

*Together, we're redefining
what's possible*



 **DUTCHESS
OUTREACH**
2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Offers free, chef-prepared hot meals, served six days a week.

THE PANTRY

Self-choice shopping, open daily from 8:30 am to 4 pm, and is closed on Wednesdays.

THE MOBILE PANTRY

Located at Sun River Health in Amenia, provides shelf-stable and locally sourced groceries.

FARM STANDS- EXPANDED THIS YEAR!

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

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Provides free housewares to hundreds of people each year.

FOOD FARMACY/ FOOD AS MEDICINE

In partnership with Nuvance Health, part of Northwell, offers patients food tailored to their individual health needs.

CASE MANAGEMENT

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Theresa O'Brien

Chairperson, IBM, retired

Donna Cupelli, R.Ph.

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Pharmacy

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Treasurer, LaColla
Construction Services

Christopher Valdez

Secretary, Central
Hudson Gas & Electric

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Amishi Bhatt

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Chiyo

Linda Gaines, Ed.D

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Community College

Ana Lopez

MVP Health Care

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Dutchess County
District Attorney's Office

Maureen Roche

Garnet Health
Medical Center

Lori Rolison

Self Employed

Anne Rutty

EasyMovie

Brandon Walker

B&L Hospitality

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Owen T. Clarke

OUR TEAM

Renée Fillette-Miccio, PhD

Executive Director

Tara Whalen

Associate Executive Director

Teresa Brennan

Administrative Assistant

Dave Dunn

Executive Chef

Justin Embry

Retail Recovery Coordinator

Wally Gary

Pantry Manager

Nyhisha T. Gibbs, MPA

Director of Community
Engagement

Deanna Jacobs

Food Systems Coordinator

Evelina Knodel

Director of Operations

Lianne McElhone

Development &
Communications Coordinator

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Assistant Sous Chef

Rich Oszip

Lunch Box Dishwasher

Jessica Richardson

Associate Director
of Development

Chris Rydell

Sous Chef

Jeanne Traugot, JD

Director of Development
& Communications

Samantha Vacchio

Director of Finance & HR

Micah Watts

Finance & Administrative
Associate

A Message from Renée Fillette-Miccio, PhD Executive Director

As I reflect on this past year, I am struck by how much momentum, possibility, and transformation have defined our work — and our community. What began as a season of recovery quickly evolved into a period of **accelerated growth, bold partnerships, and a courageous reimagining of what food security can look like in Dutchess County.**

We entered the year intending to slow down, catch our breath, and rebuild capacity. Instead, community need and extraordinary support propelled us forward. **In February, we welcomed a record 2,000 guests to our Pantry.** We wove dignity and care into every aspect of our work, **began a long-overdue renovation of the Lunch Box,** and introduced innovations across our programs — from **two new Farm Stand locations** to stronger data systems and deeper partnerships with farmers and healthcare providers.

This year also marked a pivotal shift in our food systems work. At a local agriculture forum, I learned that more than half of our region's farmers lost money last year — an alarming signal of a system in crisis. In response, we are **building meaningful, reciprocal partnerships with farmers, community organizations, and universities to develop models that both reduce hunger and strengthen the local food economy.**

The need remains urgent. In response, we are continuing our work partnering with a coalition of pantries to source culturally relevant, nutritious food while advocating for systems that prioritize equity over charity. With support from Dutchess County, **we purchased a refrigerated truck, allowing us to expand food access across the region.**

Internally, we have strengthened our operations by conducting a DEIA assessment, expanding our team, and refining our systems to be more responsive and accountable — all while maintaining a stable and resilient financial position.



Looking ahead, we are preparing for a **regional food summit, launching new local purchasing initiatives, and developing a workforce curriculum in partnership with local organizations.** Through it all, our guiding question remains: *What becomes possible when we center dignity, community voice, and local solutions?*

To our board, partners, funders, volunteers, and the individuals we serve — thank you. Your belief in our mission has not only helped us meet urgent needs but also opened the door to something greater: **a reimagined future where food security is not a temporary fix, but a right rooted in justice, sustainability, and community.**

With deep gratitude and hope,

Renée Fillette-Miccio, PhD
Executive Director

Prepared with Love, Shared with Care

Our chef-led kitchen prepares nutritious, locally sourced meals with craft and care. Every dish nourishes not just the body, but the spirit—fostering dignity, connection, and resilience for every neighbor we welcome.

DUTCHESS OUTREACH

THE LUNCHBOX

A Community Meal Program



99,646

Chef-prepared meals
in the Lunch Box



74,901

Chef-prepared meals
to an emergency
shelter

This year, we were grateful for the opportunity to expand our reach by serving an emergency shelter for people who are unhoused and providing nourishing meals three times a day, seven days a week. To facilitate this increase in meal production, we welcomed an additional chef, Thomas, to our team.

Lunch Box Renovations

We've begun renovations at the Lunch Box to improve safety and create a more welcoming, trauma-informed space for everyone. Upgrades will include new flooring, tables, equipment, and more.



Locally Sourced, Culturally Relevant

Our pantry provides fresh produce and staples that honor the cultural traditions of our community. By offering food that is both nourishing and meaningful, we strengthen community connections and ensure every neighbor has access to healthy, dignified food.

DUTCHESS OUTREACH

THE PANTRY

FREE GROCERIES



15,645
Households Served



592,221
lbs of food



Mobile Pantry in Amenia

We have served **884 households** thanks to funding and donations from Tenmile Farm Foundation, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, and Fidelis Care.



Expanding our reach, nourishing more families

Over 3,000 households and more than 140,000 pounds of food shared across the community!



DUTCHESS OUTREACH

FARM STAND

FREE PRODUCE

What started in 2017 as a single monthly farm stand grew into **three year-round sites**—with no eligibility requirements. Anyone in need can access fresh produce and pantry staples.

But food is just the beginning. At our Farm Stands, neighbors also connect with **health screenings, school supplies, books, utility support, and more**—thanks to our incredible network of community partners.

This work is powered by a **dedicated volunteer team** led by Nyhisha T. Gibbs, Director of Community Engagement, and Deanna Jacobs, Food Systems Coordinator, who make this program possible.

City of Poughkeepsie



1,768
Households



51,798
lbs of food



6,594
Neighbors

Town of Poughkeepsie, Galleria Mall (new site)



620
Households



39,773
lbs of food



2,381
Neighbors

Town of Poughkeepsie, Town Hall (new site)



692
Households



50,098
lbs of food



2,745
Neighbors

Caring Hearts, Stronger Communities



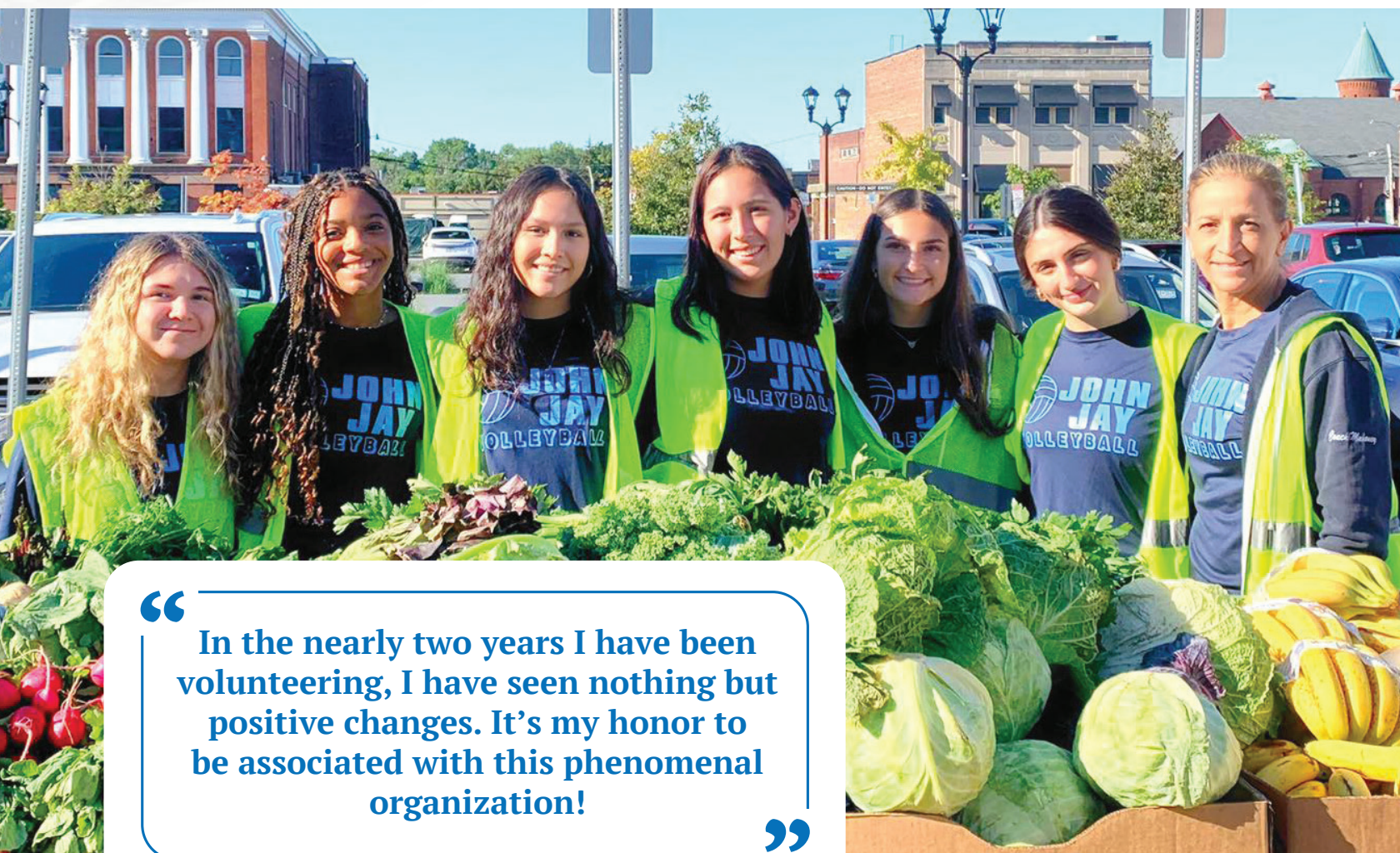
2,614
Volunteers

15,982
Volunteer Hours



Dutchess Outreach and our guests thrive thanks to the dedication of **thousands of volunteers**, led by Nyhisha T. Gibbs. Their commitment keeps our doors open and ensures that our programs continue to serve the community every day.

Volunteers help **stock the Food Pantry, prepare meals in the Lunch Box, unload and distribute at our Farm Stand, unload our truck, stock food deliveries and run Acts of Kindness**, making a real difference in the lives of neighbors across Dutchess County.



“

In the nearly two years I have been volunteering, I have seen nothing but positive changes. It's my honor to be associated with this phenomenal organization!

”

Fostering Healthy Futures

In partnership with Nuvance Health, part of Northwell, Dutchess Outreach provides food and the space for Nuvance's registered dietitian nutritionists to advise patients who are both food insecure and experiencing chronic illnesses.



Pamela, our first participant in the Food as Medicine program, has transformed her health since joining in 2024. With **fresh produce from our Food Farmacy and guidance from an RDN**, she's replaced processed foods with home-cooked meals, improving her blood sugar, blood pressure, and confidence in daily food choices.





From Local Farms to Family Tables



129,200 lbs
of local produce
& products



Chaseholm Farm

Obercreek Farm

Dagele Brothers Produce

Poughkeepsie
Farm Project

Eden Share

Red Barn Produce

Farm Fresh
Caribbean Growers

The Roosevelt
Home Garden

Great Joy Family Farm

Sovereign Herbs

Hudson Harvest

Sweet Freedom Farm

Hudson Valley
Fish Farms

Tenmile Farm
Foundation

Hudson Valley Fresh

Titusville Farm

Marist College
Community Garden

Truman Farm

Meadowland Farm

Veritas Farm



Inspiring Collaboration for Lasting Change

Our work in community building and advocacy goes beyond providing resources — it empowers neighbors to have a voice, strengthens partnerships, and drives systemic change. By connecting individuals, organizations, and local leaders, we foster a more resilient and equitable food landscape that serves everyone.



Dutchess County Emergency Food Providers Coalition

Over the past year, the Dutchess County Emergency Food Providers Coalition has grown to include 20 pantries. This expansion reflects a shared commitment to collaboration and resilience.

Coalition members have collaborated on group purchasing agreements, secured grants, and shared resources to maximize their impact. Pantries across Dutchess County now support one another directly—sharing food when supplies run low in one location and surpluses exist in another.

Looking ahead, the coalition is working to strengthen partnerships with local farmers, exploring innovative financing solutions to support farm operations and new equipment purchases. In collaboration with government leaders, the coalition is also addressing food insecurity at its roots.

For more information, contact:
Deanna Jacobs, Food Systems Coordinator at
Deanna@dutchessoutreach.org

Dutchess County Food Security Council

In 2024, **Dutchess Outreach** played a pivotal role in the creation of the **Dutchess County Food Security Council**, a collaborative initiative launched by County Executive **Sue Serino** to address rising food insecurity across the region. Proposed and chaired by our Executive Director, **Dr. Renée Fillette-Miccio**, the Council unites leaders from government, agriculture, education, and nonprofit sectors to develop systemic, countywide solutions to hunger.

With more than **65 food pantries** facing record demand, the Council works to coordinate resources, reduce food waste, strengthen local sourcing, and shape effective public policy. This year, the County provided funding for us to purchase a **refrigerated box truck** allowing us to rescue surplus food from retailers and glean fresh produce from local farms—ensuring it reaches community members experiencing food insecurity.

Together, these efforts embody our commitment to both **immediate relief and lasting change**—strengthening community resilience.

Turning Compassion into Action

Our community gives in every way — through donations, food drives, and shared meals.



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 Stands, VALUING \$446,827.

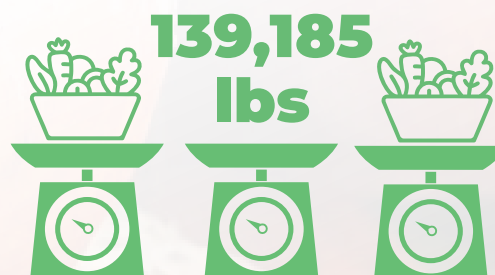


The Hazari family and friends joined us to prepare and serve meals in loving memory of Mrs. Aarti D. Hazari.

If you're interested in sponsoring a meal in our Lunch Box, please contact Nyhisha T. Gibbs at Nyhisha@dutchessoutreach.org.

Rescued Food, Resilient Neighborhoods

Our Food Rescue Coordinator, Justin, rescued 139,185 pounds of food from local supermarkets that would have otherwise gone to waste, which helped stock our Pantry and Mobile Pantry.



Recognition in the Community

We are honored to be recognized by our community partners for our ongoing commitment to collaboration, compassion, and making a positive impact.



The ARC Greater Hudson Valley
2025 Bridge to Employment Award



Central Hudson
2025 Excellence in Community Engagement Award



Dutchess County Board of Health
2025 Public Health Partnership Award

Essential Support for Stronger Communities



Coats, Comfort, and Care

This program is managed by Nyhisha T. Gibbs and our dedicated Volunteer Coat Drive Manager, Robin Tanenbaum, to provide our community with free coats, hats, and other winter essentials.

Over the past few years, with the help of numerous partners, including iHeartMedia and The Dyson Foundation, Dutchess Outreach has received and distributed approximately **6,000-7,000 coats and winter essentials annually**.

Emergency Assistance Program

The Emergency Assistance Program provides more than immediate support—it *lays the foundation for stability*. By helping neighbors meet **urgent needs such as medication, housing, and utilities**, we strengthen **community resilience** and provide individuals and families with the resources they need to build safe and stable lives.

With guidance from **Tara Whalen, Associate Executive Director**, guests receive compassionate case management and essential aid.

Funding has declined in recent years—your gift can make an immediate difference.



Oil/Propane



Housing Support



Utilities



Prescriptions

Made possible through grants from Dutchess County and the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region.



Stuart's Story: A Place to Call Home

After years of moving through transitional housing, Stuart—a Marine veteran born and raised in our community—finally secured an apartment of his own.

Through all the ups and downs since serving overseas, he's worked hard to rebuild stability in his life.

Thanks to AOK, we had the privilege of helping him turn that empty apartment into a true home. With essentials, small appliances, bedding, and all the pieces that make a space livable, Stuart is now settling in with dignity and comfort.

Acts of Kindness

Acts of Kindness (AOK) provides free essential household items to community members in need. This year, AOK supported **632 people** with essential housewares. By partnering with local nonprofit agencies, AOK helps individuals and families create safe, comfortable homes and rebuild their lives with dignity.



632
people with
housewares

Thank you donors!

Every gift, every donation, every volunteer hour makes a difference. Together, we're making change possible. Thank you for being part of our mission!

Mark Aaron
Abbott Matching
Gift Program
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Margorie
Ackermann
John & Ruth Ackert
Nina Acosta
Theresa Acosta
Adams Fairacre
Farms
Annon Adams
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Richard Adin &
Carolyn Edlund
Dana Adolfsson
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& Christina
Albertelli
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Carmela & Francisco
Alicia
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Kate Anstreicher
Madeleine Antes
Sue Archibee
Arlington American
Legion Post 1302
Nancy Aronzon &
Dr. Daniel Aronzon
Ascienzo Family
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Judy Behrens
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Tighe & Bond
Philip & Kerri
Benante
Benevity
Community
Impact Fund
Marland & Chuck
Berghorn
Nancy Berish &
Daniel Wowaka
Dennis & Lynn
Berkley

Berkshire Taconic
Community
Foundation
Jim & Kristen
Bernard
Toni Bertolozzi
Bethel Missionary
Baptist Church
Michael Betros
Bharat & Sadhna
Bhargava
Amishi Bhatt
Louis & Bonnie
Biskup
John & Maureen
Blair
Carol Bluestein
Brandon Bocchino
Stephen Bodio
Zachary Bokhour
Lawrence & Joan
Boland
Harold & Ann Marie
Boll
Lonn Bologna
Jeffrey Boniello
Trinity Boscardin
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Ronald & Lillian
Bowers
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Butler
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Child Abuse,
Mid-Hudson
Valley
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Charities Aid
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America

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Certificates
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Charwat
Joyce Chatfield
Joseph & Evelyn
Chiarito
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Chieffo
Children's Home
of Poughkeepsie
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Kin Choi
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Quaker Hill
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Chu-Aquino
Shao-Fu &
Carol Chu
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Donovan
Peter & Jennifer
Doro
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Susan Doyle
Jennifer Drake
Patricia Drake
Eileen Duncan
John & Donna
Duncan
Michael Dunn
Gibson Durnford
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Association
Dutchess County
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Ettinger
Bruce Ewing
Eniye Fadaka-
Igbini
Faith Assembly
of God
Samantha Falk
Charles & Linore Faro
Thomas Farruggella
Bonnie Faughnan
Krayna & Chuck
Feinberg
Joshua Feinblatt
Feldman, Kleidman,
Collins & Sappe
Stephen H. Feldman
Richard & Carol
Ferolito
Rabbi Michael
Fessler
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Gloede
Clarence & Joan
Glover
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Glynwood Center
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Todd Gocha, CPA
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Sandra & Jerome
Goldberg
Laura Goldman
Chasin Family Fund
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Goldsmith
Sonja Goldstein-Suss
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Fanny Dean Gordon
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Gordon
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Grabowski
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Grady
Grace Graham
Jeffrey Graham
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Granda
Einarina Green
Jane Green
Matthew Green &
Marian Schoettle
Aviva Greenburg
Melissa Greig
Phillip & Vicki Grillot
Ann M. Gross
Hannah Grossman
David Grott
Donna Gruberg
James Guarnaccia
Catharine B. Guiher
Peter & Shelley Gum
Gopal & Hemlata
Gupta
Phyllis L. Gustafson
Alois & Josefina
Gutmann
Brenda & William
Haase
Marc Habert &
Barbara Antwarg
Edmund Haffmans
John Hagedorn
Dianne Ham
Samantha Ham

“

“Years ago, I was a single mom who struggled a lot. There were many times I relied on the Dutchess Outreach food pantry. You guys do wonderful work to help others. Thank you.”

”

Nicholas Hamersley
Elizabeth Hankamp
Linda Hankamp &
John Stahlberger
F. Roger & Patricia
Hanlon
Hannaford-
Wappingers Falls
Hannaford-Highland
Joyce Hanson
Judith Harkavy &
Stanley Israel
Eleanor Harmantas
William & Elizabeth
Harrel
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Janeth Herrera
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Fatou Bintou Hinds
Karen Hines
Katherine Hite
Diane Hlavaty
Gerhard & Gerianne
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Peter Jensen
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Sally Johnson
Anthony Jones
David Jones & Yvette
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“

“This is one small way for our family
to support our community and fight for
what is a human right- access to food.”

”

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“

“Food insecurity is such a real threat these days. I’m grateful to be able to help.”

”

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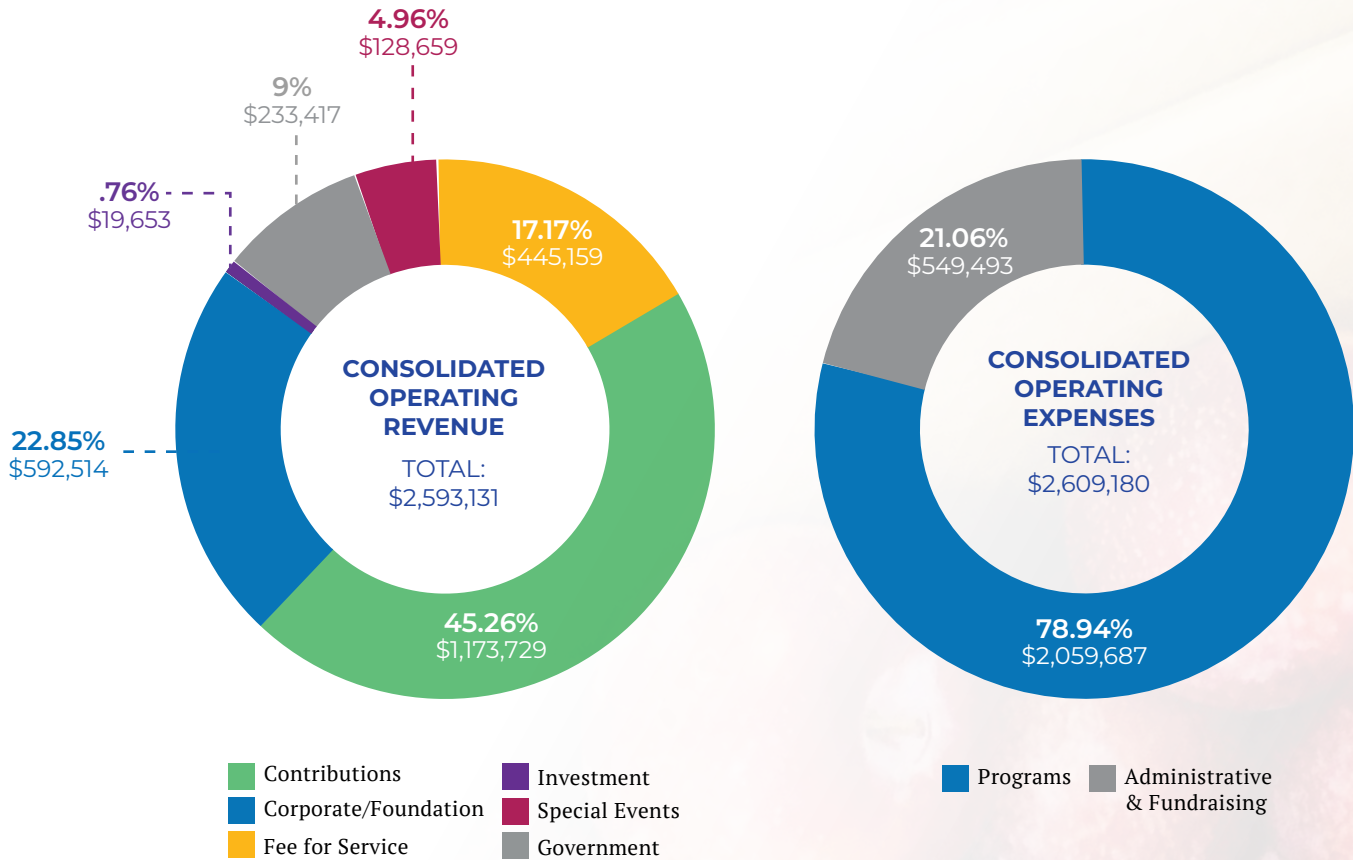
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Investing in a Thriving Community

Finances at a Glance July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Dutchess Outreach continues to demonstrate strong financial stewardship and operational resilience while expanding essential community services. Through diversified funding, strategic partnerships, and prudent fiscal management, we've built a sustainable model for lasting impact. **Our donors play a vital role in this success—their generosity fuels our programs and enables growth.** Remaining agile and accountable, **we direct 78.94% of expenditures to direct services** and continually invest in infrastructure that drives growth, transparency, and measurable outcomes.

Cartina's Story: Rebuilding with Compassion

When Cartina and her family lost everything in a devastating house fire, it felt as though the ground had been pulled out from beneath them. But what they didn't lose was the love of their neighbors. Almost immediately, the Dutchess Outreach community stepped forward, ensuring Cartina had clothing, household items, and the comfort of knowing they weren't facing the aftermath alone.

Cartina received essentials to help her family get through those first uncertain days. Volunteers and donors provided more than just material support; they offered hope, dignity, and the reminder that in times of crisis, no one stands alone.

Now, Cartina and her family are taking the first steps toward rebuilding their lives. Their journey is far from over, but they're surrounded by a community that refuses to let them start over in isolation.



Every gift is a lifeline. Your support helps families stay nourished, supported, and connected to their community.

Donate to Dutchess Outreach!
dutchessoutreach.org/donate

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.



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