

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



How lucky are we to have the support of youth leaders like Taylor Brennan of Girl Scout Troop #942 in Howell! Her neighborhood food drive collected enough food for 568 meals, as well as 350 reusable bags. Taylor also made a recipe book which we gave out to more than 200 families at a weekly Pop the Trunk distribution. Community food drives across Ocean and Monmouth Counties collected enough food for more than 375,000 meals in 2023. Great job, everyone!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends of Fulfill,

For many of our neighbors, 2023 was a tough year. Food pantries throughout Monmouth and Ocean Counties reported a 60% increase in utilization over just one year – an almost unimaginable surge in need. In response, I am grateful to say that together, we distributed enough food for a record-breaking 14.3 million meals, including 5.3 million pounds of fresh produce.

“Together” is the most important word in that last sentence: we could not have stepped up our operations to adjust to the rising need without all of you. Were it not for your financial contributions, volunteer work, food drives, and donated services, we could not have marshalled the resources to provide what our neighbors facing hunger need. For all that you do to support our mission, I thank you.

Looking ahead, we are going to need to make wise investments in our capacity and infrastructure to meet the challenges we face. While I am proud that more than 60% of the food we distributed last year was protein, produce, and dairy, we have maxed out our cold storage space for those most needed, most nutrient-dense food items. That needs to change if we are to serve our communities well.

We also need to ensure our resources are effectively reaching those who need us. We are using data strategically to align and focus our operations on areas of high need, such as with our mobile pantries, which provide food in communities that don't have nearby access to a brick-and-mortar food pantry.

Last, I am very excited to share that in the fall of October 2024, Fulfill will be honoring 40 years of service to our Monmouth & Ocean County neighbors. Please be sure to check our website fulfillnj.org and social media for updates on this exciting anniversary event!



There is still so much to do to ensure that Hunger Won't Win Here!

With gratitude,

Triada Stampas

Triada Stampas
President & CEO

FULFILL IMPACT

You made our year!

- Fiscal Year 2023 -



**PROVIDING
FOOD**

14.3 MILLION MEALS

including 5.3 million pounds of fresh produce to our network of nearly 300 partner sites.



**KIDS' FEEDING
PROGRAMS**

331,749

PREPARED MEALS

for children in backpack, after-school and summer food programs.



**CULINARY
TRAINING**

**409 GRADUATES
TO DATE**

Within 3 months of graduation, 95% of our graduates secure jobs



**ENROLLMENT
ASSISTANCE**

**1,372 SNAP
APPLICATIONS
ACCEPTED**

resulting in 627,717 meals for families in need



**AFFORDABLE
HEALTHCARE**

**1,238 ENROLLED IN
HEALTH
INSURANCE**



**AND
MORE**

**44,490
VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

RESOURCE CONNECTIONS TEAM HELPS OCEAN COUNTY SENIOR RE-ACCESS SNAP BENEFITS

Two and a half years ago, Millie was driving down Hooper Avenue in Toms River and noticed a line outside Fulfill's People's Pantry. Curious, she parked her car and asked someone in line what they were waiting for. Millie has been a regular visitor to The People's Pantry and other nearby locations where Fulfill distributes food ever since. As a senior living alone on a fixed income, Millie was relying on the pantry as a vital source of food, especially after a rejected SNAP application led her to believe she was ineligible for any other assistance.



Millie (right) catching up with Maria after her pantry visit.

This past March, that changed. During a visit to The People's Pantry, Millie was approached by Maria, a member of Fulfill's Resource Connections Team. Maria encouraged her to reapply for SNAP and offered to help. Within a month, Millie got the news that she was approved! Although Millie, like many fixed-income seniors, was only eligible for the minimum benefit amount, legislation sponsored by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin has raised it in New Jersey from \$23 to \$95 per month.

While Millie still uses the pantry, she can now shop for some of the food the pantry doesn't provide. **"I mainly go to the pantry for fresh vegetables and produce, and I use my SNAP card at the grocery store to get everything else."**

Encountering Maria felt like winning the lottery. "I can't believe that out of the 12 people waiting in line that day, Maria looked at everyone and decided to pick me," said Millie. But it's not just luck that brought them together; the members of our Resource Connections Team are at food pantries and other community sites every day helping individuals access SNAP, affordable health insurance, and other resources to keep food on the table.

20,000 POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE THANKS TO GARDEN EDUCATION

Our on-site quarter-acre organic garden harvests 6,000 pounds of produce annually, including fruits, vegetables, and herbs. It is distributed through our nearly 300 partner sites, mobile pantries, two culinary kitchens, and at our Pop the Trunk Distributions.



Freshly picked lettuce being bagged by Field of Dreams participants to come back to Fulfill.

At Fulfill, we are dedicated to empowering the community through education. Our Seed to Supper Program, Giving Garden Network, and School Garden Network provide individuals with the knowledge and resources to cultivate and cook nutritious, self-sufficient meals, resulting in an additional 14,000 pounds of produce per year.

In our efforts to expand our impact, our garden team has partnered with Field of Dreams, a special needs complex in Toms River, to educate participants of all ages and abilities on the art of planting, nurturing, harvesting, and packaging fresh produce. The harvested bounty is then given back to Fulfill for distribution, allowing these young adults to have a positive impact in the community while learning valuable skills.

44 AGENCY PARTNERS RECEIVE CAPACITY GRANTS



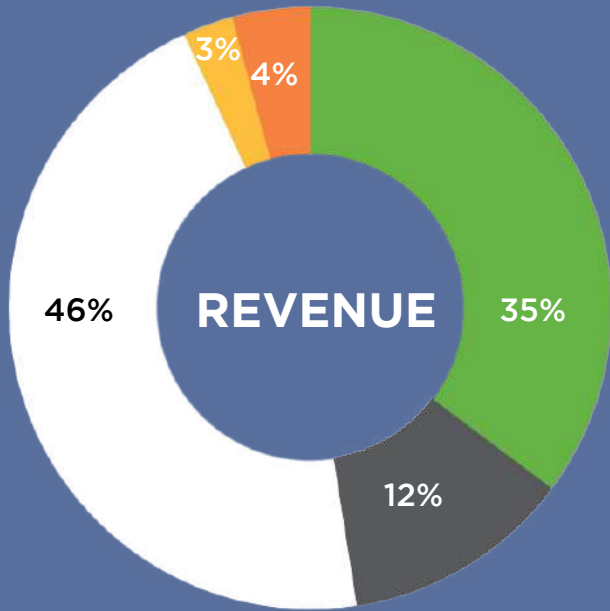
St. Brigid's new double-door refrigerator that holds fresh fruit and vegetables.

In 2013, in the wake of Super Storm Sandy, Fulfill launched a grantmaking program to help our network of food pantries, soup kitchens, and community distribution sites rebuild. Today, that program has become an important resource to support our network's ability to sustain, grow, and improve services for our neighbors facing hunger – especially since many of our partners are completely volunteer-run and don't have annual budgets or fundraising staff. Governed by our Agency Partner Advisory Committee, we awarded \$176,769.71 in funds in 2023 to 44 pantries and soup kitchens that needed new freezers, refrigerators, shelves, conveyor belts, ramps, and more.

St. Brigid's Pantry & Soup Kitchen in Long Branch received a new double-door refrigerator from our Capacity Grant program at a time of real stress on their operations. St. Brigid's wrote, "At 1,000 people a month there is a huge need for being able to adequately store items that need to be refrigerated or kept frozen. Two of our refrigerators were no longer functioning which put a strain on the refrigeration we did have, especially in the warmer months. The double-door refrigerator, which we have received from Fulfill's Capacity Grant will help enormously to keep food properly refrigerated. Having access to fresh produce is a top priority to St. Brigid's. Good nutrition benefits everyone, especially the children who come to the pantry."

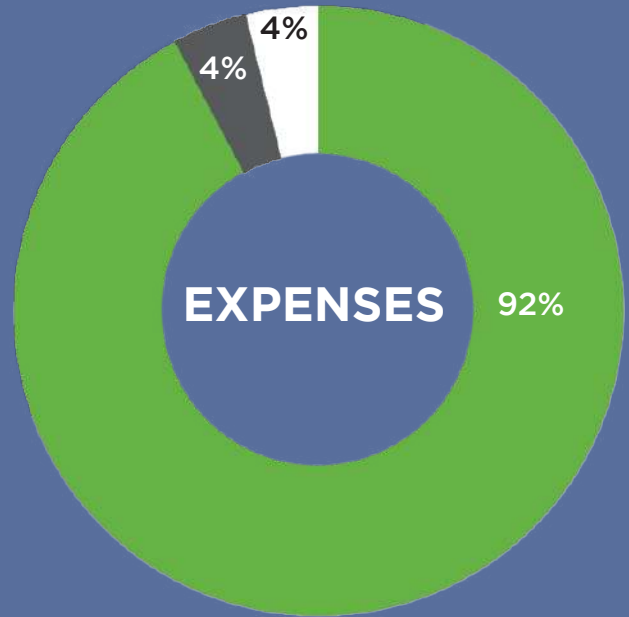
FISCAL YEAR 2023 FINANCIALS

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



\$38,356,508

2023 Total Revenue & Support



\$35,564,629

2023 Total Expenses



2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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