



caring • sharing • giving

Annual Report

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Mission

To live the Christian principles of our member churches by providing a continuous and reliable source of food and assistance to those in need in the Affton Community



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From Our Executive Director

On behalf of the Affton Christian Food Pantry's Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers, I present the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017).

The **Affton Christian Food Pantry** continued its mission this year, with an emphasis on improving procedures and policies to better serve our families. Under the guidance of our fifteen Member Churches, the ACFP standardized client referral procedures, moved to a new online appointment system, and updated our internal policies. In the process, we welcomed clients for **3,630 visits** and provided food for **8,192 individuals** over the course of the year.

This year also saw continuation of our **Brown Bag School Break** program for all the children we serve; the **Summer Book Fair**, the annual **Health & Safety Fair** in September, and the **Christmas Boutique**. In addition, we expanded our services to include the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to better meet the needs of the senior citizens we serve. We bade farewell to Anna Belveal, who had served as Pantry Manager for three years, and welcomed Dana George into the role.

We are pleased to present you this overview of the work we did this year, providing **280,566** food and personal care items at an estimated retail value of **\$153,846**. In the course of the year, more than **200 volunteers** served in the pantry providing each person who visited us with a warm, compassionate welcome.

We look forward to 2018, where we plan to continue serving every person in need in the Affton area. We will do so through a strengthening of our community and business partnerships, and with a commitment to solid stewardship of all our resources.



Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Meehan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jennifer Meehan, Executive Director

IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITY

- **One Client's Story**

Ann has been visiting the ACFP every two weeks since November 2016. She is permanently disabled, and her monthly support provides just enough to cover her rent, utilities, and medications. She needs our help keeping her refrigerator stocked each month.

Like so many of our clients, Ann is always quick with a smile and a genuine **“thank you!”** at every visit. Recently, she sent along a holiday card, addressed to our volunteers. It read, in part:



Thank you for all that you are and all that you do. I appreciate you all so very much. I enjoy seeing all your smiles when I am there, and your friendly conversations, too!

Ann is like most of the people we serve every two weeks. They are humble and grateful not just for the food we provide, but also the kindness, the conversation, and the interest in their lives. We know each of our clients by name... they quickly become part of the ACFP family.

- **By the Numbers**

For the past two years, the need for our services has leveled off. This year, we received **3,630 client visits**, statistically flat over FY2016, a sign that we are vital to meeting the needs of our community. In all, the ACFP provided food for **8,192 individuals**, including **367 Emergency Boxes**.

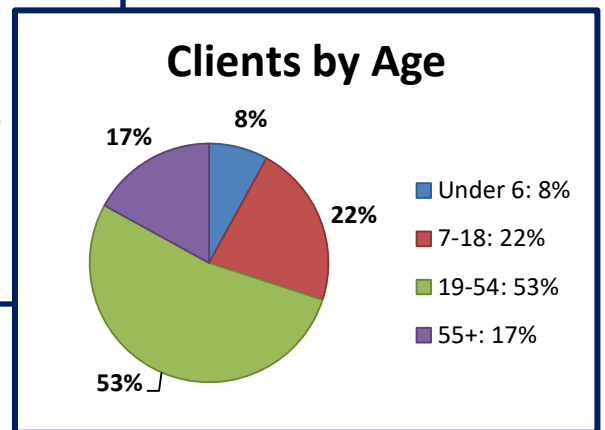
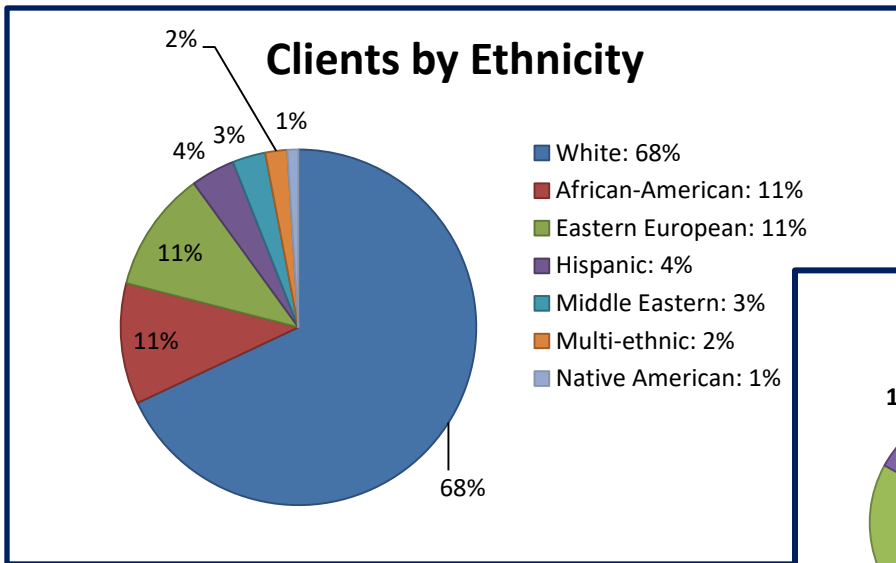
The **Emergency Box** program saw a large increase in the past year, as federal assistance programs were cut and neighboring food pantries closed. The Emergency Box, which is distributed to anyone who asks for food but does not live in our service area, includes 3-4 days of non-perishable items along with some fresh food, and is always accompanied by information about food pantries serving the individual's zip code.



In all, we distributed **280,566 food and personal care items**, with an estimated retail cost of **\$153,846**. This includes our Brown Bags, filled with **27,000 breakfasts, lunches, and snacks** for students in the families we serve during their winter, spring, and summer breaks.

• **Who We Serve**

Demographically, our clients reflect the overall population of the 63123 zip code. The majority – 68% -- of our clients self-identify as White/American. An additional 11% identify as African American/Black, while another 11% claim an Eastern European ethnicity. The remaining ten percent of our clients identify as Hispanic (4%), Middle Eastern (3%), Multi-Ethnic (2%) and Native American (1%).



With 30% of our clients under age 18, and an additional 17% over age 55, we work hard to provide for every individual in the household. We passed out **900 “Brown Bags”** to meet the nutritional needs of our children during school breaks, and, this year, we distributed **283 “Senior Boxes”** through the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

These monthly boxes contain foods deemed appropriate for senior citizens by the federal government, and are made available to all seniors living at or below the poverty level once each month, in addition to the food we give them every two weeks.

HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Through our partnerships with



we receive food from area grocery stores



The Little Yellow Food Bus and Bread Van make regular stops at the ACFP three days each week



Community Gardens at St. Lucas UCC, Webster Gardens Lutheran Church, Our Lady of Sorrows, & Charity Patch bring us fresh produce all summer long



Our Member Churches "Fill the Van" from March through September



Schools, Businesses, Churches, and Individuals host food drives for us throughout the year

Our Partners

Thank you to these organizations who held food drives for us this year:

- 
- 1st Phorm International LLC
 - Ace Hardware
 - Affton Christian Church
 - Affton High School
 - Affton Presbyterian Church
 - ALDI -- Crestwood
 - ALDI -- Maplewood
 - ALDI -- STL Gravois
 - Anonymous
 - Arsenal Credit Union
 - Bayless Elementary School
 - Bayless Girl Scout Troop #1673
 - Bayless High School
 - Rep. Doug Beck
 - Bishop DuBourg High School
 - Church of the Reformation
 - Lutheran
 - Cor Jesu Academy
 - Cure of Ars
 - Dierbergs Lemay Plaza
 - Dierbergs Southroads
 - Eden United Church of Christ
 - Faith Church
 - Gateway Grizzlies
 - Gene Murphy /Schnucks Bakery
 - Gotsch Intermediate
 - Great Clips -- Affton
 - Great Clips -- Bayless
 - Grow 2 Give
 - Holy Cross Academy
 - House of Goods
 - Johnny Mac's Sporting Goods
 - Keller Professional Group
 - Kerry Inc.
 - Knights of Columbus #4099
 - Kuhlmann Design Group Inc
 - Laclede Groves
 - Lindbergh High School
 - Little Caesars
 - Little Yellow Bus
 - Long Farms
 - Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens
 - Lutheran South Garden
 - Mount Tabor UCC
 - New Apostolic Church
 - Oakland House
 - Our Lady of Life Apts
 - Our Lady of Sorrows Comm Garden
 - Our Lady Providence
 - Rogers Middle School
 - Rooftop Church
 - Salem Lutheran
 - Schnucks Affton
 - Seven Holy Founders
 - Sisters of St Paul
 - St. Anthony's Hospital
 - St. Dominic Savio
 - St. George
 - St. Joseph Apartments
 - St. Louis Area Food Bank
 - St. Louis Bread - Panera
 - St. Louis County Police - Affton Precinct
 - St. Louis Destination Swing
 - St. Lucas UCC
 - St. Mark
 - St. Simon
 - Starbucks
 - Step Ahead Child Care Academy Inc
 - The Wine and Cheese Place
 - TreeHouse Private Brands
 - Trinity United Church of Christ
 - Weight Watchers
 - Willert Home Products Inc.
 - Zion Methodist

Our Volunteers

It takes an entire community to run a food pantry as well as the ACFP is run:

205 Volunteers

served in the pantry last year



20 different shifts

of volunteers greet each client by name

3 Processing Teams

sort through donations from area stores,
weighing and counting every item,
three mornings each week



18 individuals

serve as our volunteer Board of Directors,
providing the oversight, vision,
and leadership which ensures the future of ACFP

Our Leadership

Board of Directors

Terry Schermann, President – Cure of Ars Catholic Church
Paul Porter, Vice President – Eden United Church of Christ
Marcia Amm, Treasurer – Eden United Church of Christ
Mary Wolfram, Secretary – Salem Lutheran Church
Suzanne Baybo – Affton Presbyterian Church
Michael Cady – St. George Catholic Church
Brett Delmez – Rooftop Church
John Diefenbach – Salem Lutheran Church
Dennis Eckert – New Apostolic Church
Melanie Fechter – Seven Holy Founders Catholic Church
Dennis Jordan – Our Lady of Providence Catholic Church
Bobbie Laury – St. Mark Catholic Church
Gene Murphy – Seven Holy Founders Catholic Church
David Pelsue – Reformation Lutheran Church
Reta Scott – Affton Christian Church
Bob Stein – St. Simon the Apostle Catholic Church
Karen Tegeler – Reformation Lutheran Church
Ron Whitener – Zion Methodist Church

Staff

Jennifer Meehan, Executive Director
Dana George, Pantry Manager (beginning April 2017)
Anna Belveal, Pantry Manager (retired April 2017)

Our Supplemental Programs

- **Food Tasting/Nutrition Education**

The ACFP takes seriously our commitment to promoting healthy eating for our client families. We offer a selection of **fresh produce year-round**, supplementing the traditional pre-packaged and canned foods which are staples of food pantries. We provide each family with **eggs, dairy products, and meat** at each appointment. We hold a **Health & Safety Fair** each fall, where nurses are present to administer flu shots and basic health screenings.



Throughout the year, we welcome regular visits from “**Miss Andrea**” from the University of Missouri Extension Service. Andrea is a trained nutritionist, and a talented chef. She checks in with our Pantry Manager on a regular basis, designing **healthy recipes using foods we have in abundance in the pantry**. Then, she creates a new dish, and brings it to the pantry during our open hours, offering taste samples, recipe cards, & nutrition games (with prizes!). Our clients have come to anticipate Andrea’s visits... often asking for her when they arrive for their appointments.

Brown Bag Program



Now in its 5th year, the Brown Bag program continues to fill in the gap for our school kids, ensuring they have plenty to eat, even when school is out!

Christmas Boutique



Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we are able to make the holidays a little brighter for our families!

Annual Health & Safety Fair



For seven years now, our clients have lined up for their flu shots in late September, one small way we care for our families.

Book Fair

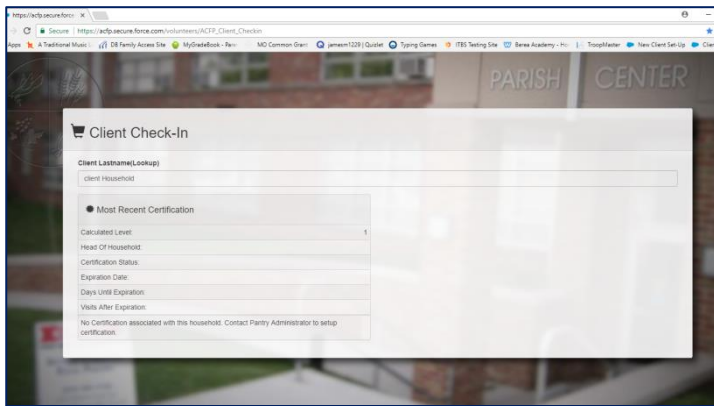


Again, this summer, Eden UCC hosted a book fair for our clients' children, offering each child two new books to start off their summer.

MILESTONES

- **Client Check-In System**

This year, the ACFP completed an 18-month process of automating our client check-in and appointment scheduling. Using Salesforce for Nonprofits, and with the programming skills of volunteer Bruce Harrison and the testing/data skills of our volunteer Data Administrator, Karen Murawski, we now have a system that allows us to schedule, change, and track client appointments in real time. The new system streamlines reporting and has created a smoother, more professional environment for our clients.



The Client Check-In system completes the second of a three-phase automation. Phase one brought all our donation and volunteer data online. This phase incorporates our client information and appointment scheduling. The final phase, to begin in 2018, will bring a new level of organization to our inventory tracking.

- **Produce Stand**

The ACFP received a beautiful, handmade gift this summer. Ninth grade Girl Scout, Halie, worked with her stepfather, Todd, to design and build a custom produce stand for us. The new stand provides more than five times the display space for fresh produce, and has become the key feature in the center of the food pantry.



Halie, pictured with Pantry Manager, Dana George, in front of the produce stand,

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year 2017 (excluding in-kind information)			
<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Public Support & Grants	\$ 78,770	Pantry Operations	\$ 84,283
Fundraising & Program Income	\$ 48,787	Marketing & Fundraising	\$ 10,357
Other	\$ 1,038	Administrative	\$ 2,669
Total Income:	\$128,595	Capital Expenses	\$ 1,409
		Total Expenses:	\$ 98,718
Net Income	\$ 29,877		

In FY2017, the ACFP distributed **280,566 food and personal care items** - with an estimated retail value of **\$153,846** - directly to those in need. The majority of this distribution was donated by individuals and organizations, via food drives, and through our partnerships with St. Louis Area Foodbank and Operation Food Search. Where we had a shortfall in any of our guaranteed categories, the ACFP purchased the food necessary to ensure consistent service all year long.

- **Direct Public Support:** Direct support from individuals, businesses and our Member Churches are the most significant source of our annual income. This year, **309 individuals, businesses, and Member Churches** made at least one monetary donation to the ACFP, totaling **\$63,770**. Of this amount, our **Member Churches** contributed **\$10,979**, in addition to their on-going support in the form of regular food drives and volunteers.

- **A Place at the Table:** Our monthly giving program engages **31 donors** on a regular basis, all year long. This program generates more than **\$12,480** for us annually and enables us to keep a consistent level of food on the shelves for our families regardless of the season. Expansion of the **A Place at the Table** program remains an on-going goal for FY18 and beyond.

FUNDRAISERS & GRANTS



Fundraising Events

- Brackets for Good: **\$14,292**
- Annual Dinner Auction: **\$17,300**
- Annual Trivia Night: **\$7,642**

The funds raised at these events support our operating expenses all year long.



Unrestricted Grants:

- Annual Catholic Appeal: **\$2,000**
- Meals on Wheels: **\$5,000**
- WalMart: **\$2,500**
- E. Walter Haustette Foundation: **\$5,000**

Restricted Grants

- St. Vincent de Paul, South District: **\$500 for Emergency Boxes**



LOOKING AHEAD

The coming fiscal year presents more opportunities to the ACFP. As we move deeper through our current Strategic Plan we will strengthen our key partnerships in the community, and grow new ones. The pantry needs to create a solid succession plan for staff and key volunteers; continue to strengthen its financial reserves; expand the use of technology in operations; and consider appropriate methods of expansion and program services to best serve our community.



The ACFP enters FY18 with a fully balanced budget, healthy reserves, committed people in staff and key volunteer roles, strong inventory, and growing community relationships. The Affton Christian Food Pantry continues to serve as a model pantry throughout the St. Louis area.