our neighbors experienced a reduction in SNAP benefits and high inflation, which made it difficult for them to put food on the table. We as an organization experienced a high level of need and reduction in the amount of food we received by the Central Texas Food Bank.

My goal this year was to ensure that we fully served everyone that came to our door asking for help. In 2023, we encountered food supply challenges that resulted in us receiving 50% less food than we had in the previous year from the Central Texas Food Bank. To compensate for the reduction in supply, we purchased food through a distributor. In the end we had to increase our food spending budget by 200%!

Food insecurity in our community continues to be on the rise. The Food Pantry saw a 32% increase in request for food and support services compared to 2022, and an 89% increase compared to 2020. In the first two months of 2024, the Food Pantry experienced a 2% increase from the already sky-high numbers of 2023. Food insecurity is on the rise not just in our county, but all over the US. This is as a result of high inflation and the roll back of pandemic era support. The high cost of food and the reduction in support is making it hard for working families to make ends meet.



One of the most exciting things to come out of 2023 is our capital campaign. We have been working behind the scenes to talk to members of our community and grantors about our need to think towards a sustainable future for the Food Pantry. We are excited to announce that we will be breaking ground this fall on a new nine thousand square foot facility that will streamline our inventory systems, double our storage capacity and allow us to provide our neighbors in need with food and wrap around services for another 30+ years. This spring we will be making our campaign public for the community to see our vision of what food assistance in Bastrop County will look like now and in the future.

We remain 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. 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.

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 4,009 individuals with 235,774 pounds of emergency food in FY '23. They provided 1,239 individuals with 34,105 lbs of food through Fresh Food for Families distributions.**

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. **The Pantry provided 291 Brown Bag seniors with 36,998 pounds of healthy food and 160 with additional commodity boxes. They also provided 304 seniors weekly access to fresh produce, whole grains, and protein which includes those seniors that received free home delivery. They also provided senior activities to 31 seniors.**

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 15 differently abled, low-income individuals 931 lbs of food.**

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, Bastrop Intermediate School and Mina Elementary. **The Pantry provided 272 children with 41,817 pounds of healthy out of school time food in FY '23**

FY 2023: 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. They are the ONLY food pantry in the county that is open five days a week. They are also the only food pantry that serves the entire county.

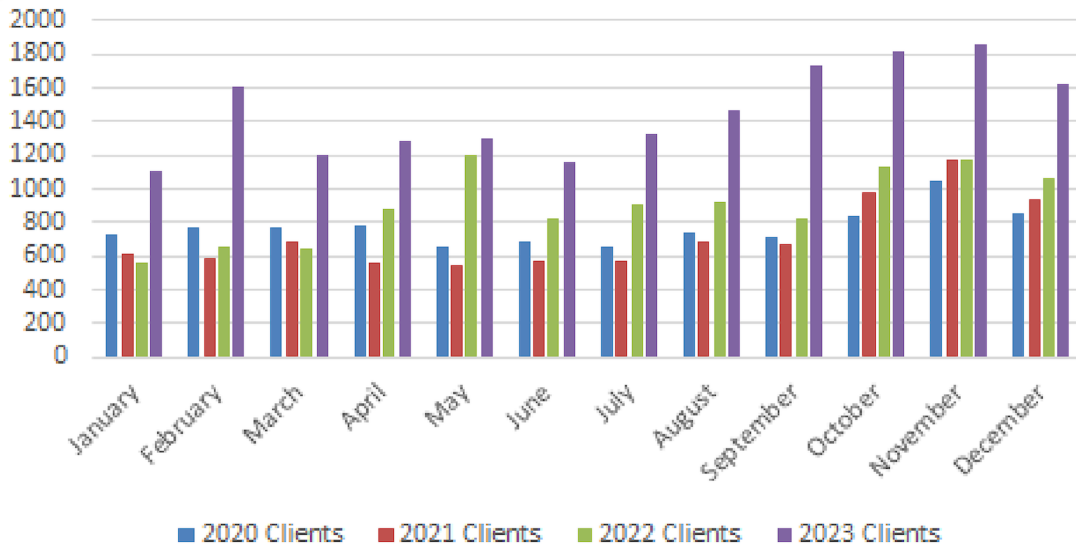


We served a record number of our neighbors in 2023 and anticipate that the number served will continue to climb into 2024.

In 2023, the Food Pantry provided 5,609 individuals with 446,859 pounds of food!

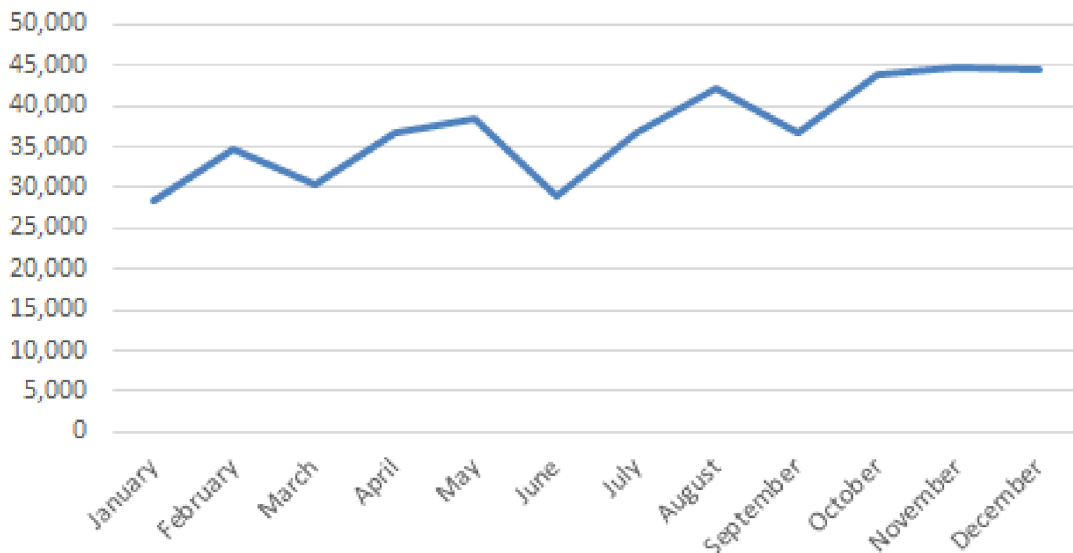
Neighbors Served

Clients Served by Month & Year FY 2020-FY2023



Pounds of Food

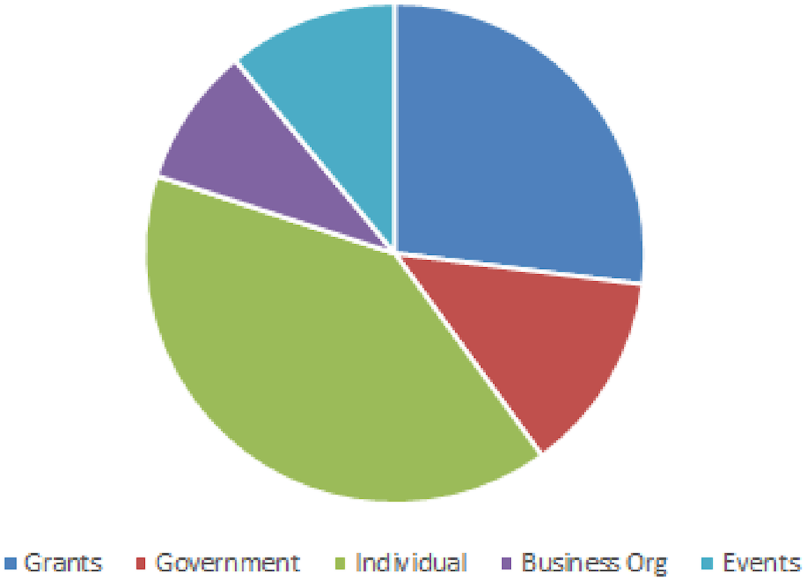
Pounds of Food



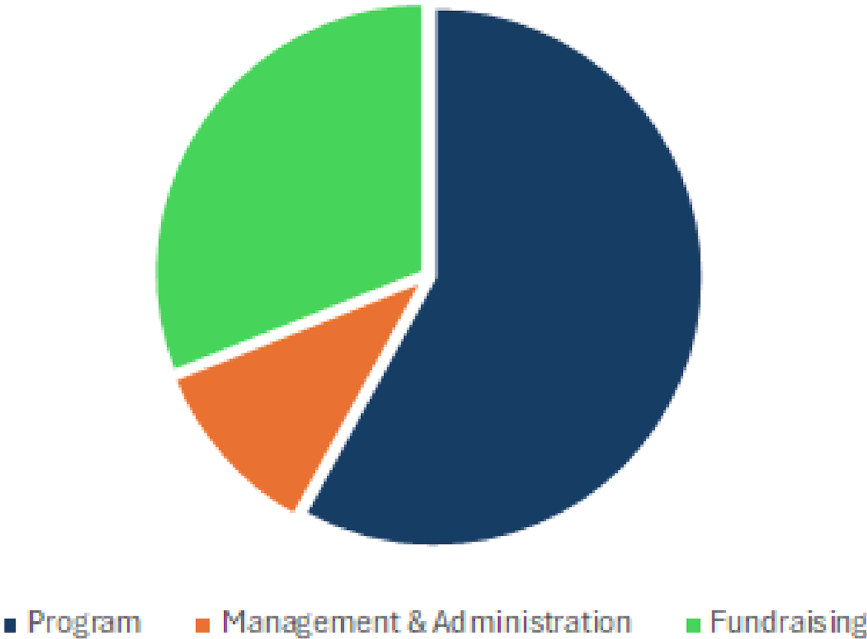
2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry experienced increased food expenses due to the supply chain crisis. The community continued to generously support the work and mission of the Food Pantry. With this support, they could meet the community's growing needs and manage the increased cost of providing this life-saving assistance.

FY 2023 Revenue by Source



FY 2023 Expenses by Category



Expenses includes capital campaign, which makes the management administration and fundraising abnormally high.

EYES TOWARD THE FUTURE

What does the future of food insecurity and food assistance look like for Bastrop County?



Bastrop County takes care of it's own...

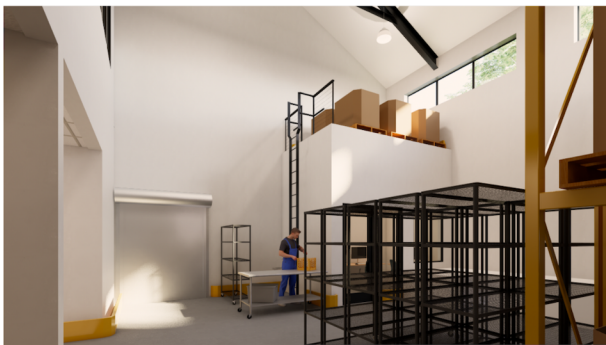
In 2023, our leadership team and a group of dedicated members of our community came together to embark on an important journey towards achieving our goal of a sustainable future for food assistance in our county. We named it the "Good Neighbor Campaign" because Bastrop County takes care of its own.



"We love our campus and the buildings that sit on them. They have been a blessing to us these 37 years, but the time has come to move forward with the community's needs in the forefront."- Tresha Silva

Our new, 9,000 sq ft. facility will double our food storage capabilities, streamline our inventory process, and allow us to serve our neighbors in a more efficient way.

Our favorite feature of the new facility will be the "grocery store" where our neighbors can "shop" for the foods they want for their families. This decreases food waste and gives back some dignity to the people that come to us for help.



The warehouse will allow us to store all of our food in one central location instead of in five separate buildings. It will double our storage and streamline the process in which we bring in and distribute food to the community.

The new campus will include shared spaces for the community to enjoy, including a beautiful teaching garden, computer lab, and teaching and demonstration kitchen.



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 2023, we were blessed with the help of for the 120 dedicated volunteers that gave a record 5,185 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 Marketing &
Communications

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Julia Dunn

Financial
Administrator

Diane Garrard

Administrative
Assistant

Sherry Darvin

Volunteer
Coordinator

PROGRAM STAFF

Sandra Dougan

Transportation and
Support Clerk

Lindsey Turner

Emergency Food Assistance
Intake Coordinator

Beverly Anderson

Brown Bag Program
Manager

INVENTORY STAFF

Stephanie Castillo

Inventory Lead

Anthony Chavez

Inventory Clerk

Thomas White

Inventory Clerk

Board of Directors

Tonda Owens

Board President

Rene Flores

Board Member

Barbara Adkins

Board Member

Judy Seymore

Board Secretary

Stephanie Wood

Board Member Emeritus

Deflora Thorne

Vice President

Josue Limon

Treasurer

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 at 512-303-0033
- ✓ Consider making a gift or increasing your yearly giving this year.