Summer 2022 Quarterly Donor Impact Report
A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous and unflagging support of our work at Nourishing Hope, formerly known as Lakeview Pantry. You’re making a difference in the lives of thousands of families facing hunger and other challenges every day.

I’ll be honest with you — it’s been a challenging start to our fiscal year, which began April 1. The soaring costs of food and gas related to inflation have affected nearly every aspect of our work. More people — and specifically, families with young children — are turning to us for help. Meanwhile, our own food and gas costs are up significantly.

Despite such headwinds, we’re expanding to serve more people in need throughout the city. We’re growing our online market partnerships on the South and West Sides, as well our home delivery program now serving people all over the city.

We couldn’t do it without your help. Thank you for helping us to provide nourishment and hope to families in this difficult time.

Warm regards,

Kellie O’Connell
Chief Executive Officer, Nourishing Hope

HELping families through new challenges

On a beautiful and sunny July morning, Maria stood in line outside Nourishing Hope’s Sheridan Market, flanked by her two daughters, Rachel, 10, and Sarai, 7. The three of them chatted and laughed together.

It’s been a tough several months for Maria’s family. In February, she was hospitalized for three days with COVID-19 after having difficulty breathing. She had no medical insurance. Meanwhile, work has been sporadic for her husband, a day laborer who does landscaping, construction and other jobs.

Add to that volatile mix the inflation-related spike in prices for just about everything. They’ve had difficulty paying medical bills and rent, while also affording nutritious food for their girls. Thanks to supporters like you, Maria’s family is able to receive nutritious food for a healthy life — and hope for a brighter future.

“(Nourishing Hope) helped me a lot,” said Maria, 34. “This place gives me a lot of fresh fruit, and vegetables for my kids.”

Despite the challenges, their smiles seemed irrepressible on this particular summer day.

“My kids make me happy,” the mother said, waiting a beat before breaking into a grin. “They make me happy … and angry … and sad.”

Her daughters burst into laughter.
Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work at Nourishing Hope. The help of volunteers has been critical in helping to meet the rising need. In the first quarter of this year, we saw a 79 percent increase in unique volunteers compared to the same time last year. Simply put, we could not do this work without your help.

Special thanks to our corporate groups of volunteers who stepped up in the first quarter, including Conagra Brands, Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg, and Bulley & Andrews, among others.

In our first fiscal quarter, visits to our food programs were up about 40 percent compared to last year — a sure sign of the impact of inflation on households. We’ve served more than 5,000 people who are completely new to our services.

**FOOD PROGRAMS**

From the Far South Side to the West to the North — Nourishing Hope is providing fresh and healthy food to an increasing number of Chicagoans in need. We’re growing through partnerships with more than 20 other entities, including schools, churches, shelters and senior living facilities. We’re also growing our home delivery program on the South and West Sides, reaching older adults and other homebound individuals who struggle to access healthy food.

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**SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL WELLNESS**

As we know, the challenges extend well beyond food. Nourishing Hope provides free mental health counseling and social services, such as job and housing assistance, to anyone in need. The need for mental health counseling continues to grow. So far this fiscal year, we’ve provided 714 therapy sessions, an increase of more than 73 percent from this same time last year.

This life-affirming work breaking the cycle of generational trauma isn’t possible without your generous support.

**VOLUNTEER IMPACT**

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**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

This summer, we launched a new online market partnership with the North Lawndale Employment Network, which serves under- and unemployed residents of North Lawndale and the surrounding communities. It’s an “open” distribution, which means that anyone in the community can order food online for pickup once a month.

It’s a great example of how Nourishing Hope is growing our impact on the South and West Sides through strategic partnerships with trusted organizations.
The Nourishing Hope Gala is our largest annual fundraiser.

This year’s event will take place at Rockwell on the River on Friday, October 14, 2022 at 6pm. Join us to honor the impact of Nourishing Hope and our partners over the past year.

- Fabulous silent auction prizes, right from your smartphone
- Raise your paddle to support operating expenses and bid on exciting live auction packages
- Three-course dinner and cocktails
- Live entertainment and dancing!

Help us raise $700,000 for Nourishing Hope’s vital community programs. Your support provides food for today and hope for tomorrow to our Chicago neighbors.

Interested in getting involved as a sponsor or donating an auction item? As a sponsor, you will:

- Demonstrate your commitment to our mission
- Align your name and brand with Nourishing Hope’s city-wide reputation as a leader in hunger relief
- Promote your brand and services to individuals, thought leaders, and supporters across Chicago and within Nourishing Hope’s network

For more information about sponsorships or in-kind donations, please contact Drew Moran, Director of Corporate & Foundation Partnerships, at drew.moran@nourishinghopechi.org or click here to view our full partnership summary.

Reserve your tickets before Labor Day for an early bird discount!

Get tickets and donate now at nourishinghopechi.org/gala.
We are delighted to share that Grubhub has pledged $438,000 over the next two years — the largest general operating gift in Nourishing Hope’s 52-year history. This remarkable demonstration of corporate support is part of Grubhub’s larger commitment to supporting organizations that close the hunger gap. Earlier this summer, the company announced $19.8 million in grants to 27 organizations across the country.

Grubhub and Nourishing Hope are also exploring a potential partnership to bolster our online market program with their delivery support. More details to come on this exciting partnership!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

CHARLIE GARRIDO AND JASON MARK ROBERTS

This Pride Month was a time of both celebration and collective action for the Nourishing Hope community. Charlie Garrido and Jason Mark Roberts, in partnership with the ARVD Foundation, raised more than $30,000 in donations through a special Pride Month matching opportunity. Their generosity directly supported our work providing free food, mental health counseling and social services to anyone in need — including the LGBTQIA+ community.

To quote Roberts: “I always look at Pride Month as how do I get involved in my community? How do I help?”

IN THE NEWS

Thanks to the Chicago media outlets who helped spread the word about our new name — and what it means for the city we all call home.

- Chicago Tribune
- WBEZ
- Crain’s Chicago Business
- Block Club Chicago
- FOX 32 Chicago
- ABC 7 Chicago
- WBBM
- WGN Radio

MAKES HISTORY

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Lakeview Pantry is now Nourishing Hope

CHICAGOLAND

We’re excited to join the Bank of America Chicago Marathon as a charity partner for the first time in 2022! Cheer on our runners on October 9, 2022 and support the team at nourishinghopechi.org/chicagomarathon.
EVENT HIGHLIGHT

THE RETURN OF THE END HUNGER SOCIAL

Our Young Leaders Board’s premier spring fundraiser took place for the first time since 2019! The End Hunger Social on June 10, 2022 was a lot of fun and a great success, raising more than $55,000 to support Nourishing Hope’s food distribution, social services and mental wellness programs.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER CONGRATULATES NOURISHING HOPE

We were honored to receive a personal video from Governor JB Pritzker congratulating Nourishing Hope on our rebrand and our services that span the entire city of Chicago. We’re grateful for the partnership of the governor’s office as we begin our exciting next chapter as Nourishing Hope. Watch the clip on our YouTube channel.