



RISING HOPE ANNUAL REPORT

NOV. 1, 2022-OCT. 31, 2023

A Message from Pastor Kameron Wilds

Dear Friends of Rising Hope -

As we come to the end of the year, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the many people who help us continue our vital work of helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty in our community.

At Rising Hope, we are committed to ministering in love to the needs of our neighbors and supporting everyone on their individual path. We would not be able to do our work without the support of a large community of individuals, faith communities, and organizations who, guided by generous hearts, offer financial, in-kind, and volunteer assistance.

2023 has been a year of tremendous growth for Rising Hope. It is my hope that within this report you will see the difference that people like you have made. You will find statistics and stories that capture the life of Rising Hope from Nov 1, 2022 through Oct. 31, 2023. There is also a section with actionable ways your continued support and assistance can keep the hope rising.

Blessings,

Kameron



Rising Hope, a mission church of the United Methodist Church, is a community of faith helping individuals rise above homelessness and poverty along the Route 1 Corridor. We are a safe place where the community can gain spiritual and physical sustenance. We believe in supporting everyone on their individual path and working with people at every stage of their journey. We are committed to building strong foundations and connections with our community.

Our Mission

- Love Unconditionally
- Include Everyone
- Celebrate Life

Helping our Community

In 2023, Rising Hope, with our partners, worked to ensure that every member of our community had a place to turn for help, to help others and, most importantly, to find love.

In our newly imagined **Food Market**, we offer healthy and culturally relevant food options that help improve long-term health outcomes.

Our Hope Closet is open to those who are without housing and are in need of hygiene items, clothing and basic resources to make daily living on the streets a little less cumbersome.

The **Rising Hope Kitchen** welcomes people for a community based lunch four times a week and following each Sunday Worship Service.

In partnership with Ventures in Community and New Hope Housing, we run a **Hypothermia Shelter**, providing overnight emergency shelter for 24 individuals experiencing homelessness nightly from December through March.



For community individuals and families in need of **emergency assistance**, we offer immediate financial support for rent and utility relief and connections to longer-term resources.



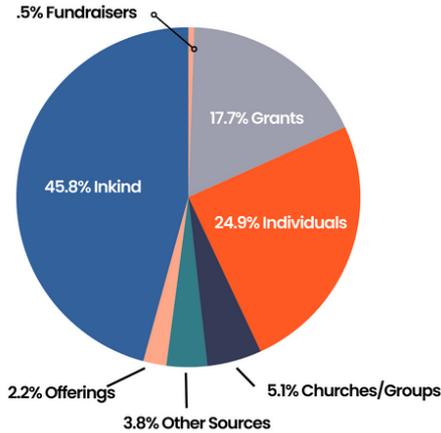
To continue our efforts of providing fresh, quality, and nutritious food to our community, we launched **Hope Grows**. Through our Greenhouse we provide direct access for community members to source their own food resources right outside their doors and balconies.

Art Devotion and **GodTalk** connect the local community with spiritual conversation and creative activities during lunchtime on Wednesdays and the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.



Sunday Morning Worship remains the central thrust of our identity where people from all walks of life are included into the family and sent out in mission and ministry to our neighbors.

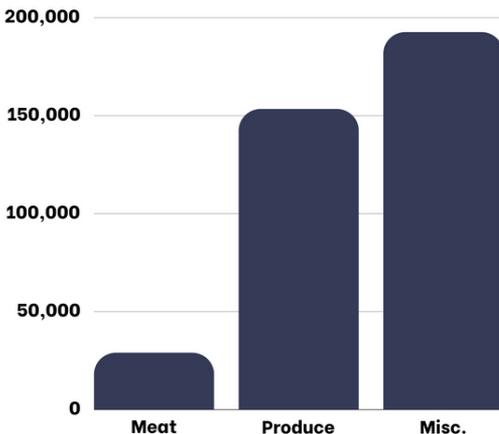
Key Financial Data



Total Income: \$1,412,880

We have been blessed with a diverse support stream and are grateful for our partners from all backgrounds: individuals, grants, fundraisers, churches/groups, offerings, in-kinds and other sources. While grants have been very helpful, the individual donor and our local communities of faith still remain significant partners in our funding. We are able to serve as a result of the kindness demonstrated in each gift.

Total In-Kind Food: 375,270 Pounds



We are grateful to our generous partners for their in-kind donations. Your gifts of physical products make a significant impact when paired with financial support. Together, we hope to increase this by 5% next year.

How You Can Help

Looking toward 2024, you can help us achieve our goals by:

- Volunteer to **cook a meal** to be served during a weekday or Sunday lunch for roughly 50 individuals or volunteer as a **compassionate listener** sitting and eating with our friends
 - Financially **contribute to emergency services** like utility and rental relief, transportation, and a personalized approach to long-term solutions
 - Donate your expertise to **assist in building maintenance** to offset Rising Hope's costs
 - Volunteer in the **hypothermia shelter** or financially support Rising Hope's year-round effort to assist those experiencing homelessness through joining our monthly donor group called "**Circle of Hope**" where a recurring gift of \$25 can make a tremendous impact
 - Provide healthy and culturally appropriate foods in our Food Market through **hosting a fresh food drive** or **donating financial support** for emergency food services
 - **Pray, network, offer your voice** in partnership with ours in advocacy with those experiencing homelessness to find adequate shelter, supportive housing, and affordable housing along the Rt. 1 Corridor
 - Lend your knowledge of gardening by **volunteering with Hope Grows** beginning in the early spring to plant, water, and tend the greenhouse in an effort to help community members begin growing their very own vegetables
 - Volunteer your skill set as a **guest instructor** for a community cooking course, nutrition classes, or budgeting for meal planning
 - Give a gift that lasts for generations by speaking with our Finance Chair about **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QDC)** in your retirement or leaving a **legacy donation** through estate planning
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Highlights of Rising Hope's Impact

- **1,145** unique households were served through our Food Market in the past year, representing **2,113 adults and 1,415 children** under 17
- **8,628** plates served over the last year from our Kitchen
- **7,265** volunteer hours served
- Angel Tree gifts provided to **420 children** for Christmas
- Emergency rental/utility assistance totaling more than **\$22,887**
- **121 consecutive days** individuals experiencing homeless had access to shelter via the Hypothermia Shelter from January through March
- More than **1,500** tomato, cucumber, pepper, spinach seedlings distributed directly to community members via the greenhouse.



Connect With Us

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