

# SSCM FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER



Issue 5 | September 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

October 18<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:

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

### Next Produce Market:

2935 Bulen Avenue

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10AM

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

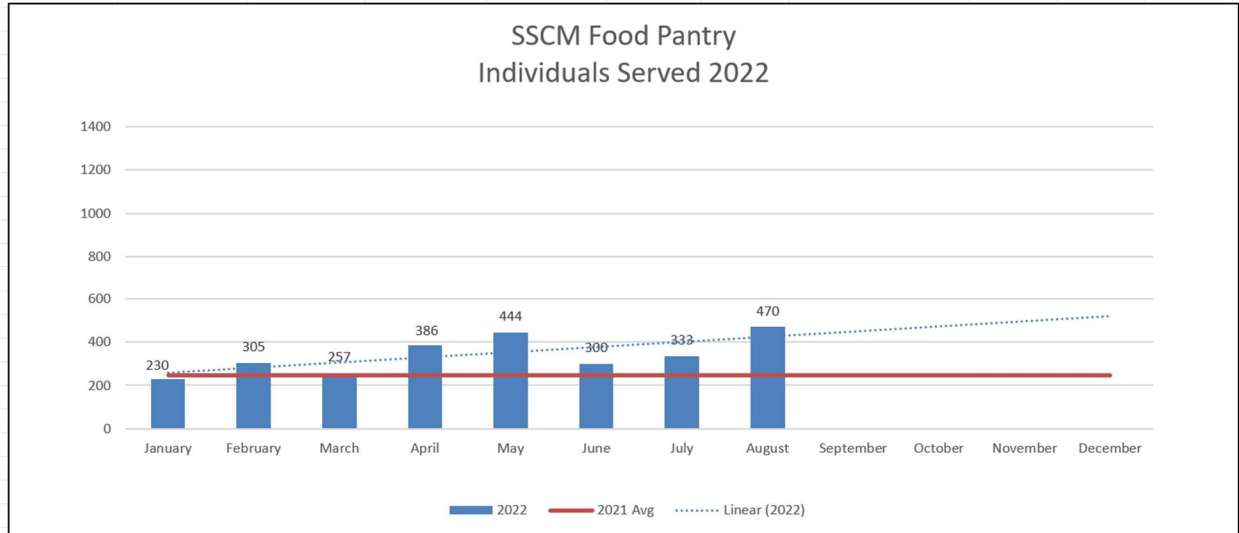
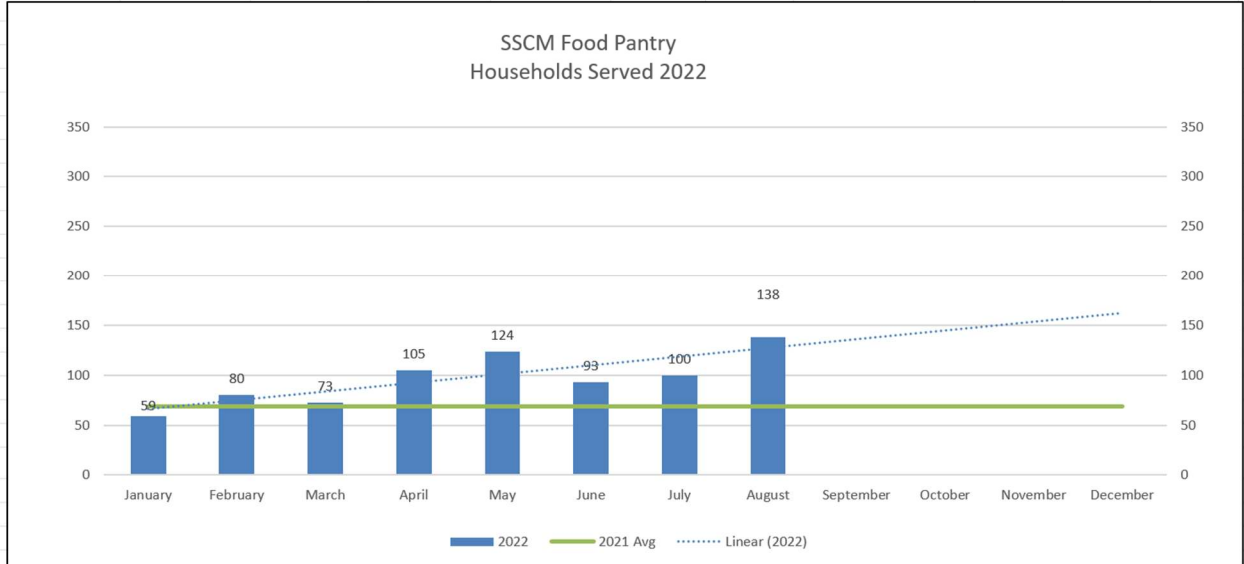
September has been designated as HUNGER ACTION MONTH, where we all join together to raise awareness and take action to end hunger in our community. Our partners at the Mid Ohio Food Collective (MOFC) are working harder than ever to procure affordable food for purchase and distribution to the hungry in central Ohio, but 2022 has brought supply chain challenges and increasing wholesale prices across the board. The higher cost of everyday living is, in turn, increasing the number of people who are food insecure, resulting in a demand for food which has never been greater. At the neighborhood pantry level, we are seeing the number of clients visiting SSCM increase significantly each month, while the prices of the individual food items we must purchase also continue on an upward trajectory. These factors challenge us to stretch our meager monthly budget even further in order to continue to fulfill our mission to provide a 3-day supply of food to all those who come through our door. Volunteers play a vital role in fulfilling our mission not only by operating the pantry and serving clients, but also by working to raise awareness of the level of local food insecurity in our community, and by sharing with others through personal interactions and social media that every donation, regardless of the amount, is needed now and can make a real difference in the lives of the hungry. Thank you for all you do at SSCM Food Pantry! We're glad you're on the team!

## 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

## Service Statistics – January to August 2022

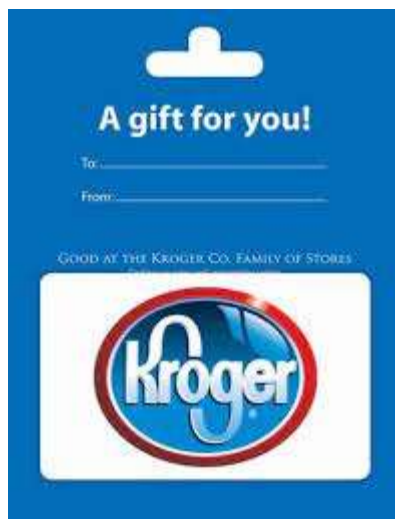


**Food for more than 32,000 meals  
distributed through August 31st !**



## Did you know?

Website activity is up 51% during the first eight months of 2022, over the same period in 2021. Through our website, clients and volunteers can view open week dates for the entire year and download prior issues of the newsletter to read. In addition, our website displays a PayPal button which makes donating online quick and easy! During the past two months more than \$1,300 has been donated through our website!



## Help Us Give the Gift of Food this Holiday Season

As you read earlier in this newsletter, the higher cost of fuel, housing and food is putting the squeeze on family budgets everywhere, so food insecurity is a real crisis right now in our community and beyond. With the holidays fast approaching, the Board of SSCM Food Pantry would like to be able to supplement the December standard food distribution by also giving at least one donated \$10 gift card to every household. That means we need at least 150 \$10 gift cards to Kroger or Aldi's by November 1st! Here's how you can help:

- Talk with your church or local service organization about "adopting" SSCM families this holiday and donating one or more \$10 Kroger or Aldi gift card to SSCM Food Pantry before November 1st
- Make a personal donation to the Pantry by November 1st, via check or PayPal, with a notation that it is earmarked for a gift card purchase
- Purchase one or more \$10 gift cards from Kroger and/or Aldi's and give them to your volunteer group leader at the pantry before November 1st

While \$10 doesn't buy much for our families at today's prices, we ask that all gift cards be purchased in that denomination so we can be fair and equitable with all of our families. Please consider being an advocate for the families in need who come to SSCM Food Pantry by getting word of this plan out in the community so everyone has an opportunity to make a difference in our community at this most difficult time.

Any specific questions about gift card donations or purchases, or the earmarking of cash donations should be directed to Mary Kelly Minner.

## In Memoriam



### *Pastor Alan Hicks*

May 27, 1960 ~ August 6, 2022

Pastor Gary Alan Hicks of St. Paul UCC Church, passed away on Aug 6, 2022, after a courageous battle with Cancer. He was 62 years old. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, October 1, 2022, 11AM at the church located at 225 E. Gates Street, Columbus, Ohio 43206. Pastor Alan was passionate about feeding people both physically and spiritually and was one of SSCM Food Pantry's biggest advocates. He will be missed!

## Profile in Service



**Volunteer Jean Lewis**

In May 2022, a long-time volunteer at SSCM Food Pantry, **Jean Lewis**, passed away at the age of 86. Jean was most recently a member of the SSCM Monday shift open week team. Through her work as a dedicated volunteer at SSCM, Jean made a positive difference in the community during her lifetime, and her passion for feeding the hungry is still having an impact as more than \$4,300 has been donated to SSCM Food Pantry in memory of Jean since her death in May. The Board and volunteers of SSCM Food Pantry wish to formally thank and recognize Jean for her many years of service to the Pantry, and Jean's family and friends for their generous donations in her memory.

THANK YOU, Jean & Family



A reprint of her obituary as published online at:

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/25082416/vaughn-e-jean-lewis>, appears below.

*Jean Lewis, age 86, of Columbus, Ohio passed into the arms of Jesus on Tuesday, May 10th. She was born and raised in Columbus with her five siblings. Her given name was actually Vaughn Elaine, but she was affectionately given the name of Jean at a young age by her sister and it stuck. She graduated from Columbus North High School in 1953 where she was a member of the girls' basketball team. Following graduation, she went to work at Nationwide Insurance, ultimately meeting her future husband, Bob, on a blind date. They were married for 62 years, moving from Columbus to Charleston WV and then to Belpre, OH, raising two children and being active in the community. Jean was a leader for Weight Watchers for over twenty years and loved to help motivate others to choose a healthier lifestyle. Following her husband's retirement, they moved back to Columbus where they enjoyed time with family and friends.*

*She was preceded in death by her husband Bob, and her five siblings, Pat, Paul, Jerry, Dick, and Sandy. Jean is survived by her daughter Pam of Columbus, and her son Michael (Sue) of Grand Rapids, MI and grandchildren Nicholas and Zachary, as well as many nieces and nephews.*

*Jean absolutely adored being with her family and friends and playing games, especially dominoes and all kinds of card games. Holidays with family always included a few rounds of poker and of course a Texas sheet cake baked with love by Jean. She enjoyed watching any kind of sports but was a Buckeye through and through and loved to watch her team play and cheer them on. Jean loved books and could always be found during quiet hours with her Kindle in hand. She had a kind word and smile for everyone, and she spent many hours at the Southside Community Ministries' food pantry helping customers pick out groceries for their families. Previously she was a member at St. John's Church in Columbus, where she enjoyed volunteering for The Largest Table preparing meals for the homeless community and being a member of the Cherub Circle. Most recently, she was a member of Westerville Community United Church of Christ, where she volunteered with the Holly Day Bazaar and other activities.*

*A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 18th at 10 a.m. at Westerville Community United Church of Christ, 770 County Line Road, Westerville, OH. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to Southside Community Ministries Food Pantry, 225 E. Gates Street, Columbus, OH 43206.*