

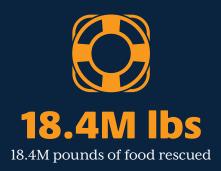








12.5M pounds of produce, 34 percent of all food distributed







### In conjunction with the Food Bank's 2023-2025 strategic plan,

we felt it was time to update our mission and vision statements to reflect the trajectory of the Food Bank. With the support and partnership of an engaged community, we know our work can transform lives. It is our goal to address the root causes of hunger and ensure we are helping our neighbors connect with resources beyond food.

Mission

To leverage the power of community to achieve lasting solutions to hunger and its root causes.



Communities where everyone has access to the food and resources they need to thrive.



# Establishing healthy roots starts with a plan.

Over the past year, our focus has been on preparing for the future while still meeting the current needs of our l1-county, three rivers region. This is not new for us, as we have always adapted and expanded to meet the changing needs of our community. However, the pandemic and its aftermath have made us recognize the need to look beyond traditional food banking to achieve lasting solutions to hunger and its root causes.

To achieve these lasting solutions, we have sought guidance from our community partners. In the last few years, we have had unique and exciting opportunities to grow and strengthen partnerships, explore new ways to reach our neighbors and identify areas where we can improve service. This knowledge has informed our FY 2023 – 2025 Strategic Plan, positioning us to be a more innovative and flexible organization that listens to and understands its neighbors and adapts to meet their needs.

With you by our side, we are excited to take the next steps towards creating communities where everyone has access to the food and resources they need to thrive. As you read the stories on the following pages, we hope you feel proud of the difference you are making for our neighbors facing hunger. None of this can be achieved without you.

Thank YOU on behalf of our organization and the communities we serve.

With gratitude,

Lisa a. Scales

**Lisa A. Scales** *President & CEO* 







Scan the QR code to see our FY2023 - FY 2025 Strategic Plan



# Innovating for the future of our region

As our neighbors are grappling with soaring inflation and reduced SNAP benefits, we return to the central questions that we asked before the pandemic hit: how can we meet the current needs of our communities quickly and efficiently? How do we achieve lasting solutions to hunger?

To remain a dynamic organization that innovates for the future, adapts to meet the changing needs of our community and elevates the expertise of our staff and network partners, the Food Bank has introduced two new programs – the Collective Impact Initiative and the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF).

The Collective Impact Initiative targets underserved communities and engages with a variety of community members and social service organizations, healthcare systems and other entities to identify and create sustainable solutions to the community's unique needs.

The SIF is a special financial reserve designated for funding the development of new pilot projects and ideas outside the Food Bank's regular operations. One project implemented this year is the Youth Café Market that provides free fresh produce, nutrition education activities and other learning opportunities to youth. This year the program distributed more than 2,200 pounds to more than 125 students in grades K – 12. With this success, we anticipate expanding the program in the coming year.

See the Youth Café Market in action at **pittsburghfoodbank.org/ycm**.

The Youth Café
Market distributed
2,200 + pounds of
produce to
125 + students









Sue and her husband Reg live in northern Allegheny County. After multiple heart attacks, Reg retired from his job as a heavy equipment mechanic. "He never worked union jobs or anything, so we really didn't have a pension to fall back on or even a 401(k)," Sue shares.

When emergency SNAP benefits expired, they lost more than \$400 a month in food assistance. The loss forced them to make tough choices. Reg started growing produce and hunting. "That \$400 bought our food. I had that to use towards extra utilities and other expenses," says Sue.

Sue and Reg also visit the Food Bank's Butler drive-up food distribution. To hear more of Sue and Reg's story, visit **pittsburghfoodbank.org/stories**.

# On-site pantry opens, makes immediate impact

Thanks to your support, The Market, in partnership with Giant Eagle, has opened its doors to the community just in time to help address a critical need.

When pandemic-era emergency federal SNAP benefits ended this year, many neighbors were left struggling to make ends meet amidst soaring inflation. Today, the average SNAP participant receives just \$5.45 a day.

Located at our warehouse in Duquesne, The Market takes a holistic approach to helping people with their immediate food needs while also serving as a learning lab to test new ideas before presenting them to our food assistance network.

"Some people who are working two or three jobs are still unable to get things like diapers and baby wipes. Families get a well-rounded selection of food and personal care items so hopefully they can put gas in their car and make it to and from work," shares pantry manager, Phylliss Johnson.

#### Features of The Market include:

- Access to a seven-day supply of free food and groceries including fresh produce, shelf stable and frozen foods as well as household and personal hygiene products. Individuals choose items that are most helpful to their household.
- Access to other essential services such as SNAP application, employment and utility assistance.
- Roster of classes and workshops on wellness, financial literacy, cooking and more.







of groceries including nearly

232,400 pounds
of produce to nearly

**12,400** people.

## **Chris**

Chris started volunteering with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in June of 2023 and has been a weekly regular ever since. Originally from England, Chris moved to Pittsburgh in 1996 and first became involved with the Food Bank as an individual donor. Chris volunteers in The Market weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday because he loves meeting people, working directly with neighbors and making a meaningful impact.

"I came here, just set up for a single, three-hour session and I kind of got hooked. The first time, I enjoyed it so much and I've been doing as much as I can since then."



# Filling the SNAP Gap

As the Food Bank's Director of Government Affairs, Colleen spends a lot of time talking to government officials to advocate for policies that improve access to food for those who need it most.

Many neighbors saw drastic reductions in the amount they receive in SNAP benefits when pandemic-era emergency SNAP benefits ended. This drastic reduction has made it hard for families to keep enough food on their tables.

In addition to ending emergency SNAP benefits, some officials considered even deeper cuts due to the federal debt ceiling, "but we're very opposed to that," says Young, "because making sure people have enough money to afford groceries is not a political negotiating tool."

Speaking out helps ensure that legislators get the message: helping our neighbors in need is a priority today, and addressing hunger's root causes is vital to reducing hunger tomorrow.

To learn more and get involved, visit  ${\bf pittsburghfoodbank.org/advocate}$ .







## Kalah

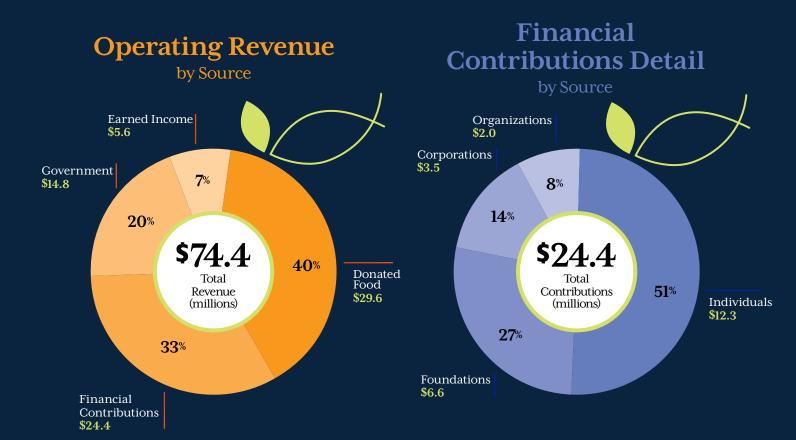
Kalah works but still struggles to make ends meet for her family. "My story is really, I think, like a lot of American stories right now. I got a better paying job and I make 50 bucks over the SNAP guidelines and so I got completely cut off. I don't get any type of assistance, so I don't have money to even grocery shop anymore."

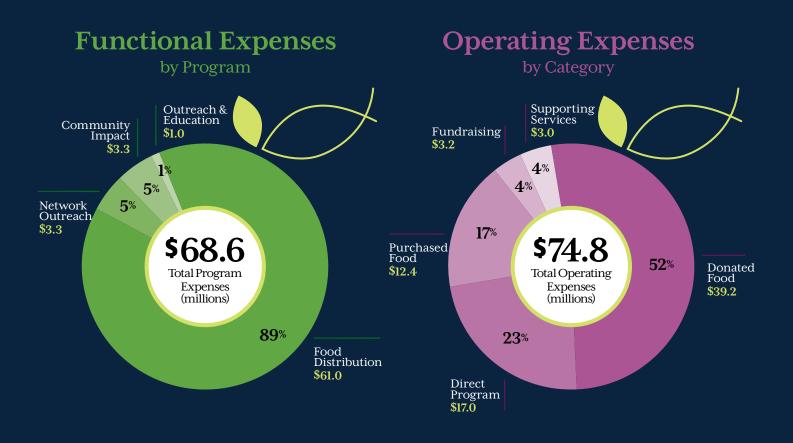
Drive-up distributions, The Market and her neighborhood pantries help keep food on the table for Kalah, her daughter and her beloved cat, Captain. "Not having food security is one of the scariest things outside of homelessness. I hope that donors feel good knowing that they help nourish families."

See more stories at pittsburghfoodbank.org/stories.



## 2023 Fiscal Year







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