

Backpack Society



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

*Removing food insecurity as an obstacle for kids so they
can grow, learn, and thrive.*

backpacksociety.org



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wow, what a year it's been! Thanks to your amazing support, we've grown our reach to 56 schools this year and provided 134,125 meals! We could not have achieved this without our incredible community of supporters. Your generosity keeps pushing us forward, and we can't thank you enough!

We celebrated three years of working with our Corporate Sponsors and Community Partners, and we've also ramped up our Impact Sponsorship Program. It's the support from fantastic local businesses that gives us the confidence to dream big and plan big.

We're thrilled to announce the expansion of our pantry, food packing space, and the soon to be launched Backpack Society No-Cost Market. The Market is a place where families can select groceries at no cost, tailored to their dietary needs. It not only offers a dignified shopping experience but also integrates seamlessly with our expanded facilities, allowing us to serve more children and welcome more volunteers.

When families visit, they also connect with our team, allowing us to offer further support and resources beyond just food. This choice-based system minimizes waste, ensuring every donation is used efficiently and sustainably.

By alleviating the financial burden of grocery shopping, we empower families to allocate resources to other essentials, enhancing their overall stability. At Backpack Society, we're about more than meals; we're creating a community of support and empowerment.

Food insecurity affects health, learning, and much more. Our efforts ensure kids have the right nutrition to grow, learn and thrive. Thanks to every donor, sponsor, volunteer, and partner school, we are making a tangible difference.

Thank you for your continued support. Here's to another impactful year ahead!

JUNE EVERETT
FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HUNGER STATISTICS



1 in 9
people face food
insecurity*

COLORADO

1 in 7
kids experience food
insecurity*

45.9%
of students are on
Free & Reduced ^

2023-2024 Statistics by School District

Douglas County School District

17% of kids are on Free & Reduced^

287 Homeless Students [.5%]^

Littleton Public School District

22% of kids are on Free & Reduced^

77 Homeless Students [.6%]^

*Source: Food Bank of the Rockies

^Source: Colorado Department of Education

WHAT WE DO



At Backpack Society, we are driven by a single goal~To remove food insecurity as an obstacle for children so they can grow, learn, and thrive. Our programs are designed to help kids on weekends and breaks when they don't have access to school provided meals. By providing weekend food, we hope students will be well fed and can come to school Monday morning ready to learn.

STUDENT WEEKEND BAGS

- Our Flagship Program - Students receive a bag of supplemental food to take home each weekend. Bags contain 6 meals plus snacks. Each week bags are delivered by volunteers to our partner schools, and then schools give them to students.

FAMILY GROCERY PROGRAM

- Weekly Grocery Boxes - Families receive a box of food customized to accommodate allergy or dietary restrictions, and is filled based on the household size. The box contains enough food to help supplement grocery needs for a family and contains a mix of pantry, produce, meat, eggs & dairy items.
- Holiday Program - Meal boxes distributed at Thanksgiving & Winter holidays. Providing a holiday meal for 4 to 6 people.

SCHOOL PARTNER PROGRAM

Programs designed to allow schools to focus on what they do best, teaching!

- Pantry Program - An in school pantry of grab & go snacks, to help students struggling with hunger in between meals.
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Program - Snacks and drinks kept in the SRO's office to allow for better conversations with students.
- Crisis Boxes - A 24 hour supply of food, water and basic toiletries to help families or students in an emergency situation.
- Teacher Assistance - Teachers experiencing financial issues are able to pick up a box of groceries weekly.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Warren Village - A transitional housing facility for single parents. Backpack Society restocks their shared pantry at the end of each month when SNAP (aka, food stamps) benefits have run out for most of the residents.
- Open Arms - Open Arms is a Littleton based nonprofit food pantry. Backpack Society passes along shelf stable food to Open Arms that is past our "best by" date standards, but good according to the FDA guidelines for use.

HOW WE DO IT



Donations and Free Food [72%]

Food Bank of the Rockies 28%
Community Donations & Food Drives 30%
We Don't Waste 10%
Einstein's / Flower's Baking 4%

Wholesale Food [9%]

Food Bank of the Rockies 9%



Retail Food [19%]

King Soopers, Sam's, etc.



Backpack Society



Our Volunteers Help Us

- Transport to Backpack Society
- Receive & Inspect
- Sort & Store
- Repackage
- Distribute & Transport to Schools



Family Grocery Program [58%]



Student Weekend Bags [14%]



School Partner Program [21%]



Community Outreach [6%]

*1% OF OUTGOING FOOD IS WASTE - WASTE IS FOOD THAT WAS DONATED BUT UNUSABLE

2023-24 BY THE NUMBERS

BACKPACK SOCIETY'S FISCAL YEAR RUNS WITH THE SCHOOL YEAR, JULY 1ST THROUGH JUNE 30TH



56

Partner Schools in
Douglas County &
Littleton School Districts

7,909

Student Weekend
Bags Delivered



49

In School Pantries



2,462

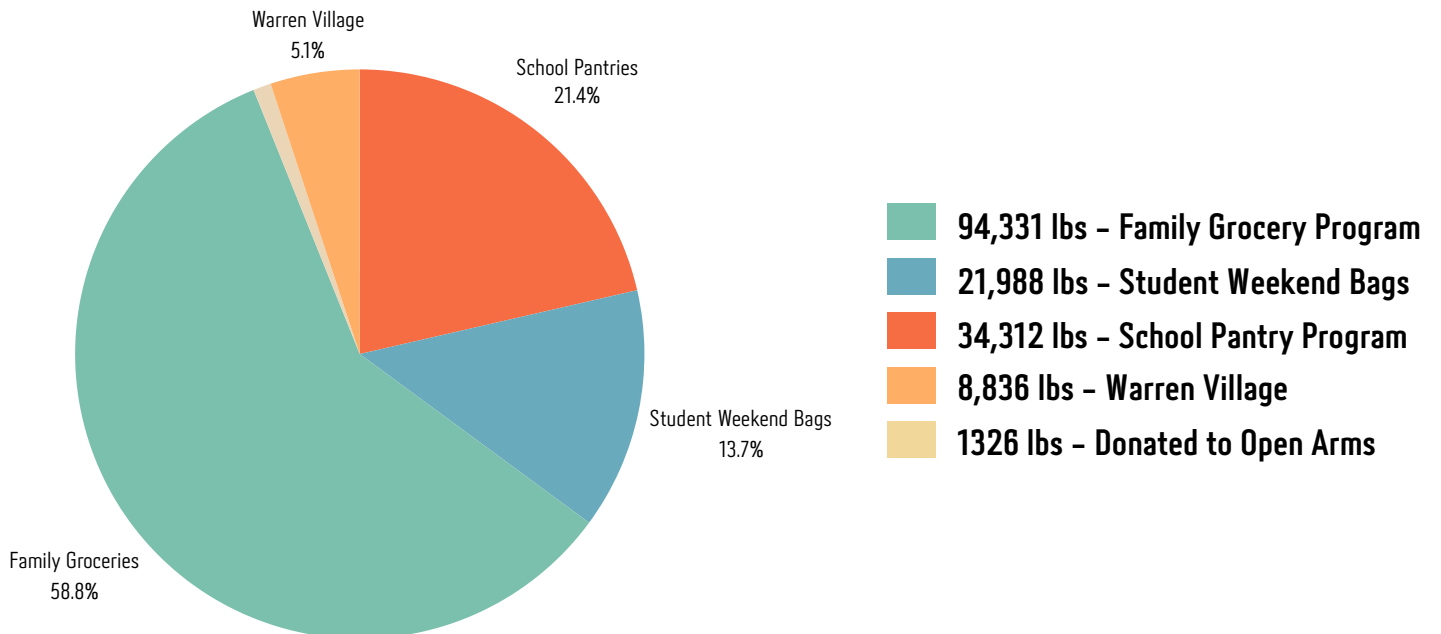
Family Grocery Boxes Distributed



160,793 lbs

Total Food Distributed

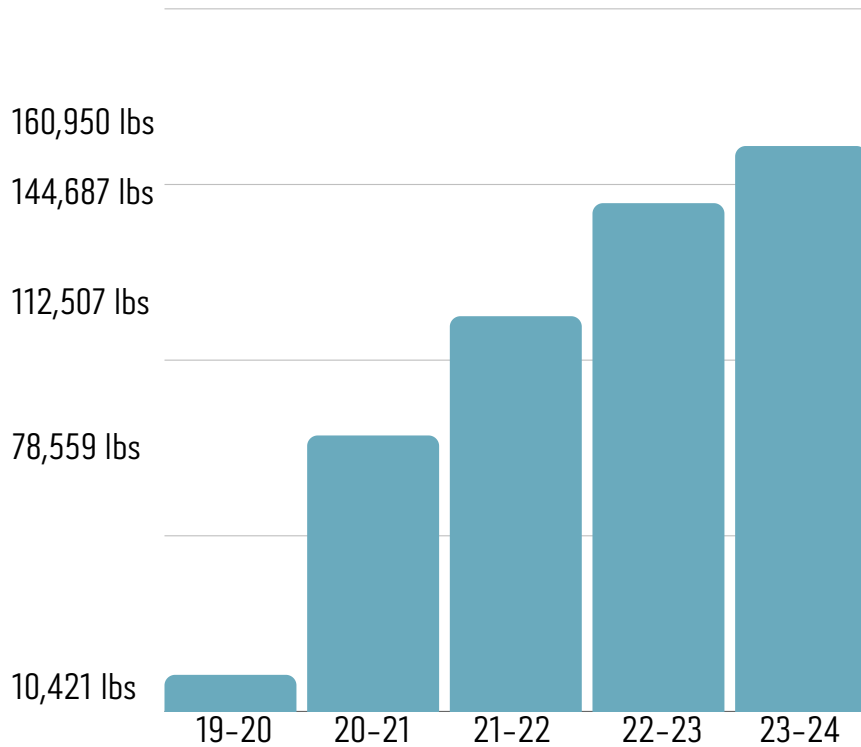
OUTGOING FOOD BY PROGRAM



*1% OF OUTGOING FOOD IS WASTE - WASTE IS FOOD THAT WAS DONATED BUT UNUSABLE

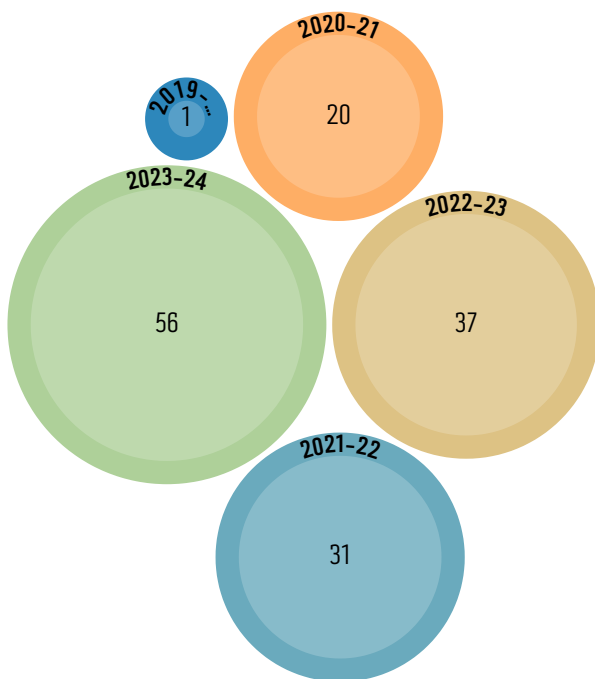
COMMUNITY IMPACT

Pounds of Food Distributed by Year



**496 People
Volunteered at
Backpack Society**

Partner Schools Overtime

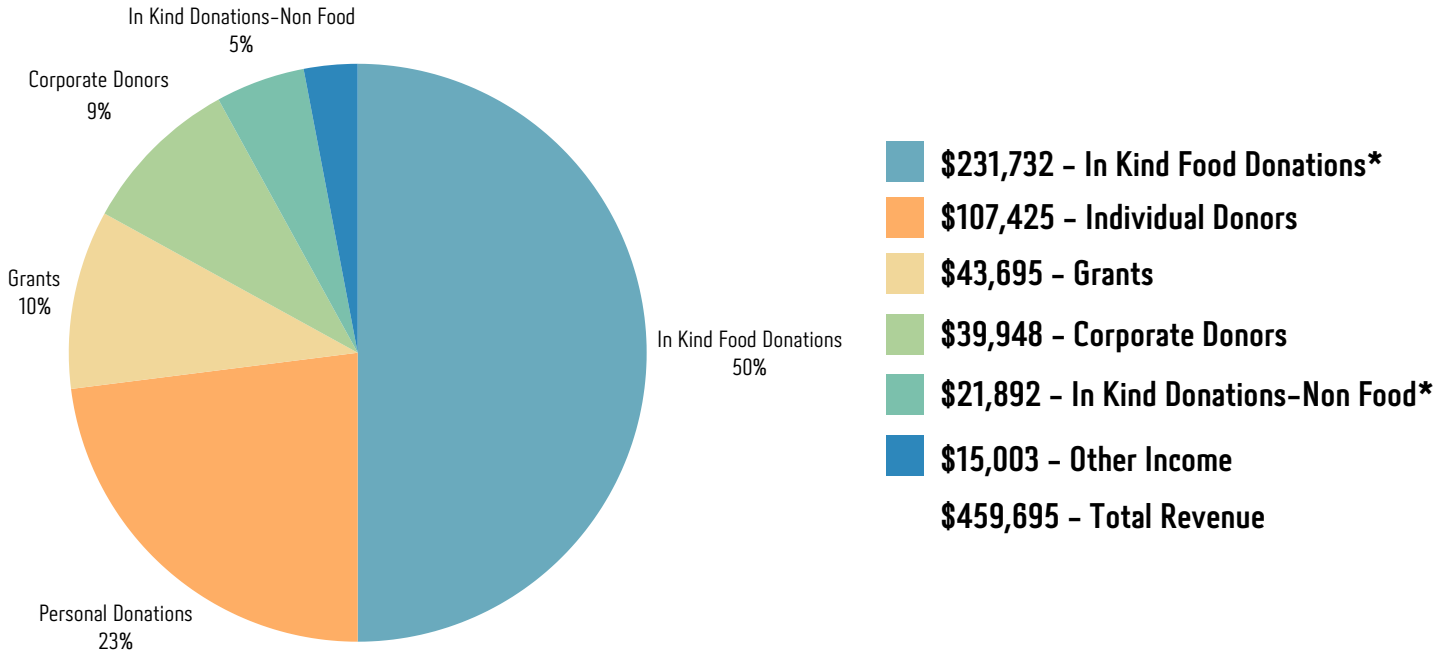


**8,440+ Hours
of Volunteer Service
Hours**

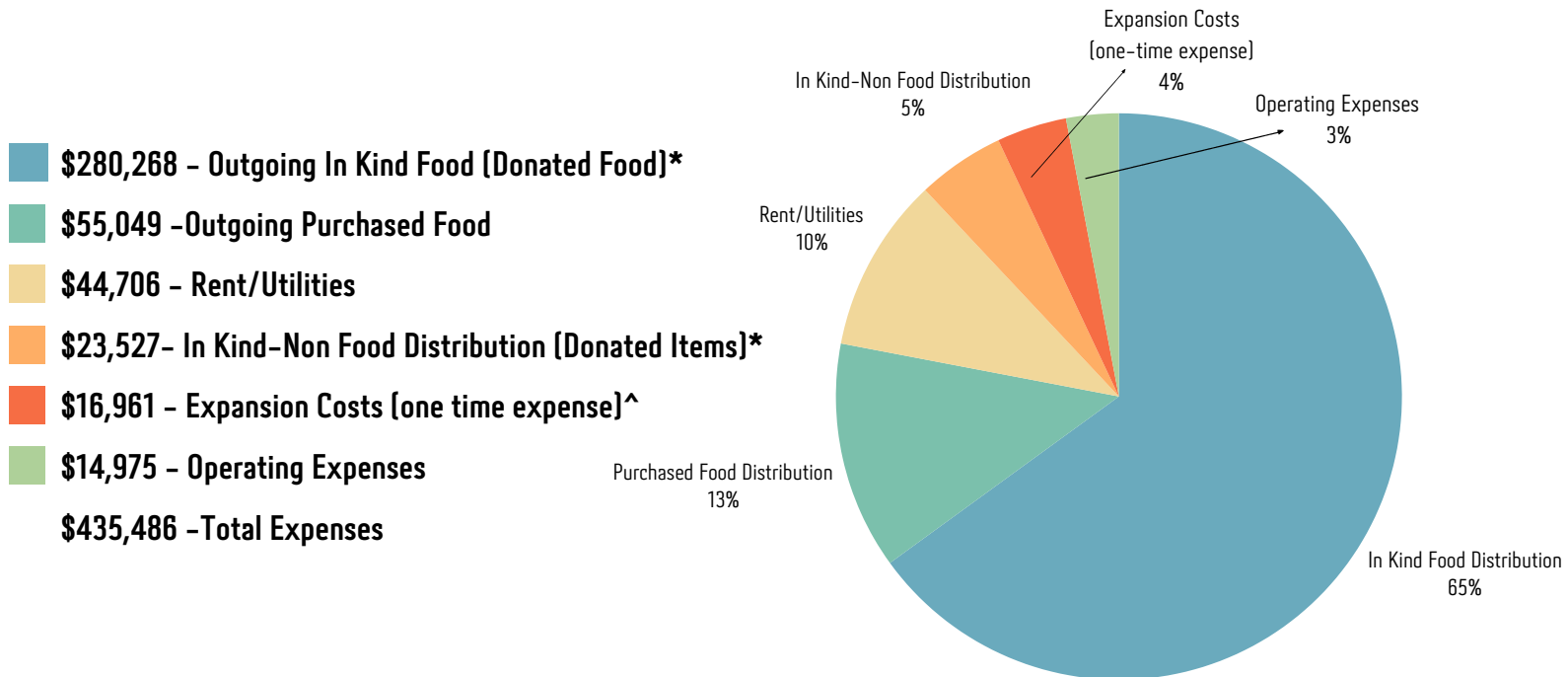
FINANCIALS

2023-2024

2023-2024 Revenue



2023-2024 Expenses



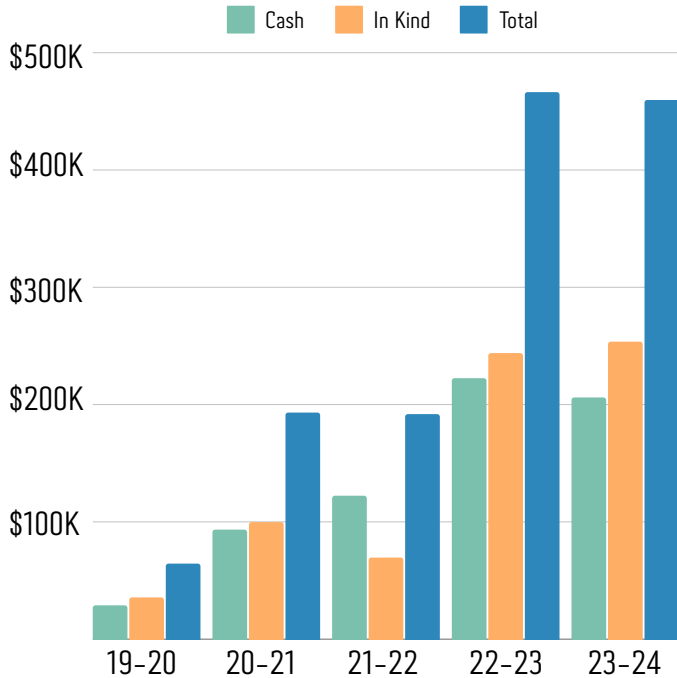
*In kind donations are goods or services. Donations are monetized in accordance with federal guidelines.

^ In 2023-24 Backpack Society expanded our square footage into the space next door. We added a larger area for food packing, distribution and volunteering. We also added the BPS No Cost Market. These funds were planned for and set aside in the previous fiscal year.

FINANCIALS

OVER THE YEARS

Revenue



Total Revenue (Donations) by Year

2019-20 Donations = \$64,402

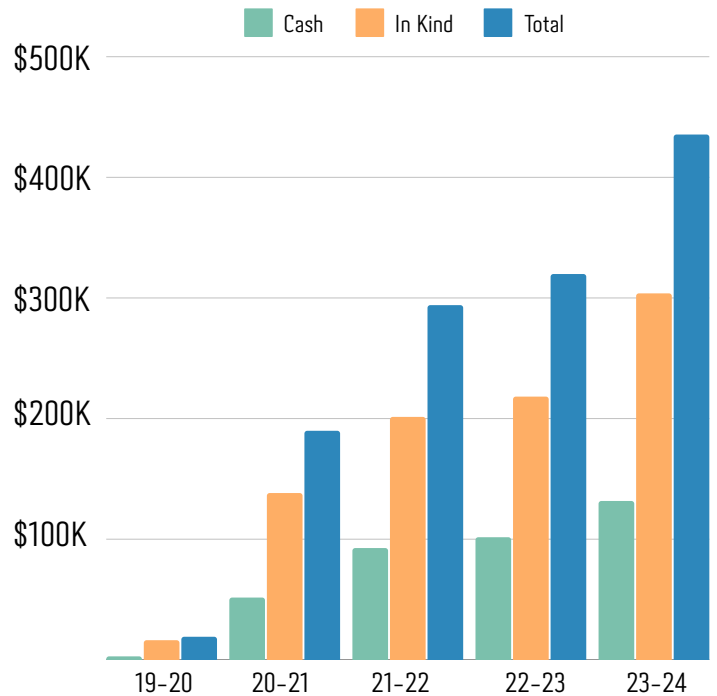
2020-2021 Donations = \$193,172

2021-22 Donations = \$191,859

2022-23 Donations = \$466,388

2023-24 Donations = \$459,695

Expenses



Total Expenses by Year

2019-20 Expenses = \$28,55

2020-2021 Expenses = \$51,613

2021-22 Expenses = \$92,656

2022-23 Expenses = \$319,839^

2023-24 Expenses = \$435,486*

^ Backpack Society spends and budgets conservatively. We hold 1 year of expenses in reserve to protect the organization and those we serve from the ups and downs of fundraising. In 22/23, we reserved an additional amount for our forecasted expansion.

*In 2023-24 we completed an expansion, increasing the size of our pantry & packing facility, and added the BPS No Cost Market

LOOKING FORWARD



At Backpack Society we believe that ensuring kids can play and go to school without the worry of where their next meal will come from, is the cornerstone of creating a vibrant and productive community. Our vision for the future is to eliminate food insecurity so children can focus on their education, their future and in turn give back to the community they live in.

Our goals for 2024-25 and beyond:

- Expand community engagement and awareness in our service areas.
- Create and become a resource hub for our clients, connecting and educating about available assistance in the community.
- Create a garden program, connecting kids with sustainable ways to source and grow healthy food.
- Increase program efficiencies and ensure that our programs are serving our clients in the best possible ways.
- Acquire new food sources for the pantry. We will be focusing on connecting with local grocery stores to re-distribute food that would otherwise go to waste, and partnering with local growers and distributors.
- A focus on long term organization stability, in order to ensure Backpack Society's place in the community as an ongoing, long term resource.

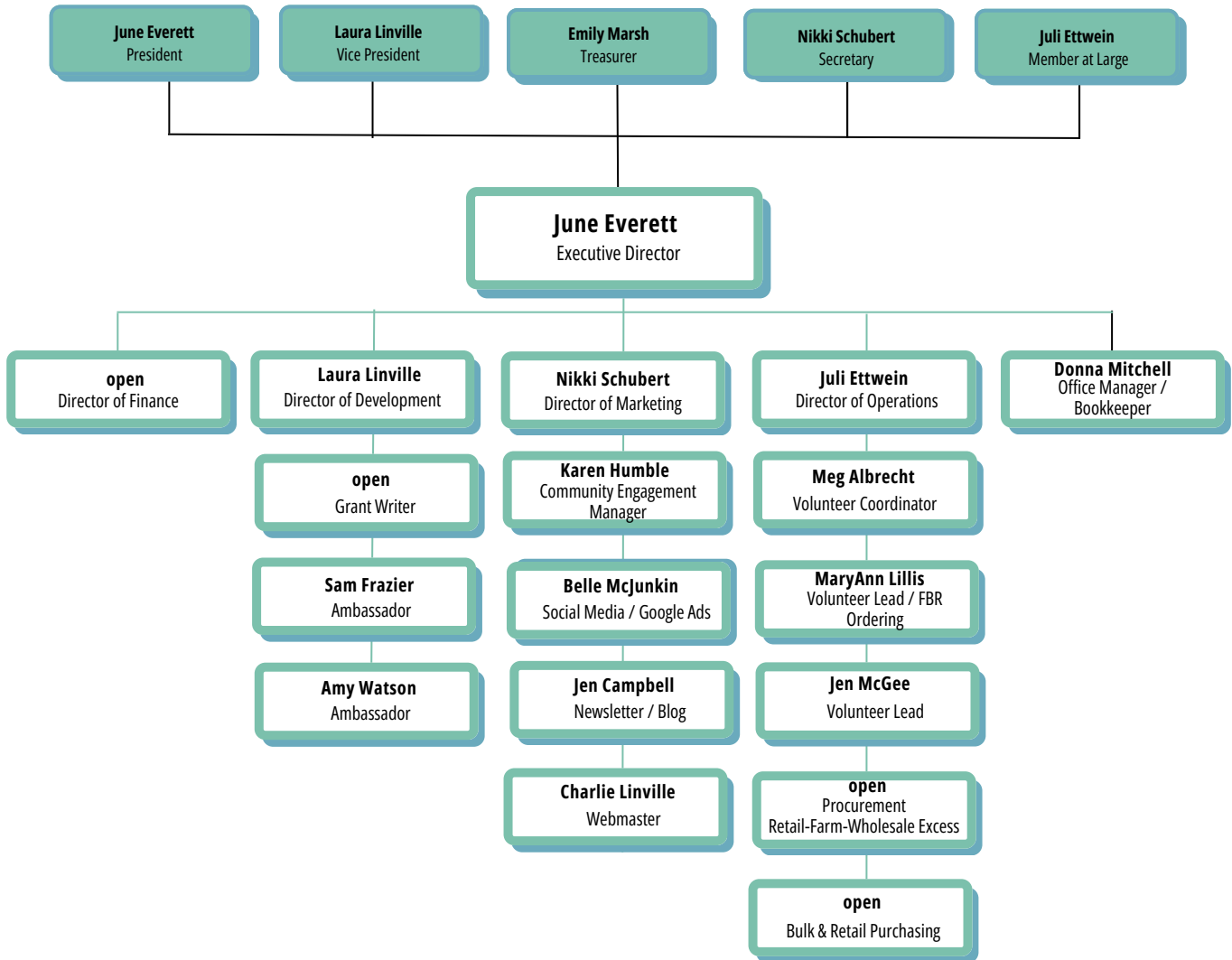
We are so grateful for the support we have received from our community. Our team is excited about what the future holds.

~The Backpack Society Team



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RECOGNITIONS & ASSOCIATIONS



GuideStar

Platinum Rated

Awards

2024 eWomen Network Nonprofit Award

2023 Douglas County Sheriff's Office Ron King Award

2023 South Metro Denver Chamber Nonprofit of the Year

Media

Podcast with Laura Linville on Future Fox Media-June 2024

Sterling Ranch Magazine-Spring 2024

The Eagle Eye News Magazine by Mountain Vista High School December 2023

Colorado Parent October 2023

9News Interview August 2023

Castle Pines Connection July 2023

Associations

South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce

Douglas County-EDC Chamber

Castle Pines Chamber of Commerce

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Corporate Sponsors

Platinum Plus

MARINER



Platinum



Silver



Impact Partners



Community Partners





Backpack Society



Website
www.backpacksociety.org

Address
213 W. County Line Rd.,
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129



@backpacksocietyco
Backpack Society's
990 Form - [Link](#)

Email
info@backpacksociety.org

Phone
720-583-2224

