

# SSCM FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER



Issue 4 | August 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.



## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

**Unloading MOFB Food Order**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM at the Pantry - Extra Hands ALWAYS Welcome!!**

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

**Next Pantry Open Weeks:**  
**August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Next Produce Markets:**  
**2935 Bulen Avenue**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 10AM**  
**October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10AM**

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

The Board again thanks the volunteers who took their valuable time to share personal points of view in the recent volunteer survey. When replying to questions about open hours and days, several respondents suggested that before making any changes we should ask our clients if expanding our current schedule would better fit their needs – so we did! During the July open week, clients visiting the pantry were randomly polled about their satisfaction with our current distribution model and open schedule. The feedback gathered from clients was very positive overall with a significant majority indicating they are completely satisfied with our current box distribution model and our current open days/hours, so the Board is not planning to expand the current open schedule nor change the box distribution format at this time. In terms of specific volunteer feedback gathered, we also clearly heard the need to enhance some of our equipment, so we are currently exploring cost effective options to do just that in the very near future.

## Thank You, Volunteers!

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

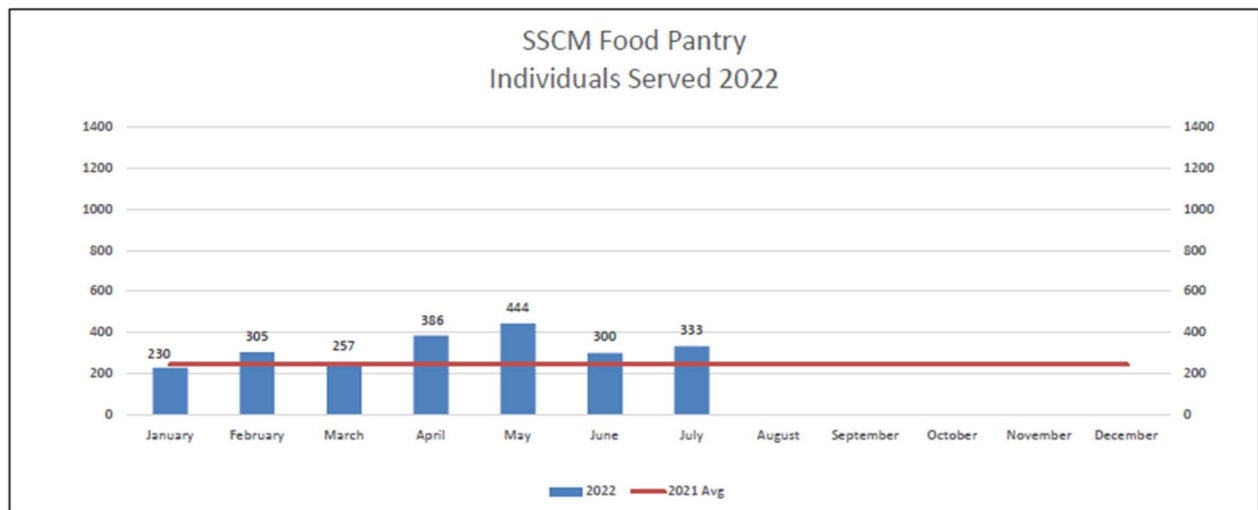
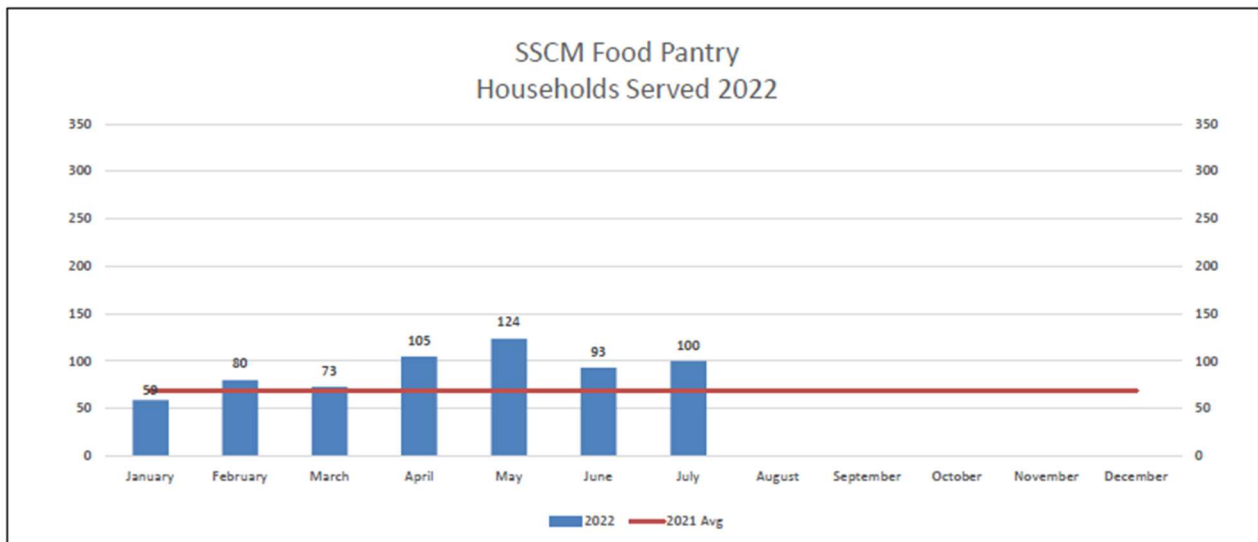
Bob Robenalt, Vice President  
Mary Kelly Minner, Treasurer  
Dawn Deaterla  
Jil Holmes  
Roger Suppes  
Lori Veisz

## Did you know?

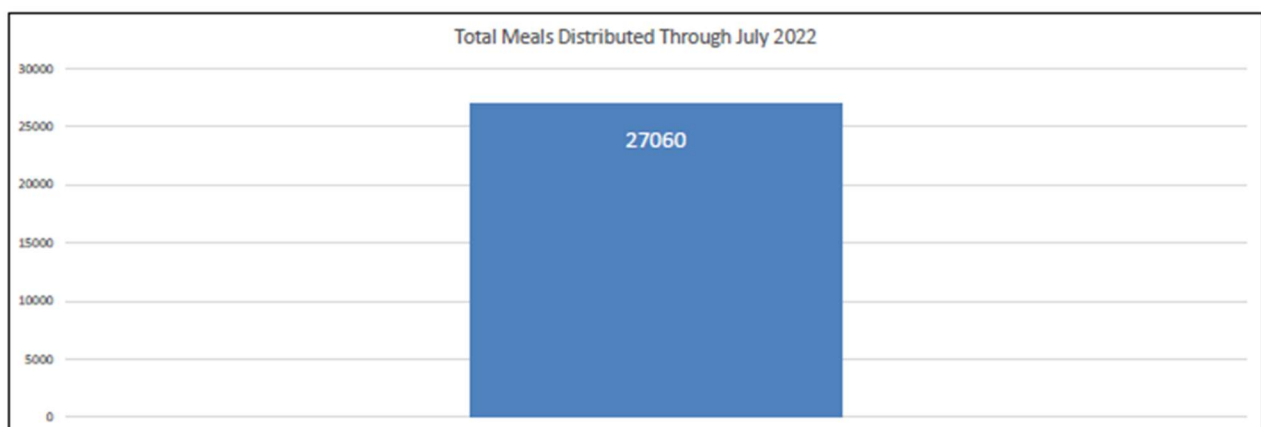
Previous issues of all SSCM Food Pantry Newsletters are available on our website:

<https://sscmfoodpantry.org> under the Newsletter tab.

## Service Statistics – January to July 2022



**More than 27,000 meals  
distributed through July 31<sup>st</sup> !**



## Being a Partner Agency Brings Responsibilities to SSCM Food Pantry

During July, the SSCM Food Pantry operation underwent an annual review by the Mid Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) to ensure our continued compliance with Federal and State regulations, as well as with operational requirements stemming from our Member Agency Agreement with MOFC.



Because some of the food we purchase from MOFC is initially sourced through Federal government programs like the Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and State agencies like the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) are involved in further handling and distribution of the subsidized food to regional foodbanks like MOFC, local Member Agencies like SSCM Food Pantry must comply with both Federal and State regulations.

*Article Continued top of next column*

These regulations prohibit discrimination against clients intentionally, by neglect, or by the effect of actions or lack of actions based on protected classes such as Race, Color, Religion, National Origin, Age, Sex, Disability, and Military Status (Ohio considers this a protected class). During our annual review we must demonstrate our compliance with all the requirements, including proof that we:

- Train volunteers in civil rights, annually
- Ensure adequate access to our programs by persons with Limited English Proficiency by having "I Speak" cards readily available and access to translators
- Visibly display the "Justice for All" poster in the area where clients are served, and have the "equal opportunity provider" statement posted on our website
- Operate in a manner which supports compliance and fair and equitable service, with volunteers who follow consistent procedures, maintain accurate records (e.g. service stats, client registration, temperature logs, etc.) and engage in safe food handling in a welcoming environment

We passed our review with flying colors again this year! THANK YOU to ALL of our volunteers and Board members who are equally tasked with helping to ensure the SSCM Food Pantry achieves compliance with these requirements so we can continue to fulfill our Mission by serving those in our community who are food insecure.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**FreshTrak** is an online pantry/meal locator service. Clients needing food or a meal should be referred to <https://freshtrak.com>. After inputting their zip code, clients are provided with a list of pantries and free meals available that day near their neighborhood.

## Dollars & Cents at the Pantry

Every dollar matters, especially in these times of inflation and constantly increasing prices. Because SSCM Food Pantry is an all-volunteer organization, all monetary donations go directly to making food available to those in need. The majority of the food we distribute is purchased from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective (MOFC). Through their efforts to procure both government-subsidized food items and purchase the most cost-effective food items available at a wholesale level, a \$1.00 donation to SSCM Food Pantry can currently purchase approximately \$5.22 in food through MOFC.

### Food Safety Corner



"Best by" dates mark the last day before food quality declines.



"Sell by" is used by manufacturers to ensure turnover of a food product in the store, to ensure product is taken home before quality declines.



"Use by" marks the last date recommended for the use of the product. This is often printed on meat, poultry or egg labels.

### FOOD DISPOSAL GUIDELINES:

Baby food and formula must be removed from shelves and disposed of as of the expiration date. Once the expiration date is reached it begins to lose its nutritional value and is not permitted to be distributed to clients. Before distribution, check all baby food jar lids to see if the center of the lid has "popped up". If it has, the seal has been broken and the contents may be compromised even though the expiration date on the jar has not yet passed.

High-acid canned foods (tomatoes, grapefruit, pineapple) may be stored on the shelf for 12-18 months past the date on the can. All other canned foods may be stored for up to 24 months past the date on the can. Always discard immediately any cans that are dented, leaking, bulging or rusted, regardless of the date, because the contents may be compromised.

### REFRIGERATION/COOLER TEMPERATURES:

Cold foods must be held at 41 degrees or below at all times. The thermometer should be kept in the back of the refrigerator/cooler to obtain an accurate reading.

Eggs may be kept 3-5 weeks past the date shown on the egg carton. Sour cream may be kept 15 days past the date stamped on the product. Yogurt may be kept 30 days past the date shown.

Any questions on food safety should be directed to Monday Shift Leader, Sharon Coil.