



NORTHSIDE
**FOOD
PANTRY**
ADVISORS

2022 Annual Report

2022: A Year in Review

What a year 2022 has been! As a new sense of normalcy begins to emerge from the global pandemic, the Northside Food Pantry Advisors (NFPA) continued to be nimble and drive an impact on addressing food access in our local North Side community both at the pantry and beyond. At the pantry, through the hard work of pantry employees and a multitude of dedicated volunteers, the Northside Food Pantry has been making a substantial impact on the lives of our Northside neighbors. While the pantry maintained its phone ordering system developed to meet the demands of the pandemic, the downtime was used to undergo much needed renovations. These renovations expanded vital food storage capacity and would not have been possible without the



generosity of our donors who continue to be vital to the North Side Food Pantry's success. As a result, we have enabled the pantry to serve an average of 290 households per month this past year! The Northside Food Pantry has been on a mission since the very beginning to not only feed our hungry neighbors but to also provide the same access to foods seen in grocery stores. We cannot wait to reopen our doors in 2023 and interact with our community face to face. We hope we'll see you there!

Outside of the pantry, one of NFPA's top priorities in 2022 was expanding access and availability of fresh, nutritional food to families of the Northside more broadly, as we recognize transportation continues to be a barrier of fresh food access. In June 2022, Northside Food Pantry Advisors launched the Free Produce Market in Northview Heights. From June to December 2022, NFPA successfully distributed over 1,400 orders and 900 boxes of produce to an average of 45+



families per week for 29 consecutive weeks. Through this program, NFPA continues to build an ongoing relationship with the Northview Heights community as a reliable partner and source of high quality, fresh produce as well as advance its mission of ensuring nutritional security to our neighbors. We hope that the consistent availability of fresh food allows families the opportunity to plan, eat well, and improve their health. Building upon these successes and maintaining the operation of the Free Produce Market in Northview Heights will continue to be a priority for Northside Food Pantry Advisors in the coming year.

OUR IMPACT: Client Survey Results

To make sure NFPA is doing its part in help the pantry to best meet clients' needs, NFPA conducted a survey to collect valuable input from food pantry clients about the quality of the services we've been providing. From a survey completed by approximately 250 customers, we discovered that 72% rely on the Northside Food Pantry for supplying the vast majority of their food. We were also responsible for providing 84% with most of their fresh produce. These insights, though informative, also highlighted the work still yet to be done, as we learned that during the pandemic 68% of our clients reported worrying about the possibility of food running out before they could afford to buy more and 64% had struggled to afford a balanced meal. From the answers given in the survey, we are working to further dismantle the barriers still existing for our customers which include access to transportation, expanding food choice, and providing additional community resources on nutrition and housing assistance.

THE FOOD PANTRY IS INTEGRAL TO HOW CLIENTS ACCESS FOOD

 **72%**

Get the majority of their household food from NFP

 **84%**

Rely on NFP for the majority of their fresh produce

 **68%**

Worried at some point that food would run out before they could afford to buy more

 **64%**

Struggled sometimes or often to afford a balanced meal in the last 18 months

CLIENTS HAVE CLEAR PREFERENCES & DESIRES FOR NFP'S OFFERINGS

TOP 5 FOOD ITEM PREFERENCES

MEAT
chicken, turkey, wings, bacon, more variety

PRODUCE
broccoli, green beans, field peas, lettuce, bell peppers

DAIRY
butter, eggs, creamer

FRUIT
apples, oranges, grapes, enhanced freshness

FISH
tuna, salmon

FOOD PREPARATION:

Majority of respondents indicated having a stove (96%), refrigerator (94%), microwave (90%), with none indicating they had no place to cook. Cooking oil was indicated as a need



ADDITIONAL NON-FOOD NEEDS

hand sanitizer, light bulbs, batteries, denture cream, deodorant, facemasks, press and seal wrap, shaving supplies, supplements

CLEANING SUPPLIES

TOILET PAPER

BATH SOAP

LAUNDRY DETERGENT

PAPER TOWELS

TOP 5 NON-FOOD ITEM PREFERENCES

Pantry Hours of Operation:

>85% of clients rated pantry hours of operation as "Excellent" or "Good"



WHO WE SERVED

Over the course of the year, we observed a 5% increase in the number of families seeking help from the food pantry compared to 2021, which may have been driven by the reduction of pandemic support from the government, inflationary pressures on household incomes, and a slowing job market. Given these shifts, we consistently served approximately the following groups on a monthly basis:



- **290** households
- **20** new clients
- **120** children
- **135** seniors
- **575** unique customer visits

As inflationary pressures continue and the macroeconomic environment remains uncertain, we anticipate continued increases in usage of the pantry in 2023. We look forward to building on the successes and innovations of the last year as we work to maintain our momentum and distinguished customer service.

VOLUNTEERS & CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

We would not have succeeded in 2022 without the dedication of volunteers and our corporate partners who showed up in person as well as volunteered from home. We are so grateful for you and your contributions.

Queequeg Foundation



Anonymous Fund No. 11



REUSABLE BAGS: If you are on our Northside Food Pantry Advisors email list, you have surely been notified about our need for bags. We are grateful for those who donated in 2022 and helped us meet this very important need. While we can't thank everyone who dropped off bags, special thanks to all of you who were instrumental in helping us meet our bag demand in 2022.

As we look forward to 2023, the need for bags remains, as they are key to the continued success of our curb-side service. We will be actively looking to expand our corporate partnerships to meet this pressing need. If you have reusable cloth bags or the heavy plastic grocery bags (found at Aldi and Target delivery), please drop them off at Northside Common Ministries.

OTHER LIMITED DONATIONS: We are grateful for all donations, but there are several products where we have a continued need to meet the demand of the families that we serve, including:

- Women's Hygiene Products
- Baking Soda
- Toothpaste
- Brownie Mix
- Chicken Noodle Soup

DRIVES: A special thank you to Calvary Methodist Church and the Allegheny Elks Lodge for coordinating drives in 2022 and helping received much needed items for our continued success.



DONATIONS IN HONOR AND MEMORY

Thanks to those of you who chose to honor loved ones in this way.

Donations were made in honor of the following

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Beth Boroumand | • Northside Food Pantry Volunteers |
| • Barbara and Les Gray | • Linus & Rupert |
| • Rachael Heisler | • Sara Haj-Hassan & Ben Sgroi |
| • Catherine and Robert Koehler | • Cathy Serventi |
| • Robert Miles | • Adam Wilson |

Donations were made in memory of the following

- Carol Baker
- Mary Alice Dykstra
- Michael Gargett
- Joan LaRue
- Carolyn McDuffie
- James "Jay" John Poliziani Jr.
- Carol Jo Seapker

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Darlene Rushing (2nd from Left)

Northside Food Pantry's ability to fulfill its mission is the result of steadfast dedication, commitment, and leadership by many over the years. Given this, we'd like to extend a special thanks to Darlene Rushing, who served for the last three years as our Executive Committee Chair. Since the inception of NFPA, Darlene has been an invaluable member of our team, dedicating her time and service to the Northside community for over a decade. We would like to send a special thanks to Darlene for her commitment, leadership, and immense kindness. You will be missed, although we know we all will see you around as you continue

to be a dedicated, community volunteer.

The Northside Food Pantry and Northside community also lost a dedicated leader in Jay Poliziani, as he passed away after a short battle with cancer in July of 2022. Jay Poliziani was the Executive Director of Northside Common Ministries until December 2021 and a longstanding advisor and cheer leader to the food pantry since its inception. Northside Common Ministries and Northside Food Pantry are better because of his life and legacy.



Jay Poliziani

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



Included in the Donor List below and noted by an asterisk are our 2022 recurring donors. By the end of 2022, we had 74 recurring monthly donors who were donating \$2,564 per month. In total, our donors contributed more than \$51,000 in 2022, of which \$40,409 came from recurring contributions. Our efforts would not be possible without our monthly donors, who are the backbone of our giving efforts and allow for stability in income from month to month.



Thank you to our 2022 Northside Food Pantry Advisors Donors

- Alex Pennington
- Alex Zanon*
- Alexa Alexander
- Alexandra Davenport
- Alison Hoff
- Allan Slider
- Allison Ebeck*
- Alta Upton
- Altagracia Langosh
- Alyson Walls
- Amber Morgan*
- Amy Roberts
- Anastasia Auer
- Ann & John Canning*
- Anna Roberts*
- Arlan Hess
- Arthur James*
- Barbara Talerico*
- Benjamin Sgroi*
- Betsy O'Neill*
- Bobi Shields-Farrelly*
- Carol Brenneisen
- Carole Robbins
- Carri Stec*
- Catherine Seventi & Eugene Wilson*
- Clare Horner*
- Colin Roper
- Collyn & Jameson O'Donnell*
- Corey Grone
- Courtney Baker
- Dan Callahan
- Dan Wintermantel*
- Darlene Rushing*
- Darylin Nagy*
- David Solosko*
- Deirdre Menchaca*
- Desmond Carpenter
- Diana Jones*
- Dr. Carol Schramke & Mr. Carson Lane
- Dr. Lauren Mazanowski*
- Dr. Sharon Cowden*
- Dylan Thompson
- Edward Venator*
- Eileen and Rich Arthurs
- Elaine Stone
- Ellen Mazo*
- Erin Guay & Douglas Kamper
- Florence Shaner
- Frances Reimers
- Georgia Brucker
- Geraldo Kling
- Grace Wright
- Gwendolyn Moorer*
- Heidi Pilewski
- James Mulick
- James Rizzo
- Jamie Rosenfeld
- Jana Thompson*
- Janet Davis
- Janet Gunter
- Jennifer James*
- Jerry Davis
- Jessica Beu*
- Jessica Stanfill
- Jill Kriesky
- Jim & Susan Badaracco
- Joan Kimmel*
- Jocelyn Horner*
- John Bolanos
- John Engle
- John Francona*
- John Haluszczak*
- John Hillman*
- John Mcllvaine
- Jonathan Lusin
- Jonathan Rosenson
- Joseph Balestrino
- Joseph Iannotta
- Joshua Horwitz
- Joshua Moore
- Judith Bercik
- Karalyn Smith*
- Karen Gonzales*
- Karen Rasmussen
- Katharina Nader
- Katherine Crawford
- Katherine French*
- Katherine Wagner
- Kathleen Deis*
- Kathy Heisler
- Katy Sawyer
- Kent Hensley
- Kim Falk
- Kimberly Giles*
- Konn Lam-Jenkins
- Kyle Ketchesin*
- Lauren Smith
- Laurie Klanchar*
- Leah Kaighn*
- Leslie Ward*
- Linda Ehrlich*
- Linda Hagen
- Lisa Schroth Larue
- Lukas Loy
- Lynne Weber*
- Marian Porac*
- Marie Engberg*
- Marjolijn Rietsema*
- Martha Lilly*
- Matt & Tiffany Merriman-Preston
- Matthew Reed*
- Michael & Valorie Colligan
- Michael Mikula
- Michael Sparlin
- Michele Girdany
- Michelena Wolf*
- Michelle Lynch*
- Moira Edmiston*
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Iannotta*
- Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Hicks*
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sheleheda*
- Myrtie Mcglynn
- Nancy Small
- Nikki Serra
- Pam Kuhns
- Pamela Kresson
- Patrick Dexter
- Patt Ledewitz
- Rachael Heisler*
- Randi Marshak*
- Randy Strothman*
- Rebecca Hooman
- Rebecca Morris
- Rebecca Obley
- Rebecca Spevack*
- Renee Brown*
- Reyne Jablonski
- Richard Coleman
- Richard Worl
- Rupert Nitzsche
- Sagar Thakur
- Sarah Minnaert*
- Sarah Olexsak
- Shanelle Dawkins Lane
- Shelly Ferris*
- Stephen Schrom
- Sue D'Nihm
- Susan & Augie Carlino*
- Susan & Bill Steen
- The Morse Family
- Timothy Altimus
- Timothy Foster
- Timothy Younger*
- Tod & Connie Aronson
- Tom Capkovic*
- Wendy Scott
- William O'Donnell
- Women of the War Streets
- Zandrea Ambrose*

* indicates a reoccurring donor

ABOUT



The Northside Food Pantry Advisors serve as a “friend of” organization for the Northside Food Pantry, which allows flexibility with the immediate purchase of items in need. Our efforts are 100% volunteer and funds raised go towards the purchase of produce, dry goods, and household essentials, like toilet paper. Under the fiscal sponsorship of United Methodist Church Union, financial donations to NFPA are fully tax-deductible.

The 2022 executive committee roster was comprised of the following individuals: Cheri Pogue, Carri Stec, Collyn O’Donnell, Jana

Thompson, Karalyn Smith, Kimberly Giles, Rachael Heisler, Renee Brown, Sarah Minnaert, Ben Sgroi, Dr. Sharon Cowden, and Darlene Rushing.



THANK YOU

