

Stability and Faithfulness: 2022 Year End Report



**Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church
Food Pantry**

Report Overview

Stability:

- Twice monthly distributions
- Relatively steady attendance
- Sufficient food and resources
- Healthy food pantry fund to continue into 2023
- Continued help from volunteers

Faithfulness:

- On going support from Montgomery County Government
- Ongoing support from Jewish community
- Increased commitment from St. Andrew Apostle
- God's abundance grace in these relationships and in all areas of food pantry operations

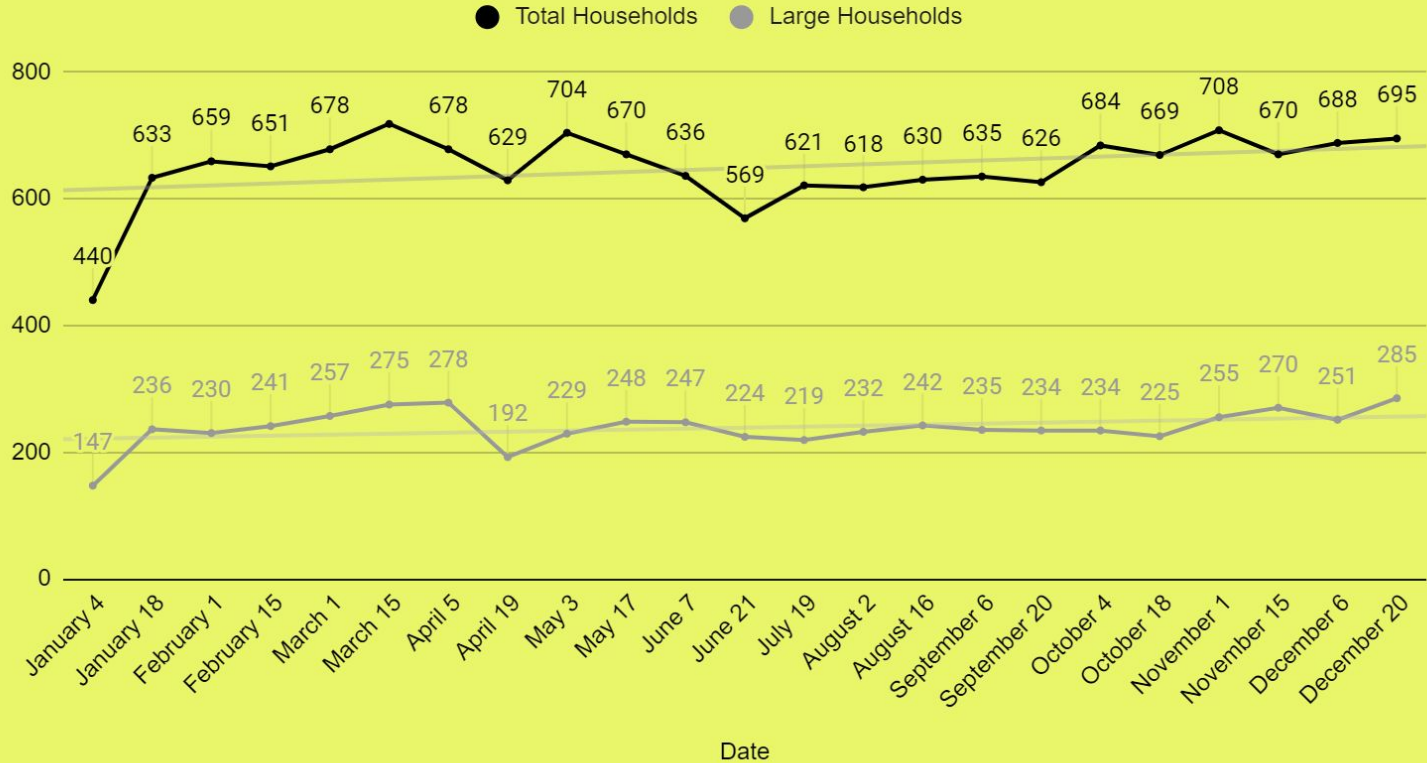


Summary of 2021 vs. 2022

In 2021 the food pantry had 41 distributions, compared to 23 in 2022. This accounts for much of the drop in the total number of households served and the total amount of food distributed. The total amount of donated food dropped by almost one-third, mostly due to drops in donations from businesses.

	2021	2022
Total Households Served	27,388	14,909
Average Households Served	668	648
Total pounds of food distributed	594,572	389,190
Average pounds per household	29	26
Total pounds donated	61,473	21,330
Total Food Pantry Fund ending balance	\$19,107	\$23,626

2022 Food Pantry Attendance



Overall attendance trended up during 2022, while the number of large households stayed about steady. About 37% of households that the pantry served in 2022 were large households (i.e., households of six or more people.)

Attendance by Zip Code

Households that attended the food pantry continued to come from local areas, with 40% coming from the church's zip code. 20906 and 20901, the only two other zipcodes to have more than 10% of households attending, made up another 32% of households served. Both zip codes are adjacent to 20902.

Zipcode	%
20902	40.2%
20906	20.4%
20901	11.8%
Other Montgomery County	20.8%
Other Counties	7.0%

According to data from the Capital Area Food Bank and Montgomery County's Food Stat data system, the three zip codes we served most overlap with areas of the county with high food insecurity rates.

Faithful Support: Food and Funding Sources

Source of Support	Food and Funds
Montgomery County Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● January - June: Direct purchase of shelf stable foods and produce● August - November: \$67,000 for food purchases at the CAFB
CAFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Free delivery● 320 free produce boxes at 17 of 23 distributions
Food Pantry Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$13,688 for food at food bank● \$14,301 for produce● \$3,535 for supplies
General Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● \$10,893 for salary and wages● \$9,375 for food

Food Pantry Expenses and Receipts, 2022

Summary of Food Pantry Fund Expenses and Receipts	
Beginning Balance	\$19,107
Receipts	\$35,993
Total Expenses	\$31,523
CAFB	\$13,688
Produce	\$14,301
Supplies	\$3,535
Balance	\$23,626
Summary of General Fund Expenses	
Total Expenses	\$20,268
Salary and Wages	\$10,893
Food	\$9,375
Supplies	\$0
Total Food Pantry Expenses	\$51,792



DCCRC	\$10,036
SSCRC	\$7,380
St. Andrew Apostle	\$1000
Other	\$17,577

Faithful Volunteers

Who:

- Our congregation
- Jewish neighbors
- St. Andrew Apostle School and Parish
- Northwood High School National Honor Society
- DCCRC
- Other neighbors, churches, students, and participants

Average Number per Distribution: 62

Average Hours per Distribution: 125



8th grade students from St. Andrew Apostle came to set up produce and pack bags of food throughout the 2021-22 school year. Here, they enjoy a celebration of that work with end-of-the-year treats. Class of '23 has taken over for them and now serves in the same way.

Faithful in Thanks

In March, County Executive Elrich and Council President Albornoz visited Silver Spring Christian Reformed Church to give an address to thank all food assistance providers and volunteers for their efforts during the previous two years. Many SSCRC pantry volunteers and representatives from other food providers throughout the county attended.

The event also gave SSCRC an opportunity to publicly thank all those who have supported the pantry and recognize God's faithfulness.

We are deeply grateful to the County for all the ways that they have assisted us - and through us our neighbors - without complication, without strings, and with responsiveness.



Faithful in Evaluation

In May we surveyed participants, volunteers, and the congregation regarding the impact of the food pantry. The overall results were positive, and comments from them will inform choices about pantry operations going forward. This table highlights a few findings.

Participants

Participants were overwhelmingly satisfied with the food we provide, particularly fresh fruits and veggies, white rice, and beans. They also expressed satisfaction with how the pantry operates.

Volunteers

Volunteers described the pantry as well organized and meeting a real community need. Their descriptions also suggest that volunteers find the experience personally meaningful. In particular, volunteers regularly mentioned that the food pantry provides a sense of connectedness in the community.

Congregation

Respondents identified two main benefits of the food pantry for the community - providing food to address a community need and fostering connections in the neighborhood. Concerns centered around sustainability and finding more ways to share the gospel in a more direct way.

Faithful in Partnership

- Feminine Hygiene
 - Partnered with I Support the Girls to distribute feminine hygiene items in February
- Immigration Assistance Clinics
 - American Legal Immigration Center did outreach and conducted three clinics at our church in March
- Arcola Elementary School
 - We passed on donations of baby items and bras that we could not distribute
 - We advertised their Kindergarten Round Up in April
- Domestic Violence Awareness
 - Provided resource cards and flyers in February and October
- Nutrition information
 - Provided recipes from the CAFB and the University of Maryland Extension (UMd also provided complementary paper bags)
- Other resources
 - Provided flyers with general county resource information in February and July



Faithful in Witness

- Fall Festival
 - We invited everyone who attended the food pantry the week before. Several people showed up because of that invitation.
- 376 Facebook followers
 - We don't know most of them, but some follow for food pantry news and now see the new posts about our church's worship opportunities as well.
- Active and visible example to the community of what a church is (p.s. I don't know the person who sent this note and donation)



Faithful in Encouragement



*With Awe and Gratitude
January 2022*

Lisa Rother
Paper and produce bags

Lisa has served faithfully as a produce packer on Tuesday mornings since October 2020. She gifted this artwork as a way to help us all remember what we have done together for this community.

Faithful in Anticipation

Renewed Support

- \$50,000 from the County to use at the Food Bank before April 30
- Renewed contract to received 320 produce boxes for each distribution through May
- Renewed permit for Wheaton Ice Rink overflow lot

Future Exploration and Proposals

- New planning team
- Exploration of how to create sustainable and faithful pantry for the future
- Basic proposal:
 - Once a month community-wide distribution
 - Once a month choice distribution by referral from local schools
- Partnership with Love Inc MoCo

Faithful in Prayer



We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

As covenant partners,
set free for joyful obedience,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God's work in the world.

With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.

We are confident
that the light

which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth
when Christ appears.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Our world belongs to you.

Amen