

Boulevard Place Food Pantry 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Boulevard Place



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**YEAR IN REVIEW,
BY THE NUMBERS**
BACK COVER

HELPING HANDS



New Era of Client Aid Culminates with Finishing Touches

This past year of food pantry operation at 42nd and Boulevard was another one for the history books! We completed a long-needed facility makeover and expansion in the midst of a pandemic. Generous donors made all aspects of the remodel a reality, flexible volunteers adjusted as we shifted from curbside service only to a hybrid model of food relief to delivery, and our clients got what they needed most. We head into 2022, our 40th anniversary year, glad to have you building us up.

Follow Up!

We're social:
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PANTRY BLESSINGS



Cynthia L. Brown

Season's greetings from Boulevard Place Food Pantry, a Special Work of St. Vincent de Paul Society, which so many of you so generously support. As I was reflecting on the theme of this message, the visual of "helping hands" kept resonating. Hands, young and seasoned, pitching in with a caring heart to do so much during a tumultuous year. Hands that helped us build up and reach out.

BPFP served 11,380 client households in the 2021 fiscal year—an all-time high and a 15% increase over 2020. We averaged 8,917 client households served per year from 2015 to 2020, so you see the demand for emergency food relief continues to grow. We shudder to think what clients would do without our help. We shudder to think how we'd fulfill our mission without YOUR help.

This report is a reflection of our appreciation—both individually and collectively—to so many: To Steve Shank, construction project manager. To our dedicated food pantry board. To the priests. To the parishioners who kept the donations of money flowing in and to the schoolchildren who toted in canned goods. To media that told our story and the plight of the hungry as well. To volunteers who were nimble around dust and drills. To our grocery suppliers, especially Indiana farmers, who shared their excess bounties. To Paul Ainslie and Peter Zubler, our supportive partners at St. Vincent de Paul. To Amy Taylor who kept our volunteers scheduled and busy. To perennial longtime community partners such as Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association and Broad Ripple Farmers Market. To new friends like Marion County Master Gardeners, who met the challenge of landscaping our remade, now-3,000-square-foot grocery. To those ensuring that we're a neighborhood asset and citywide resource through 2022—our 40th anniversary—and beyond. As Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett announced to more than 100 people at our ribbon-cutting on August 6 (as he stood in our new warehouse), "You persevered throughout a year of trials to bring and continue bringing this oasis to a food desert."

BPFP's mission—to put nutritious food options into the hands of our hungry fellow citizens—will continue, in whatever form is required. We have the space to offer in-person client choice and provide to-go items for drive-through pickup. We're taking some food to the needy who trust us to deliver creative, appealing options for them. We're doing it all with safety in mind, professional standards met, and love in our hearts.

You are welcome to help us by sharing your time, talent, or treasure. Digital donations, regular church tithing, and traditional checks are all welcome as you are able. They give us options and purchase power. We use our appreciative hands to applaud you.

We thank you for 2021 and thank you for your continued support and prayers.

—Cynthia L. Brown, Director

People Power



Our STA community support included Councilor **John Barth**, director emeritus **Mark Varnau** and STA pastor **Father Varghese**, cutting ribbon August 6 (top).

Valerie Terman, pictured with our to-go food totes for residents at Mt. Zion Apartments.

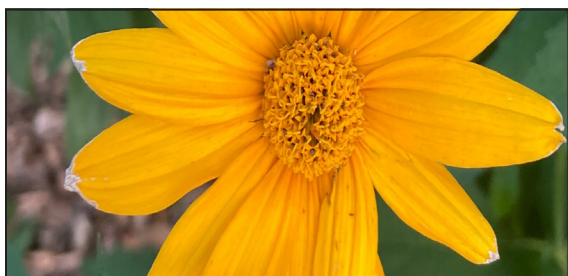
Iris Pettigrew expertly records our clients' service data.

Volunteer Steve Shank (bottom), our renovation and makeover hero.

A MAKEOVER TO MEET THE NEED



EXPANDED CAPACITY means we can accommodate any size donation from all types of contributors, including the Bishop Chatard boys basketball team and food drives at Christ the King and Immaculate Heart of Mary (left). The roof (above) was prepped for solar panels. Some of the joys we saw in 2021: a demonstration herb garden; room for to-go groceries; our first garage door and a truck that fits; a new walk-in cooler, freezer, and client service area; vibrant shelves for shoppers. A sculpture in the waiting area features the signatures of our many helping hands.



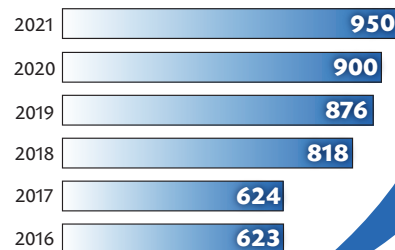
Our pantry was brightened by the lovely, Hoosier-centric landscaping on all four sides (left), and all the bright shiny faces of the young woodworkers at the MLK Center. They built us a special, large-capacity, mobile check-out counter for our clients.

Year in Review, by the Numbers

New Records of Client Service Were Set

Like many parts of the country, we saw a rise in client demand from pandemic-led joblessness and food insecurity. New records were set, with an average of about 950 households per month served. Because we tap a variety of resources (from Gleaners to Starbucks), are a trusted outlet of fresh produce, and quickly and efficiently re-distribute donated goods, we can get groceries into clients' hands while still fresh.

Average number of clients served per month



516,192

Total pounds
of food donated



66/34

Percentage of
food donated
versus
purchased, up 3%



OVER 40

Sources of food,
led by Gleaners,
USDA, and
Pantry Partners



125

Adults and
students
volunteering
hundreds of hours



3,000

Square
feet, after we
doubled in size



53,760

Pounds of
food donated
from STA, SJOA,
CTK, STL, and IHM

Resourced and Responsive



"That desire to 'be here' for people in need has been the driving force of this food pantry. It's also been the driving force of the recent stunning physical transformation of the pantry building."

—John Shaughnessy | *The Criterion*, October 2021

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

This annual report is dedicated to our neighbors—the businesses and residents at 42nd and Boulevard—for your patience, and to our volunteers and donors for sharing your time, talent and treasure.

Much gratitude to project manager Steve Shank and the construction excellence of the Marian team (right), along with the Witchger family, who were all key to our renovation and expansion between 2019 and 2021.

Creative support from Indy Printing Company, Tom Spalding, and Bob White. Design courtesy of Ellen Kendrick Creative, Inc.



To donate: bit.ly/givetoBlvd