

Project SHARE Impact Report 2024

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"My family gets food that we can enjoy. When bills take over most of my paycheck, Project SHARE helps my family out."

2024 Client Testimonial

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## **Our Mission**

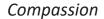
To reduce food insecurity for neighbors in the greater Carlisle area by offering access to nutritious food, programs and a support network that promotes self-sufficiency, fosters diginity and instills hope.

### **Our Vision**

Nourishing Our Community...Awakening Hope!

## **Our Values**







Community



Integrity

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#### **Project SHARE Team**

**Emma Wong (Witwer)** 

**Executive Director** 

**Amy Holland** 

Volunteer Coordinator

Asani Mukusa

Food Pantry Operations Manager

**Darrell Beam** 

Warehouse & Logistics Coordinator

**Deb Brownawell** 

Front Office Manager

**Greg Leiphart** 

Farmstand Coordinator

**Kristin Malloy** 

Volunteer Coordinator

Krystina Kolanda

**Nutrition Coordinator** 

Lisa Maddux

**Development Director** 

Natasha Thumma

Client Services Coordinator

Sarah Walters

**Communications Coordinator** 

**Vivian Shenk** 

Bookkeeper

#### **2024 Project SHARE Board of Directors**

**James Markley** 

CHAIR

U.S. Army War College

**Teresa Festivo** 

VICE CHAIR

M&T Bank

**Nicole Deary** 

PAST CHAIR

Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce & Leadership Cumberland

**Shawn Bernheisel** 

TREASURER

Cohick & Associates

**Erin Wilfong** 

SECRETARY

**UPMC** Carlisle

**Breanna Frampton** 

The GIANT Company

**Brett Conway** 

Penn State Dickinson Law

**Brian Gochenour** 

Carlisle Area School District

Jan Ewing

Community Member

Jenn Halpin

Dickinson College Farm

Madelyn Snyder

United States Judiciary

Megan McAvoy

West Shore Homes

Mikayla Synder

F&M Trust

### Thank You from the Executive Director

At Project SHARE, 2024 was a year marked with the necessity to be agile and responsive to the growing need of food insecurity in our community. *In the past four years, rates of food insecurity have been steeply trending upward*, a spike that nationally has not been experienced since the Great Recession in 2008. In Cumberland County specifically, 1 in 11 neighbors experience food insecurity, including 1 in 10 children.

As demand for Project SHARE services increased again this year, I witnessed our team of staff, volunteers, board members, donors and community members rise to the challenge and the call to care for our neighbors by providing food. Over 1,000 trucks shipments were facilitated from our loading docks to ensure our neighbors had access to healthy, nutritious food. Project SHARE added Distribution hours to serve more families through the Your Choice model. Farmstand transitioned from a primarily Drive Thru operation to re-opening inside, mirroring a farmers' market choice shopping experience. Volunteers shared thousands of hours, to ensure Project SHARE's operations ran smoothly. In the pressurized growth and logistic demands of our work, I also witnessed thousands of moments of small kindnesses, empathy and connection.

This Impact Report was created to say thank you. If you are reading this report, you have played an integral role in supporting Project SHARE's mission. Thank you for being part of the solution and for being on a team that "Nourishes Our Community...Awakens Hope."



Sincerely,

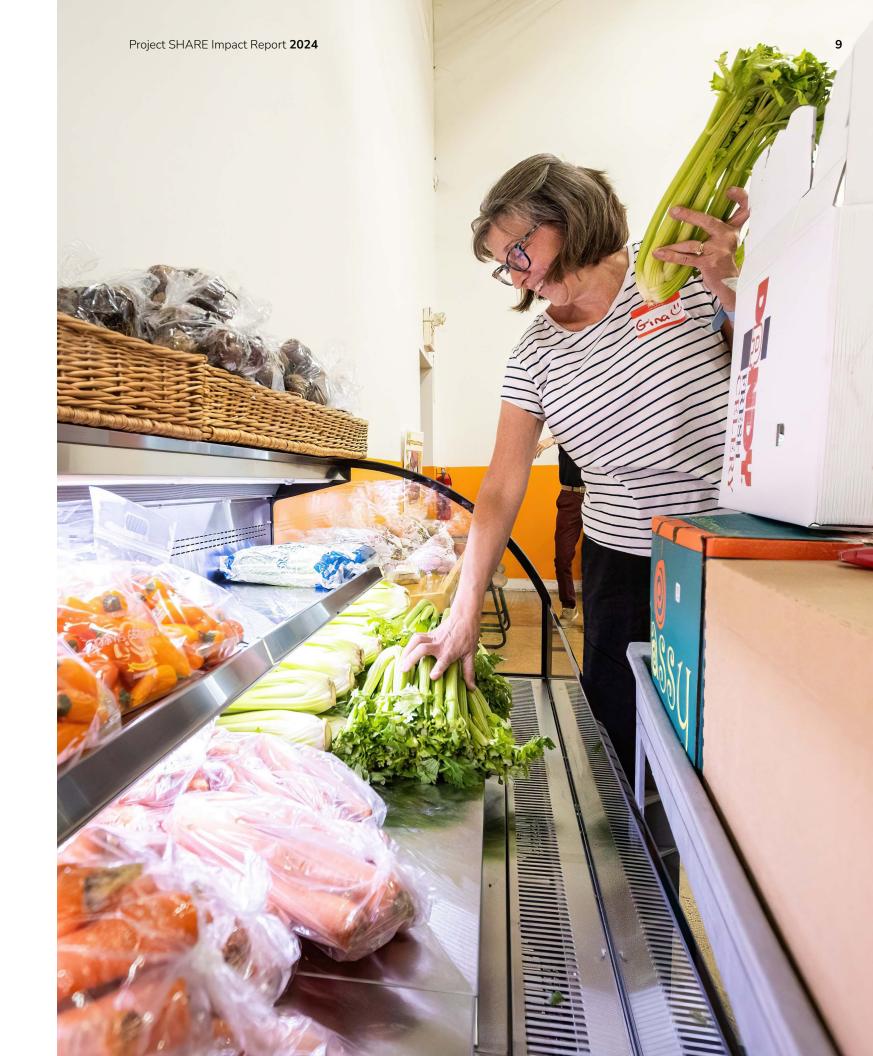
Emma Wong (Witwer), Executive Director

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"I would never be as healthy as I am today thanks to the nutritious options I've learned more about because of Project SHARE."

2024 Client Testimonial



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### **Programs & Services**

#### 805 Households

served montly through Distribution (up from 600 monthly the year before)—including 50 medically homebound individuals who recieved their groceries delivered to their door.

#### 480 Households

served weekly at Farmstand, a 10% increase from last year. Each week, Farmstand shares fresh produce, bread, milk and eggs.

### By the Numbers

#### **263 SHARE Boxes**

distributed to families. In partnership with other non-profits, SHARE boxes contained healthy, easy-to-prepare meal kits to nourish families on their way to stability and self-sufficiency.

#### 1,044 Children

participated in Carlisle4Kids, receiving brand new school supplies to kick start a new academic year.















### 467 Children

participated in Summer Feeding 4 Kids, with a total of

#### 65,380 Meals

and more than 2,000 books distributed

## 8,243 Weekend Nutrition Powerpacks

for students during the 2023/2024 school year, helping to curb weekend hunger.

## 79% of Food Given Away Ranked Healthy

At Distribution, 79% of food distributed ranked as healthy according to SWAP (Supporting Wellness at Pantries), a nutriton ranking system that considers added sugar, saturated fat and sodium content.

## 14,732 Pounds of Fresh Produce

gleaned from local farms to supplement Farmstand and Distribution programs.

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### **Highlights**

### **Expanded Pantry Hours**

Project SHARE expanded pantry hours in February—adding additional evening hours and Saturday morning hours to meet the growing need of our community. Distribution is now avilable two Saturdays a month and three evenings a month.

### **Farmstand Updates**

After primarily distributing via a Drive-Thru model since 2020, Farmstand re-launched choice shopping in August.

Families shop in a farmers' market-like setting to pick out the fresh produce that meets their needs.

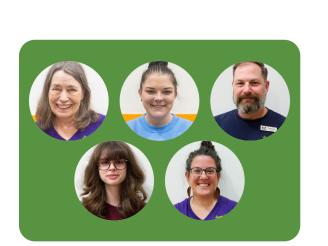




## **Cooking Classes Camarderie**

Project SHARE continues to offer monthly cooking classes, including Kids in the Kitchen, Virtual Kids in the Kitchen, Slice of the Month (for adults) and The Sharing Table (for families).

In November, the young chefs of Kids in the Kitchen were featured on live television during CBS 21's 21 Days of Caring.



## New Re-Entry Program Partnerhips

Added new partnerships to Project SHARE's Re-Entry Bag program, a program that provides ~3 days worth of shelf stable food to homeless veterans, those in substance abuse rehabilitation and individuals re-entering society after incarceration. Food bags help meet a critical and immediate basic need.



## Welcomed New Team Members

In the past year, Project SHARE welcomed 5 new team members:

Amy, Part-time Volunteer Coordinator
Krystina, Nutrition Coordinator
Greg, Farmstand Coordinator
Sarah, Communications Coordinator
Kristin, Part-time Volunteer Coordinator



### **Tabletop Partnerships**

Project SHARE partnered with more than 15 non-profits who shared information about their programs and services with households during Distribution days.

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"We believe that when you care for others, you also care for yourself.

Helping others gives one a meaningful purpose, thus improving the

health and the quality of our lives."

Volunteers, Michael and Marla Mogill



"By actively participating in the operations of Project SHARE, we are part of a solution that redistributes surplus food to those who might otherwise go hungry."

Volunteers, Mark and Kathy Laser

### **Volunteer Spotlight**

Project SHARE could not operate without our volunteers. They are an extension of our team. Every year, hundreds of community members take the time to assist with our services and programs, filling jobs that are crucial to meeting our mission.

2024 Volunter Impact

### 775 Volunteers

donated their time to help fulfil Project SHARE's mission in the past year.

### **16,000 Hours**

Volunteers gave more than 16,000 hours of their time to help Project SHARE, increasing the capacity of the Project SHARE staff as if there were 15 additional part-time employees!

### **Did You Know?**

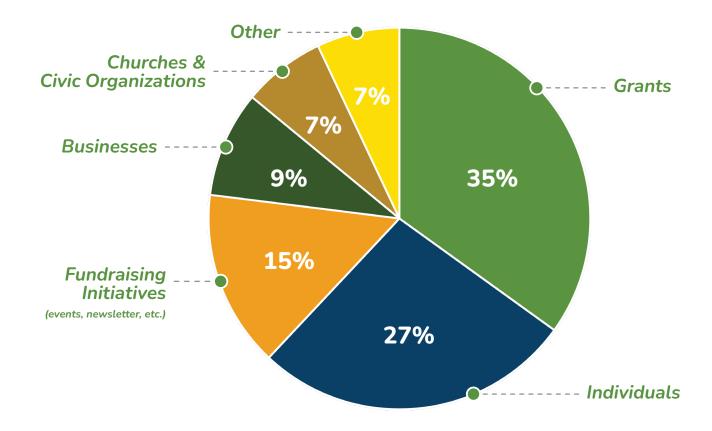
Project SHARE's volunteers take on a variety of roles, from truck drivers and office support to cooking class helpers and pantry assistants.



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### **Community Generosity**

At Project SHARE, we could not fulfill our mission without the invaluable support of foundations, businesses, congregations and individuals in our community.



### **In-Kind Food Donations**

Thanks to our community, Project SHARE received an incredible 76,746 lbs. of in-kind food donations this year!

Between October and December alone, we collected over 50,000 lbs., making a huge impact in just a few months!



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The generosity of our community allowed us to make necessary repairs and upgrades to our facilities.

Thanks to the support from our community, we've been able to make several important upgrades to our warehouse, improving our ability to serve our neighbors. After 22 years of service, we've replaced the freezer used for our Your Choice Distribution. This upgrade ensures that we can continue safely storing and distributing perishable food.

Additionally, the HVAC units in our Distribution room were repaired to maintain a comfortable, climate-controlled environment. This is especially essential, as it allows our clients and neighbors to shop in comfort. Providing a positive shopping experience is essential to creating a welcoming and dignified space for everyone who walks through our doors.

Lastly, we've added a new truck to our fleet, allowing us to reach more donors, collect

additional donations, and deliver resources to those in need with greater efficiency.

These upgrades would not have been possible without the invaluable support and commitment of our local foundations, businesses, congregations and individuals.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support as we work together to reduce food insecurity and promote self-sufficiency, foster dignity and instill hope.



#### Compassion. Community. Integrity.

Our mission is to reduce food insecurity in the greater Carlisle area by offering access to nutritious food, programs and a support network that fosters self-sufficiency, fosters dignity and instills hope.

www.projectsharepa.org