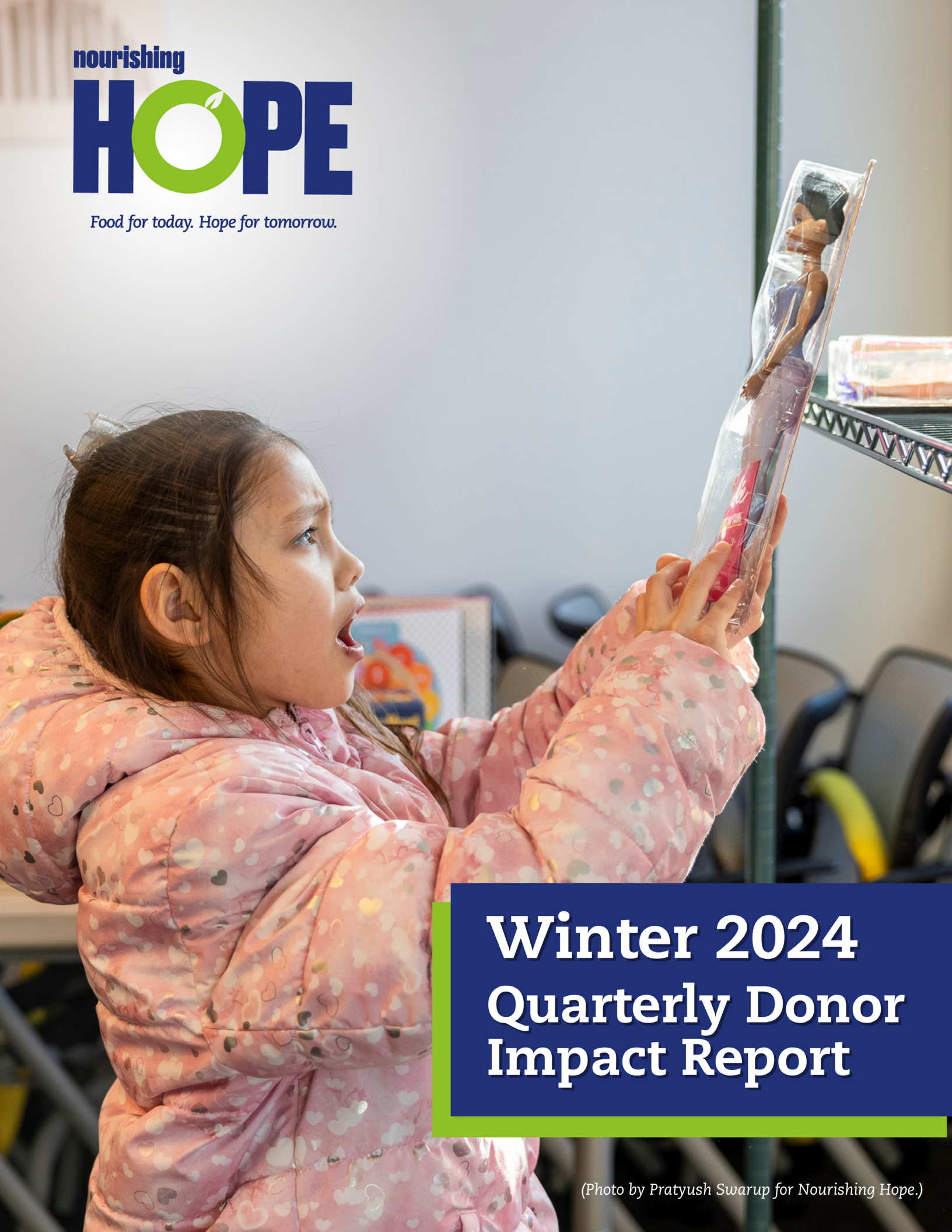




Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.



Winter 2024 Quarterly Donor Impact Report

(Photo by Pratyush Swarup for Nourishing Hope.)

A letter from our CEO

Dear Nourishing Hope community,

I hope you all had wonderful winter holidays.

At Nourishing Hope, we had our **busiest holiday season on record**, reflecting the heightened need in the community. We were able to rise to the moment — thanks to the generous support of our donors, partners and volunteers.

We say it all the time because it's true:
We couldn't do this work without you.

I was so inspired by the outpouring of support and genuine love from the community throughout the holiday season. Thanks to you, we provided (spoiler alert) SO MANY turkeys and other delicious food for people to have special holiday meals with their loved ones. You'll find all the details on page 3.

Of course, our work isn't just about food. I'm so proud of our growing mental health counseling and social services teams for continuing to provide essential support to help people thrive.

Now, as we embark on what is likely to be another challenging year, we need your help more than ever. **We continue to serve about 25% more people than this time last year.** At Nourishing Hope, we'll do what we've always done — show up and serve our neighbors with dignity and respect.

Please join us in recommitting to this work in 2024. Come volunteer with us. Donate to support our mission. Tell your friends and family. Whatever you did last year, commit to doing a little more.

As always, I'm filled with immense gratitude for our community. Thank you for doing your part.



Warmly,
Kellie O'Connell



Toy drive delights 550 kids this holiday season

At the Sheridan Market during the holidays, the vibe was indeed merry and bright. It was the final day of the **Nourishing Hope Toy Drive**, an annual event that brings joy to hundreds of families struggling to make ends meet.

“It brings me so much happiness to see our neighbors leave with so much hope and excitement to bring a toy home for their loved ones,” said Aliya Prescott, Nourishing Hope’s director of donor and volunteer engagement.

This year, more than 550 children received toys through the Nourishing Hope Toy Drive.

The toy drive also gives some relief to families faced with mounting bills and, potentially, holiday heartache.

This year’s toy drive also sparked some festive joy for families just recently arriving in Chicago from other countries. Only two months ago, Maira Muñoz, 38, and her family made the arduous journey from Venezuela. For now, they’re staying at a nearby shelter.

Oscari, Muñoz’s 3-year-old daughter, bounded around the toy room with unabashed delight.

“GRACIAS POR ESTA PEQUEÑA ALEGRÍA.”
“THANK YOU FOR THIS SMALL JOY.”

– MARIA MUÑOZ



Read the full story at
nourishinghopechi.org/blog

FOOD PROGRAMS AND HOLIDAY PROTEIN

At Nourishing Hope, we continue to serve an elevated need across our food programs, which include our two food pantries (Sheridan Market and El Mercadito), online market, home delivery service, and our Health and Hope program.

Through the third quarter of this fiscal year, we've provided more than **63,000 food services** across our programs — a **9% increase** from the same time last year, and a **54% jump from two years ago**. (The most significant increases have come at the Sheridan Market and through home delivery.)

As always, we're committed to serving any Chicagoan in need. And we believe everyone should have the opportunity to share a special holiday meal with their loved ones. To that end, we provided nearly **4,000 turkeys** this holiday season, in addition to **4,700 chickens**, **2,400 Cornish hens**, and more than **1,900 hams and pork tenderloins**.

In total, we distributed ... {drum roll} ... about **13,000 holiday meats!**



SOCIAL SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Nourishing Hope provides an array of social services to address challenges beyond food. Through the first three quarters of FY24, we provided **4,613 social services**, which include job, housing and utility assistance.

That total also included **2,182 free, trauma-informed mental health counseling sessions**. This critical work can help break the cycles of generational trauma. Looking ahead, we're launching a new therapy group in February specifically for migrant women.

Through the first three quarters, **340 households** were connected to housing options, rental assistance and wraparound support.



NEW YEAR, NEW PARTNERSHIPS!

At Nourishing Hope, we continue to build new partnerships throughout the city to reach more people in need. The reason is simple: By partnering with other trusted organizations, we can provide food and hope to Chicagoans who might not otherwise have access to needed support.

In January we started a new online market partnership with the **South Side YMCA**.

Participants in the South Side Y's early childhood daycare program will be able to order monthly groceries through our online market program.



Pictured: South Side YMCA staff with Natia Barnett, Nourishing Hope program expansion manager.

SAVE THE DATES!

It's going to be another fantastic year of Nourishing Hope events. **So please get out that calendar and mark these dates down.** Make no mistake, these events are critical to our fundraising efforts to support our programs and services.



The End Hunger Social is a joyful gathering hosted by our **Young Leaders Board**. There will be music, dancing, drinks (including non-alcoholic options) and silent auction prizes — all to benefit our mission of providing food for today and hope for tomorrow.

Last year, our End Hunger Social raised \$62,000. This year, the goal is to raise **\$65,000**.

This year's End Hunger Social will be held on **Thursday, May 9**, at **Joy District**, 112. W. Hubbard St. While our End Hunger Social is tailored to young professionals, all who are 21 and older are welcome to attend.

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

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!



Please save the date for our largest annual fundraiser, the **Nourishing Hope Gala**, which will be held on **Friday, Sept. 20** at The Geraghty.

The essential funds raised at our annual gala support our work of providing food, mental health counseling and social services. **Last year, more than 500 people came together to fund the growing need that we're serving.**

If you like planning a big party for a good cause, please consider joining our gala committee! Contact **Drew Moran**, director of institutional partnerships, for more information.



SUPPORT TEAM NOURISHING HOPE!

We're so thrilled to have our **LARGEST EVER** team for the **2024 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 13**. In just a matter of a few years, we've gone from not having a team to having **35 runners**! Our team is aiming to raise **\$75,000** this year toward Nourishing Hope's programs. You can support by [making a donation](#) or by sponsoring our team. Reach out to kyle.friedler@nourishinghopechi.org for more information.

WELCOME TO THE BOARD, SHELLEY!

Shelley Fulla, an experienced public sector strategist, has joined Nourishing Hope's board of directors. Fulla is the director of public and social impact consulting at Slalom Chicago. She's also a volunteer home delivery driver who's logged **more than 300 hours of service**.



"As a volunteer, I am able to directly impact the individuals we work with," Fulla said. "As a board member, I can work to help change the face of food insecurity in the community."

Thank you, Shelley!

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERING...

Nourishing Hope is fortunate to have a robust volunteer base of more than **6,000 volunteers per year**. But we always need a little more help, particularly after the holidays.

Here are some areas of particular need:

- **Home delivery drivers**. Come load up some groceries into your own car and take them directly to our homebound neighbors in need.
- **El Mercadito**. No habla Español? No problema. While we always welcome Spanish-speaking volunteers, anyone can help out at El Mercadito, our Humboldt Park food pantry.
- **Corporate groups**. Looking for an invigorating and rewarding day that will bring your team closer together through service? Look no further. More information at nourishinghopechi.org/volunteer.

MAYOR JOHNSON VISITED NOURISHING HOPE

ICYMI, **Mayor Brandon Johnson** stopped by our Sheridan Market just before Christmas to learn more about our work. He even took some time to volunteer and serve a few of our neighbors in need of food.

We're grateful to Mayor Johnson and other elected officials for their support.



NEW ANNUAL REPORT IS HERE!

Check out our powerful new **two-year annual report** encompassing fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The report provides a meaningful snapshot of two incredibly challenging but remarkable years for Nourishing Hope. **We served more people in fiscal year 2023 than we did at the height of the pandemic.** Put simply, we could not have risen to the challenge without the outpouring of support from our donors, volunteers and community partners. Thank you.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS IN THE NEWS

Nourishing Hope participated in a flurry of media stories around the holidays. The stories were largely focused on the increased need in the community. Our work was featured in [Block Club Chicago](#), [WGN](#), [Fox 32](#), [ABC 7](#) and the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Op-ed: Helping feed our neighbors defines us as Chicagoans

By Kellie O'Connell
Chicago Tribune | Published: Nov 23, 2023 at 5:00 am



Chicago-area food pantries work to feed hungry ahead of Thanksgiving, say need has grown

By Mark Rivera
Wednesday, November 22, 2023



Nourishing Hope Food Pantry in Lakeview, Woodstock volunteers and more are working to feed the hungry this Thanksgiving.

GET INVOLVED

MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

[Nourishing Hope's monthly donors](#) provide a sustainable stream of support for our work and make a powerful difference for our community every single day. Plus, automatic monthly payments are a convenient way to invest in our mission. As you set your intentions for personal growth in the year ahead, we hope you'll consider resolving to do some good for our Chicago neighbors in need.

Here's how your monthly gift will make an impact in 2024:

- **\$10/month** - Helps provide fresh fruits and veggies to our neighbors each month.
- **\$30/month** - Nourishes one neighbor with 3 meals a day, 365 days a year.
- **\$50/month** - Provides 1,800 meals annually through our home-delivery program.
- **\$100/month** - Helps provide our neighbors with free counseling sessions from licensed therapists.



Food for today. Hope for tomorrow.

1716 W. Hubbard St.
Chicago, IL 60622-6214

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.

(Photo credit: Abel Uribe for Nourishing Hope.)