

[View in browser](#)

**January
2026**



**HOPE & JOY
FOOD PANTRY**

Hope & Joy Food Pantry Newsletter



Last year we helped 15,065 people!

It has been cold and windy this winter, we hope everyone is staying safe and bundled up!

By the Numbers:

Last year, our food pantry:

- Households Served: 5,876
- Individuals Served: 15,065
- Meals Provided: 135,585
- Pounds of Food Received: 93,191

Operational Updates:

We are slowly getting back to our regular number of clients at the food pantry after a large increase in November due to SNAP benefits being put on hold.

In December we also received holiday hams from **Feedmore WNY**, so many of our clients could celebrate with a traditional ham dinner with their families.

We welcomed some new board members in December: Alyssa Mariani-Rutowski and Andy Duncan. Alyssa has been volunteering with us since 2023 so they bring a great deal of experience to our board. Andy has been volunteering for the last year or so and he is a tech whizz! We are excited to have them as part of our team!

We also missed in our last newsletter the joining of Julia Eager and Cody Mejeur to our board in November. Julia also took on the role of treasurer and has been doing a fantastic job so far! She picked up the software very quickly and this has freed up a good amount of time for our director to focus on other matters. Cody is a professor at UB and has extensive knowledge of grant writing. We appreciate all the new help!

Donations & Giving:

This month we are saying thank you to Heather at **Maximum Tan** and **St. Stephens-Bethlehem UCC** for doing warming tree drives for us! We appreciate all of the hats, scarves, and gloves you collected to help our community! We also want to thank Karen from **Life Church** who donated produce to our pantry, and **Donna Sauer** who donated hygiene products to our pantry.

For a week in December, **M&T Bank** ran a campaign to double match funds donated by employees to food pantries across their footprint. They also gave employees a free \$25 reward to give to any charity of their choice. We received an overwhelming **\$6,223.91** in December from both of these campaigns. THANK YOU for the charitable push and helping to get our year off with a running start! See individual donor names below.

Every year we want to show our appreciation to our volunteers as we couldn't do all this work without them. A big shoutout to **Sweet Jenny's** for giving us a heavy discount on some sweet treats to give out to our volunteers during our annual volunteer appreciation night! Howard was incredibly thoughtful, and we appreciate his generosity.

If you'd like to spread the word about our pantry, we have a donation box with brochures available outside our entrance. You can also share our Facebook or website links down below. Your gifts—big or small—help us feed our neighbors year-round.

Thank you to all our individual donors this month: Kim Wilson, Shawn Milligan, Nicholas Tobiczky, Jillian Tobiczky, Jacob Rutowski, Jennifer Parrack, Allie Parrack, Zachary Bodack, Jessica Nobles, Kyle Schmitt, Elise Luber, Meredith Stamm, Madison Finnegan, Kory Bluman, Chloe Demorizi, Rosemary Miller, Jennifer Gonsiorek, Gina Chandler, Nicholas Pietrzak, Nicole Dunz, Mara Johnson, Laura Berrady, Marvin Hill, Jacob Wagner, Gregory Dzara, Vinod Thomas, Mario Fanone, Judith Prescott, Marie Thomakos, Kathy Ziejewski, Mikayla Stewart, Pavan Kumar Prakash, Alysha

Metty, Corinne Shuler, Stephanie Carosa, Mary Secor, Angelica Davis, Kimberly Wilcox, Sudhakar Solleti, Jessica Moffitt, Sara Muffoletto, Claire Kerstein, Jessica Glasco, Thomas O'Connor, Julie Long, Marie Armstrong, Donna Williams, Maura Cotter, Ann Fischer, and several anonymous donors.

Grants:

Great news! We got a \$1,000 equipment grant from **Lake Shore Savings**. We also received a \$2,400 grant from **Five Star Bank**. We are *thrilled* to have some grant success as we start off this new year! Thank you to our generous grant givers!!! If you know of any opportunities we can apply for, please let us know!

Looking Ahead:

We have partnered with UB and their department of Civic Engagement through the **Empire State Service Corps**. We have our first volunteer through the program specifically focused on helping those with food insecurity through Governor Kathy Hochul's direction.

Thank you for helping us bring hope and joy to every table. Together, we make our community s

[Support our cause today](#)

Other ways to support us:



Volunteer with us

Sundays 12-3pm

Mondays 4-7pm

Wednesdays 10am-5pm

Volunteer duties typically include picking and packing grocery orders, bringing groceries out to client's cars when they arrive for their appointments, and re-stocking the shelves with food.

Community Garden

In summer, we grow a community garden and need help maintaining it: de-weeding, watering, and general clean-up of the beds.

[Learn more](#)



Upcoming Events

- **Spaghetti Dinner:** We will be hosting a spaghetti dinner soon! Stay tuned for a date!

All events

Follow us on Facebook!



Hope & Joy Food Pantry

Sent with Zeffy

The only 100% free fundraising suite in North America.

[Learn more about Zeffy](#)

[Unsubscribe from these emails](#)