

SSCRC Food Pantry 2015 End of Year Report



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This report provides an overview of the activities, services, and costs of the SSCRC Food Pantry in 2015. It is divided into three sections: Summary of Food Pantry Activities and Goals, Participant Household Data, and Food Cost Data.

Highlights from the report include:

- We served a total of 942 households in 2015. On average, we served 79 households per month.
- The 942 households served represented 289 different households. Of these, 145 households came to the food pantry for the first time in 2105.
- Of the 289 different households served, 130 came to the food pantry one time. Of the remaining 159 households, the average household came five times.
- About one-third of the households we served had five or more people living in the household. Children represented 37% of individuals served while women represented 34% and men 29%.
- Just under half (47%) the households we served reported addresses that were in the church's zip code. Another 30% of households lived in zip codes adjacent to church's zip code.
- In 2015, we received over 41,000 lbs. of food from the Capital Area Food Bank at an average cost of \$0.15 per pound.
- On average, households received about 37 lbs. of food, which cost us an average of \$5.57 per household.

Summary of Food Pantry Activities and Goals

In 2015, the food pantry successfully met the challenges of new leadership and the need to expand its volunteer base. The food pantry has also made a few small changes to improve our services and hospitality to those we serve.

First, the food pantry shifted from being an all-volunteer program to a program with a paid director in April. With this change, fewer volunteers were needed for the regular operation of the food pantry. In particular, the director took on the operational tasks of the previous food pantry coordinator as well as the tasks of the volunteer coordinator. Beginning in 2016, the director has also assumed responsibility for coordinating drivers, which was previously handled by a separate coordinator.

In addition, when the director was hired, the Food Pantry Team chose to disband. This team was initially established to start the food pantry, and they felt that this task had been completed. In order to maintain regular input on operations, the director recruited people to participate on a Food Pantry Operations Team. Two people joined the director on this team. The operations team meets quarterly to discuss current operations of the food pantry and improvements or changes that can be made to the food pantry program. It is a subgroup of the Micah 6:8 team.

Second, the food pantry has successfully recruited new volunteers for the distribution time. While we had a committed group of church volunteers, the demands of the food pantry for volunteers were becoming more difficult to meet. Beginning in May, we started having food pantry participants as volunteers. At this point we have had 11 participants volunteer, with as many as seven of them volunteering in a month. In addition, we have increased the number of high school student volunteers by continuing a relationship with Northwood High School that started in 2014 and by beginning to recruit volunteers county-wide through the Montgomery County Volunteer Center. Lately we often have more volunteers available for distribution than we need, and it is not uncommon for more of the volunteers to be community volunteers than church volunteers. We look forward to strengthening these new relationships.

Finally, we made a few small changes to operations that increased our hospitality and our quality of service. In May, we began serving water to participants. Many participants wait for 1 – 2 hours to receive food, and this gesture has especially been appreciated in the warm summer months. In late summer, we also began offering a resource table with flyers about other community services, including legal services, education, English classes, housing, and other food resources.

In 2016, we hope to build on the success of the last year. In 2016 we hope to apply for grant funding to augment the food pantry services by offering more culturally appropriate and healthy foods. We would also like to expand participant input regarding the food pantry, and explore more ways to help participants connect with other resources in the community.

Participant Household Data

As shown in Table 1, in 2015 we served a total of 942 households, which included 145 new households. On average, we served 79 households per month, and 12 of them were new.

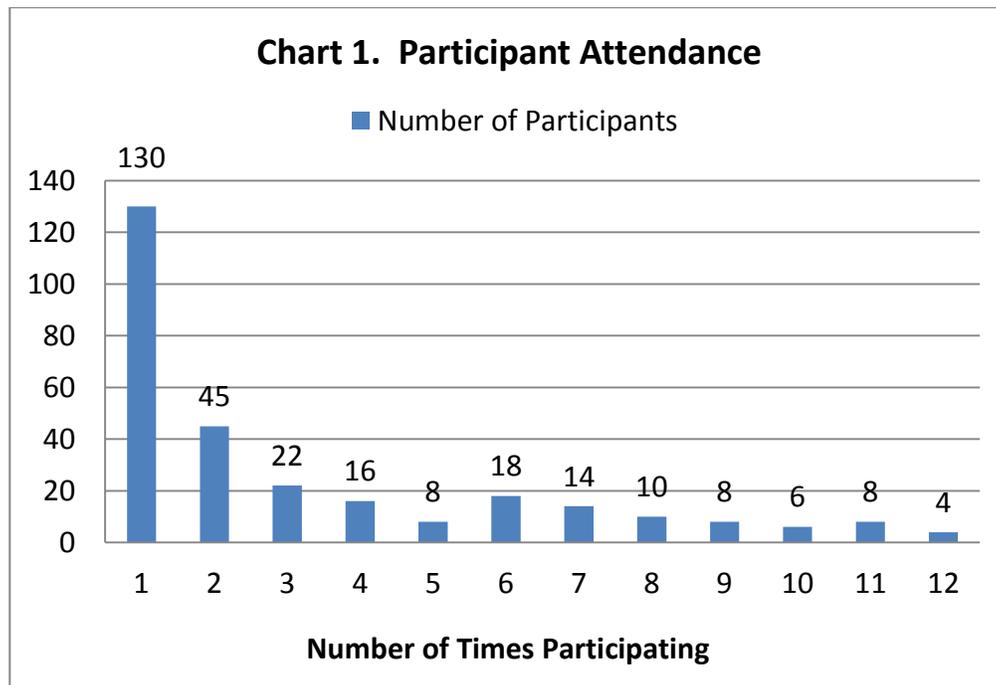
These numbers include all households served each month. Most households came more than once during the year, so they are counted more than once in the total number of households. To better understand how we are serving the community, it is helpful to look at the number of unique households we served. Specifically, we served 289 different households in 2015.

Table 1. Overview of Households Served

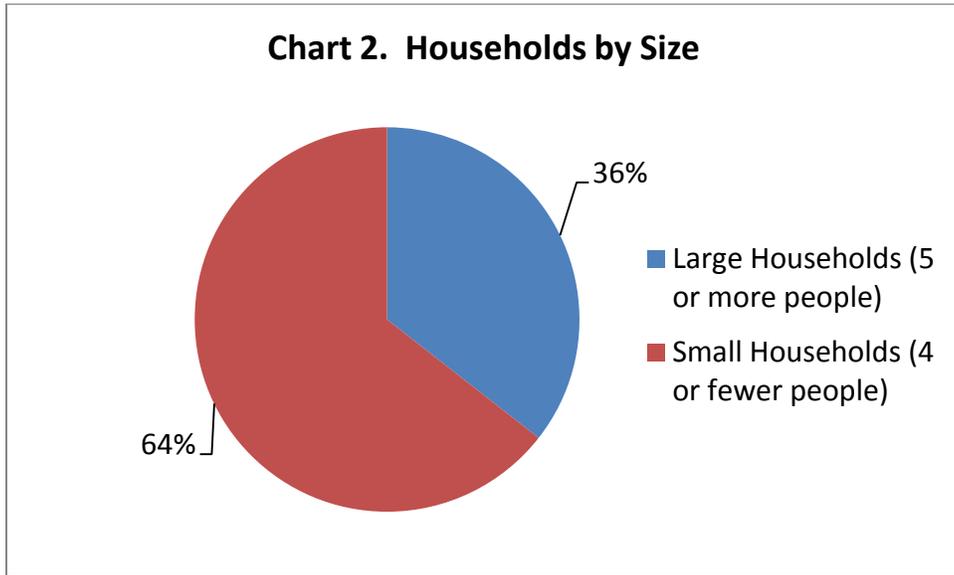
	Total	Monthly Average
Total Households	942	79
New Households	145	12
Unique Households	289	--

Chart 1, below, shows how often households came to the food pantry. Of the 289 different households that came to the food pantry in 2015, 130 (45%) of them came just one time. People who came once include new participants as well as participants who came in the past but came only once this year. For example, we had several people attend in November who had not attended since the previous November.

Of the remaining 159 households, the average participant came to the food pantry five times.



The size of the households that we serve affects the amount of food that we order and distribute each month. We define a large household as one for which a food pantry participant reports at least five people living in the household. These households are permitted to take double the amount of some food items. On a monthly basis, 35% of the households served are large households.



We have also asked participants to provide the number of men, women, and children in their household. The table below presents the number of unique men, women, and children served. In 2015, participants reported a total of 1,173 people in their households. Of these, 37 percent were children, 34 percent were women, and 29 percent were men.

Table 2. Household Characteristics

	#	%
Children	432	37%
Women	401	34%
Men	340	29%
Total Individuals Served	1,173	100%

Our aim is to be a food pantry that serves primarily people who live in the community near church. However, we do not require people to live in a particular zip code or set of zip codes to receive food. Table 3, below, shows that 47 percent of the households we served in 2015 were from the church’s 20902 zip codes. Another 30 percent of the households served were from zip codes adjacent to the church’s zip code. About a quarter (23%) were from other zip codes.

Table 4. Zip Code Distribution

	#	%
Church	136	47%
Adjacent*	87	30%
Other	66	23%
Total	289	100%

*20901, 20904, 20906, 20910, 20895

Food Costs

The food we distribute at the food pantry comes from the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB). As shown in Table 4, in 2015 we received 41,039 pounds of food for a cost of \$6,110. On average, this food cost us \$0.15 per pound.

The food we receive is priced in three different ways:

- Produce and bread are free. The amount of produce and bread varies widely from month to month.
- Foods donated to the CAFB cost us \$0.19 per pound. The shelf stable items we receive are usually from this category.
- Foods purchased by the CAFB vary in cost to us but are more than \$0.19 per pound. We occasionally select items from this category to fill a need that we cannot fill from the donated foods.

Table 5. Food Costs

	Pounds Received	Cost	Cost per Pound
Shelf Stable	30,309	\$6,110	\$0.20
Produce	10,006	\$0	\$0.00
Bread	724	\$0	\$0.00
Total	41,039	\$6,110	\$0.15

Before participants leave the food pantry, we weigh the food they have selected. Table 5, below, shows the average number of pounds of food received per household during the food pantry distribution as well as the average cost per household. On average, households received 37.4 pounds of food, which cost us \$5.57 per household.

Table 6. Pounds Distributed and Cost per Household

	#/\$
Number of Households	942
Pounds Distributed	35,225
Average Pounds per Household	37.4
Average Cost*	\$5.57

* Average number of pounds per household times the average cost per pound of food in 2015 (Table 5)

Note that the amount of food distributed was less than what we received from the CAFB. Four known factors contribute to this difference:

- Some produce is spoiled and cannot be distributed.
- Some produce is left over after our regular monthly distribution. This produce is sent to Arcola Towers the next day, but we have not been in the practice of weighing it.
- Occasionally, participants leave without having their food weighed. We have changed our practices at the food pantry in the last few months and we believe fewer people have been leaving without getting their food weighed.
- Some food is carried over in the next month, so in this case we have a significant quantity of food left over from December which was purchased in 2015 but will be distributed in 2016.