

nourishing

HOPE

Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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HOPE

Fall 2023 Quarterly Donor Impact Report

(Photo credit: Alyssa Schukar for Nourishing Hope.)

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Nourishing Hope friends and partners,

As we prepare to enter the holiday season — our busiest time of year — I am filled with immense gratitude for this Nourishing Hope community.



CEO Kellie O'Connell

Your continued support makes this work possible. **Thanks to you, we are able to serve the increasing number of people and families turning to us for help.**

On the last night of September, the generosity of our donors and institutional partners was on full display at our Nourishing Hope Gala, the largest fundraiser in our organization's 53-year history. **We raised \$1 million that night**, all toward our mission of providing food, free mental health counseling and social services to those in need.

That's simply incredible. It's also much needed, as we continue to serve an elevated need in the community. **Visits to our food programs are up more than 20% compared to last year.** We expect our service levels to continue to climb in the colder months of winter.

Beginning in November, we'll be distributing additional holiday food, such as turkeys, hams, chickens and holiday sides. **You can support this work by giving to our annual Turkey Fund.** Every person deserves to have a special holiday meal with loved ones.

Honestly, it's going to be a very difficult winter for so many of our Chicago neighbors, including those who are new to the city. We will need the continued support of our donors and partners to provide food and hope.

We will keep showing up to serve our neighbors in need. We know we can count on you to keep showing up too. Thank you for your unwavering generosity and compassion.

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

Kellie O'Connell
Chief Executive Officer, Nourishing Hope

ANGELO, GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVOR & PARATRIATHLETE:

“IT'S STILL GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY”



Angelo was just 23 years old when he was shot in the stomach in 1991, an incident that would alter but not define his life. The bullet damaged his spinal cord, making it impossible for him to use his legs.

Now 55, Angelo is an avid “sports enthusiast,” in his own words, a triathlete who also plays basketball, surfs and scuba dives.

“When we're underwater, we're all equal,” said Angelo, who uses a wheelchair to get around.

Angelo recently competed in the Chicago Triathlon, after training with an organization called Dare2tri, which specializes in empowering athletes of all abilities to compete in swimming, biking and racing. ([Watch this inspiring WGN TV story](#) about his training.)

“BEING HAPPY IS A CHOICE. YOU CAN GET UP AND STUB YOUR TOE AND DECIDE IT'S GOING TO BE A TERRIBLE DAY. OR YOU CAN STUB YOUR TOE AND SAY, OK, IT'S STILL GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY.” – ANGELO

Despite such accomplishments, he acknowledged that he still suffers from chronic pain. Some days, he doesn't leave his basement-level apartment. But he always bounces back. And he keeps moving.

Since 2018, Angelo has turned to Nourishing Hope for food assistance. He enjoys the experience at Sheridan Market and has come to know some of the staff and volunteers. The healthy food that he receives — such as chicken, fish, oatmeal and fresh produce — helps him to stay in good physical condition for his athletic pursuits.

“I boast about it,” he said of Sheridan Market, “and I bet 90% of the people who come in will tell someone else.”

On any given day, hundreds of people turn to Nourishing Hope's food programs for assistance. Every one of them has a unique story. Check out our latest blog — [“Five stories of hope from the frontlines of hunger”](#) — to learn more about the challenges and resilience of our neighbors.

FOOD PROGRAMS

Through the first half of our fiscal year, which began April 1, visits to our food programs are **up about 20% compared to the same time last year**. We attribute this increase to several factors, including the continued high food prices, the diminished federal assistance for people in need, and the increase of migrants and asylum seekers to Chicago.

At our bustling Sheridan Market, visits are **up about 33% compared to last year**. At El Mercadito, our food pantry partnership with La Casa Norte in Humboldt Park, **visits are up about 5%**.

So far this fiscal year, we've served about, **34,000 people** an increase of about **26% from the same time last year**.

Through the first half of the fiscal year, we've sourced and distributed **more than 2.7 million pounds** of food — about 95% of which is donated.

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy a special holiday meal with loved ones. During the holiday season, Nourishing Hope plans to distribute **more than 3,700 turkeys, 1,800 hams, 3,300 chickens and 2,000 Cornish hens**, in addition to holiday sides.



SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Nourishing Hope provides an array of social services to address challenges beyond food.

Through the first two quarters of FY24, we provided **3,206 social services**, which include job, housing and utility assistance.

That total also included **1,504 free, trauma-informed mental health counseling sessions**. This critical work can help break the cycles of generational trauma. Our mental health counseling team also continues to grow with the recent addition of **another licensed therapist, Rachal Brooks**, who recently earned her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Roosevelt University. Welcome, Rachal!



Our newest therapist, Rachal Brooks, LPC

PROGRAM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: EPHPHATHA LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR THE DEAF



Neighbors, volunteers and Ephphatha Lutheran Church staff members pose for a photo during food distribution.

Once a month, Chatham residents in need of food drive pull into the alley behind the Ephphatha Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Volunteers then load boxes of groceries, including produce, dairy and meat, into the idling vehicles.

The new partnership between Nourishing Hope, Reunite Chatham and the Ephphatha Lutheran Church serves about **90 households per month**. "When I have an opportunity to talk with the people that pick up the food, they are grateful," said Deborah Foster-Bonner, executive director/president of Chatham Reunite. "They are having to choose between their medicine and food. You can actually see the relief and gratitude on their faces."

In total, Nourishing Hope has **30 partners** through our online market, home delivery program, and Health & Hope program.



nourishing
HOPE
gala

THANKS A MILLION!

SAVE THE DATE
FOR 2024!
9.20.24

THE NOURISHING HOPE GALA

What an unbelievable night! This year's Nourishing Hope Gala raised \$1 million, blowing past our goal of \$900,000. These funds will go directly toward providing food and social services to our Chicago neighbors – as we continue to serve 30% more people than last year.

We're so grateful for the 550 friends and supporters who joined us. Truly, it was a beautiful night, with a historic outpouring of support for Nourishing Hope's work and impact.

Thanks to you, tens of thousands of Chicagoans will have access to food, mental health counseling and other social services this holiday season.

If you weren't able to attend, [please check out this powerful short film shown at the gala.](#)



[Click here for all the photo booth fun!](#)

[Click here to view the professional photos from Zuno Photo](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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THANK YOU TO OUR CO-CHAIRS!



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THE NOURISHING HOPE TOY DRIVE IS ALMOST HERE!

The Nourishing Hope Toy Room will return to bring some joy and delight to children this holiday season. Families with kids who receive food and social services from Nourishing Hope will also be able to select toys and books at our Sheridan Market. The annual toy drive event will be held on Friday, Dec. 1 at Murphy's Bleachers, 3655 N. Sheffield. Please bring at least one new and unwrapped toy to the event. Anyone age 21 and older is welcome to join.



This event is held in memory of Vincent Babiarz, and in partnership with the Babiarz family. [Read here to learn more about Vincent.](#)

For those who are unable to attend the event, you can drop off unwrapped toys at Nourishing Hope's Sheridan Market in November during distribution hours or purchase a toy through [the Amazon wishlist.](#)

Corporate partners interested in supporting Nourishing Hope Toy Drive should contact Grace Radzik, manager of institutional partnerships, at grace.radzik@nourishinghopechi.org.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

THE SCANLON FAMILY

This holiday season, [donations to our annual Turkey Fund will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \\$50,000.](#) That's thanks to the remarkable generosity of Jennifer and Pete Scanlon, who have been Nourishing Hope supporters since 2020.

Food is the often the most urgent need before other societal challenges can be addressed, Pete said.

"As longtime residents of Chicago and the Chicagoland area, we were aware of the great work that Nourishing Hope provides the town we love and wanted to help out in any way we could," he said.



Thank you, Jennifer and Pete!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

We want to give one more round of applause {please clap} for our 2023 Bruce Tranen Volunteers of the Year. We're so grateful for their service across our programs. The following awardees were honored at our Nourishing Hope Gala: Katherine Bendix, Pam Croswhite, Kim Gnat, Jim Graves, Kurt Ordillas, Ray Parpan, Cecelia Peterson, Quentin Powell and Daniel Speller.



OVER 800 MILES AND \$67,000 FROM #TEAMNOURISHINGHOPE!

Shoutout to our amazing Team Nourishing Hope marathon team! Collectively, our team of 30 runners raised over \$67,000 toward our mission of providing food and hope to Chicagoans in need!

Special shoutout to beloved Chicago columnist Heidi Stevens who was our top fundraiser after raising more than \$8,000.

Want to join the team for the 2024 Bank of America Chicago Marathon? You can achieve a major life accomplishment, while also helping us to achieve our bold fundraising goal to \$75,000! Contact Aliya Prescott, director of donor and volunteer engagement, at aliya.prescott@nourishinghopechi.org.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE NEWS – WTTW AND WBEZ

Nourishing Hope has been in the news in recent months, pitching and participating in media coverage on the increased need in our communities.

Check out our Chief Development Officer Keenya Lambert, who participated in a panel on [WTTW's Black Voices](#) show, on the inequitable access to food in Black communities in Chicago.

Our CEO Kellie O'Connell also participated in a [WBEZ Reset conversation](#) on the then-looming government shutdown.



GET INVOLVED

YEAR-END GIVING

Did you know that we rely on year-end donations to support our operations all year round? It's our busiest time of year and also our most important time of year from a revenue perspective.

Giving Tuesday, which is on Tuesday, Nov. 28 this year, is always a good time to support our work.

Be on the lookout for special Giving Tuesday stories and videos coming your way via email and social media on that day. And please plan on donating to support our work before the end of the year!



(Photo credit: Alyssa Schukar for Nourishing Hope.)



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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.