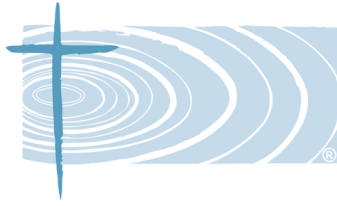


Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

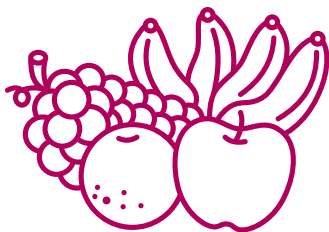


# 2023 GREENHOUSE IMPACT REPORT

According to the USDA, **12.8 percent** of all American households were food insecure throughout 2021. Of families and households with incomes below the Federal poverty line, this number jumped to **36 percent**. The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) Greenhouse ministry, in partnership with the PHJC Volunteer Program, uses Regenerative Farming principles to provide nutrient-dense food to people in need that is delicious, healthy, and safe to eat.

## In Marshall County, Indiana:

- **14.1%** of children are residing in households that are food insecure. This means that families may need to make trade-offs between important basic needs such as housing or healthcare and purchasing healthy food for their children.
- **19.3%** of children from 2-19 years of age suffer from obesity, making the availability of healthy food choices all the more critical.



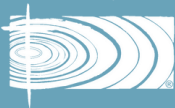
The decision to engage in regenerative farming and gardening practices is an important step towards a more sustainable and resilient agricultural system. By embracing regenerative principles, we are committed to enhancing ecological health, promoting soil fertility, revitalizing biodiversity, and fostering stronger connections within our community.

In 2023, PHJC Greenhouse grew **7,929 lbs** of produce without using any synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. We also produced **50** cubic yards of compost from materials recovered on our own campus that was used as natural fertilizers to grow food. We produced **1,500 lbs** of biochar, which is a natural soil amendment that sequesters carbon in the soil and provides a healthy medium for soil to retain water and nutrients.

The PHJC Volunteer Program's food outreach ministry is important to battling food insecurity in Marshall County. In 2023, nearly **250 lbs** of healthy, nutrient-dense vegetables were provided to individuals and families receiving services from our community. As we move forward in 2024, we will be increasing food output to this program by **15%** or more. And we are on track to achieve that goal.



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While growing fresh and healthy food is important, how we grow it and our impact on the environment is a critical component of our work. By using regenerative farming techniques such as cover cropping, crop rotation, and composting, we prioritize the restoration and enhancement of soil health. This approach improves soil structure, increases organic matter content, enhances water retention, and promotes nutrient cycling, leading to thriving and resilient ecosystems and food that is rich in vitamins and minerals without the risk of harmful and dangerous chemicals.

In addition to improving soil health, waste reduction is a component of our production philosophy. We compost the non-consumable parts of the plant material to cycle nutrients and reduce waste entering our landfills. Finally, we use natural pest control methods such as onsite pollinator habitats to attract beneficial insects and reduce the need for pesticide use.

By prioritizing ecological health, sustainable resource management, and community engagement, we strive to create a thriving and resilient agricultural system that benefits the environment, supports local communities, and fosters a healthier future **for all**.



**Through your generous support - and following the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ core values of Openness to the Spirit, Community, Simplicity, and Dignity and Respect for all- the PHJC Greenhouse ministry is making critical change in our approach to our shared home.**

