

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
at Joseph's Coat



# COMMUNITY STRENGTH



WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

I am often asked "How are things at the food pantry?" and I grapple with my response.

You see, things are going well. We are serving more patrons than ever before. We are distributing more pounds of food each year. We are becoming very efficient in how we serve our county. The struggle in my response is that it shows we still have work to do as we have neighbors who continue to look to us for help.

2020 was filled with new challenges and unexpected blessings. We experienced soaring rates of local food insecurity, food shortages due to supply chain demands, and the dilemma of how to maintain a safe food distribution process during a pandemic.

We also witnessed our communities come together and unite for one another. Individuals and companies invested in us generously, including donating their stimulus checks. We saw the resilience of the human spirit. 165 of our neighboring families visited the food pantry for the first time. Families unsure of where to turn walked through our doors and that showed courage. While it would be easy to be saddened by a year like this, we choose to look at the goodness of humanity.

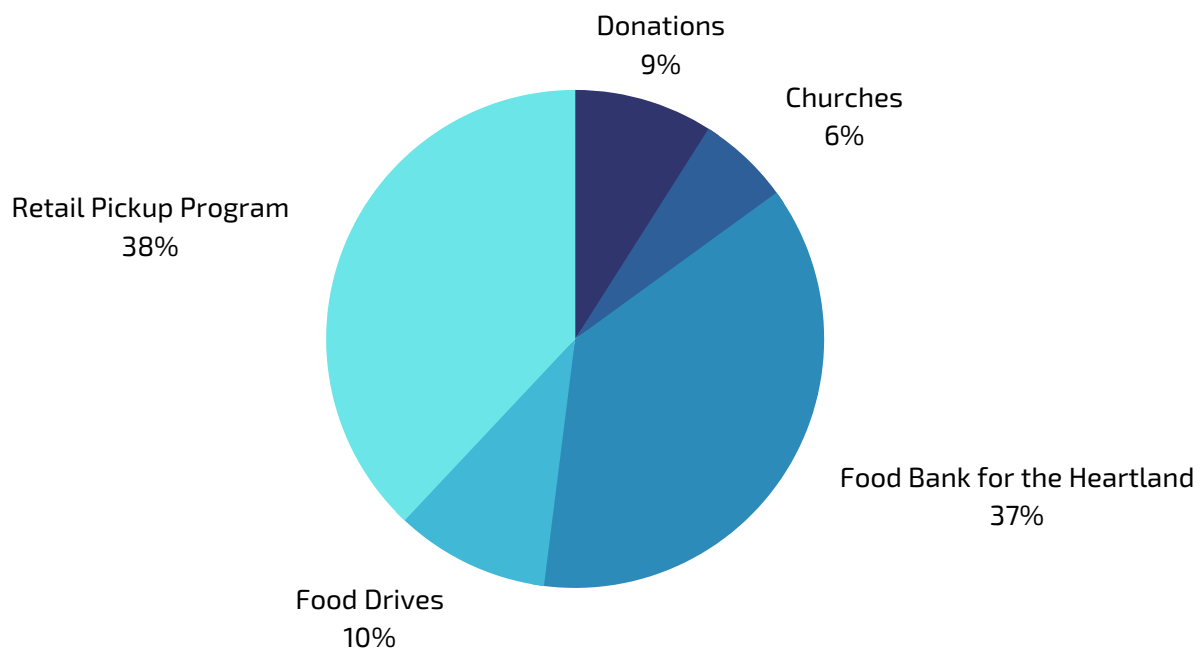
How are things at the food pantry? Things are going well because our communities are strong, caring, resilient, and compassionate. I am proud that we have met the needs of our neighbors. Thank you for supporting our mission. We are truly grateful.

Denise Cada  
*Strategic Director*

# BY THE NUMBERS

WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

The Washington County Food Pantry was dedicated to providing a variety of nutritional food choices for the nearly 4,400 individuals we served in 2020. The food comes from a multitude of sources including farmers, distributors, grocery stores, and individuals/community groups who hold food drives.



92%

of food we distributed was  
meat, fruit, dairy,  
vegetables, and grains

\$30

feeds a family of 4  
dinner for a week

8.4

TONS of cardboard  
was recycled from  
the food pantry

14

average number of new families  
that visited the pantry each month

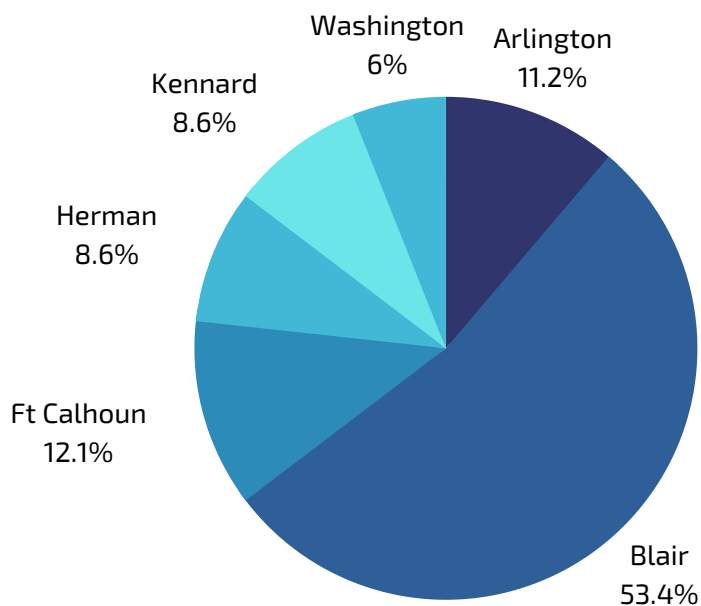
88,893

meals were distributed to  
Washington County residents

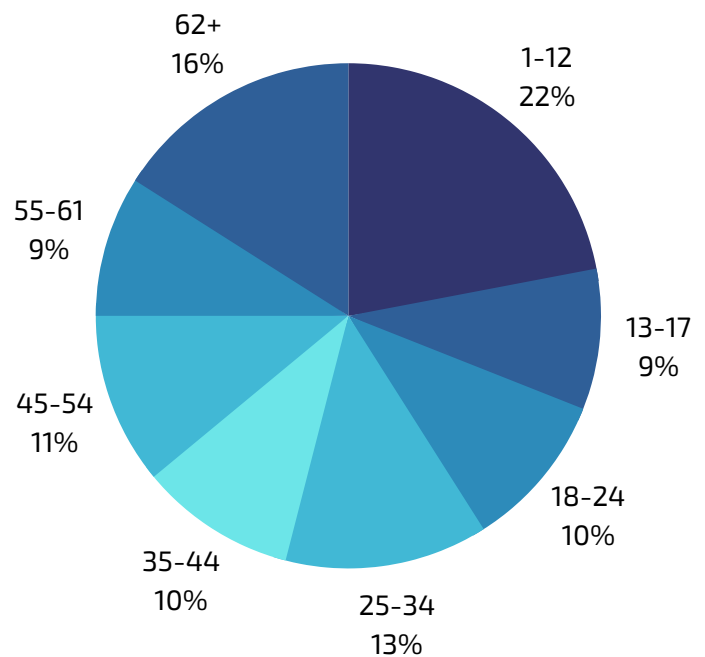
# WHO WE SERVE

WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

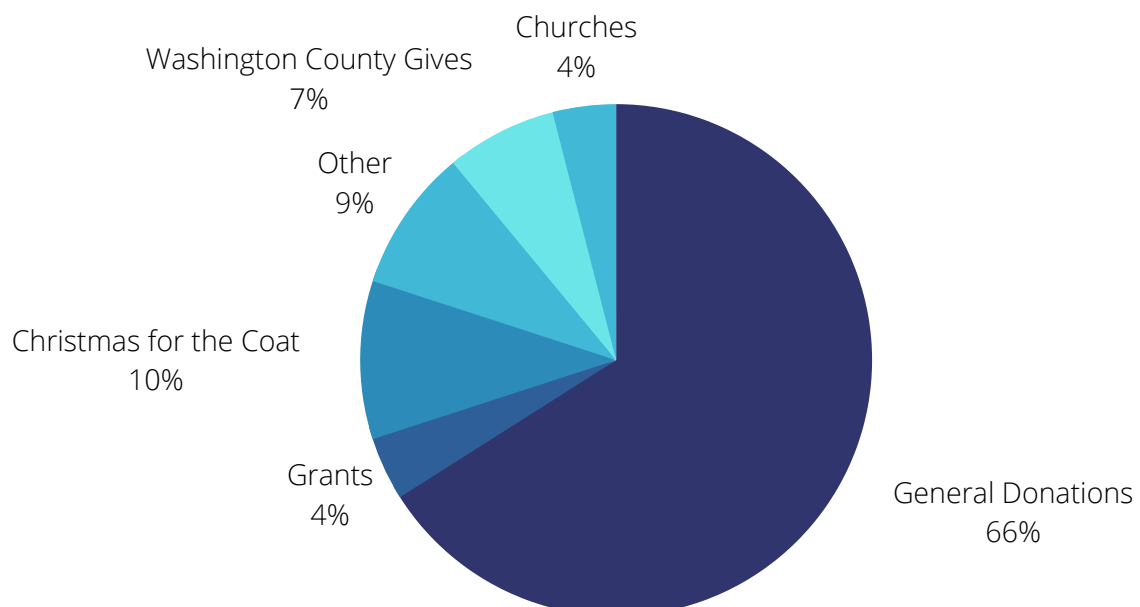
We serve families from every zip code in Washington County.



We provide essential nutrition to each age group.



100% of our funding is local. Generous individuals and businesses support our mission throughout the year. We annually host two large fundraising events and take part in Washington County Gives Day.





# OUR PARTNERS

WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Throughout Washington County and beyond we have developed a network of partners to serve the needs of our neighbors. Highlights from our work in 2020 include:

## 288 lbs

fresh vegetables  
grown in community  
garden partnership

"The partnership between us (Nebraska Extension in Washington County) and the Washington County Food Pantry has been a great reminder of the awesome work that can be done when two different organizations in one community are working towards the same goal. Without this partnership we would not have been able to increase access to fresh produce for families during a year that was hard on everyone due to the pandemic."

**N** Jordan Luxa  
Extension Educator

"Food Bank for the Heartland is blessed to partner with hundreds of organizations across Nebraska and western Iowa to help support our neighbors in need of food assistance. One of those partners is the Washington County Food Pantry. We share a common bond in our desire to feed families struggling to put food on the table. We cannot do our work without friends like the Washington County Food Pantry."



Brian Barks  
President & CEO



"Partnering with the Washington County Food Pantry at Joseph's Coat has been a great help for community collaboration. The food pantry sees various individuals on a regular basis and is able to provide for some of their basic needs. With the partnership, more of the families' needs are able to be met via financial assistance due in large part to the braiding funding opportunities both organizations receive. Ongoing community collaboration and outreach would not be possible without having providers from Blair/Washington County area as coalition members."

Steph Gardeman  
Director of Community Impact



# BECOME INVOLVED

WASHINGTON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

## 2021 Board of Directors

Kristina Churchill  
*President*

JoEllen Maras  
*Vice President*

Fred Otte  
*Secretary*

LeaAnn Quist  
*Treasurer*

Jim Brown

Gregg Miller

Kelli Shaner

Scott VanderSchaaf

Mark Zanotto

## How Volunteers Help

We welcome volunteers! We need help sorting and inspecting food and store donations, washing windows, general store cleaning, and preparing recycling items. (Note: we are offering limited volunteer opportunities during the pandemic.)

## How You Can Get Involved

### Give Time

Volunteers are a key part of our operations. We welcome volunteer opportunities for individuals, families and groups. Please call ahead to schedule your time.

### Give Food

Food drives are a vital part of our organization. They are an easy way for groups or companies to support their neighbors. Call us and ask for a list of the most needed items. We can help make a food drive an easy event for you.

### Give Money

We have strong buying power! If it is easier for you to make a cash donation, we will purchase the food items for you.

### Be Creative

Become a monthly donor, honor or celebrate someone in your life by making a gift or create a workplace challenge! We appreciate all kinds of support.



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