



## Stroudwater Food Pantry 2020 Year End Annual Report



The Stroudwater Food Pantry (SFP) is a ministry of the Stroudwater Christian Church. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit and tax-exempt hunger relief agency, registered with the Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. SFP provides groceries to the meal insecure in Southern and Central Maine, and is open to the public for grocery distribution on Sundays 1-3pm. Stroudwater Food Pantry opened its doors on August 12<sup>th</sup> 2015, and has served the public for more than 5 years.

### **Our Mission –**

To do the work of Jesus by feeding those in need, and reducing the number of meal insecure throughout Southern Maine. “For I was hungry and you fed me...”

### **Our Core Values –**

Everything Stroudwater Food Pantry does is guided by the following Core Values:

1. **Feed the hungry** – Provide food pantry groceries to people in need, in our Church Family and in our communities.
2. **Share the Love of Christ** – Share God’s love and treat all people with dignity and respect.
3. **Build to last** – Every activity we engage in, and every decision we make must support the long-term sustainability of the Stroudwater Food Pantry.
4. **Own our financial solvency** – Fund all pantry equipment and food acquisition through donations, contributions and grants that are not part of our church’s Annual Budget.

### **Our Team –**

The SFP Leadership Team consists of Director Doug Horner, Operations Manager Laura Pitcher, and Marketing Manager Alex Eisman. The pantry has more than 70 volunteers performing a variety of duties on a regular basis. The Stroudwater Food Pantry is staffed and managed entirely by unpaid volunteers.

### **2020 In Review –**

- In 2020, COVID-19 had a profound impact on the communities served by the Stroudwater Food Pantry. As a result, SFP saw a dramatic increase in the demand for pantry food by meal insecure families, an increase largely driven by clients who lost employment due to a variety of shutdowns, or in part due to clients who lost work when they or their family members contracted the virus.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, Stroudwater Food Pantry implemented a “no contact” operational model that limited exposure between clients and volunteers. Coupled with wearing face masks and utilizing best sanitation practices, the changes helped to promote a safe environment. Volunteers remained indoors and built boxes of groceries that were passed on carts to client waiting outdoors. The new process significantly improved the efficiency of the operation, making it possible to meet the increased demand for food with only a small increase in volunteer hours expended.

- In 2020, SFP provided 3,640 boxes of groceries to families in need; this represents a **30% increase** in the demand for grocery boxes over 2019. Stroudwater Food Pantry finished the year with 642 families in active enrollment, feeding approximately 2,000 people in total.
- SFP dramatically expanded its Last Mile program, the program that delivers boxes of groceries to the homes of meal insecure families who do not have the ability to drive to the pantry on Sundays. The pantry van runs four different delivery routes throughout the communities of Portland, So. Portland, Westbrook, Scarborough, and Freeport, delivering groceries to 66 families; an additional 21 families are served by agency case workers who deliver our groceries to their clients using their own vehicles.
- SFP continued its participation in the Good Shepherd Food Bank fresh food rescue program. It also received food from Wayside Food Programs, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The pantry collected, processed and distributed almost **90 tons** of food this year to pantry clients in both southern and central Maine; this represents a **32% increase** over the 68 tons of food distributed in 2019.
- SFP delivered nearly 6 tons of food to communities in Washington County.
- Stroudwater Food Pantry distributed 110 complete Thanksgiving dinners to families who otherwise would not have had one.
- Several corporate sponsors conducted food drives on our behalf that yielded *thousands* of parcels of non-perishable food.
- SFP partnered with agencies in the city of Portland who provide a variety of health and human services. Boxes of groceries were prepared and provided to agency case workers who immediately drove them to the homes of their clients who had an emergency need of food.
- Pantry volunteers logged approximately 3,845-man hours of volunteer time.
- The SFP website and Facebook pages served as information platforms for donors, volunteers and clients, as well as a repository where our weekly pantry reports can be reviewed. [stroudwaterfoodpantry.com](http://stroudwaterfoodpantry.com) | [facebook.com/stroudwaterfoodpantry](https://facebook.com/stroudwaterfoodpantry)
- Stroudwater Food Pantry remained financially solvent throughout 2020. The ministry was generously supported by church members who made pantry-specific financial donations, and by financial support from grants and benefactors outside our church.

Stroudwater Food Pantry wishes to acknowledge that this ministry is made possible by the dedication and hard work of its many volunteers, and by the donations and support of our Stroudwater Christian Church family. It is also made possible by our relationships with the Good Shepherd Food Bank, Wayside Food Services, the U.S.D.A., both the Hannaford and SHAW'S supermarkets, and by the contributions from our family of patrons, supporters, and community partners outside our church. Thank you, and God Bless You all!!

**Doug Horner**  
**Director, Stroudwater Food Pantry**