



# FOOD PANTRY REPORT

Our food pantry is Lake County's largest. Three days a week, we serve an average of 80 households each day. But due to high inflation, we're seeing an increase in hunger and food insecurity in our community. The U.S Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey for January 2023 showed a 6% increase in the number of Hoosier households that said they were going hungry, and 50% more said they relied on food banks and food pantries to stretch tight budgets. This was evident at STH.

From January 1 through July 31, 2023, we have:

- Served **5,245** families (an average of **749** per month). This is **31%** more than in 2022.
- Distributed **154,225** pounds of food, which averages to **10** pounds of food per person.

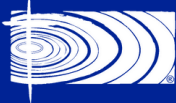


In 2022, we served **8,559** households (**26,355** individuals) in the food pantry, a **26%** increase over 2021 due to price increases from global supply shortages and inflation. All items distributed through the food pantry are inventoried, packaged, and documented by staff and pantry volunteers, who also maintain a database of purchases, weights, and individuals/families served.

Nearly **230,000** pounds of food were distributed at an average cost of **\$14.52** to provide **13** pounds of food per person per month.

Our Community Garden is also a vital part of our drive-through food pantry program. According to the USDA, there are **14** food deserts in Gary, meaning **33%** of residents live more than a mile from a grocery store. Every month, we provide food boxes for hundreds of families, and during growing season we depend on our garden to provide supplemental food. In 2021, it produced nearly **1,480** pounds of produce—most of it fresh-picked and distributed directly to families just minutes later!

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

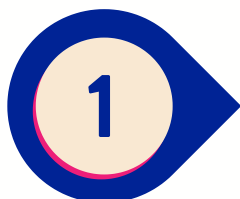
Sojourner Truth House is a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

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[www.SojournerTruthHouse.org](http://www.SojournerTruthHouse.org)



# 3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP

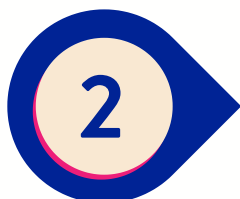


## DONATE ITEMS TO THE PANTRY

By contributing to this vital community resource, you're helping to combat hunger and food insecurity, ensuring that individuals and families have access to nutritious meals and other personal items. Your support allows Sojourner Truth House to ensure that the pantry has quality food and basic needs that everyone deserves. You can shop our Amazon Wishlist and view our Urgent Needs at [sojournertruthhouse.org/donate-items](https://sojournertruthhouse.org/donate-items)



Scan to shop  
Amazon!



## 5 LOAVES & 2 FISH FOOD DRIVE

Our food drives are more than just an event; they're a commitment to fostering compassion and solidarity. By holding a food drive, you can help ensure that vulnerable individuals and families have access to the nourishment they need. Whether you're an individual, a community group, or a local business, there's a role for everyone in our food drive family.

Our goal is to have one food drive delivery per week to ensure that our food pantry has quality and well-balanced food.

To schedule your food drive, contact us at [ambassadors@sojournertruthhouse.org](mailto:ambassadors@sojournertruthhouse.org)



## VOLUNTEER

You can volunteer in our pantry in many different ways – tending to our garden, organizing clothes and household items, weighing food, assembling and packaging food, and more. We are always looking for new volunteers, whether you are with a group or it's just yourself. By lending your time and compassion, you can help us fulfill our mission of providing essential food assistance to those facing adversity.

To volunteer, please contact Airiel at [acrenshaw@sojournertruthhouse.org](mailto:acrenshaw@sojournertruthhouse.org) or at 219.885.2282 ext. 102

