

Backpack Society



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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

BackpackSociety.org



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been an extraordinary year for Backpack Society. Generous community support more than doubled our revenue over the previous year. As a result, we were able to expand the number of schools we serve to 40. This is a testament to the commitment and compassion of our supporters. It hasn't always been easy. We adjusted our processes as we grew, and the result of all that effort is undeniable. To date, we have provided over 288,000 meals!

2022-23 marked the 2nd year of our Corporate Sponsor and Community Partner Programs, and the creation of a new Impact Sponsorship. We are proud to be partnered with incredible local businesses. It's due to their ongoing consistent support that we've been able to plan for the future with confidence.

Looking towards the future we recognized that our current space would limit the number of kids we could help. So we created a strategic plan to expand our physical space and roll out a pilot "grocery store" program. This pilot will be a client choice, points based shopping experience to reach more children and their families in need.

Food insecurity is the condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of adequate quality, to meet one's basic needs. Food insecurity is not a hunger problem; it's a health problem, an education problem, and a problem that everyone should be paying more attention to. Eating nutritious food gives children the mental strength they need to improve their day-to-day activities. Children from food-insecure households are more likely to be in poor health. For many, there are lifelong implications where a child may never reach their full potential because of poor nutrition during their formative years - and that affects us all.

I am deeply grateful to each of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and our school partners for meeting the needs of our local children in a remarkable way.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for joining us in our fight to removing food insecurity as an obstacle for children.

JUNE EVERETT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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 2023-24 and beyond:

- Expand our square footage, creating a larger area for food sorting, storage, and packing so we can impact more people.
- Standardize and streamline our incoming and outgoing food processes allowing us to take on more schools and an additional school district.
- Increase the volunteer space creating opportunity for larger corporate and community groups, in turn increasing community awareness and donations.
- Test a pilot “grocery store” model to allow our families to select the food that will be most helpful to them.
- Educate and increase awareness of Backpack Society’s services and our needs when onboarding new schools.
- Continue to expand community awareness in our geographical area through the chamber of commerce, business & community relationships.
- Expand our School Partner Program to also provide crisis boxes, Student Weekend Bags and Family Grocery Boxes for schools to order as needed.
- Create an Advisory Board filled with local community leaders to help guide us on our growth.
- Create a library of county and community resources for the families we serve, connecting them to help beyond filling the food gap.

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

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 the school provided meal programs and when they are most at risk of missing a meal.

STUDENT WEEKEND BAGS

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

FAMILY GROCERY PROGRAM

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 & dairy items.

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.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Holiday Program - Meal boxes distributed at Thanksgiving & Christmas/Winter holidays. Providing a holiday meal for 4 to 6 people.
- 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 [76%]

Food Bank of the Rockies 25%
Community Donations & Food Drives 37%
We Don't Waste 9%
Einstein's / Flower's Baking 5%

Wholesale Food [14%]

Food Bank of the Rockies 14%



Retail Food [10%]

King Soopers, Sam's, etc.



Backpack Society



Our Volunteers Help Us (8000+ hrs in 22/23)

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



Family Grocery Program [61%]



Student Weekend Bags [24%]



School Partner Program [11%]



Open Arms [1%]



Warren Village [3%]

2022-23 BY THE NUMBERS

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

COLORADO

1 in 11

people face food
insecurity*

1 in 9

kids experience food
insecurity*

*Source: Food Bank of the Rockies

Douglas County School District

2022/23 - 10.9% of kids are on
Free & Reduced^

Littleton Public School District

2022/23 - 15.5% of kids are on
Free & Reduced^

^Source: Colorado Department of Education



40

School Partners in
Douglas County, Littleton &
Cherry Creek School Districts

5,693
Student Weekend
Bags Delivered



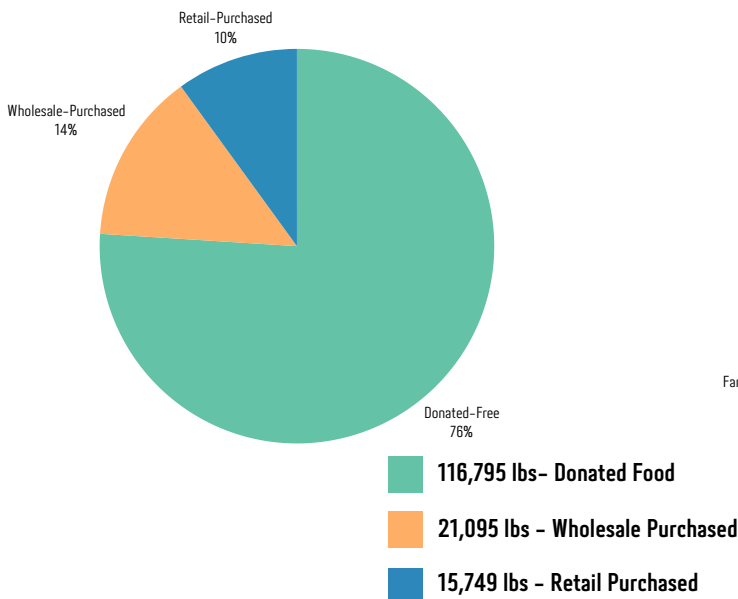
120,739
Meals Distributed
288,645 Lifetime

144,687 lbs
Food Distributed
346,374 lbs Lifetime

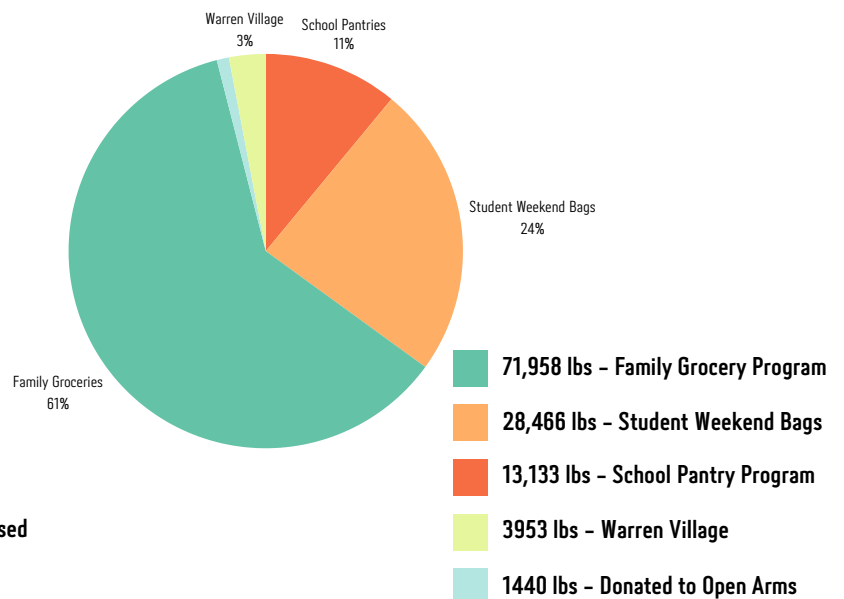


2500
People Assisted
Per Month

INCOMING FOOD BY SOURCE

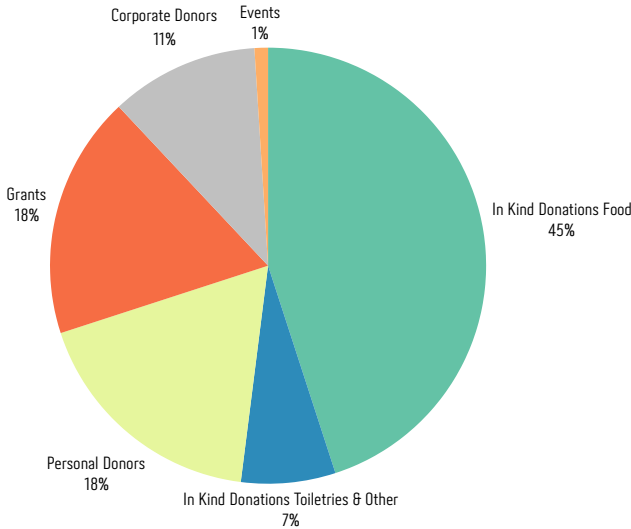


OUTGOING WEIGHT BY PROGRAM



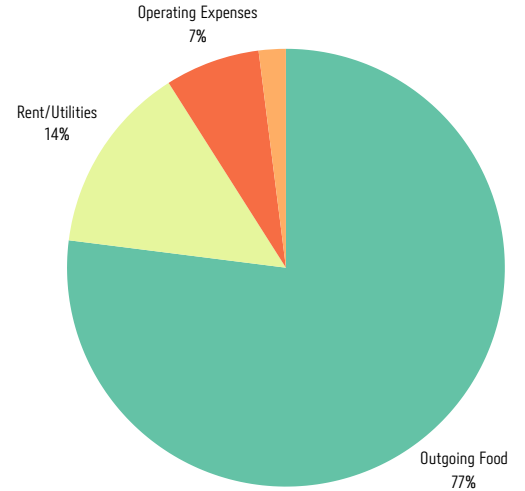
FINANCIALS

2022-23 REVENUE



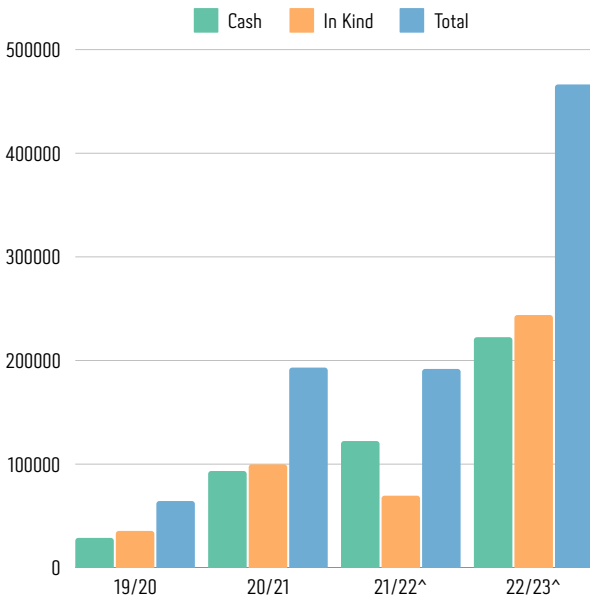
- **\$209,159 - In Kind Donations Food***
- **\$34,727 - In Kind Donations Toiletries & Other***
- **\$82,635 - Personal Donations**
- **\$85,050 - Grants**
- **\$52,457 - Corporate Donors**
- **\$2,357 - Events & Fundraisers**

2022-23 EXPENSES

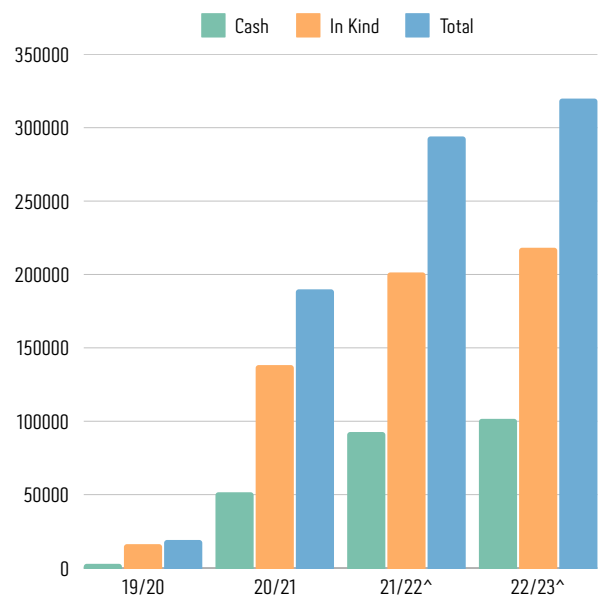


- **\$240,036 - Outgoing Food (In Kind & Purchased Food Distribution)**
- **\$42,854 - Rent/Utilities**
- **\$20,938 - Operating Expenses**
- **\$6,431 - In Kind Toiletries Distribution**

2022-23 REVENUE



2022-23 EXPENSES



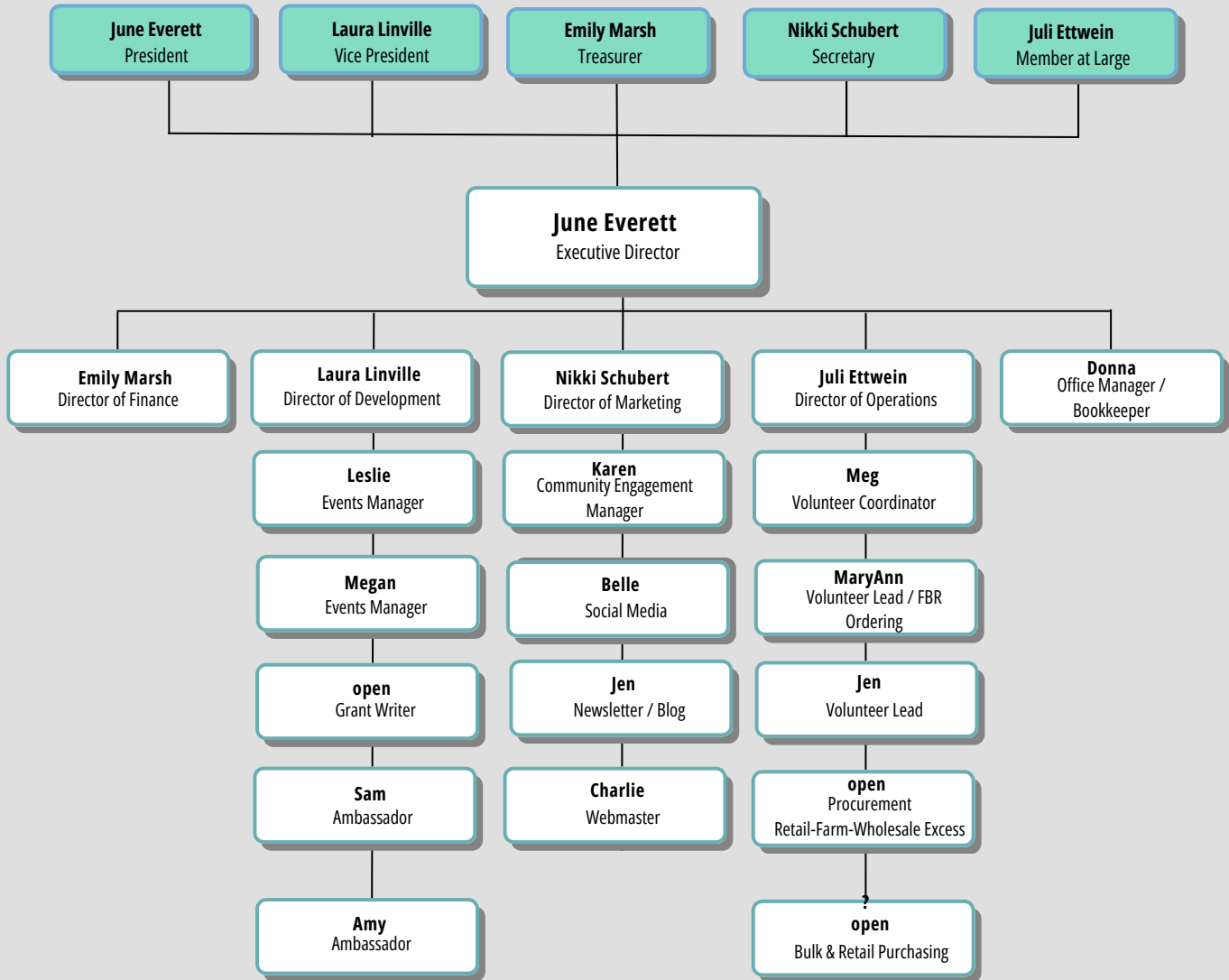
*IN KIND DONATIONS ARE GOODS OR SERVICES THAT WERE DONATED TO BACKPACK SOCIETY. THESE DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MONETIZED.

^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.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

BOARD OF DIRECTORS





Backpack Society

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

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