

SSCM FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER



Issue 1 | May 2022 | Volume One

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

SSCM Food Pantry is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit food pantry located in and focused on serving the south side of Columbus, Ohio, which provides at least a 3-day supply of food to individuals and families in need.

DID YOU KNOW?

While we serve clients from throughout central Ohio, during the first four months of 2022, 59% of households visiting SSCM Food Pantry were residents of our target service area - Columbus' south side.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SSCM FOOD PANTRY

It's 2022, and SSCM Food Pantry has been feeding the hungry on the south side of Columbus (and beyond) for 45 years! The Board recognizes that this is a significant milestone which would not have been achievable without our tireless all-volunteer team and generous supporters. We'd like to take this opportunity, in the inaugural issue of our pantry



newsletter, to formally extend our thanks to every person who has supported the mission of SSCM Food Pantry with their time, talents, and resources throughout the past four plus decades. We want you to know that the Board shares your passion for feeding the hungry and are eternally grateful for your tireless support. **Thank you for all you do to make a difference in our community.**



Cheryl Harrison, President
RuthAnn Farthing, Secretary
Sharon Coil
JoEllen Hahn
Linda Langhorst
Karen Trifonoff

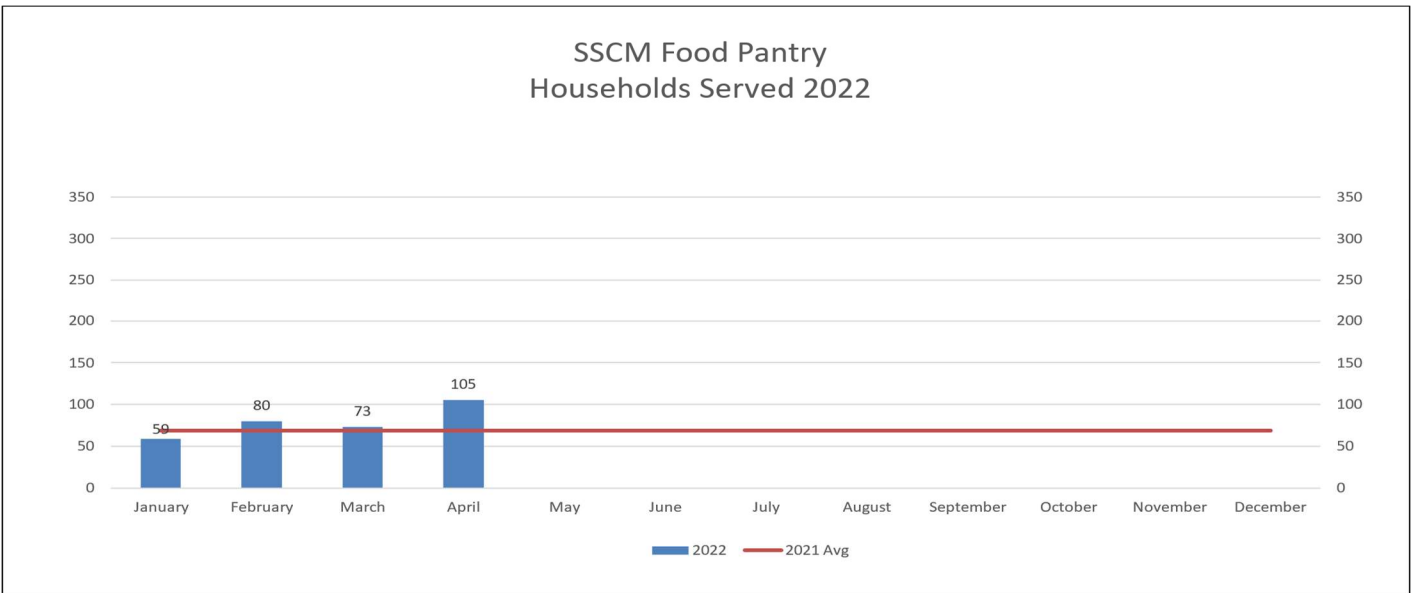
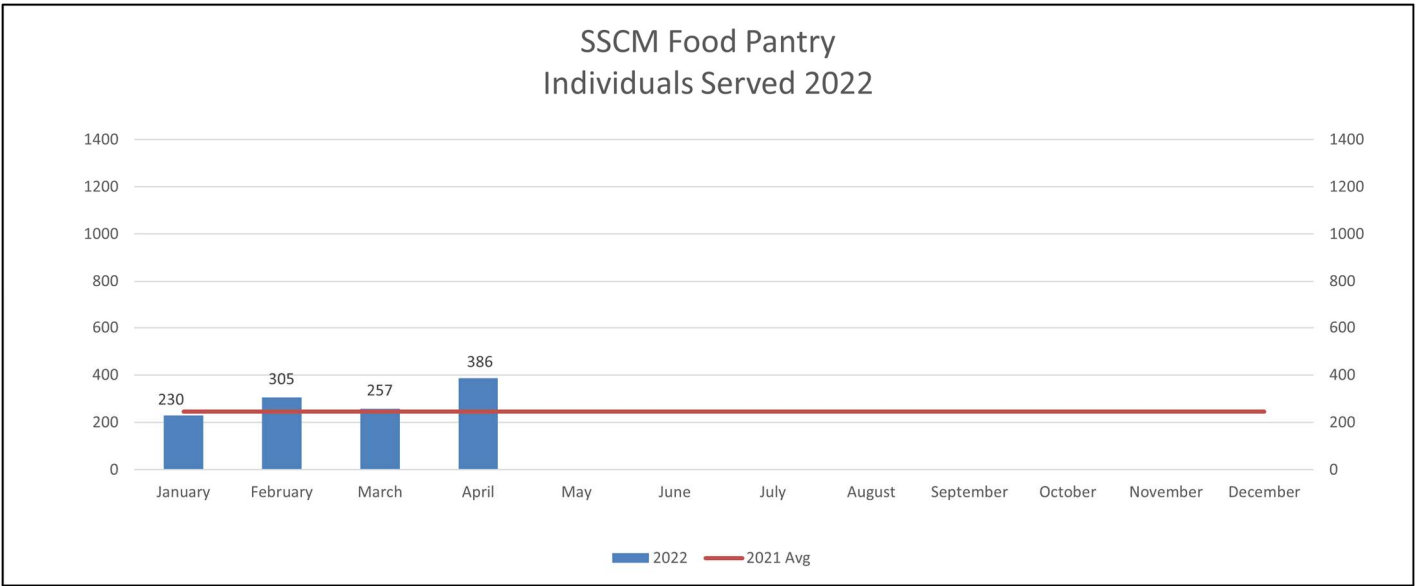
Bob Robenalt, Vice President
Mary Kelly Minner, Treasurer
Dawn Deaterla
Jil Holmes
Roger Suppes
Lori Veisz

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Next MOFB Food Order Unloading – May 17th 8:30 AM at the Pantry

Next Open Week – May 23rd, 25th, and 27th

Service Statistics – January to April 2022



Did you know?

The pantry's website provides information helpful to clients such as open dates and times. It also has a PAYPAL button which makes donating online easy for supporters. The website can be found at:

<https://sscmfoodpantry.org>

Website visits occur more often on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the website traffic is heaviest between noon-1PM and 4-6PM.



Donations totaling just over \$650 have been received so far in 2022, initiated through the PAYPAL button on our website.

Dollars & Cents at the Pantry

From January through April, the Pantry's expenses for the period totaled \$12,899 and the donations received from supporters totaled \$12,814.87. With food prices and the number of pantry visitors trending upward, it will be critical that the total donations continue to increase throughout the rest of the year. This will help to ensure that adequate funds are available to continue operating the Pantry into the future while maintaining an adequate "rainy day" fund. Because the SSCM Food Pantry is an all-volunteer organization with no paid employees, our expenses are all related to purchasing and transporting food for distribution from the Mid-Ohio Food Cooperative to the Pantry, as well as other basic expenses related to keeping the pantry doors open and operational. No donation is too small as all donated dollars directly support feeding the hungry in the south side and beyond.

VOLUNTEERS KEEP THE PANTRY RUNNING

From January through March (first quarter 2022), volunteers spent nearly 370 hours operating the pantry. From ordering to unloading/stocking, and from boxing to shop-thru/produce pickup and working with clients during open times, 51 different volunteers made it all possible.

Please make sure you log all hours worked on behalf of the pantry each time you work, so our monthly reports accurately reflect the time and effort required to fulfill our MISSION.

A Heartfelt THANK YOU

To All our VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't fulfill the mission of the

pantry without YOU!



Partner Agreements Approved for Renewal

At the April Board meeting, motions were made to renew annual partner agreements with both Bottoms Up and Mobile Beacon. Bottoms Up is a non-profit organization which provides SSCM with diapers for distribution. Diapers are delivered monthly to SSCM free of charge. Mobile Beacon is the service which enables SSCM to register clients using mobile devices such as iPads. Mobile Beacon charges \$10 per month or \$120 per year per device for this service. SSCM currently uses two iPads so the total annual expenditure of \$240 was approved for service during the next 12 months. Both partner agreements were approved unanimously by the Board at the April meeting. The Board meets monthly (via conference call) on the second Wednesday of the month at 6PM. If you are interested in attending a meeting as a pantry volunteer, please reach out to Cheryl Harrison for dial-in numbers.

Generous Donation Received from Local Service Group

In April, a \$2,500 donation was received by SSCM from the Northwest Kiwanis chapter of Kiwanis International. In 2021, this same service group facilitated the replacement of the food pantry's aged front door and entryway with their generous financial support. Individual members of the local organization also support the pantry through their regular involvement in the monthly unloading of the food order from Mid-Ohio.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the first four months of 2022, 33% of the clients who received a 4-day supply of food through the SSCM Food Pantry were children ages 0-17

Kiwanis International is a service organization whose mission is, "Serving the children of the world". The Northwest Kiwanis are living their mission in part by fighting food insecurity in our community with both their time and resources. SSCM Food Pantry thanks the Northwest Kiwanis for their continued partnership and support!

THANK YOU, NW KIWANIS!

Volunteer Survey – Coming Soon!

Over the last 45 years, the SSCM Food Pantry has continued to evolve pantry operations with a focus on optimizing both the customer and volunteer experiences. Most recently, SSCM changed from a CHOICE shop-thru model to a pre-packed box distribution model to keep our clients and volunteers safer during the pandemic. Now, the Board would like to gather the opinions of our volunteers on how well the current pantry model works for them, as well as any feedback gathered by volunteers as they serve clients and distribute the boxed food items. We want to hear what works well, what doesn't work well, and ideas for improving any part of the pantry operation (e.g. Ordering, Delivery/Unloading, Shop-Thru/Produce Pickup, Box Packing, Registration, Client Service, Open Day Set Up /Tear Down, etc.). The Volunteer Survey will be coming from Survey Monkey to your email soon. We look forward to hearing input from everyone. **Watch for it!**