



Newport AAC
Food Pantry



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025 TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Director's Letter** - 1
- **Our Mission in Action** - 2
- **Program Deep Dive:**
 - Refresh - 3
 - Renew - 4
 - Rejoice! - 5
- **Reports:**
 - Revenue & Support - 6
 - Operational Expenses - 7
 - Service - 8
- **Evaluation** - 9
- **Next Steps** - 10
- **What Can You Do?** - 11
- **Thank You** - 12



LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

I am honored to write to you as the newly-appointed (April 2025) Director of our food pantry. As I look back on the past year, I am struck by a singular truth: **hunger may be a persistent challenge, but the compassion of this community is an even greater force.**

This year, we didn't just meet our goals; we shattered them. I am thrilled to share that we **served over 63,000 meals** to our neighbors – at a **record-breaking only \$5.00 for a week of food per person!** These milestones were made possible by our **highest-grossing donation season** to date, a testament to your unwavering belief in our mission. We were also deeply honored to be named **Non-Profit of the Year**—a recognition that belongs to every donor, volunteer, and advocate who walks this path with us.

To meet increased need, we spent the last twelve months **modernizing our operations and our physical home.** We have successfully completed:

- **Building Renovations:** We've created a more dignified, welcoming, and efficient space for our guests.
- **Refrigeration Refurbishment:** Our upgraded cold storage allows us to rescue and distribute more fresh produce, dairy, and proteins than ever before.
- **A New Digital Presence:** We rebranded, launched our website, vibrant social media channels, and a digital donation platform to make supporting our mission easier than ever.

Beyond the physical changes, **we've shifted our heart.** We introduced a fundamental approach: A welcoming space where guests are valued, respected, and helped.

While we celebrate these victories, we are not slowing down. **Our focus for the coming year is connection.** We aren't just building a pantry; we are building a movement. Our upcoming initiatives include:

- **A Revitalized Volunteer Program:** We are formalizing our volunteer tracks to ensure every hand that wants to help has a meaningful place to serve.
- **Deep Outreach:** We are ensuring every resident in the twelve towns we serve know where we are, what we do, and how we can help.
- **Community Events:** Look forward to new events – like our 12 Days of Christmas – designed so we can all get involved in the fight against food insecurity.

We have the facility, the technology, and the vision. **Now, we need you.** Whether you've been with us for decades or are just learning about our work, there is a seat at our table for you. Thank you for welcoming me into this role with such warmth and for making 63,000 meals possible.

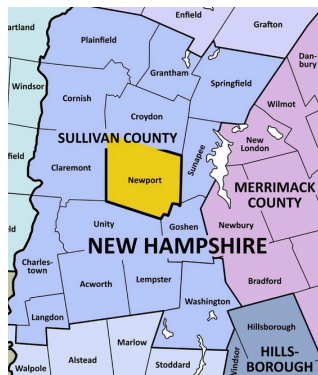
With deep gratitude and blessings,
Christy Schmidt, Director

OUR MISSION IN ACTION

- **The Newport Food Pantry is a ministry of the Newport Area Association of Churches.**
- Our primary task is to *acquire and distribute food and household/personal care items – and nutritional educational information – to families and individuals in need. [We are a supplemental food program.](#)*

The Pantry serves Newport and surrounding communities:

- Acworth
- Croydon
- Goshen
- Grantham
- Lempster
- Marlow
- Newbury
- Springfield
- Sunapee
- Unity
- Washington



Services to our community members are **a hand-up** – not a hand-out.

PROGRAM DEEP DIVE: REFRESH

Our first priority this year was to refresh our look. After 30 years, it was time to modernize and energize!

We rebranded - with new colors and new signage thanks to God & Country Workshop!

We repainted the exterior to align with our brand - ensuring everyone can find us at 95 South Main Street.

We refreshed the interior of our pantry as well - a team of volunteers spent over 300 hours painting, making repairs, constructing shelving, and refinishing our floors.

New decor highlighted our message: ***all are welcome.***

We next tackled our digital presence: launching our website and social media pages - & regular blog: Food for Thought.

And, to reach a new generation of donors, we secured a digital donation portal - ensuring our generous donors can give whether by cash, check, credit card - or digital gateway!

Yet, with every step forward, we continued to look back at our incredible history - remembering where we came from and those who made it possible.

Our efforts resulted in our passing our DHS and New Hampshire Food Bank inspections with flying colors!



**HOYT
CENTER**
—•—
95
South Main

PROGRAM DEEP DIVE: RENEW

Our next effort was to renew our mission: to combat food insecurity in our communities.

Our renewal began with **refurbishing our walk-in refrigeration and freezer units**. With a generous grant and several private donations, Walco (thank you!) has us up and running - with spare compressors so we never need worry about the safety of our food.

We **reconnected** with historic donors - like the O'Halloran Groups Ultra 1k, the Sunapee Region Board of Realtors, and Car Nutz Cruze Nights. We held a successful Crop Walk - thanks to South Church - and we could be found all summer at the Newport Farmer's Market.

The Newport Police, Shaw's, Feed the Freezer, and Ocean State continued cash and in-kind donations - and we formed **new relationships** with donors like The Big Spoon the The Elms.

We **revived** our Backpack Program - ensuring over 100 weekend meal kits were distributed each month to Newport kids for nutritious weekends!

And we **renewed our spirit**: connecting with the community through The Newport Times, The Steve Smith Podcast, and our 12 Days of Christmas food drive. We regularly advertised, posted to Facebook and Instagram and spread our message!



PROGRAM DEEP DIVE: **REJOICE!**

We will forever remember 2025
as the year to REJOICE!

Raised over \$122,000!

Hosted over 3,000 guests!

Reached 235 families!

Served 63,000+ meals!

Spent only 25¢ per meal!

Non-Profit of the Year!

Cover: *The Newport Times!*

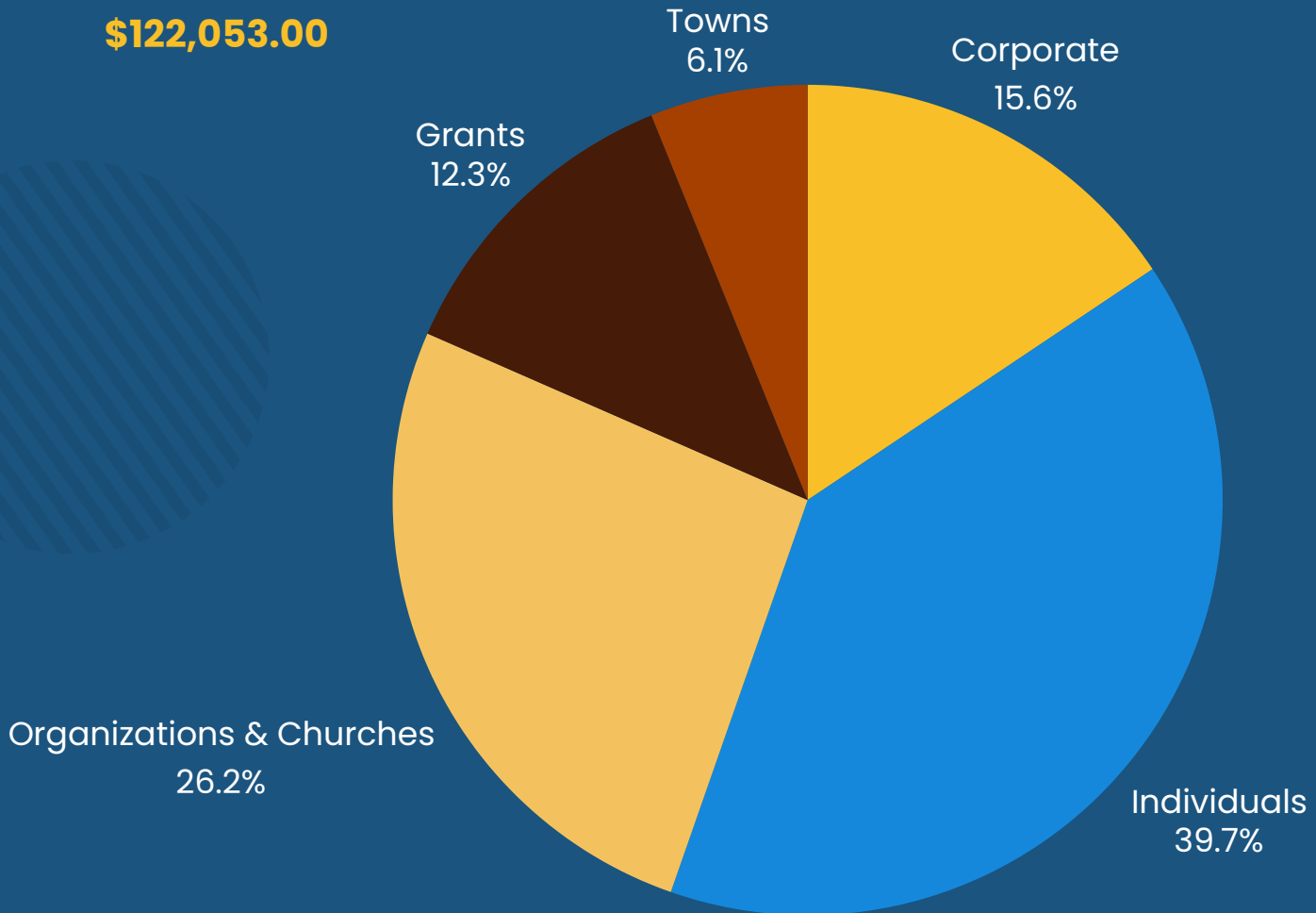
*Our message is reaching those who
need us. We are serving more
people in our community - and we
are doing it for pennies a serving!*



REVENUE & SUPPORT

TOTAL INCOME:*

\$122,053.00



Total income for 2025 was \$122,053.00 - with the highest donation percentage - 39.7% - from individuals.

Corporate Patrons:**

Avian Technologies
Car Nutz Cruise Nights
Hannaford's
Inspections by Eric
Legacy Mortgage
The LaValley Family
Newport Service Organization
NH Charitable Foundation
Newport Community Trust
O'Halloran Group
One Credit Union
Smith-Chmiel Family Foundation
Sunapee Region Board of Realtors
Sunapee Thrift Store
The Burkehaven Family Foundation

Town Partners:

Goshen
Grantham
Lempster
Newport
Washington

Church Patrons:

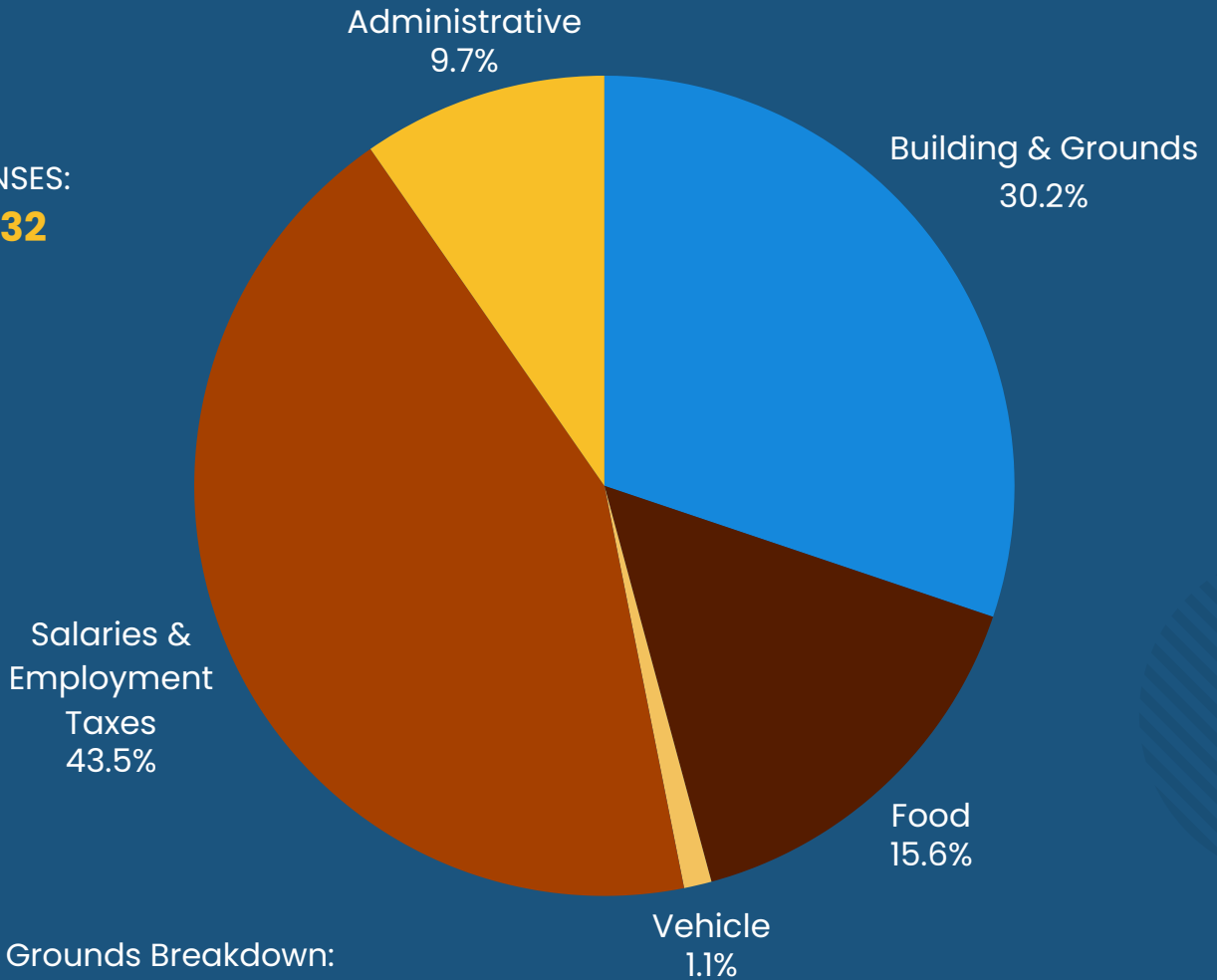
Croydon Church
First Baptist Church
Kearsarge Community Presbyterian
Saint Patrick
South Congregational

* As a cash-basis organization, 2025 donations do not include over \$20,000 received in 2025 but deposited in 2026.

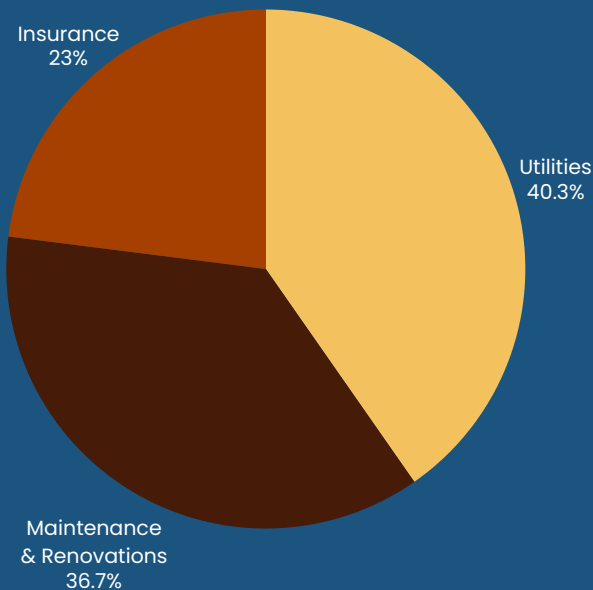
** Corporate Patrons have donated \$1,000.00 or more.

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$96,777.32



Building & Grounds Breakdown:
\$29,201

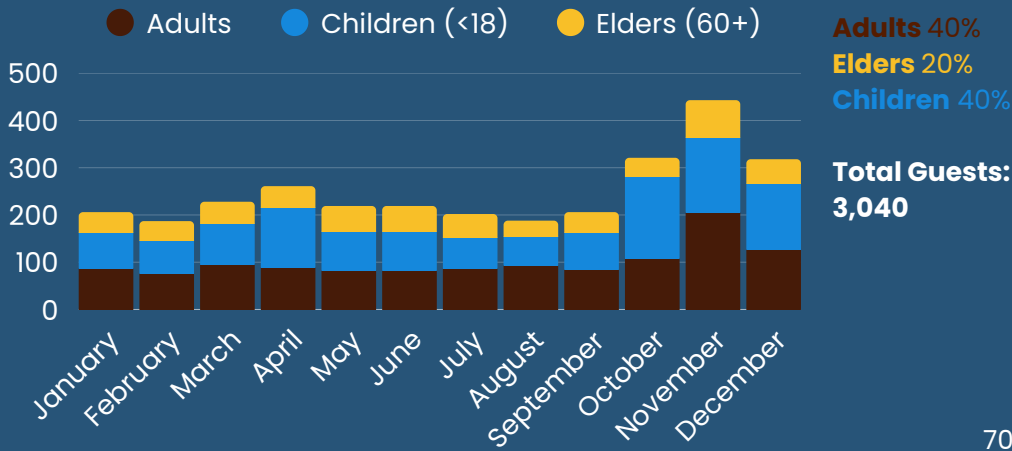


We spent \$15,115 for food - which primarily reflects costs for the acquisition of protein - meat, fish, poultry - often limited through the USDA or NH Food Bank.

Our administration expenses (which includes cost for donations) and salaries demonstrate excellent program ratios - we spend our money on our mission!

The atypical spike in building and grounds expenses included only \$3,500 for extensive renovations & over \$3,000 for refrigeration repair.

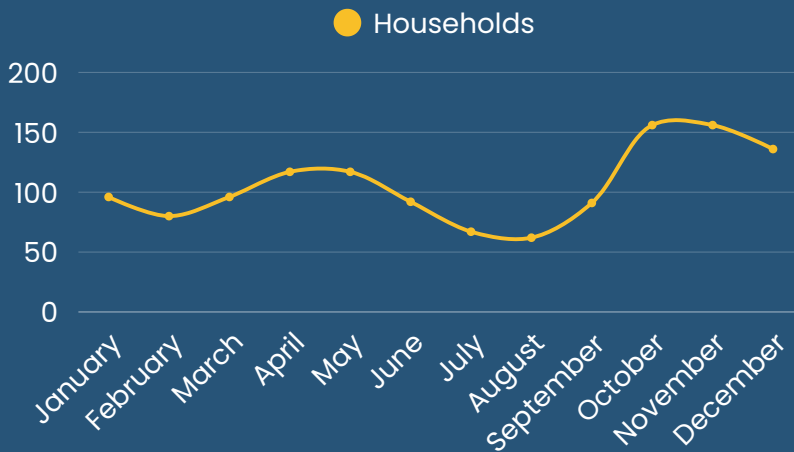
SERVICE



- Newport
- Goshen
- Croydon
- Lempster / Marlow
- Sunapee / Newbury
- Washington
- Acworth / Unity
- Springfield / Granth...

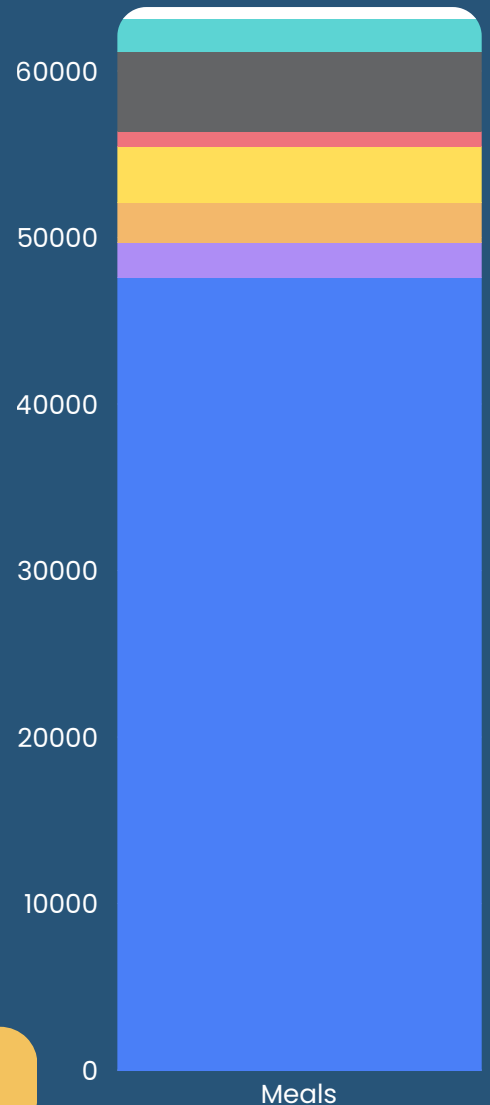
Percentages of children and elders served remain consistent at 40% and 20%, respectively. *Guests* are defined by the number of individuals served - but does not account for returning guests (an individual may receive a week's worth of meals every 3 weeks or 14 times yearly).

Total Meals: 63,840



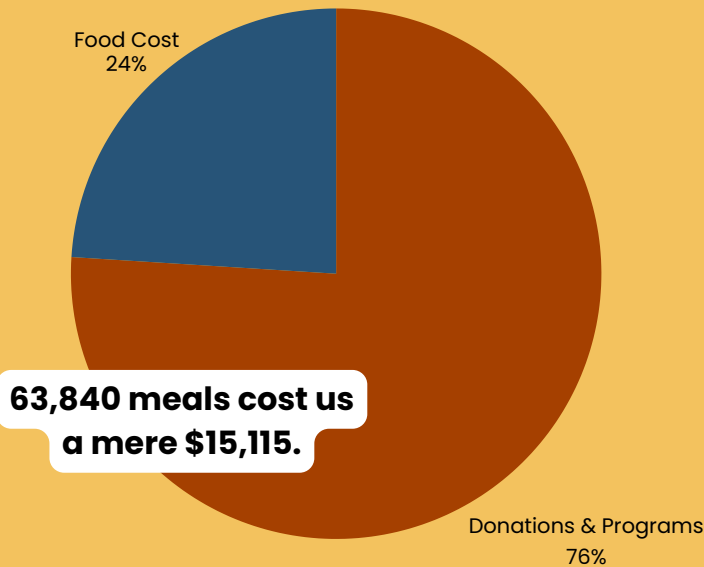
We saw an increase in households served due to several factors: (1) enhanced outreach; (2) economic challenges; & (3) the reduction in SNAP benefits. Spikes and dips may also indicate reliance on sister-programs and require additional data analysis over the next year.

A **meal** is nutritionally complete & includes a protein, carbohydrates, and fats (as directed by state and federal guidelines). A week's worth of meals is 21 individual servings (3 meals / day / 7 days).



EVALUATION

Although we celebrate our significant achievements for this year, we have room for improvement. Here are some things that we need to improve, including:



Close analysis informed us we also have cause for celebration - and provides us insight to what we are doing well:

01 Our SFE - Statement of Functional Expenses - demonstrates the Pantry spends nearly 97% directly related to our mission.

Of the \$96,77.32 spent, a mere 6% was spent on fundraising. Our SFE is almost 97%! (Anything over 85% is considered an excellent program ratio.) It costs us less than 5 cents to raise each \$1.00 - demonstrating we are highly efficient for our fundraising efforts. Additionally, staffing should be between 50 and 75% of total expenses and our staffing expenses are less than 44%.

02 Our cost per meal is a mere 24 cents - providing a powerful message for our donors. \$5.25 provides a week of meals for each person.

The most exciting finding for 2025 is that we are spending less than 25 cents per meal - which means we can feed a guest for a week (21 meals) for \$5.04! Note: The national average is approximately \$15.00 per person for a week of meals. We achieved this through careful selection of items from the NH Food Bank and USDA - significant in-kind donations, and budget-mindful shopping!

01 We are underserving community members experiencing food insecurity - especially those communities outside of Newport.

Our service statistics clearly indicate we are reaching an estimated 50% of the food-insecure in our 12 towns. We also note that we are underserving the 11 contiguous communities, likely due to accessibility challenges. Informal meetings also indicated many community members are unaware of pantry services.

02 Historic donations skew from Boomer and GenX individuals - informing management of the need to reach Millennials, GenZs, and Alphas through digital platforms.

Historically, the Food Pantry received cash and check donations - younger donors prefer digital donation platforms. While we have added a digital donation platform, many in our community are unaware of the service - or the ease of setting up recurring donations. To ensure sustainability, we will partner with charitable donor advised funds and local legal experts to assist donors in establishing donation vehicles - through charitable trusts and estate planning.

03 We need increased engagement from our corporate, church, & organizational partners.

Our corporate, church, and organizational supporters, while providing significant financial resources, would increase impact by sharing our message. We need for focus on engaging communication channels.

For every \$1.00 donated - 97 cents goes directly to our mission!

SERVICE:

- **Implement a volunteer delivery service.**
- **Launch fresh produce partnerships.**
- **Enhance guest service records.**
- **Add outreach volunteers & service hours.**
- **Create cooking, nutrition, and service videos.**

Our post-Covid service model will grow to meet rising demand by adding and training food-service volunteers. Better tracking and outreach will support reminder calls and delivery needs. We will also expand produce partnerships using our added refrigeration space, and our content team will create videos that educate our community.



OPERATIONS:

- **Finalize our service manual to ensure safe, consistent service.**
- **Launch a volunteer & student-intern program with clear onboarding.**
- **Renovate the second bathroom and install needed shelving.**

Our most exciting challenge is to grow our staff - where food-handling standards and guest privacy are top priorities. Our service manual will document training procedures and guidelines to ensure our volunteers are qualified, trained, & empowered. We also will include an internship program to nurture the next generation of community leaders. And we will complete our renovation program to prepare to serve more in our community in our efforts to eliminate food insecurity.

NEXT STEPS



DEVELOPMENT:

- **Build clear donor journeys that inspire long-term giving.**
- **Expand outreach through stronger digital promotion.**
- **Create meaningful donor tiers that deepen connection.**
- **Shift to quarterly donor communication.**
- **Enhance our donation and grant tracking.**

We recently published ideas and options for donor support to encourage sustained and long-term giving. We will enhance our digital platform promotion to reach new donors across generations and create donor tiers to celebrate every donor's efforts. We will also encourage corporate, organizational, and church partners to backlink to our website, follow us on social media, and share our message. And, to reduce printing and mailing expenses, we will shift from the monthly donor communication to a quarterly model - while publishing a digital monthly update to sustain communication with our community. We have implemented a donor catalogue system to enhance tracking in-kind donations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are a member of one of our sponsoring churches, consider board membership.

We also are asking our donors and network partners to consider the following actions:



Continue your generous donations - and investigate options for giving.

Spread the word: Share this report and our message with friends and family!

Follow & friend us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, & LinkedIn. Share our posts!

Add a backlink to our webpage from your website - we will return the favor!

Get involved: Attend our events, consider volunteering - or create your own fundraiser!

SCAN ME!





THANK YOU

*We thank God for His guidance and
we thank you for being the hands
and feet that carry out this mission.*

Our Volunteers:

The Bigelow Family
Linda Chapin
Tod Graham
Dave & Julie Heacock
Shaun Hathaway
The Labieniec Family
David McCrillis
Ron Miller
Jordan Noe
Steve Parks
Dave Schultz
John Wilcox
Kyle Young

Our Board and Member Churches:

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Newport
Rev. Susan Langle, Secretary
Valerie Benoit, Vice President
Mary Jannenga, Treasurer
First Baptist Church, Newport
Rev. Steve Hammond
First Congregational Church, UCC, Croydon
Pastor Erin Wessells
Jill Janas
Lynn Touchette
Saint Patrick RCC, Newport
Father Michael Sartori
Allyson Bigelow
Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church, Newport
Father James Katinas
South Congregational Church UCC, Newport
Rev. Daniel Adam, President
Bernice "Bunny" Perry
United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, Newport
Rev. Dr. Nancy Topelewski
Rev. Eldon Simpson
Rev. Elisabeth Smith

Our Programs Sponsors:

Catholic Charities
NH Food Bank
Southwestern Community Services
USDA