

NOURISHING HOPE

nourishing

HOPE

Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.



Spring 2023 Quarterly Donor Impact Report

Gabriela Santana stands outside Sheridan Market after her first visit to Nourishing Hope.
(Photo by Nancy Stone for Nourishing Hope.)

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

Happy Spring! With the recent sunshine and blooming of flowers, I'm feeling hopeful as we turn our focus to a new fiscal year at Nourishing Hope.



CEO Kellie O'Connell

Thank you for your continued dedication to our work and mission at Nourishing Hope. We simply cannot do this work without the support of our donors, corporate and institutional partners, and volunteers.

For our fiscal year 2023, which ended March 31, we saw an astonishing **43% increase** in visits to our food programs, which speaks to the continued heightened need in the community.

We don't expect the numbers to go down anytime soon. On March 1, emergency allotments of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits expired — a federal pandemic relief measure coming to an end. This has presented yet another challenge for thousands of Chicago families still trying to find their economic footing.

Despite such dreary news, we have abundant reasons for optimism when looking ahead. We have more than

6,000 volunteers a year who step up to support our work. We have 52 of the hardest-working, most dedicated staff you'll find anywhere.

And we have you! This spring, we hope that you'll double down on your commitment of helping our Chicago neighbors by donating and volunteering. We also have some fantastic events coming up (read more on page 4!.)

Together, we can provide nutrition, hope and joy to thousands of families struggling to consistently afford nutritious food.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kellie O'Connell'.

Kellie O'Connell
Chief Executive Officer, Nourishing Hope

SMILES IN THE SPRING

Gabriela Santana shares a rented house in the city with eight other family members, including her husband and three children. It's tight quarters, but they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford the house.

Santana, a native of Ecuador, recently visited Nourishing Hope's Sheridan Market for the first time. Though she's lived for many years in Chicago, she fondly recalled memories of her home country, particularly the old churches.

Santana isn't currently working as she cares for her 4-month-old baby. And the recent spike in food prices have taken their toll on the family's finances. She gestured toward a carton of eggs that she received from the Sheridan Market.

"This is like having gold now," Gabriela said. "They were like ten dollars for a carton of eggs so I couldn't buy them and would have to look for another alternative to eat. That brought us here."

Despite her family's challenges, Gabriela was in an upbeat mood, smiling in the sunshine as she waited for a friend. She held in her arms some fresh red roses and a chocolate cake.

"I FEEL VERY GLAD AND GRATEFUL BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS SUPER EXPENSIVE OUTSIDE OF YOUR SERVICES. ... THE TRUTH IS THAT I'M VERY THANKFUL."



Read more about Gabriela and the neighbors who visit us on our blog, nourishinghopechi.org/blog

FOOD PROGRAMS

Looking back on fiscal year 2023, which ended March 31, the overarching storyline was the increased need caused by inflation. The Russian invasion of Ukraine triggered supply chain volatility, and spurred historically high food and gas prices. Combined with dwindling federal aid, tens of thousands of our Chicago neighbors struggled to make ends meet.

Overall, Nourishing Hope’s food programs — which include two food pantries, an online market and a home delivery program — provided more than 82,000 services, **up 43% from the previous fiscal year.**

In fiscal year 2023, Nourishing Hope sourced more than 4.8 million pounds of food, 92% of which was donated.



SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Of course, the challenges that many of us face extend well beyond food. This fiscal year, we also provided 5,899 social services (case management services and mental health therapy sessions combined). Through this work, we connect people to needed housing assistance and other resources available to them.

We’re proud to provide free trauma-informed mental health counseling. This fiscal year, we grew our mental health team to five full-time therapists, three clinical interns and two administrators who also see clients.

Welcome to our newest therapists —
Vanessa Garcia and Valentina Nkwo!



Valentina Nkwo
(she/her)

Vanessa Garcia
(she/her & ella/elle)

PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: SGA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



Yulissa Aguilar of SGA and
Natia Barnett of Nourishing Hope



Nourishing Hope is proud to partner with SGA Youth & Family Services, a nonprofit on Chicago’s Southwest Side, that provides a continuum of supportive services for Chicago’s most challenged and underserved neighborhoods. Services include parenting support, early childhood education, education support and workforce development.

Since the beginning of our partnership in February 2022, about 100 families who receive services through SGA have also ordered groceries through Nourishing Hope’s online market program. So far, the feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, said Yulissa Aguilar, a family service worker for SGA’s Family Child Care program.

In addition to the groceries, Aguilar said, the families have appreciated the fresh flowers, hygiene products, and requested items such as children’s snacks, tostadas and bread.

“We are always looking to partner with agencies that have missions and visions similar to ours,” Aguilar said. “And we appreciate that Nourishing Hope shares our values.”

THE END HUNGER SOCIAL

Thursday, May 4 | 6–9 pm

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

JOY DISTRICT
112 W HUBBARD ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60654

Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.

DON'T MISS OUT!

The **End Hunger Social**, hosted by our Young Leaders Board, is coming up on Thursday, May 4, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at [Joy District](#) in River North (112 W. Hubbard St).

There will be silent auction prizes, food and cocktails, and entertainment!

We expect this event to draw more than 250 young professionals with the goal of raising more than \$60,000 toward our mission.

Although the social is hosted by our Young Leaders Board, this event attracts working professionals of all ages! (All attendees must be 21 and over.)

Buy tickets today and learn about sponsorship opportunities at nourishinghopechi.org/endhungersocial



Tickets are going fast!
Get yours today!

- ✓ Delicious food from 8 Hospitality!
- ✓ Open bar!
- ✓ Wine pull!
- ✓ Silent auction!
- ✓ Dancing!
- ✓ Supporting Nourishing Hope's programs!



Save the date! The **Nourishing Hope Gala** is on Friday, September 29, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at [The Geraghty](#) (2520 S. Hoyne Ave). We'll have a silent auction, paddle raise, live music, dinner and dancing, and much more!

Join us for an unforgettable night while making a difference in your community!

Go to nourishinghopechi.org/gala to learn more about our flagship event, including ticket information and sponsorship opportunities.



If you are interested in making a contribution to the silent auction or joining us as an event sponsor please email drew.moran@nourishinghopechi.org. Stay tuned for more information on these fabulous events!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Can we just take a moment — and perhaps a page of our Impact Report — to thank our incredible volunteers?

In fact, in fiscal year 2023, we had 6,472 volunteers provide more than 80,998 hours of service — the equivalent of 39 full-time employees!

Throughout April, we hosted Volunteer Appreciation Month parties at all four of our sites, a small token of our gratitude. And if you haven't already, please check out [our appreciation video!](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

HIMSS

Thank you to [HIMSS \(Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society\)](#) for making Nourishing Hope their charity partner at their annual conference with a goal of raising \$30,000 toward our work of providing food and social services.

The HIMSS conference is an annual event that brings together professionals and experts from the healthcare industry to discuss the latest advancements and trends in healthcare information technology.

As of this writing, the HIMSS team has already raised more than \$20,000 toward their goal! They also volunteered at our headquarters in March and will be back again in May. Thank you, HIMSS!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BRIAN KRISTOFIC

Though it was just 9 a.m., Brian Kristofic already had a thin layer of sweat on his brow as he began an online market volunteer shift at the Nourishing Hope HQ.

Since Kristofic began volunteering in the summer of 2019, he's provided more than **520 hours of service** toward Nourishing Hope's mission of helping those in need. He's volunteered at all four of our existing sites, and some that are no longer in operation, such as the former Avondale site.



“It gives me a feeling of accomplishment that I did something with my time today,” said Kristofic, 46, who's also a donor.

When he first started volunteering with Nourishing Hope (then Lakeview Pantry), Kristofic had just been laid off from his government relations job at a steel company. He wanted to get out of the house, feel productive and get a workout in as he searched for other jobs.

In doing so, he's also found a community of like-minded people among Nourishing Hope volunteers. His wife, Kim, son, Kenny, 12, and daughter Anna, 9, have also volunteered several times.

“I never had to worry about where my next meal is coming from,” he said. “It's just such a basic need to have a foundation to be happy and healthy. The fact that someone doesn't have that is just unacceptable.”

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE MEDIA

Nourishing Hope's work has been featured recently in several stories about the end of the emergency SNAP benefits. Check out [this excellent story](#) by Sun Times reporter Elvia Malagón, who visited our Sheridan Market and talked to people affected by the SNAP cuts.

ON THE BLOG

Every month, we share compelling new stories about our work, including professionally shot photos and inspiring interviews of the people who we serve. Please read and share [our most recent story](#) about how global events, such as Russia's war in Ukraine, have brought more people to food pantries.



CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

As SNAP recipients see reduction in funds, Chicago residents make adjustments: 'I make do'

Starting this month, recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will see a decrease in their benefits after a coronavirus pandemic-era funding boost ended.



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GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER AT EL MERCADITO

Did you know that we served more than **13,000** people at El Mercado in fiscal year 2023? That's more than double the number we served in the prior year. Because of the increased need, we really need more volunteers to come help at El Mercado. [Please sign up today](#) and join the joyful experience of serving our neighbors in need!



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773.525.1777

www.NourishingHopeChi.org

Nourishing Hope, formerly known as Lakeview Pantry, is a dynamic social services organization providing food, mental wellness counseling and other social services, such as job and housing assistance, to our Chicago neighbors in need. Founded in 1970, we strive to serve the needs of the whole person — with respect and dignity, always.

Mural designed and painted by: Pablo Serrano
Photo credits: Kenneth Johnson, Vashon Jordan, and Michele Marie Photography.