

# Fresh News

FROM THE OPEN DOOR | SPRING 2022



Pounds of Food the Average  
American Eats Per Meal



1.3

X

31,260

Food Insecure People  
in Dakota County

=

14.8  
Million

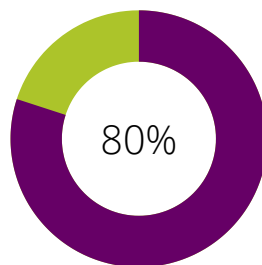


Lbs of Food to Provide  
1 Meal Per Day for 1 Year

2.9 Million



Lbs of Food  
Distributed by  
The Open Door  
in 2021



of Need Remains

We've come a  
long way  
but we've much  
more to do.



Hunger stats are hard to quantify, even moreso in suburban areas with high costs of living.  
The harsh reality is, nearly 80,000 Dakota County residents are struggling to make ends meet in 2022.

Learn how you  
can help!



[www.theopendoorpantry.org](http://www.theopendoorpantry.org)

A FRESH APPROACH  
TO ENDING LOCAL HUNGER  
  
3910 Rahm Road  
Eagan, MN 55122

## Spring Snapshot

- The Open Door Honored as MN Wild's April Charity of the Month
- Trader Joe's Eagan Becomes newest "Retail Rescue" Partner
- Sara Anderson of Cedar Haven Real Estate Group Named Board President
- Mobile Pantry Adds New Senior Living Facility in Eagan - The First Senior Facility Added In Two Years!

### ***A Note From The Executive Director***

From our team to everyone reading this newsletter – Thank you! Your support, your donations, your food drives and your willingness to give your time to help others has absolutely transformed our organization over the past two years.

We have sustained a level of hunger relief for our community that was previously out of our reach. Now, with your help, we plan to do even more.

By the time you read this we will have added food support to our first new senior living community in two years! We will have relaunched our neighborhood Pop-Up Produce stands, and we will be deep in thoughtful planning for adding additional sites to our Mobile Food Program in the fall of this year. Not only are we growing our service, but in the past few months – with your help - we have also been able to expand our team, add benefits for our staff, and strengthen our infrastructure.

The truth is that with all we have done - doubling our efforts and reaching more people than ever before - we still have much more to do. We are actively seeking a larger space for our organization and investing in our programs to make fresh and healthy food available anywhere it is needed in our community.

We hope the stories in this newsletter, in our blog, and across our social media, give you a clear sense of the tangible impact you are making in our community every day. Most of all, we truly hope you are proud of how we are using what you have given us

With Gratitude,



Jason Viana, Executive Director



### ***We Need You This Summer!!***

As we gear up for another BUSY summer season, we need your help!! We couldn't provide as much access to fresh food without you!!

#### ***3 Ways to Get Involved:***



Great for groups, or come as a family!  
Volunteers age 14+ are welcome at The Open Door!



Register today: <https://www.theopendoorpantry.org/5k/>

Volunteer With The Open Door: [www.theopendoorpantry.org/volunteer](http://www.theopendoorpantry.org/volunteer)

# Large-Scale Food Distribution Mirrors Large-Scale Need

## Metcalfe Morphs from Temporary Solution to Mobile Pantry Mainstay



In April 2020, Open Door volunteers and staff launched the first "large-scale" drive-through food distribution in an effort to "make room" for more families in our community who were going to need food due to the economic impact of the looming pandemic.



Two years later, the large-scale distribution model has become a normal part of our operations and represents more than 40% of those we support each month.

"Lately, the lines have been getting bigger earlier. It is a shock, even after a year and a half, to see how many people use this site," said Adam Hoffman, Mobile Food Program Manager at The Open Door.



Above: Scenes from a February distribution at Metcalfe Middle School serving 400+ families.

Photos by Feeding America.

The distribution is hosted at Metcalfe Middle School on the Eagan/Burnsville border for nearly 18 months and has served between 750 families a week at the peak of the pandemic, to around 400 families last fall when additional support and rising wages eased the financial strain for many.

As benefits have receded and inflation has soared, attendance rates have crept back up - as high as 600 households each week.

The Metcalfe model has not only become a weekly barometer for the level of support needed in our community, it has also become a reflection of the broader face of food insecurity in our community.

More than 50,000 community members have visited The Open Door for the first-time in the last two years, and most have come to the organization through Metcalfe.

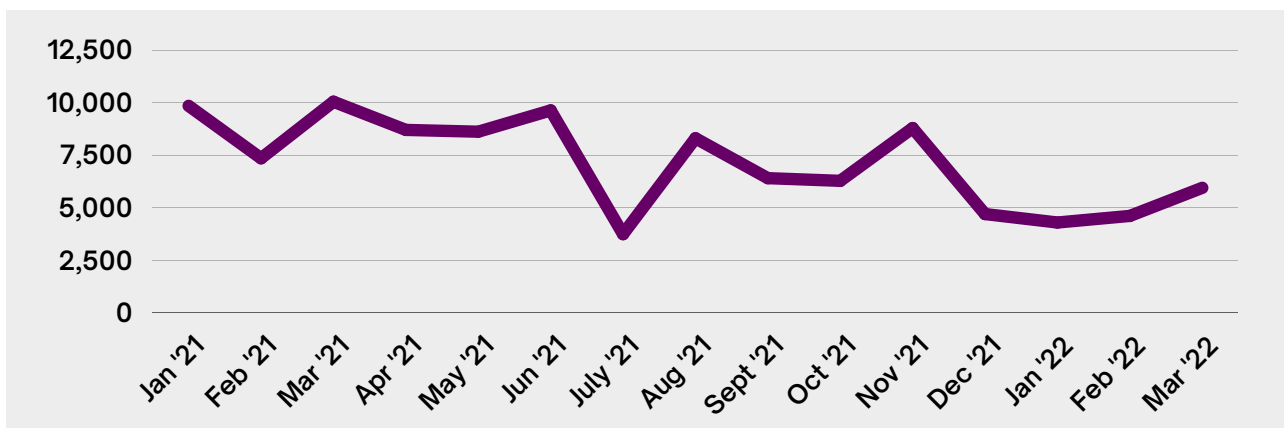
A recent 4-week study yielded a better picture of who seeks support at Metcalfe each week - most attendees live in single-family homes, do not receive/qualify for additional benefits, come about twice a month, and often pick up for more than one family.

What was thought of as a "temporary" drive-through distribution has become an established source of support for thousands in Dakota County.

With the announced sale of the Metcalfe property in June, The Open Door team is searching for an alternative site that will allow us to continue serving our friends and neighbors who rely on this support each week.

## The Open Door Metcalfe Distribution

Individuals  
Served  
By Month



# Snack Packs Power Mobile Lunchbox

## Help Needed to Fill the Summer Meal Gap for Kids

The Open Door's Mobile Lunchbox program is gearing up for its biggest summer yet! This dynamic program has grown to bring summer meals to more than 20 neighborhoods across 4 Dakota County school districts, collectively using volunteer power to attack the biggest meal gap in our community!

In addition to freshly prepared meals for students, our corps of volunteers bring snack packs once a week to each neighborhood, helping kids get through the gaps between meals and over the weekend.

This year we are asking for the community to once again help us source, pack and deliver more than 1,500 snack packs each week! Head to [theopendoorpantry.org/mlb-snack-packs/](http://theopendoorpantry.org/mlb-snack-packs/) for more information on hosting your own snack pack party!

### IT'S EASY AS 1-2-3!

1

Purchase kid-friendly snacks from our packing list:

- Fruit cups (apple sauce or cut fruit)
- Granola or fruit bars
- Microwave mac & cheese
- Snack-sized Goldfish or pretzels
- Instant Oatmeal
- Protein (beef jerky, meat sticks)



2

Pack snacks into plastic or reusable bags\* at your location

\*Please do not include notes inside bags when packing

3

Drop off pre-packed bags at our Eagan Pantry or Mobile Pantry



## Garden to Table Program Begins 13th Year

The Open Door's Garden to Table (G2T) Program enters its 13th growing season in 2022. With 12 gardens, 300+ plots and a variety of garden-focused classes offered year round, G2T provides a sustainable approach to eliminating hunger.

G2T plots are available, and free, for people in need of food support, even first-time gardeners! All the materials needed to plan,, prep, and harvest the crops are provided including seeds, compost, mulch, and tools.

One of G2T's best resources is the support provided by G2T Manager Alpa Goswami, who is excited for the up-and-coming season.

"This year we have 309 adoptable plots, more than ever. I expect that means we will be serving more people than ever before, which is very exciting," Alpa said.

With more plots available, there is one, main thing that Alpa needs for the summer garden season - volunteers!

"We need volunteers on a daily basis to help care for paths, compost, weed and water," Alpa said about the need.

Interested in volunteer opportunities with the Garden to Table program this summer?! Visit <https://theopendoorpantry.org/get-involved/volunteer/> to learn more!!



## Thank You to Our Annual Partners

