

2022 Annual Report



Nourishing Our Neighbors





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South Community FOOD PANTRY

413.464.8042 110 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201





 $south community foodpantry. or g\\info@south community foodpantry. or g\\$

Photos: Nancy Cook



Dear Neighbors

South Community Food Pantry is the largest food pantry in Berkshire County, and the only pantry that offers weekly home deliveries to the elderly, disabled, and those without access to transportation. Our volunteers currently deliver to more than 350 households each week — a number that keeps increasing.

With the tremendous increase in food insecurity in our community and the rising cost of the nutritious food that we provide, we need support more than ever to continue this vital work.

The cost for purchasing milk, eggs, and fresh fruits and vegetables now averages over \$12,000 a month!

The Food Pantry has secured several generous grants for facility and equipment improvements this year. However, few grants actually allow for the purchase of food to stock our shelves.

Our pantry is a completely volunteer organization. Every dollar donated is used to purchase food to provide comfort and security to our neighbors.

We are inspired by the many ways that diverse people and organizations regularly come together to support South Community Food Pantry and our mission. I invite all of you to join us in *nourishing our neighbors*.

Thank you,

Mary Wheat President

An established organization with a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit status!

The Food Pantry at South Congregational Church became South Community Food Pantry in 2022 and is now its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity organization (EIN: 92-2018906).

Special thanks to Jeff Belair at Smith, Watson & Company, LLP and Jesse Cook-Dubin at Cohen Kinne Valicenti & Cook LLP for helping us navigate this complicated process.

2022 Board of Directors

Mary B. Wheat President

Pamela L. Kueppers Treasurer

Susan Kaufman Clerk Nancy Cook Elizabeth Crane Gretchen DeBartolo Rev. Michael O. Denton Susan B. Filippi

Barbara L. Johnson Char L. Parron Mary Ellen Puntin Mary L. Rentz Thomas B. Sherman

About

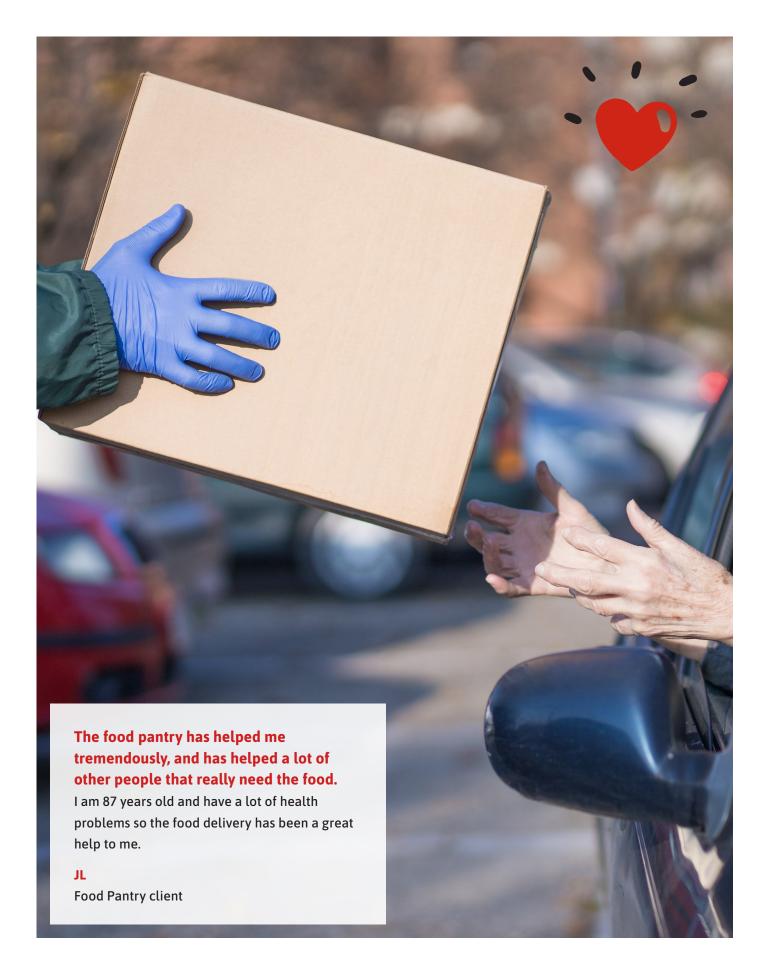
...from serving a few families per week to more than 1,000 families each week.

South Community Food Pantry began in the 1990s as an outgrowth of the weekly meal at South Congregational Church Pittsfield. 12 emergency bags of groceries were available after the meal — from there, it grew. Bags were distributed from the church office, and then from the Red Carpet area of the church through the first decade of the 2000s. Around 2010 the Pantry moved downstairs to spacious Barrett Hall and joined the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts shortly thereafter. It has grown from serving a few families per week to over 1,000 families per week thanks to a dedicated and caring all-volunteer team.

Mission

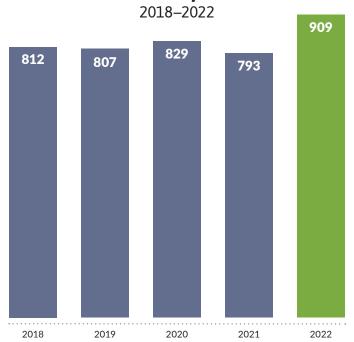
It is our hope to provide for our neighbors in the spirit of generosity, respect, kindness and acceptance so that no one in our community goes to bed hungry.

South Community Food Pantry came about from an intention, and was brought to life by community members who shared the vision. We welcome individuals from the larger community to assist in fulfilling this mission with their time, talents, and donations.

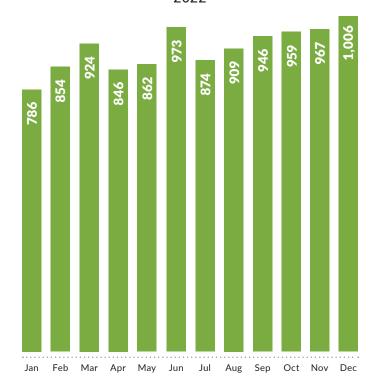


By the Numbers

Average Monthly Households Served by Year



Households Served by Month



2022 SNAPSHOT

1,000

Average Weekly Households Served

including more than 400 weekly home deliveries

120

Weekly Volunteers

\$0

Food Pantry Payroll

120

Average Number of Grab-and-Go Breakfasts Served

each day on Wednesdays & Thursdays

12,895

Breakfasts & Dinners Served

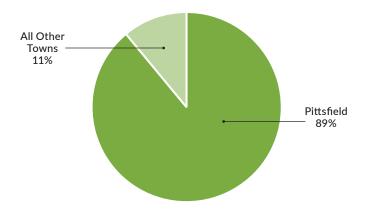
80

Average Number of Grab-and-Go Dinners Served

each Wednesday night

Everyone appreciates the great job these volunteers do — in all kinds of weather! It really makes a difference in your groceries. And most of us do not get out any more, so this [delivery] is a great help. **EM** Food Pantry client

Client Household Location



2022 Household Location Demographics

(January 1 - December 31, 2022)

City/Town	Number of Households
Pittsfield	1583
Adams	26
Cheshire	23
Springfield	23
Lanesborough	21
North Adams	15
Dalton	14
Hinsdale	10
Lee	10
Becket	9
Lenox	6
Stockbridge	6
Otis	5
Great Barrington	4
Sheffield	3
East Otis	2
Peru	2
West Stockbridge	2
Bennington, VT	1
Brainard	1
Florida	1
Holyoke	1
Indian Orchard	1
Savoy	1
Stephentown, NY	1
Tolland	1
West Springfield	1
Williamstown	1
Windsor	1
Total Households Served	1775

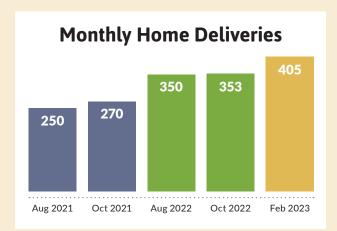


Food Delivery — an Increasing Need

South Community Food Pantry is the only food pantry in the area that offers delivery service.

During the pandemic, the Pantry began delivering food to 10 families who could not come to the Pantry in person. We have continued to expand this service, filling a void in the Pittsfield area.

The Pantry's delivery service alleviates the systemic and physical barriers that our community members face in accessing nutritious food — including transportation, language and cultural barriers, and mental and physical limitations. Many clients do not own a vehicle (the Berkshires have limited public transportation), and many have limited access to childcare. We have heard numerous stories from our clients about lost incomes and having to choose between basic needs.



Despite easing pandemic restrictions, requests for food delivery continue to increase. There is an ongoing need for this service to reach the elderly, disabled, and those without transportation.

Through our partnerships and home deliveries we access a large portion of the food-insecure Pittsfield population who would not otherwise have consistent access to nutritious food.

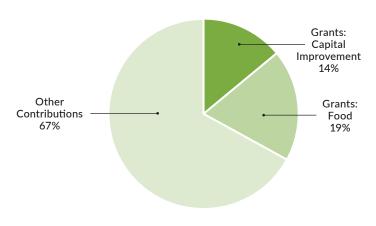
A time-intensive process.

Volunteers pack delivery boxes specific to each family's needs. This helps avoid waste and addresses food allergies and dietary restrictions. This process is time intensive. More than 60 volunteers donate their time each week for the packing/delivery process alone.

As an added benefit, our delivery volunteers provide a weekly personal contact, or well-check, for some of the more isolated seniors. Our volunteers often assist clients in finding other resources — fuel assistance, mental health counseling, housing issues. Sometimes they just offer a listening ear.

Finances

2022 Income



Grants & Donations

(January 1 - December 31, 2022)

Grants: Capital Improvement	
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts ✓ 2023 Project TBD	\$3,700
Feigenbaum Foundation ✓ Elevator Repair Project	\$10,000
Anonymous Donor ✓ Elevator Repair Project	\$20,000
Total Grants: Capital Improvement	\$33,700

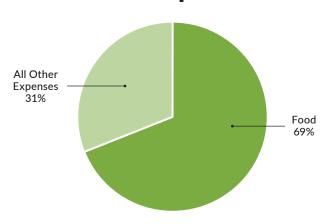
Grants: Food

Total Income

Grants: Food	
Lee Bank	\$5,000
Emergency Food & Shelter Program	\$19,998
Anonymous Donor	\$20,000
Total Grants: Food	\$44,988
Other Contributions	
Other Contributions Individual & Corporate Donations	\$164,331
	\$164,331 \$100,000

\$343,019

2022 Expenses



Operating Expenses

(January 1 - December 31, 2022)

Food	\$159,599
In-Kind Donations Distribution	\$100,000
Paper/Cleaning Products	\$18,868
Building Use Donation	\$12,000
Appliances	\$11,064
Support Services	\$5,807
Transportation	\$4,206
Trash/Dumpster	\$4,161
Computer Equipment	\$3,398
Parking/Plowing	\$3,233
Repairs	\$2,873
Other Maintenance	\$2,872
Other Equipment	\$1,410
Holiday Gifts	\$912
Advertising	\$412
Office Supplies	\$363
Fees	\$314
Total Expenses	\$331,491

2022 Improvements

Elevator Repair Project

South Community Food Pantry is the largest food pantry distribution in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, serving over 1,000 families each week.

To make this happen, nearly 83 thousand pounds of food are delivered to the pantry every month!

The elevator used to move the food donations from the lower delivery location to the first-floor food pantry was never intented for such constant, heavy usage. To keep the food pantry running, the elevator requires **frequent repair**, which is both costly and disruptive. There are also **safety concerns** for our food pantry volunteers who must use this elevator.

We received an anonymous grant and individual donations that funded major repairs to the food pantry delivery elevator, which will allow us to upgrade its performance and safety.

In Progress

Thanks to **generous grants**, we are making the following improvements in 2023:

- Barrett Hall stage area remodeled and repurposed for food storage
- Electrical upgrades
- New walk-in freezer and refrigerator
- New commercial refrigerator
- Barrett Hall floor replacement

2023 Wish List

An **awning** above the Food Pantry entrance and exit would protect our clients from inclement weather and sun, and provide a covered outdoor setting to enjoy grab-and-go meals. A new **kitchen range** and an **air conditioning unit** would keep our volunteers cool as they prepare grab-and-go breakfasts and dinners on hot summer days. The Pantry also needs a **color copier and printer** for a variety of essential functions.





Volunteers

The Pantry began as a mission of South Congregational Church, but has become a true community effort, with about **120 people volunteering** on a weekly basis.

Our Pantry is staffed 100% by volunteers.

We have strong relationships with community and religious organizations that provide volunteers, and many individuals from the community share their time in a variety of ways. Volunteers receive deliveries, pick up food donations, purchase food, stock shelves, prepare meals, clean, pack for deliveries, deliver food, clean, and perform a variety of administrative and fundraising tasks.

The pantry is open to clients on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30–11am, and Wednesday evenings from 4:30–5:30pm. Grab-and-go meals are also available during these times.



2022 Volunteers - Thank You!

Businesses & Organizations

Berkshire County Sheriff's Office Berkshire Fallon Health Collaborative Berkshire United Way Church of Latter-Day Saints Congregation Knesset Israel Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Individuals

John Peters Abanulo Alex Huber Amy Abramovich Bruce Jacobs Kate Alexander Karen Jacobs Barbara Allardyce Barb Johnson Patty Annechiaraco Lauren Johnson Ann Apat Gay Johnson Ann Appelbaum Joey Johnson Marcia Arooth Loren Johnson Bill Arzi Tom Joyner Sally Bak Becky Joyner Elder Sheldon Banks Art Kaufman Elder Elaine Banks Sue Kaufman Jo-Anne Barber Henry Ketchum Sally Baumer Karen Kowgios Mike Baumgartner Pam Kueppers Brian Berkel Peter Lafayette Elder Best Tobi Lanciano Rosie Bleyer Ellen Levy Lanciano Jody Burrows Phil Landa Monroe Buyack Brenda Landes Patsy Buyack Timothy Laporte Stacey Carver Tim LaPorte Greg Chadwell Chris LaRoche Elder Christensen Maureen Lawford Pat Coates Sven Leaf Nancy Cook Julia Lemieux Noah Cook-Dubin Maria Leon Joan Couture Hattie Leonard Becky Crane Aimee Lewis Gretchen DeBartolo Mark Libby David Dee Ann Longstreet Rev. Mike Denton Bill Longstreet Michael Durst Dan Luczyaski Scott Eldridge Vicki Marsala Rachael Eramo Tina Martin Jen McGovern Marlene Ethier Tricia Farley-Bouvier Barb Mendrala Elder Fielding Chris Merlet Sue Filippi Carol Meyer Pam Flores Steve Mole Robert Fried Maria Montero Doug Fuhlbrigge Jim Moran Don Fyfe Deb Morawski Judy Fyfe Ada Moreno Joan Morgan Ann Galt John Galt Madeline Mosley Peg Garzone Mary Mullen Susan Gordon Tony Mullen Erin C. Murphy Robin Granger Michele Rivers Murphy Ann Greene Christine Grenoble Jody Noel Phil Halpern Lucas O'Brien Linda Halpern Tony Pagliarulo Cindy Haven Annie Pannesco Sandy Houghtlin Jane Parise Pat Hubbard Char Parron

Joyce Peebles Ray Peebles Andrew Penrah Caleb Peprah Brenda Petell Sandy Phelps David Pill Dave Pingryn Keith Podavini Pat Politis Rick Pomeroy Mary Ellen Puntin Helen Radin Juan Ramos Arline Reilly Mary Rentz Peter Rentz Lynn Reynolds Dick Rivers Karen & John Roche Gayle Rotenberg Herman Rotenberg Mike Scalise Lew Schiller Marion Schleicher Carol Seltzer Tom Sherman Marcie Greenfield Simons Rick Smith Sue Smith Doug Stiffler Miranda Stracuzzi Sharon Strassfeld Fred Streit Scout Swonger Robert Sykes Jimmy Tarbox Charlie Thompson Nancy Thompson Jeff Turner John Underdue Abbie Von Schlegell Audrey Weiner Rabbi David Weiner Diane Weinstein Mary Wheat Ginny Willcox Sean Wilson Paul Wojtkowski Elder Wolfley Lisa Wright Cheryl Zaccaro Charlie Zelvsky

Don Parron

Community Partners



Food

South Community Food Pantry partners with Berkshire Bounty, a local food rescue organization that provides additional produce, eggs, and meats to supplement our supplies. During the growing season, we receive produce from local farms, including the Giving Garden and the Pittsfield Community Gardens.

Volunteers pick up food daily from local grocery stores, including Big Y, Market 32, Cumberland Farms, BJ's Wholesale Club, Stop & Shop, and Guido's Fresh Marketplace. We receive fresh hydroponic lettuce from the Berkshire County House of Corrections weekly throughout the year.

Many local organizations hold drives to collect food and other much-needed items for pantry visitors. The Pantry also serves as a distribution site for diapers (provided by the Diaper Project) and pet food (when available).

Services

Several community navigators offer their services to families visiting the pantry. The Pittsfield Health Department offers a wellness clinic where clients can receive a free wellness check, get referrals for additional social/support services, and ask questions about a variety of health issues. A bilingual social worker and community health worker are available to assist with other areas of concern including housing, utilities, substance abuse, domestic violence, childcare, and employment. The CHP Mobile Health Unit offers wellness visits, chronic disease management, sick visits, vaccines, and boosters. They also register people for SNAP benefits and Mass Health, and give nutrition referrals. The Berkshire Center for Justice provides free monthly legal clinics for people who would not otherwise have access to representation.

Referrals

The Pantry receives referrals weekly from a number of local organizations seeking assistance for individuals and families they are serving, including Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, Pittsfield Housing Authority, Institute for Health and Recovery, Berkshire Immigrant Center, and 18 Degrees.

No one is turned away.

We strive to offer access to anyone in need. We provide Spanish-speaking volunteers and translate our written correspondence into Spanish to effectively communicate with our growing Latinx population.

2022 Partners

Food & Necessities

Berkshire County House of Corrections

Berkshire Humane Society Berkshire Running Center

Berkshire United Way

Big Y

BJ's Wholesale Club

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Cumberland Farms

The Diaper Project

Feigenbaum Foundation

Food Bank of Western MA

The Giving Garden

Guido's Fresh Marketplace

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Market 32

Pittsfield Community Gardens

Stop & Shop

Services

The Berkshire Center for Justice CHP (Community Health Programs) Cohen Kinne Valicenti & Cook LLP Fallon Health Pittsfield Health Department Smith, Watson & Company, LLP Tommy's Compost Services WIC (Women, Children & Infants)

Community

18 Degrees
Berkshire Immigrant Center
Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
Institute for Health & Recovery
Pittsfield Housing Authority

Donors

Grants rarely cover the cost of food. We receive some food from regional food banks, grocery stores, and markets, but monetary donations from generous community members are essential to keep the shelves stocked at South Community Food Pantry.

We are so grateful for the community donations that keep the food pantry running, allowing us to provide for our neighbors in the spirit of generosity, respect, kindness and acceptance, so that no one in our community goes to bed hungry. The donor list below does not include the many anonymous donations made in 2022. Please let us know if your name is misspelled or missing from this list.



2022 Donors & Supporters - Thank You!

Businesses & Organizations

Barrington Stage Company Berkshire Community Church Berkshire Portal, Women's Spirituality Group Berkshire Roots Civitan Club of the Berkshires COBB Society Western MA Cohen, Kinne, Valicente & Cook Congregation Knesset Israel Downtown Pittsfield, Inc. Dottie's Coffee Lounge First Church of Christ, Pittsfield First Congregational Church, Sheffield The Food Bank of Western MA The Gilson Family Foundation Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society Guido's Fresh Marketplace Hashim & Spinola James Penna Contracting Katherine L. W. & Winthrop Murray Crane Charitable Foundation Knights of Columbus Lee Bank Lee Bank Foundation LiUNA Local 473 Martin & Oliveira LLP Paul Rich & Sons The Peabody & Plum Fund Pittsfield Gazette Subscribers & Advertisers Richmond Congregational Church

Rotary Club of Pittsfield

Stop & Shop Giving Tag Program

Ward's Nursery & Garden Center

Sisters of St. Joseph

Tyton Partners

Individuals David & Diane Agar

Rika Alner Paula & John Anderson Cecelia & Irving Appelbaum Joanna Arkema Katherine Barton Ruth Bass Nancy Bassi Sibvlle Mayer Baughan Jennifer Bell Dorothy & David Bell Charlie Bercury John & Melissa Bissell Judith Bollinger Nicholas Boraski William Briggs Allan Buckes Mary Buhr Regina Burgio Christine & Raymond Bush Peter Calderella Patricia Callahan William Carey Jessica Cashen Marietta Ranetti Cawse Susan Cetti Carol & Paul Charow Claudine Chavanne Christopher & Joan Ciolfi Marynancy Clary Gracemary O'Connell Elizabeth & Frank Contenta Charles Cook Leora Cook-Dubin Dicken & Ruth Crane Sarah & David Crosby Rosemary & Timothy Crouch Darren Dagnoli Deidri Deane Joseph & Stephanie DeBeradnis Nancy deForest Joan & John Demartino Douglas & Andrea Denton

David Derry

Margaret Dotchin

Glenn & Kelly Dugan Virginia & Russell Durgin Virginia & Paul Durwin Scott & Mary Beth Eldridge David & Judy Epstein Robert Ericson Donald & Gail Fairbanks Leo J. Fairbanks Diane Fassett Veronica & Chris Fenton Susan Fertig Marly Fish D. Flechsig Steve Fogel William Frazier Jonna Gaberman & Bruce Wintman Barbara & Stephen Garrity Margaret Gazone Linda Giancola Elizabeth & Joseph Gingras Joan & William Goddeau Virginia & Thomas Goggins Kermit Goodwin, Esq Beth Grossman Adrienne Gruskin Clyde Haberman Susan L. Hamilton Emma Hann Maryalyce Hare Brian Harrison Joseph D. Hashim. O.D. CD Hashim Cynthia Haven Madelynn Heintz Holly Higinbotham Nancy & Neil Hiltpold Lisa & Thomas Hollyer Sara Horne Alexandra Huber Joel & Tora Huntington Timothy Ingalls

Malcom Douglas

Suzanne King Daniel Knauss Carolyn & Albert Kock, Jr. Peter & Roberta Lafayette Marjorie & Stephen Latham Robert B. Lee, M.D. Lisa & Drew Lungo David Lussier Jane & Bernard Mack Patricia Madamas Sanda & Charles Magnesio Dorothy Mara Elena Marchak-Wansor Jeffrey Mason & Danielle Hammell William W. Matthiesen Ellen & Timothy Mazzer Ellen Mazzer Amy McNally Debra Melle Carol Meyer Sara & Art Milano Robert Minkler Erika Moore Paula Morey Erin & John Murphy Suzanne Nash Marcella Nevin Bruce & Mary Ellen Nielsen Patricia May Nixon Dick & Dana Noble Sharvl Noroian Mary Pope Osborne Ann Pannesco Stevan & Paula Patterson Steven & Ann Peplowski Jody Phillips Ann Pictrowski Julie Pike Jim & Christin Pivero Patricia Politis Elizabeth & Alan Pomeroy Marianna Poutasse & Sara Alberti-Jencks Patricia Pritchard Robert Quagliani

Karden Rabin

Dorothy Ransford

Irwin Renak Mary & Peter Rentz Joseph Rich & Harry Paynter Heidi Riello Barry Roberts John & Jean Roberts Donald & Barbara Roche Katherine M. Rogers Yana Rubin James Schaefer Sharon & Eric Schaffer Martin Schwartz Carol & Richard Seltzer Jacoba Sensus Judith Shaw Edward & Elizabeth Sheehan Barbara & Bruce Shickmanter Rita Siegle Christine & Kenneth Singer Sandra Smith Laurie Spar John Squires Bob & Dot Stowe Sharon Strassfeld Barbara & Edwin Taginski Ginella Tanner Judith Thompson Janice Toran & Bob Bogomolny Elizabeth & Mark Trapani James & Maryellen Tremblay Patricia Trotti Roberta & Frederic Trzcinka Judy & Mark Usow Mary & Paul Vrabel Patricia Wade Daryl Walters Judith Washburn Audrey Weiner Melissa & Albert Wilder Dr. Rita Willey Virginia Wisnowski Cheryl & Michael Zaccaro Nancy Zawistowski

Haldor Reinholt

Florence & Andrew Reis

Visit southcommunityfoodpantry.org/donate to donate to the Berkshire's largest food pantry!

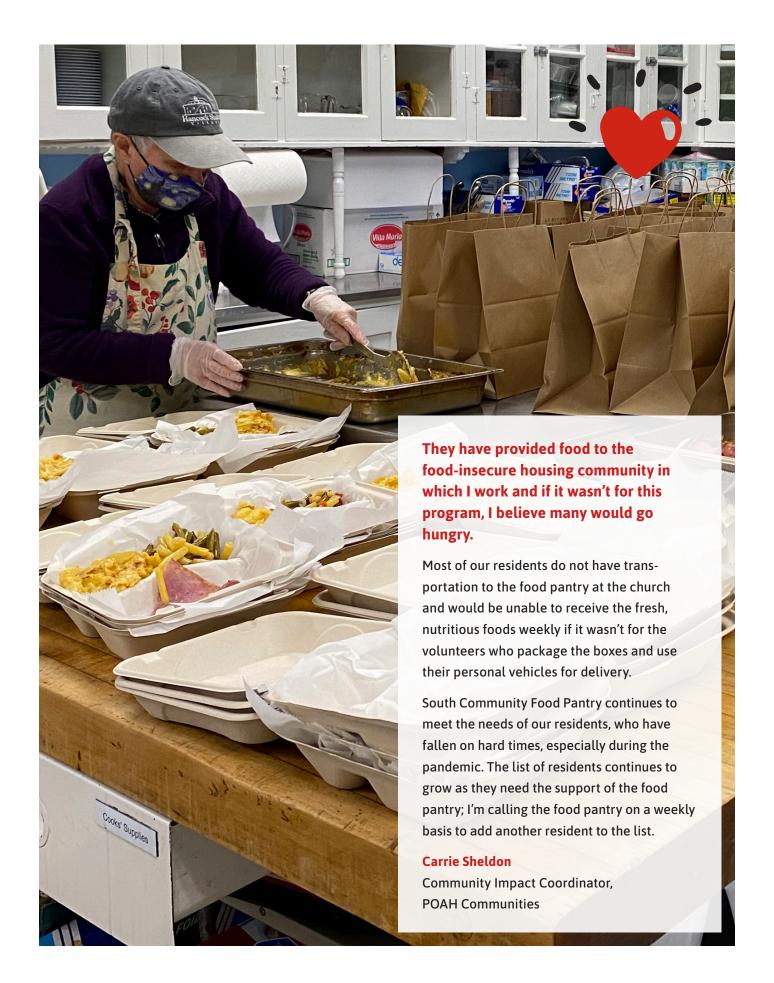
Carole Ireland

Lynn Johnson

Barbara & Ward Johnson

Sue & Art Kaufman

Karen Ketcham





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