

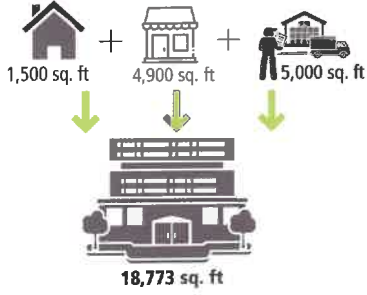
Fresh News

FROM THE OPEN DOOR | FALL 2022



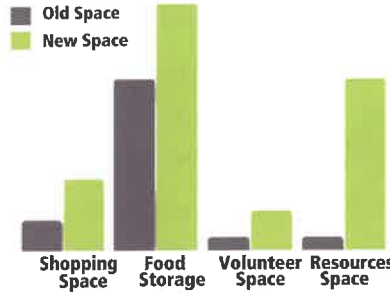
COMING TO THE OPEN DOOR IN 2023:

INCREASED EFFICIENCY



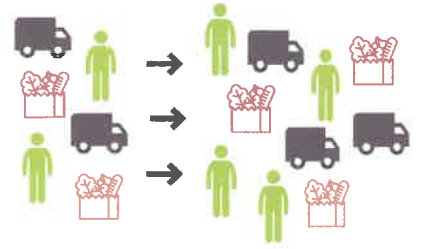
STREAMLINED OPERATIONS INTO ONE LARGER SPACE

EXPANDED CAPACITY



INCREASED CAPACITY TO TAKE IN MORE FOOD, STORE MORE FOOD & DISTRIBUTE MORE FOOD

BROADENED REACH



ABILITY TO FEED MORE PEOPLE WITH INCREASED INVENTORY AND SPACE



FIND OUT MORE INSIDE!



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A FRESH APPROACH
TO ENDING LOCAL HUNGER

3910 Rahn Road
Eagan, MN 55122

Fall Snapshot & Summer Recap

- New Apple Valley Elementary School Site Added to Mobile Pantry - 1st School Site Since 2020
- Neighborhood Pop Up Produce Stands Returned with Banner Year - New Farmington Site Proved Impactful
- Scan the QR Code Below to Meet The Open Door's Seasonal Summer Team and Explore the TOD Blog



A Note From The Executive Director

For the past 13 years we have been in a constant state of evolution – from a closet at Mt. Calvary Lutheran, to the basement of a church parsonage, to a creative collection of retail and warehouse space spread across 3 different physical locations.

During that time we have grown to become the largest hunger relief organization in Dakota County and one of the largest in the state, providing fresh and healthy food to upwards of 20,000 people in a single month.

In conversation I always remind people that during our remarkable growth we are yet to put another food shelf out of business. The truth is that since day one The Open Door has focused on filling the gap of unmet need in Dakota County, a gap that still remains today.

In order to take our biggest swing yet at ending hunger in our community, we are once again evolving and once again asking you to join us. In January of 2023 we will move into a new (to us) building in Eagan where we will consolidate our operations into one physical footprint. Here we will double our client shopping space, add a custom walk-in refrigerator, gain a proper loading dock, and enable our team to work together in one space with one shared goal of doing even more together.

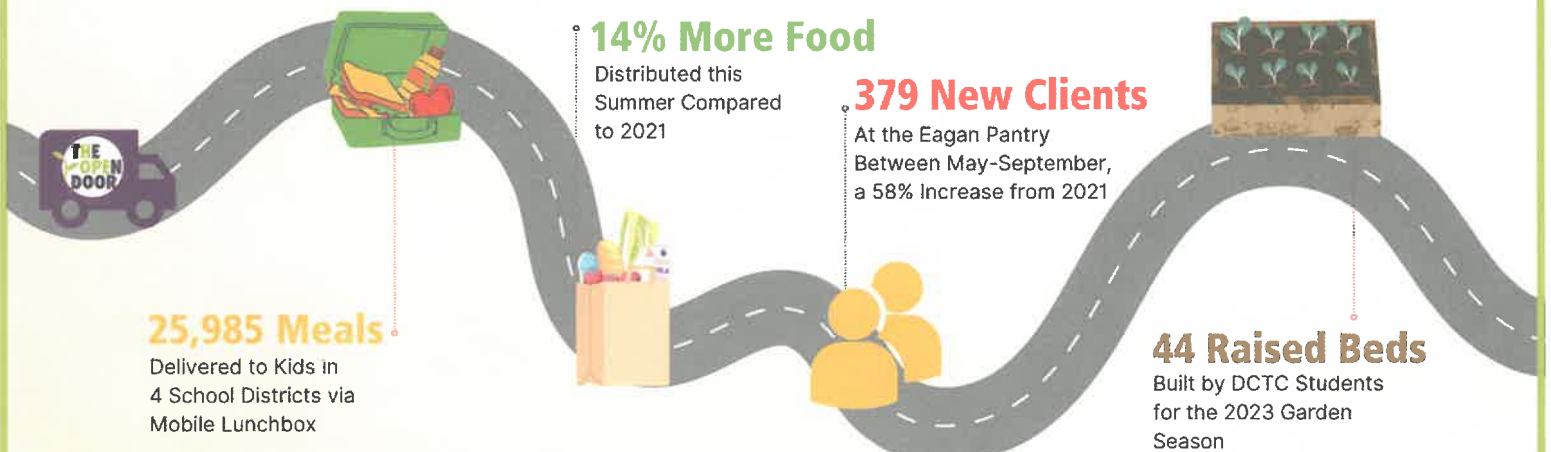
With your help we will continue to aggressively fight hunger everywhere it lives in our community. This new home will allow us to get more food to more people, in more places, than ever before. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your trust in our team.

With Gratitude,

Jason Viana, Executive Director



The Open Door's *Summer Roadtrip*



Summer Surge Shines Light on Ongoing Need

14% increase highlights need for more organizational space

Steady inflation, high food and gas prices, and fewer sources of support all added up to the largest summer of hunger relief in Open Door history.

From the return of our neighborhood-based produce distributions, to a rise in Eagan Pantry appointments, to continued demand at our weekly drive through distribution, The Open Door saw a double-digit increase in demand across the organization this summer.

All tolled, our combined programs provided more than 1.4 million pounds of food, a 14% increase from 2021, to an average of more than 24,000 people each month - 56% of which were children.

More than 6,500 people used Open Door services for the first time this summer and August saw the highest monthly distribution numbers in The Open Door's 13-year history.

Compared to the summer of 2019 – the last non-pandemic summer – we saw a 53% increase in people served at neighborhood-based distributions and a 40% increase in the amount of food distributed.

Three new Mobile Pantry locations were key to the growth this summer including a year-round senior living community in Eagan, a summer produce distribution in Farmington, and an elementary school in Apple Valley.

While these new sites are impactful, the overall need for food support is greater than The Open Door can meet in its current operational capacity.

As of fall 2022, we have a waiting list for new Mobile Food distributions at more than 20 senior living communities and economically challenged neighborhoods while appointments at our Eagan Pantry are currently booked weeks out.

Staff and volunteers have maximized capacity within our three separate spaces, pushing creativity and innovation to the limit to feed double, sometimes triple, the number of our neighbors.

Ultimately, our team needs more space to store food, more space for more clients to shop, and functional improvements to make our efforts more effective. With your help we are making that a reality in 2023.



Under Construction! New Space Coming January '23

Capital Campaign 60% complete, final push needed to fully fund build-out

After 3 years of planning and an exhaustive real estate search, The Open Door signed a 10-year lease on a new space in the Boulder Lakes Business Park in Eagan that will allow our team to expand and improve our hunger relief efforts.

All of our programs and administrative staff will be housed under the same roof for the first time in our organization's history. In our new home we will bring in more food, store more food, and ultimately distribute more food to make greater strides toward ending hunger in Dakota County. Our goal this fall is to raise \$500,000 over and above our operating budget to afford the build-out and infrastructure improvements of our new home. We have reached 60% of our goal but need YOU to get to the finish line. Join our Capital Campaign today with an additional gift, specifically designated to our building fund.

**Scan the QR code or visit www.theopendoorpantry.org/capital to donate today.
Join us as we open a new door for hunger relief.**

Summer Programs Review

Garden to Table (G2T), Mobile Lunchbox (MLB), Pop Up Produce (PUP) – Our summertime programs are always a flourish of activity and bring fresh, healthy food directly into neighborhoods and to those who need it.

MLB maintained a strong presence in neighborhoods for School Districts 191, 194, 196 and 197, even amongst tightening post-pandemic regulations and state restrictions with snack pack donations stealing the show! Organizations, groups AND individuals community members provided so many that volunteers could handout extras, ensuring kids had more than enough snacks and food to last through the weekend. G2T saw some of its highest numbers this season with 309 garden plots and 910 households gardening. The season ended on an even

stronger note with a build of 44 new raised garden beds! These raised beds provide a more manageable garden experience where soil can be better regulated, weeds are less persistent, and a higher yield is likely.

Another big summer highlight, returning to neighborhood PUP distributions for the first time since 2019! We even added a fourth neighborhood site in Farmington. Pop Ups alone provided fresh, healthy food for 3,400 individuals from May-September. Along with food access, these Pop Up sites brought in additional resources from community partners like Dakota County Public Health, who provided Covid-19 vaccines, and Heritage Friends Library donating books.

With a new building, more space, and more opportunity for partnerships, we can't wait to see what summer 2023 brings!

From our 2nd Annual 5K to Parades, from Snack Packs to Garden Volunteers Thank You for a Memorable & Impactful Summer Season!



Thank You to Our Annual Partners

