

Growing every day to help our community

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR NEW MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide healthy food and compassionate support, and to advocate for food security and social equity.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is of a community where everyone has access to the quality resources they need to thrive, including healthy food, housing, and healthcare, and where everyone is welcome, included, and valued.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### THE LUNCH BOX

Free hot chef-prepared meals served six days a week.

### THE PANTRY

Free self-choice shopping and delivery available, open M-F 8:30am-4pm.

### MOBILE PANTRY

A new program located at Sun River Health in Amenia.

### URBAN FARM & COMMUNITY GARDENS

Farming and gardening in a pesticide and herbicide free environment generating thousands of pounds of fresh produce.

### FRESH MARKET POP-UP FARMER'S MARKET

Offering affordable produce from our Urban Farm and local farm partners.

### FARM STAND

In collaboration with The Food Bank of Northeastern New York, we provide free produce once a month to 300 households.

### ACTS OF KINDNESS

Provides free housewares to hundreds of people each year.

### CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CLOSET

Free, gently used clothes.

### CASE MANAGEMENT

Provides support for utilities, medication and rent as well as connections to housing, immigration, employment, mental health and addiction services, and education.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lynn Bassanese**

Chairperson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, retired

**Carol Lally Metz**

Vice-Chairperson, Former Non-profit Executive Director

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Secretary, IBM, retired

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## DIRECTORS EMERITI

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## OUR TEAM

**Renée (Fillette) Miccio, PhD**

Executive Director

**Tara Whalen**

Assistant Executive Director

**Ariel Bevier**

Retail Recovery Coordinator

**Teresa Brennan**

Receptionist

**Tess Connors, MS**

Lunch Box Manager

**Stacy Dedring, JD**

Director of Operations & Advocacy

**Nyhissha T. Gibbs, MPA**

Director of Community

Engagement

**Carley Franklin-Hughes**

Farm, Market, & Community

Garden Manager

**Kimberley Mazzuca**

Development &

Communications Coordinator

**Rich Oszip**

Lunch Box Dishwasher

**Jeanne Traugot, JD**

Director of Development &

Communications

**Keith Wood**

Assistant Lunch Box Manager

**Samantha Vacchio**

Director of Finance & HR



In 2022, we celebrated Tara Whalen's 25th Anniversary with Dutchess Outreach. We greatly appreciate everything Tara does to support this organization and the community we serve.

Every day, Tara goes above and beyond to help people get the assistance they need.



**We are saddened by the recent passing of Suzanne Williams and grateful for her contribution to our organization.**

Suzanne served as Executive Director of Dutchess Outreach from 1990-1995, and was responsible for moving us toward a food justice mission. While ED, she was president for many years of the Hunger Action Network of New York State. Suzanne was also a major player in the Neighborhood Based Alliance, which laid the foundation for the creation of the Family Partnership Center, where Dutchess Outreach is located today.



Dutchess Outreach serves residents throughout Dutchess County. We have a team of 13 staff, but our agency is fueled by over 2,000 volunteers who provide over 16,000 hours of support throughout the year.



### A WORD FROM RENÉE

In New York State, food insecurity has increased by 85% since 2022, compared with an increase of 35% nationwide. At Dutchess Outreach, we are experiencing a similar shift. For the first time in our history, we reached an unfathomable milestone: we prepared and served **749 meals in one day in The Lunch Box**. Compared with the average of 200 meals per day in 2019, this is staggering.

Every week we see new faces coming in for a chef-prepared meal. In many cases these are folks visiting a food program for the *first time in their lives*. These are our seniors and our veterans, they are our children between summer meal programs, and our neighbors working to make ends meet.

Our Pantry guests continue to increase - reaching over **1,200 visits** each month - another shocking comparison from the 250 monthly visits just four years ago. **With so much more need, and without the corresponding level of increased funding, we are challenged to press on and do more with less.** We are finding creative ways to spread our resources wisely and with the compassion and respect for our guests that are core to Dutchess Outreach.

For the past 49 years you have come to know Dutchess Outreach as the place for emergency relief; **we must also be the driving force for systems change.** Through a new food rescue initiative, we are bridging the gap between food on a path to being wasted, and the local people who need it. We are **increasing our advocacy and linking arms with food security providers** around the region and state to ensure adequate funding is steered into our area to close the shocking **\$15,912,000 meal gap in Dutchess County.**

Through partnerships with healthcare organizations we are finding ways to provide nutritious food to those with chronic disease. We are expanding our support within the county with a new Mobile Pantry located at Sun River Health in Amenia. Dutchess Outreach continues working on behalf of our **25,540 neighbors in Dutchess County facing food insecurity.** We are asking the hard questions about how we got here, and **enacting solutions that stabilize our community.**

Together with our partners, donors, volunteers and team, ***we are expanding our efforts and getting things done.*** We are continuing to do more than ever before, continuing to grow and move forward on all of these fronts, and **we need your help to do it!**

**Help close the meal gap!**  
**Help us feed more people than ever before.**

# More visits to our pantry than ever before



Through a grant from the County of Dutchess, we were able to upgrade our pantry shelves to give guests a more authentic grocery store experience.



We continue to provide pet food for those that need it thanks to the Animal Farm Foundation.

## Dutchess County Community Annual Delivery Locations



Rip Van Winkle Apartments



Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce One Stop



Maplewood Apartments



Masjid Al-Mutakabbir Mosque

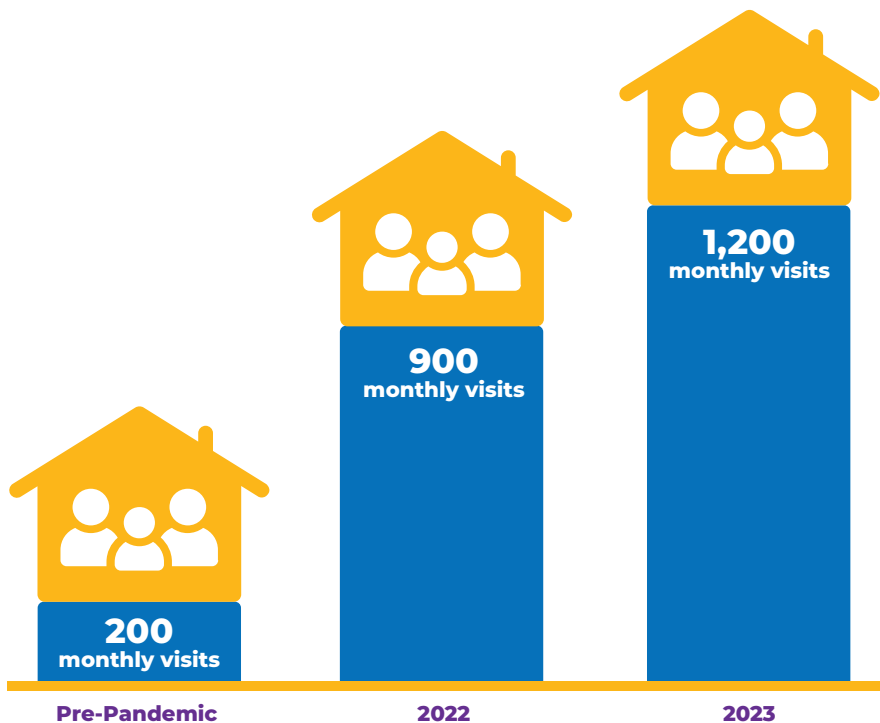


# THE PANTRY

FREE GROCERIES

We were forced to reduce the amount of food per household in the Pantry to accommodate the increased number of visits. If we had received additional funding, we could have provided more food to more people.

**Please donate to provide more food to more people!**



**OVER 134,000  
LBS. OF FOOD**



**12,472  
HOUSEHOLD  
VISITS**



## “It’s like a little grocery store!”

Brittany, a mom of two kids, and her fiancé Travis visit the Pantry to choose their own groceries. Travis had never been to the Pantry before, and was amazed to find the Pantry has a self-choice style.

Brittany has been coming to Dutchess Outreach for more than just our Pantry. When she found out she was pregnant, she visited our Children’s Clothing Closet to pick out clothes she would need. Tara was able to help Brittany with her oil bill. Brittany encourages anyone who needs help to go to Dutchess Outreach.

**CLIENT  
STORY**

DUTCHESS OUTREACH

# THE LUNCHBOX

## A Community Meal Program

80% of the food prepared in the Lunch Box is made from scratch by chefs Tess Connors and Keith Wood. **We average about 2.7 servings per guest at lunch and dinner.** In speaking with guests, our team has discovered that many are collecting food for not only themselves but their family and neighbors.



Wayne seen here with our chefs Tess & Keith

**“Your food is healthy. I didn’t like sweet potatoes but now I’ve acquired a taste for them.”**

Wayne, our friend and Veteran, has been visiting Dutchess Outreach since 2010, after his mom passed away.

Wayne lived in unsafe conditions for 10 years without her, and previously struggled with many mental and physical health issues. With help through the VA he found an apartment, and he finds his favorite BBQ chicken in our Community Meal Program, the Lunch Box.

Wayne is happily on a journey to wellness, getting the nutrients he needs and a safe place to live that he so deserves.

**132,460  
MEALS**



**77,567  
LUNCH MEALS**



**41,767  
DINNER MEALS**



**12,126  
CHILDREN SERVED  
(after school and  
youth programs)**

**CLIENT  
STORY**



**More than 30% increase in chef-prepared meals**



**This year, we hosted Dutchess Outreach Board Member and Chef Brandon Walker from Essie's Restaurant who made a delicious meal of herbed chicken and beans for our community.**



DUTCHESS OUTREACH

# FRESH MARKET

*A Community Health Solution*

**This year our Fresh Market became a weekly pop-up Farmer's Market offering affordable produce procured from our Urban Farm and local farm partners.** The Urban Farm and Market are managed by Carley Franklin-Hughes.

Through a partnership with Sun River Health in Amenia, our Fresh Market trailer is being repurposed as a mobile pantry to increase access to healthy food in the northeastern part of Dutchess County.

Increasing access to healthy food



Broadening our reach in Dutchess County.

## Urban Farm

In our Urban Farm we grow a variety of produce which is then distributed through our Fresh Market, Food Pantry and Lunch Box including: kale, spinach, arugula, rhubarb, radishes, swiss chard, beets, peaches, blackberries, pears, zucchini, okra, tomatoes, eggplant, scallions, collards, squash, onions, carrots, potatoes and edible flowers.

## Farm Partners

**11,754 pounds of produce, meat, dairy from partners and our Urban Farm combined.**

- 1841 Farm
- Chaseholm Farm
- Fat Apple Farm
- Fishkill Farms
- Glynwood
- Hahn Farm
- Hudson Valley Farm Hub
- Lasher Meadow Farm
- Marist College Gardens
- Meadowland Farm
- Obercreek Farm
- Old Ford Farm
- Poughkeepsie Farm Project
- The Roosevelt Home Garden
- Sky High Farm
- Sweet Freedom Farm
- Willow Vale Farm





DUTCHESS OUTREACH

# FARM STAND

FREE PRODUCE

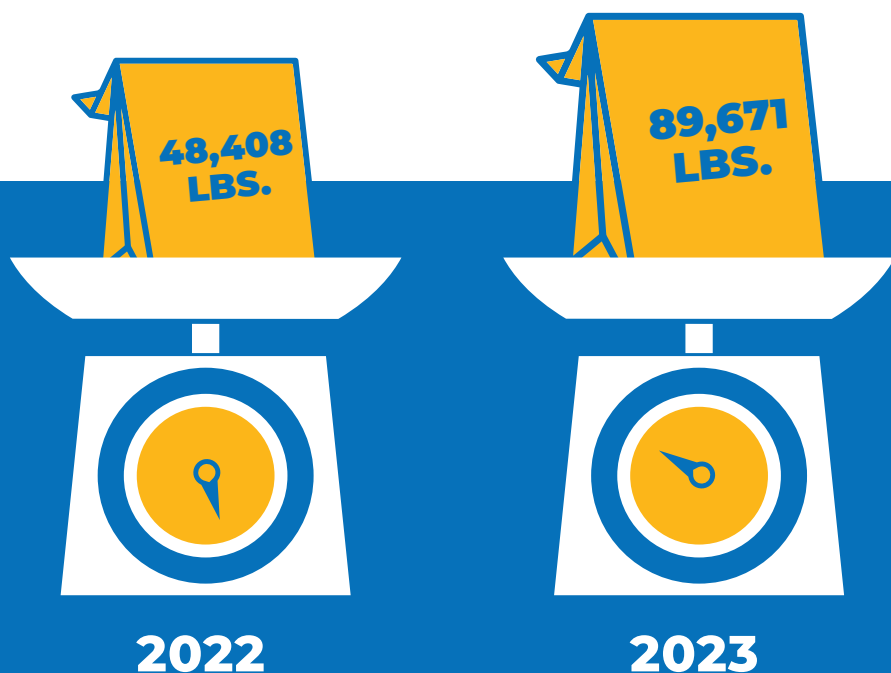
**The Dutchess Outreach Farm Stand offers free produce and other food once a month all year round.**

With the help of dedicated volunteers led by Nyhisha T. Gibbs, Director of Community Engagement, we are able to provide food for hundreds of families each month.

This program is made possible thanks to the food provided by the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. We partner with other community organizations and businesses to offer health screenings, school supplies, library cards, and more. Utility representatives have attended our Farm Stand to be on hand to answer any questions community members may have.

Special shout out to **Reason & Ruckus** on Main Street for kindly letting us use their restaurant space when we need to be indoors.

Feeding thousands of people with free food and produce



**6,455**  
**Grocery Bags**  
**Distributed**

**89,671**  
**Pounds**  
**Distributed**

## Rescuing Food

### We hired a Food Rescue Coordinator!

In the next year, Ariel will rescue an anticipated 25,000 lbs of excess food from six local retail stores. Food insecurity is increasing, and food rescue helps offset the gap in our food budget!



## We received a new van!

**In 2022, Dutchess Outreach received a van from the City of Poughkeepsie.**

This is especially important to our operations and our ability to rescue thousands of pounds of food. This food is then distributed to thousands of community members that need it.



## Food Procurement

**Stacy Dedring has transitioned into a new role: Director of Operations & Advocacy.**

She is responsible for food procurement, allowing us to **increase the amount of food we get from local farms**. Stacy can also focus on **purchasing food at the most cost efficient rate**.





# Community Engagement

Each year we host many local groups, organizations and individuals who take a tour and learn about Dutchess Outreach.

This helps to forge long-term partnerships engaged in food insecurity efforts while also highlighting the work that we do at Dutchess Outreach. In the spring, we were fortunate to host medical residents from Nuvance Health and students from the Culinary Institute of America focusing on sustainable food systems (both shown here).

Expanding our reach through tours



and community engagement



# Advocacy

In May 2023, our Executive Director, Renée, attended the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, DC with thousands of other anti-hunger leaders from across the country.

During the conference, Renée spent a day on Capitol Hill with Hunger Solutions New York, Regional Food Bank NENY, and other NY organizations advocating for vital food programs for our community.

Stacy Dedring, our Director of Operations & Advocacy, spent the day in Albany in April 2023 advocating for our community and the importance of SNAP at the Farm Bill Listening Session.

In the Summer of 2022, Lt. Governor of New York, Antonio Delgado visited Dutchess Outreach to learn more about our work in the community.



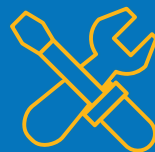
Expanding our advocacy efforts



# Emergency Assistance Grants

We help our guests with essential bills when they need it most.

This program is made possible through grants from the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region and Dutchess County. Tara Whalen, Assistant Executive Director, assists clients with receiving these funds.



**\$16,132**  
UTILITIES



**\$3,223**  
OIL/PROPANE



**\$5,803**  
PRESCRIPTIONS

## Acts of Kindness

Thanks to our friends at Hudson River Housing, AOK is located at 106A Little Market Street in Poughkeepsie.

AOK provides free essential household items for those in our community that need them. Thanks to Nancy Aronzon, Carolyn Gordon, Rita Lewis, Audrey Ryan and Susan Sinclair, who run this program. This group coordinates with other non-profit agencies to provide people with the items they need, and this year alone AOK provided household items for **600 people**.



## Children's Clothing Closet

**This program, run by volunteers, provided 600 families in our community with free gently used children's clothing.**

Thank you to Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation for their support of this program. Thank you to the community for donating approximately **\$25,000 worth of clothing** to support families with clothing insecurity.



## Coat Drive

**This program is run by Nyhisha T. Gibbs, Mary Dynes and dedicated volunteers to provide our community with free coats, hats, and other winter clothing.**



With the help of partners like Guardian Self Storage, iHeartMedia and The Dyson Foundation, Dutchess Outreach receives and distributes **over 12,000 coats and winter essentials**.





# Dutchess Outreach Volunteers

Dutchess Outreach cannot fulfill our mission without the help of our volunteers led by Nyhisha T. Gibbs. They keep our doors open. Our volunteers are always an email or phone call away, ready to help with little notice and come back whenever needed.

Volunteers help stock our food pantry, prepare lunch and dinner in the Lunch Box, unload trucks of food deliveries, and weed our Urban Farm. They also run our Acts of Kindness and Children's Clothing Closet.

Each year we have a Volunteer Recognition Reception to celebrate our volunteers. Some of the images of the event are shown here.



2,392  
VOLUNTEERS



16,815  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



# In-Kind Donations

Dutchess Outreach relies on donations from our community! This year, Dutchess Outreach received in-kind donations for our Pantry, Lunchbox and school supplies for our Farm Stand **VALUING \$285,000.**

## Support Dutchess Outreach today!



**Rescue and bring us excess food from restaurants, food stores, farms and other food businesses.**



**Host a meal in the Lunch Box: bring ingredients, cook, and serve the meal.**



**Sponsor a meal in the Lunch Box. This meal can be in honor of a loved one.**



**Run a food drive and drop off donations to our Pantry.**



## Coupons Against Hunger

**Our Coupons Against Hunger campaign raised over \$37,855!**

Our 3rd Annual Coupons Against Hunger Fundraiser was a success! Thank you to our committee members, and all our sponsors and coupon providers for creating a fantastic coupon book! This fundraiser is essential to our operations and food purchasing each fall.



**Thanks to funding from New York State, Dutchess Outreach was able to provide several distributions of fresh produce and locally sourced food to several hundred families in the Poughkeepsie City School District.**



# Donor Recognition

We are so thankful to those who provide monetary contributions, in-kind donations and volunteer hours. With your help we are able to keep up with the growing need in our community.

## Thank you donors!

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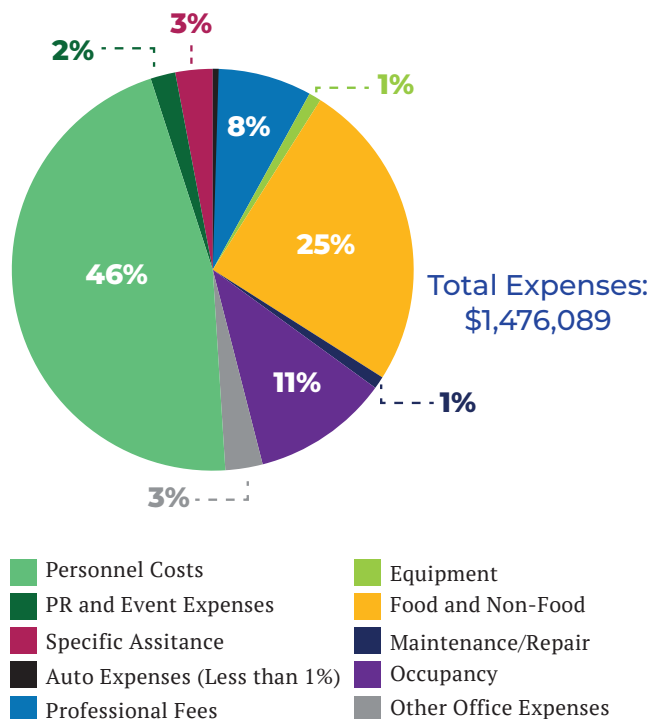
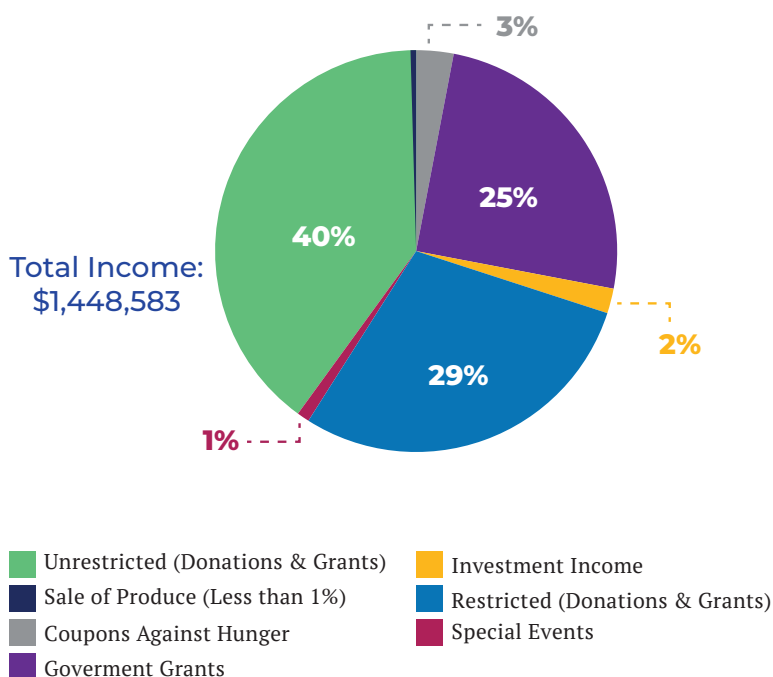
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"Dutchess Outreach is a major linchpin in providing food and support to those in the community who are having difficulty making ends meet, and I'm glad that I can help the organization fulfill its mission."

## Finances at a Glance

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



**\$0.84 of every dollar donated directly supports our programs.**

**“Dutchess Outreach gave me hope.”**



**“DOROTHY”**

Dorothy is a long-time resident of Poughkeepsie with a beautiful smile. She is disabled, and lives with her husband, an 80-year-old retired veteran, and a black lab puppy, Kemo. There are times when, after paying her taxes, mortgage, insurance, and utility bills, she doesn't have enough left over to make ends meet.

**Dorothy has relied on Dutchess Outreach's services to help close the gap between affording her bills and affording food.** Dorothy has received **basic needs** like toiletries and socks through our **Pantry and Clothing Closet**. She loves the **baked chicken and garden salad in the Lunch Box**. Our Associate Executive Director, Tara, who handles case management, connected Dorothy to resources that can help with some much needed renovations in her home.

“I didn't know where to go. Nobody wanted to help us. I was so worried. **I went to Dutchess Outreach and some of the doors started to open.** It took the pressure off me and my husband” she said.



**MAKE A DONATION TO HELP CLOSE THE GAP AND INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FOOD WE DISTRIBUTE!**

**Donate to Dutchess Outreach!**  
**dutchessoutreach.org**

For more information about donating or to add Dutchess Outreach in your estate plans, please contact: Jeanne Traugot, Director of Development & Communications at [jeanne@dutchessoutreach.org](mailto:jeanne@dutchessoutreach.org).



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