

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# 50

Dutchess  
Outreach helped  
me feel welcome  
and not judged.



**DUTCHESS**  
**OUTREACH**  
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

## Our Mission

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 chef-prepared hot meals served 6 days a week.

## The Pantry

Self-choice shopping, open daily 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, closed on Wednesdays.

## Mobile Pantry

Located at Sun River Health in Amenia.

## Farm Stand

In collaboration with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, we provide free food and produce once a month.

## Acts of Kindness

Provides free housewares to hundreds of people each year.

## Food Pharmacy/Food As Medicine

In partnership with Nuvance Health, we are providing patients with food for their specific health needs.

## 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.

*I work at Dutchess  
Outreach because  
ALL people deserve  
the right to have  
their basic needs met.*

## Board of Directors

Theresa O'Brien

Chairperson, IBM, retired

Donna Cupelli, R.Ph.

Vice Chairperson, Tops Friendly Market Pharmacy

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Treasurer, LaColla Construction Services

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Secretary, Central Hudson Gas & Electric

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Linda Gaines, Ed.D

Dutchess Community College

Maureen Roche

Garnet Health Medical Center

Anne Rutty

EasyMovie

Brandon Walker

Essie's Restaurant & B&L Hospitality

## Directors Emeriti

Owen T. Clarke, Jr.

## Our Team

Renée Fillette Miccio, PhD

Executive Director

Tara Whalen

Associate Executive Director

Teresa Brennan

Administrative Assistant

Dave Dunn

Sous Chef

Justin Embry

Retail Recovery Coordinator

Wally Gary

Pantry Manager

Nyhissha T. Gibbs, MPA

Director of Community Engagement

Deanna Jacobs

Food Systems Coordinator

Evelina Knodel

Director of Operations

Kimberley Mazzuca

Development &

Communications Coordinator

Andie Mitchell

Project Connect Coordinator

Rich Oszip

Lunch Box Dishwasher

Chris Rydell

Executive Chef

Jeanne Traugot, JD

Director of Development &  
Communications

Samantha Vacchio

Director of Finance & HR

Micah Watts

Finance & Administrative  
Associate



**Renée (Fillette) Miccio, PhD**  
Executive Director

## A word from Renée

The miracle of change takes time. It's a profound and often transformative experience that reflects the dynamic nature of humanity. In my time at Dutchess Outreach, it has become clear that this truly is a place of miracles. It is founded on the values of compassion, kindness, and hope, and the belief that no one should be hungry or without their basic needs met. **Our work has helped to create a better future for thousands of people in our community.** Dutchess Outreach isn't an address, a building, a program, or a person. Instead, it's a movement of kindness and action. For so many, we are a shelter from the storm.

For 50 years, people have known Dutchess Outreach to be the safe haven they can visit in their time of need, whether it be a sudden and unexpected loss of housing, lack of health insurance, or inability to afford food or necessities. **Dutchess Outreach is the place that welcomes people with open arms and without judgment or red tape.** For some, the help is momentary. For others, it is unconditional support to climb a mountain of challenges. We make no assumptions and impose no expectations beyond believing that hope will offer transformation.

Recently, we have seen more people than ever needing our assistance with record-breaking visits to our programs. Just last week, our Lunch

Box prepared nearly 900 meals in one day, which were served in our dining room, taken to-go, and delivered to our local shelter. The numbers in our Pantry continue to increase each month, and we currently serve 1,800 households. **Despite this increase, we have focused on delivering the highest quality food and care. We have offered an abundance of fresh produce from local farms and rescued food from local grocery stores. Together, we have made great strides in localizing our food purchasing, fortifying our farmers, and strengthening our community.**

**These unprecedented numbers reinforce the need more than ever to advocate for the people of our community.** This means working together with pantries from all regions of the county and strengthening the charitable food system through efficient movement of food, eliminating food waste, and collaborating on best practices. It also involves working with our partners in county government in 2025 to create a comprehensive plan for increasing food and nutrition security for all residents. **Through this work, we can collectively take action to change the systemic issues of poverty that impact our neighbors and look to a brighter future for all of us.**

**Thank you for believing in and supporting 50 years of Dutchess Outreach!** The joy of helping others connects us, uplifts us, and reminds us of our shared journey. As we contribute to the well-being of others, we cultivate a sense of belonging and gratitude, enriching our lives in ways we may never have anticipated. This beautiful exchange reinforces the notion that, in giving, we are not just helping others—we are also discovering the best versions of ourselves.

**On the Cover:** An archived photo from long before our Pantry followed a self-choice shopping model.



Executive Chef Chris Rydell prepared a 50th celebration BBQ for our guests. Chris is a graduate of the CIA and has 30 years of high-end restaurant experience. Fortunately, we

have someone with Chris' experience and passion who can serve our guests quality meals in our Lunch Box.



**THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS, THIS EVENT RAISED OVER \$120,000!**

**HONOREES:**

Arlene & Gilbert Seligman  
 Tenmile Farm Foundation  
 Acts of Kindness Volunteers  
 Marshall + Sterling  
 Obercreek Farm  
 Dutchess County Assoc. of Realtors  
 Brenda Ayers, MD & Nuvance Health  
 Henry Nias Foundation  
 Owen T. Clarke, Jr.



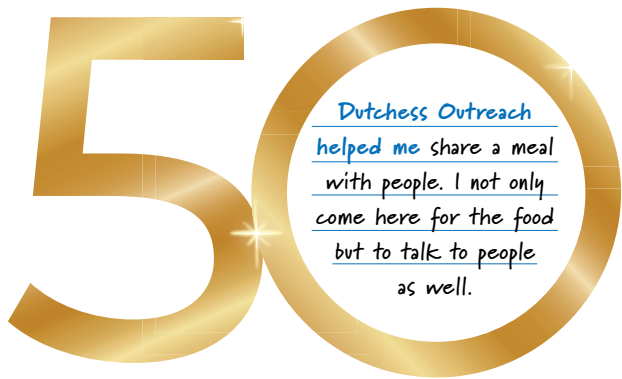
# THE LUNCHBOX

## A Community Meal Program

This year, we elevated the quality of our meals in the Lunch Box through our expert chefs, Executive Chef Chris Rydell and Sous Chef Dave Dunn. They continue to create 80% of our meals from scratch using locally sourced ingredients from farms.



**103,500  
MEALS**



*Dutchess Outreach helped me share a meal with people. I not only come here for the food but to talk to people as well.*



We dedicated our Lunch Box to former Executive Director Brian Riddell in appreciation of his 25 years of extraordinary passion and commitment to food access and social activism.



### 50th celebration BBQ for our guests

We took the Lunch Box outdoors to celebrate our anniversary with our guests by serving marinated brisket and pork loin while enjoying live music.



50

Dutchess Outreach  
helped me feed my  
growing boys and keep  
them from worrying about  
how food will get  
on the table.

# THE PANTRY

FREE GROCERIES



**OVER 494,098 LBS.**  
of food

2024

**1,800**  
monthly visits

2023

**1,200**  
monthly visits



**19,133**  
household visits

2022

**900**  
monthly visits



## Mobile Pantry in Amenia in Partnership with Sun River Health

Thanks to a grant from Berkshire Taconic Foundation and food from Tenmile Farm Foundation, we have provided nutritious food to over **300 households (850 people)**.



DUTCHESS OUTREACH

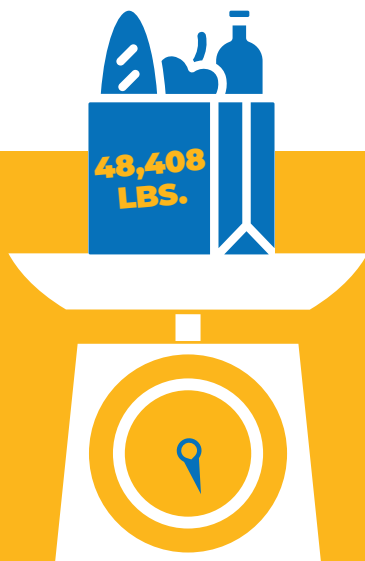
# FARM STAND

## FREE PRODUCE

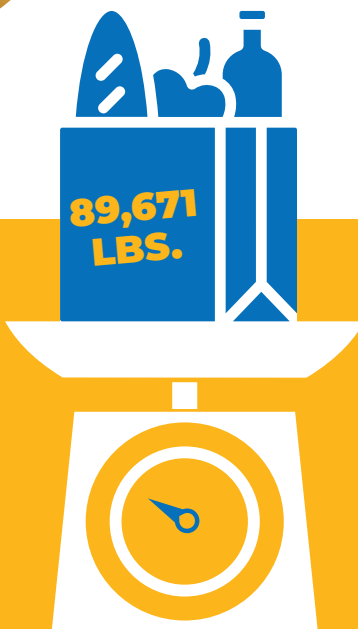
The Dutchess Outreach Farm Stand in Poughkeepsie offers free produce, food, and pantry items every 3rd Friday of the month all year round. With the help of dedicated volunteers led by Nyhisha T. Gibbs, Director of Community Engagement, we are able to provide food for hundreds of families each month.

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.

We have also helped to launch a Farm Stand in Pawling, providing thousands of pounds of food each month to families in that community. Stay tuned for more Farm Stands coming soon throughout Dutchess County!



2022



2023



2024



# Dutchess Outreach Volunteers

Dutchess Outreach cannot fulfill its mission without the help of its volunteers, managed by Nyhisha T. Gibbs. They keep our doors open and are essential to operating our programs.

Volunteers help stock our Food Pantry, prepare lunch and dinner in the Lunch Box, unload trucks of food deliveries, and run Acts of Kindness and Children's Clothing Closet.



**2,426**  
volunteers



**19,010**  
volunteer hours

**50** *I volunteer at DO because helping others helps me feel more human and connected.*





## Acts of Kindness

Acts of Kindness (AOK) provides free essential household items for those in our community who need them. **This year AOK provided housewares for 639 people.**

AOK has run thanks to Nancy Aronzon, Carolyn Gordon, Rita Lewis, Audrey Ryan and Susan Sinclair, who have volunteered for over 20 years. This group coordinates with other non-profit agencies to provide people with the items they need.

This year, we expressed our gratitude to these women with an award for their long-term commitment and service to Dutchess Outreach.

## Coat Drive

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

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



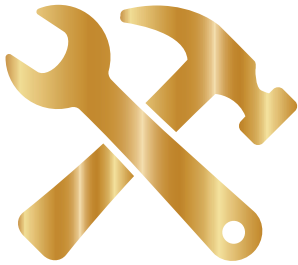
## Children's Clothing Closet

This program, run solely by dedicated volunteers, provided **783 families in our community with free, gently used children's clothing.** This is an increase from 600 families the previous year. This program is one of its kind in the area, helping combat children's clothing insecurity.

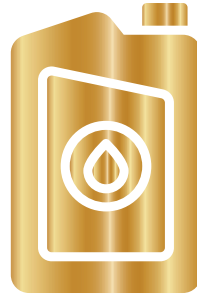


# Emergency Assistance Grants

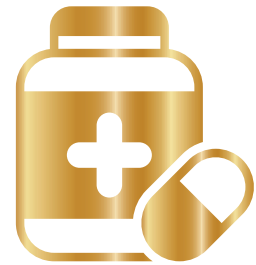
This program is made possible through grants from Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation, United Way of Dutchess-Orange Region, and Dutchess County. Tara Whalen, Associate Executive Director, provides case management support to help our guests get the emergency assistance they need.



**\$ 8,130.96**  
UTILITIES



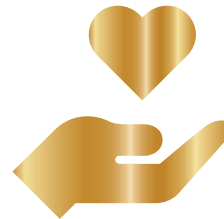
**\$1,419.71**  
OIL/PROPANE



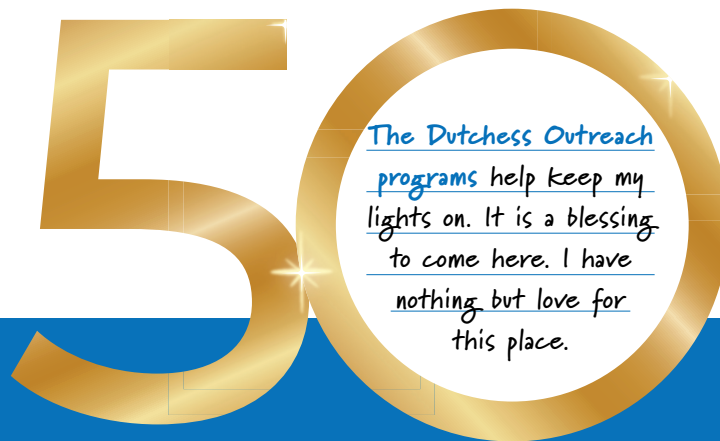
**\$4,713**  
PRESCRIPTIONS



**\$1,586**  
HOUSING SUPPORT



**\$426**  
MISCELLANEOUS



# Where does our food come from?

In addition to purchasing food from multiple vendors, we receive **hundreds of thousands of pounds of donated food** from the following places. These donations are essential to feed thousands of people in our community, including the 1,800 monthly visitors in the Pantry.

## In-Kind Donations & Food Drives

Dutchess Outreach relies on donations from our community. Each year, thousands of pounds of food are generously donated from schools, wholesalers, religious institutions, and many more. This year, Dutchess Outreach received in-kind donations for our Pantry, Lunch Box, and Farm Stand,

**VALUING \$329,107.**



## Farms

**Over 22,784 LBS. of donated food from the following local farms**

- Chaseholm Farm
- Farm Fresh Caribbean Growers
- Fishkill Farms
- Great Joy Family Farm
- Hudson Valley Farm Hub
- Hudson Valley Fish Farms
- Marist College Gardens
- Meadowland Farm
- Obercreek Farm
- Old Ford Farm
- Poughkeepsie Farm Project
- The Roosevelt Home Garden
- Truman Farms
- Sovereign Herbs
- Sweet Freedom Farm

**We are so thankful Tenmile Farm Foundation is including us in their crop plans and has provided over 40,000 LBS. of produce to us since they started in 2024.**



# Rescued Food

Thanks to a grant through the Regional Food Bank, our Food Rescue Coordinator rescued **133,408 LBS.** this year from local supermarkets which helped stock the Food Pantry in Poughkeepsie and Mobile Pantry in Amenia.



# Looking to the Future

**Dutchess Outreach launched several initiatives this year that will move our community forward in combating food insecurity while also addressing the root causes of poverty.**

## **Dutchess County Emergency Food Providers Coalition**

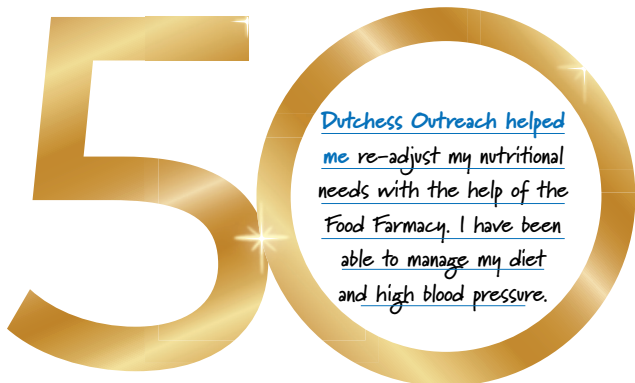
In January 2024, we hosted the first Dutchess County Emergency Food Providers Coalition. Food pantries representing all county regions came together and discussed common goals and priorities to end food insecurity. The Coalition has moved forward in the past year with the common goal of advocating for better legislation and food procurement practices. **Together, we can leverage the best food purchase prices, support local farmers, move food throughout the emergency food system effectively, and create real solutions to our community's entirely solvable hunger problem.**

## **Food Security Council**

In May 2024, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino kicked off the Dutchess County Food Security Council, following the recommendation of our Executive Director, Renee. The Council seeks to address the increase in food insecurity in our county with key stakeholders. **Some of the goals of this group are to understand and measure the root causes of food insecurity, reduce food waste in Dutchess County, maximize food procurement opportunities, and provide policy recommendations for Dutchess County to reduce food insecurity effectively.**

## **Food Farmacy/Food As Medicine**

In partnership with Nuvance Health, Dutchess Outreach provides food and the space for Nuvance's registered dietitians to advise patients who are both food insecure and experiencing chronic illnesses. In its first year, this program served 48 patients experiencing hypertension, providing food, recipes, and cooking supplies. **More than 50% of patients showed a reduction in blood pressure within the first 6 months. This program will advance to support patients with other chronic illnesses.**



*Dutchess Outreach helped me re-adjust my nutritional needs with the help of the Food Farmacy. I have been able to manage my diet and high blood pressure.*

# 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!

AAA Northeast  
Andrea Abegglen  
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John & Ruth Ackert  
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The Patrick & Barbara  
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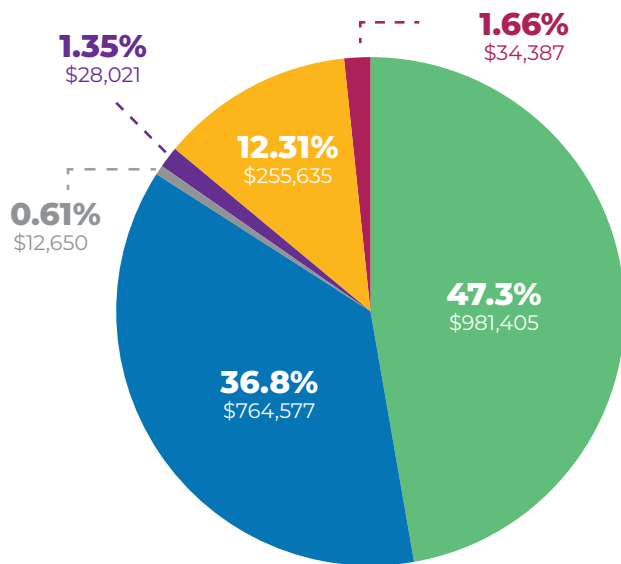
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## Finances at a Glance

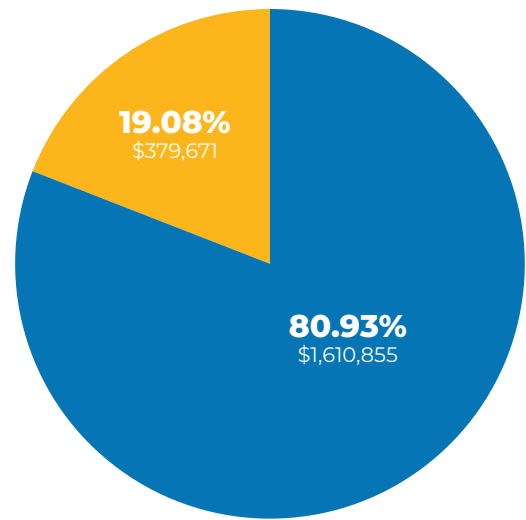
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



**Consolidated Operating Income**

Total Income:  
\$2,076,674

- Contributions
- Corporate/Foundation
- United Way
- Investment
- Government
- Special Events\*



**Consolidated Operating Expenses**

Total Income:  
\$1,990,526

- Programs
- Administrative & Fundraising

**\$0.80 of every dollar donated directly supports our programs.**

\* The 50th Celebration was not included in this Fiscal Year.

# Matthew's Story

Matthew first came to Dutchess Outreach after his mother died. His car had broken down, he had lost his job, and he couldn't afford food or to take care of the house he had lived in with his mom.

Tara, our Associate Executive Director who does case management, showed Matthew our Food Pantry, gave him an **emergency assistance grant to help with his utility bills, and found him mental health services.**

Matthew went on to live in a shelter, but Tara continued to advocate for and support him. She helped him submit apartment applications, and we are happy to report Matthew now has his own apartment. **Tara helped him furnish his new place with housewares from our Acts of Kindness program.**



**DONATE TODAY TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF HELPING OUR COMMUNITY, AND HELP US PAVE THE WAY TOWARD A HUNGER-FREE DUTCHESS!**

**Donate to Dutchess Outreach!**  
**[dutchessoutreach.org](http://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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