

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Sharing with Sheridan Food Pantry

A PARTNERSHIP OF
Food Bank of the Rockies
Food Exchange Resource Network
St. Philip Lutheran Church

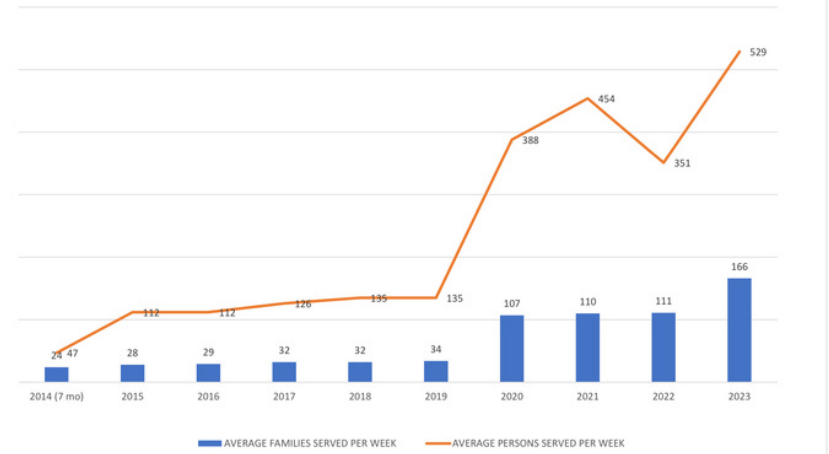
HISTORY

Sharing with Sheridan (SwS) is a volunteer-operated food pantry that opened in June 2014. Prior to March 2020, SwS served an average of 34 families per week, or approximately 7,000 neighbors per year using a small space within the Sheridan Recreation Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic struck, most public spaces in our metro were closed, including the recreation center. At the same time, our neighbors' need for food escalated. We adapted by transitioning to outdoor distribution, using a drive-thru model and welcomed our neighbors to visit as often as needed. We continue to use this model year-round as it allows us to serve a greater number of families and distribute a far greater volume of food.

FINANCES

Since operations began in 2014, SwS has been financially sound due to the grants we have secured and the generosity of our supporters in providing time, talent, transportation and donations of money and supplies.

Sharing With Sheridan Food Bank:
Weekly Average Number of Families and Persons Served



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was a record-breaking year for SwS. We experienced dramatic growth, serving 27,000 neighbors over the course of the year, a 50% increase over the prior year. It began in the spring, as the federal government terminated protections put in place during the pandemic. Emergency food stamp allotments under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ended in March. The pandemic-era 'continuous coverage' under Medicaid was unwound and thousands of neighbors lost medical benefits, temporarily or completely, as dictated by the redetermination process. At the same time, high inflation in food prices and housing costs put significant strain on household budgets. Then in late summer, the number of families seeking food began to grow more quickly with the large influx of migrants to our metro area. In December, we set a new record, serving 266 families/753 neighbors in a single week.

Fortunately, we were able to meet this unprecedented demand by substantially expanding the amount of food we gathered each week. This was possible, in large part, though grants we were able to secure and the generosity of our supporters. We greatly benefited from the Colorado Emergency Funds that the state legislature allocated to the Food Bank of the Rockies, who in turn used the funds to make a variety of staples available to partner agencies at no cost.

OUR SOURCES

The food and supplies we distribute come from many different places. Some we buy at discount; some we obtain for a monthly membership; some is shared by other food pantries and organizations; some is purchased outright; and some is donated, either regularly or occasionally.

The following are our primary sources:

Christ Lutheran Church
Food Bank of the Rockies
Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN)
Littleton Church of Christ Food Pantry
Littleton Life Center
Royal Crest Dairy
Southwest Food Coalition
Many Generous Individuals
St. Philip Lutheran Church Community Garden

COMMUNITY

SwS continues to be part of Sheridan, participating in community and school activities and assisting with food for various youth camps and programs. We also are represented in CANDO, an information-sharing group for the Sheridan community.

Many of our newer neighbors speak little or no English. Therefore, our biggest need right now is for bilingual (or even semi-bilingual) Spanish/English volunteers for distribution from 1:30-4:30 on Thursdays.

A survey of our neighbors conducted in July showed we are generally on the right track. A few tweaks were made, like offering more choice in produce and making sure eggs and milk are always available.

Deacon Korra Looschen of St. Philip has been offering prayer opportunities monthly to those neighbors waiting in line.

VOLUNTEERS

SwS has so many wonderful volunteers, and distribution could not happen without them! All involved with the pantry are so grateful for their dedication. Columbine Kiwanis volunteers are present every week to help set up, and people from Concordia on the Lake come monthly to repackage large quantity items.



You are helping to make a huge difference in the lives of people who would otherwise be hungry and we are grateful for your support! We hope that you will spread the word about the need in Sheridan and encourage your friends and neighbors to get involved. Volunteer opportunities are not only on Thursdays!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023

Arapahoe County	Life Center of Littleton
Christ Lutheran Church	Littleton United Church of Christ Food Pantry
CDHS Food Pantry Assistance Grant	Polidori Sausage Company
Columbine Kiwanis	Project Our Town
Concordia on the Lake	People and staff of St. Philip Lutheran Church
Counterman Insurance, Inc.	Sheridan School District No. 2
Englewood Elks Lodge	South Suburban Parks & Recreation
Food Bank of the Rockies	Southwest Food Coalition
Hercules Industries	St. Luke United Methodist Church
Home Aid Colorado/Builders for Babies	US Postal Service
ITW	The State of Colorado
Generous Individuals	



CONTACT US

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