

SSCM FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER



Issue 2 | June 2022 | Volume One

OUR MISSION

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.



THIS MONTH'S MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF SSCM FOOD PANTRY

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 client feedback gathered by volunteers as they distribute the boxes of food items. We are hoping to hear from each of you about what works well for volunteers or clients, what doesn't work so well, and your ideas for improving any part of the pantry operation. Whether you are a current or past volunteer, and regardless of whether or not you serve clients directly or work in the background ordering/procuring food, assisting with the delivery/unloading/stocking processes, picking up items at Mid-Ohio while doing Shop-Thru/Produce Pickup, participating in packing boxes, assisting with open day set up/tear down, registering clients, or helping to physically distribute boxes of food to clients, we want to hear your thoughts and opinions. All volunteers with emails on file will receive a link via email from Survey Monkey around the week of June 20th. Survey completion, however, is anonymous so we are counting on each and every volunteer to participate. The Board looks forward to your input as we work to position SSCM Food Pantry to continue feeding the hungry for the next 45 years and beyond.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Unloading MOFB Food Order
June 14th, 9:00 AM at the Pantry

Extra Hands Welcome!!

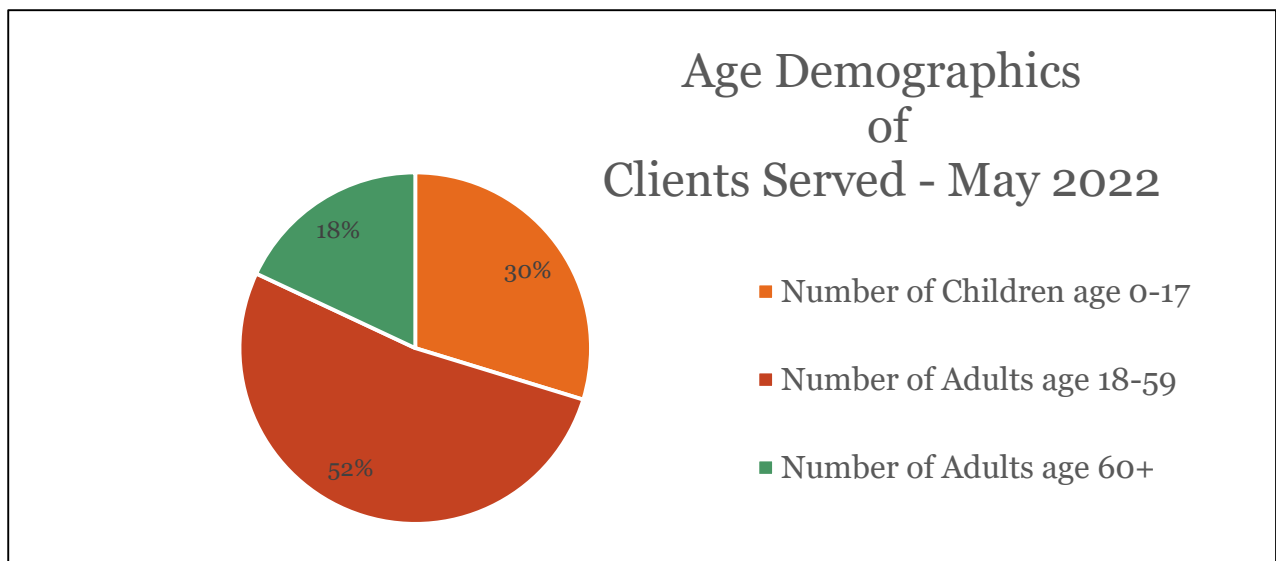
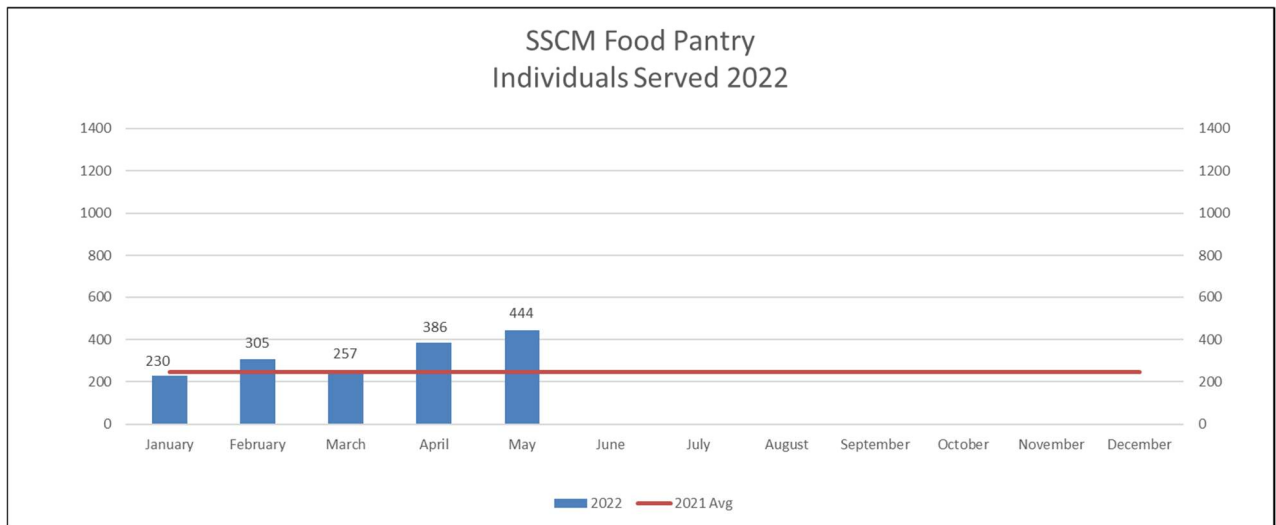
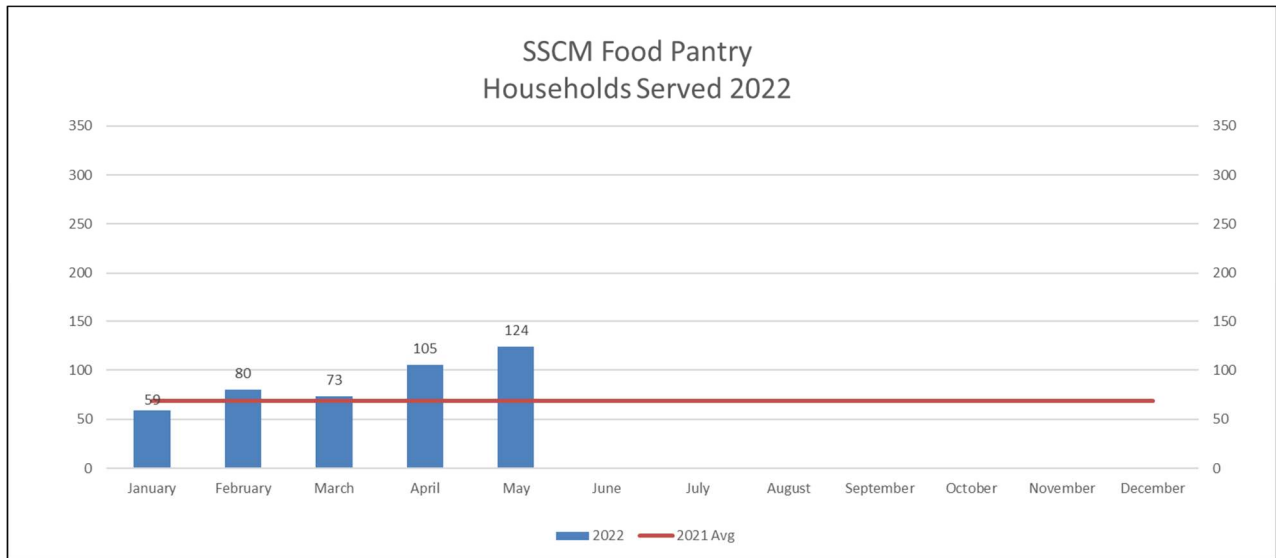
Contact Bob Robenalt at (614) 561-5003 for more information on unloading.

Next Open Week
June 20th, 22nd, 24th

Cheryl Harrison, President
Ruth Ann 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

Service Statistics – January to May 2022

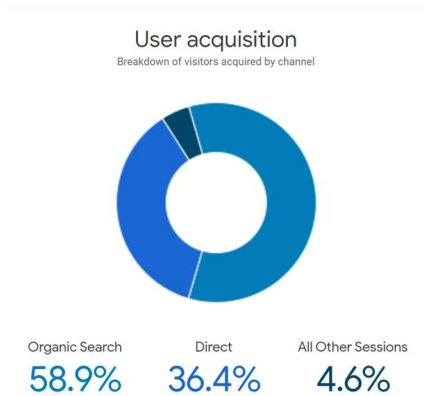


Did you know?

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>

Donations totaling just over \$700 have been received so far in 2022, initiated through the PAYPAL button on our website.



Many of the visitors to the SSCM Food Pantry website (nearly 60%) come to our site through unpaid search results (likely searching for “pantry” or similar terms) on search engines such as Google, Yahoo, or Bing. Around 36% of our website visitors specifically type in our website address.

Dollars & Cents at the Pantry

With prices increasing across the board, we have all experienced food costs taking a bigger bite out of our budget, and the Pantry is no exception. Through May, we paid more than \$6500 for food and critical personal hygiene supplies. It takes a lot of food to provide at least a 3-day supply to every member of all the households visiting the pantry. In May alone we distributed food for more than 5,300 meals. Below is a chart detailing the weights of our each of our food orders from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective in 2022.



The food purchased, unloaded, and stocked from January to May weighed just over 25,000 pounds, and using this we distributed food for over 19,460 meals!

A Special THANK YOU

To All our Delivery VOLUNTEERS!

*We couldn't fulfill the mission of the
pantry without YOU!*

Local Comics Store Feeds More Than Customers' Imaginations

Feeding the hungry in our community isn't free. It requires monetary resources and a personal commitment to making a difference in the lives of our neighbors who are food insecure. Gib Bickel, Manager of Laughing Ogre Comics in Clintonville, began demonstrating just such a commitment nearly ten years ago by holding regular food drives at his store to benefit SSCM Food Pantry. The very first "Capes & Cans" food drive in 2013 brought in 245 cans of food to help fill our pantry shelves. Along the way, in addition to the food drives, Gib decided to add an SSCM Food Pantry donation jar to his checkout counter to make it easy for customers with extra change to donate it to the pantry. Many of the customers of Laughing Ogre must share Gib's passion for feeding the hungry because, collectively, they have raised nearly \$2,000 through the donation jar in just the last three and a half years! Recently, when asked why he was such a strong advocate for feeding the hungry through SSCM Food Pantry, Gib acknowledged that there are a lot of pantries in our community doing good work, but he likes the fact that SSCM is staffed 100% by volunteers and all donations go directly to feeding the hungry right here in Columbus. Keeping it local is important to Gib. In addition to finding the physical Laughing Ogre retail store located at 4258 North High in Clintonville, you will see Laughing Ogre Comics listed on the "Partners and Affiliates" tab of our SSCM website because their support through the years has been impactful to fulfilling our mission to provide food to the hungry who come through our doors.

THANK YOU, Gib and the Laughing Ogre Team, for your support!

Produce Market 2022 Update

The 2022 SSCM produce market, in partnership with Wesley Church of Hope, kicked off on May 14th at the host church location at 2935 Bulen Avenue in Columbus. In May, produce equivalent to 2,025 meals



was distributed through this market so volunteers are always needed. A schedule for all of 2022 is detailed below. If you are interested in volunteering, please plan to arrive at the Bulen Avenue location between 9:30 and 10AM. The market opens at 10AM. This is a rain or shine event and wraps up when all produce has been distributed. If you interact directly with clients at the SSCM Food Pantry, feel free to let them know about upcoming Produce Market events. Questions about the event should be directed to Tim Delamatre at CoachTimD@gmail.com.

Produce Market	15255	Southside Community Ministries	5/14/2022	Saturday	10:00 AM
Produce Market	15255	Southside Community Ministries	6/11/2022	Saturday	10:00 AM
Produce Market	15255	Southside Community Ministries	7/9/2022	Saturday	10:00 AM
Produce Market	15255	Southside Community Ministries	8/13/2022	Saturday	10:00 AM
Produce Market	15255	Southside Community Ministries	9/10/2022	Saturday	10:00 AM
Produce Market	15255	Southside Community Ministries	10/8/2022	Saturday	10:00 AM