

nourishing  
**HOPE**

*Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.*

**Summer 2023  
Quarterly Donor  
Impact Report**

*Monique Whitehead packs dairy bags at Nourishing Hope's headquarters.  
(Photo by Nancy Stone for Nourishing Hope.)*



## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

I hope summer is treating you well, even as the days fly by. At Nourishing Hope, we've been as busy as ever, serving a continued heightened need.



CEO Kellie O'Connell

Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission of providing food and social services to Chicagoans in need. **We couldn't do this work without you.**

During the summer, food insecurity is always a concern for families who don't have the same consistent access to free and reduced-price lunches provided by schools. Child hunger tends to rise, as a result.

And many families are still struggling with the dramatic rise in food prices in the past year, as well as diminished federal assistance. It's been a challenging summer for many people, including migrants and asylum seekers who are just arriving in Chicago.

There are many ways to help — including joining us at our Nourishing Hope Gala on Friday, Sept. 29 at the Geraghty. Buy your tickets now at [nourishinghopechi.org/gala!](https://nourishinghopechi.org/gala/)

On behalf of all of us at Nourishing Hope, thank you for your unwavering support and compassion.

Warm regards,

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

Kellie O'Connell  
Chief Executive Officer, Nourishing Hope

## HELPING OTHERS WHILE PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Almost every week this spring, students from [Northside Learning Center High School](https://www.nslc.edu/) arrived eager to volunteer at Nourishing Hope's headquarters. All of the students have what could be generally described as intellectual disabilities or impaired functional abilities. Some communicate verbally; others do not. But they share a strong connection with one another and a deep satisfaction in helping others in need.

The volunteer work prepared them for life after high school by teaching them vocational skills needed for additional independence. The school provides a robust mix of academic education and real-life experiences to prepare them for life after graduation.

*"We want to try to build toward as much independence as our students can get,"* said Amy Yaklich, teacher at Northside Learning Center.

*"And it varies from student to student, the amount of independence that they will ultimately achieve."*

We are so grateful for this unique partnership. Congratulations to these graduates!

**"MY MOM AND GRANDMA ALWAYS TAUGHT ME THAT IT'S A GOOD THING TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP AND TO ALWAYS BE A GOOD PERSON."**

**— MONIQUE WHITEHEAD, NSLC CLASS OF '23.**



Read more about the student volunteers from North Side Learning Center on our blog, [nourishinghopechi.org/blog](https://nourishinghopechi.org/blog)



## FOOD PROGRAMS

So far this fiscal year, which began April 1, visits to our food programs are **up more than 22% compared to the same time last year.**

We attribute this increase to the continued higher-than-usual food prices — despite the slowing of inflation — and decreased federal assistance.

At our bustling flagship pantry, the Sheridan Market, visits are **up nearly 30% from last year.** In total, we've served more than **22,000 people** through the first quarter of fiscal year 2024.

We've sourced **more than 1.3 million pounds of food so far**, the vast majority of which was donated. **That's up more than 20% from the year prior.**

Thank you to our food and program partners!



## SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Hunger doesn't exist in a vacuum. People who are experiencing food insecurity often need other forms of assistance beyond food. To that end, we also provided **1,742 social services** in the first quarter of FY24. That includes more than 831 free, trauma-informed mental health counseling sessions. This critical work can help break the cycles of generational trauma.

We also provided more than **900 case management services**, which connect people to job, housing and utility assistance. Shoutout to our amazing mental health and social services teams!

Nourishing Hope staff attended the Primo Center Behavioral Health Resource Summit for People Experiencing Homelessness



Katie Himes, bilingual care coordinator; Lashunda Brown, chief officer of quality and impact from The Primo Center; and Andrew Taylor, case manager.

## PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FOUNDATION



Intern Davia Barnett and online market operations coordinator Ty Matthews receive donated smoke detectors at Nourishing Hope.

The Chicago Fire Department Foundation (CFDF) is adding safety to sustenance by donating free smoke detectors through its partnerships with eight local food pantries, including Nourishing Hope. Families and individuals can request free smoke detectors when they order and pick up food.

“We know that many Chicagoans in need may not have the resources to purchase smoke detectors,” said Chris Hasbrook, Co-Founder of the Chicago Fire Department Foundation.

“Recently, our partner Nourishing Hope gave out 500 smoke detectors in less than a month,” said Hasbrook. As food pantries are serving more people than ever, the CFDF is striving to increase its smoke detector donations to meet the demand.

“We are so immensely grateful for the support from the Chicago Fire Department Foundation,” said Kellie O’Connell, CEO of Nourishing Hope, formerly known as Lakeview Pantry. “By distributing 500 smoke detectors through our online market program, we’re helping to keep families safe and nourished at the same time.”





nourishing  
**HOPE**  
gala

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**THE NOURISHING HOPE GALA**

Kick off gala season with our Nourishing Hope Gala 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, a delicious four course dinner, dancing and much more!

People are still talking about how fun our gala was last year, when we raised more than \$790,000. We're going even bigger this year in hopes of raising more than \$900,000. The funds raised from our gala contribute tremendous support to our food, mental health counseling and social services programs.

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

Go to [nourishinghopechi.org/gala](http://nourishinghopechi.org/gala) to learn more about our flagship event, including ticket information and sponsorship opportunities.

**Tickets are going fast!  
Get yours today!**

**THANK YOU TO OUR EARLY SPONSORS!**

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**



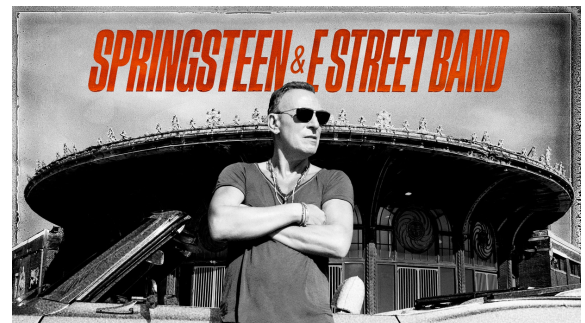
**PROMOTER SPONSORS**



**ADVOCATE SPONSOR**



**WIN TICKETS TO SEE THE BOSS!**



[Reserve your seat at this year's Nourishing Hope Gala](#) before they go full price on August 1, 2023 and be entered to win tickets to see Springsteen and The E Street Band on Wednesday, August 9 at Wrigley Field!

**MEET OUR GALA CO-CHAIRS**

Lindsey DeVar is a managing director, cross-border team lead at BMO US. Prior to joining BMO, DeVar worked for several U.S.-headquartered financial institutions and has more than 16 years of banking and client-facing sales experience. Devar serves on the board of directors at Nourishing Hope.

David Rekhson is the co-founder of DineAmic Hospitality, creating extraordinary experiences for guests by developing innovative and enduring restaurant and nightlife concepts.

Eric White is a partner at Winston & Strawn LLP. He was recently named to Crain's Chicago Business's 2022 list of "Notable Black Leaders and Executives." White serves on the executive committee of the board of directors at Nourishing Hope.

[nourishinghopechi.org/gala](http://nourishinghopechi.org/gala)

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](mailto:drew.moran@nourishinghopechi.org).



# MEET NEW BOARD PRESIDENT, MARC BRENNER



Meet Marc Brenner, Nourishing Hope's new board president, who is also a dedicated volunteer home delivery driver. Brenner was elected board president in April, succeeding Casey Herman, who remains on the board.

In a recent interview for our blog, Brenner described his call to action to the community: *"What we do — food insecurity, mental health, social services — is universal. ... I find it extremely easy to speak about what we do and I'm so proud of how we do it. What we need, and we need to stay focused on it, is to have the community continue to support us. We can do our job. We need the resources to do it. That's my message."*

[Read the full Q&A with Marc here.](#)

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### CHARLES GARRIDO AND JASON MARK ROBERTS

What a **Pride Month**! In total, we raised more than **\$84,000** during our Pride Month campaign, which provides funds for food and social services for our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

A huge thank you to **Charles Garrido & Jason Mark Roberts from the FAF Foundation, and the ARVD Foundation**, for bolstering our efforts with an incredible dollar-for-dollar match up to \$30,000 throughout the month. We are so grateful for your support!

At Nourishing Hope, we stand with our LGBTQ+ family, neighbors, volunteers, donors, friends and colleagues all year round.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### HANNAH BALL

Congrats to Hannah Ball, one of our incredible volunteers, who was recently awarded the Daily Point of Light Award by Points of Light, a national organization. Beyond her volunteering at Sheridan Market, Hannah is also a graduate student studying ALS.

[Read more about why Hannah volunteers](#) and what it means to her. Thank you, Hannah, and congratulations!



## GO TEAM NOURISHING HOPE!

During the Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 8, there will be **31 runners** proudly representing Team Nourishing Hope. Our runners are deep in the training regimen now, working hard to be ready for the big day. Collectively, their goal is to raise **\$60,000** toward our mission of providing food and social services to Chicagoans in need. We're proud of all of our Team Nourishing Hope runners!



## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### IN THE NEWS – MIGRANTS SEEKING HELP

This quarter, we participated in several stories in the media about the influx of migrants and asylum seekers to Chicago, and how we're helping many of them who need food assistance. The bottomline: We're proud to serve them, but we need the continued support of the community to help us meet the increased need.

[Check out this story](#) by Brandon Dupré for Grain's Chicago Business.



## GET INVOLVED

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

How small is too small? No such thing! **Even this smart car has plenty of space for grocery deliveries!** And no act of service is too small when you're helping to feed our neighbors who can't pick up their groceries.

We could use volunteers on Saturday mornings. Add giving back to your errands checklist and start the weekend off volunteering.

Shifts are available every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. starting from either our Headquarters in West Town or from the Hub in Ravenswood.

Email [volunteers@nourishinghopechi.org](mailto:volunteers@nourishinghopechi.org) to get started!



*Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.*

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[www.NourishingHopeChi.org](http://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.

(Photo credit: Nancy Stone).