



2021 South Utah County Annual Report

In Review

In 2021, with the help of generous donors and dedicated volunteers, our pantry remained open and provided immediate food assistance to over 7,000 local families. Although our pantries continue to provide food boxes through a drive-thru service; we have continued to explore ways in which to improve our services. We experienced a 10% decrease in fresh food donations from our local grocery stores and fewer registered food drives, systemic of an ongoing pandemic. Despite facing this significant challenge our pantry was able to provide nutrient-rich food boxes that included a consistent amount of eggs, milk, and cheese to every family. With the help of many schools, businesses, and concerned citizens who donated funds or held virtual food drives we were able to purchase fresh produce, meats, and other staples to supplement food donations. As an example, Spanish Fork Macey's helped raise nearly \$10,000 from local shoppers to purchase some of the food and essentials needed. This kind of support, and many others like it, has helped us close the gap between food shortages and meeting the needs of the families we serve. With grateful hearts, we are humbled by the support we have received and honored to help those we served. Our pantries are indeed community supported; we are neighbors helping neighbors.

The Need in Our Local Communities

Food insecurity is at 10.7% in the state of Utah, and 96% of families served were at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. Children remain one of the largest demographics we serve, representing 49.6% of the population served, and 5.4% were senior citizens.

The Key Metrics for 2021 - *May include individuals and households served more than once

7,351 Client households served	Approximately 1.29 Million meals provided
Food assistance for 28,777 family members*	991,341 pounds of food collected
Number of children received food: 14,292*	9,589 Volunteer service hours performed

Noteworthy News

- We received a grant award that allowed us to purchase \$75,000 in nutritious foods to supplement our pantry food boxes
- We lifted spirits during the holidays by providing 675 Thanksgiving, 350 Christmas dinners, and 430 Christmas stockings
- We partnered with Nebo, Provo, and Juab School Districts to provide 1,500 backpacks & 600 preschool kits to children
- We were selected as a finalist for the Chick-Fil-A True Inspiration Award for the Western Region and received \$50,000

Looking to the Future

With today's economic climate, more families in Utah County are at risk of facing food insecurity than the previous 12 years. Nearly 86% of households we serve have 2 or more jobs, however the dramatically increasing cost of many household expenses, such as housing, fuel, healthcare, and food, are now among the root causes of food insecurity. This means our organization will need to find ways to increase our capacity to efficiently meet the growing needs of the families hit hardest by rising costs of living. We care passionately about serving these families and are actively looking for ways to improve our services in ways that are safe for our clients, volunteers, and staff. It is our intention to provide as much nutritious and diverse foods as possible for these struggling families. We affirm our belief that no child or family in our community should go hungry. We envision creating a No Hunger Zone where no one ever has to face food insecurity because neighbors (citizens, businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations) have collectively taken responsibility to ensure no one faces food insecurity alone.

A heartfelt thank you to the many donors, partners, employees, volunteers, and neighbors for helping us reduce hunger and food insecurity locally in 2021. We thank you for your generosity and continued support, and invite you to share this message with your friends and family.

God Bless you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy Osborne".

Wendy Osborne , Executive Director