



 **Hilliard Food Pantry Plus**

Annual Report 2024

We're More Than a Food Pantry!



What a year of growth and transition 2024 was for our community! As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for each of you who has helped us continue our vital mission of feeding our hungry neighbors.

Last year marked a significant change as, still recovering from the fire, we permanently relocated our food pantry operations to Hilliard United Methodist Church, allowing us to better serve our community in a larger space. Meanwhile, our Share Closet found its home at our previous location on Cemetery Road, creating a welcoming space where neighbors can share and receive clothing, and household essentials—knowing that together, we can ensure there really is enough for everyone.

Despite the challenges we faced, our dedicated volunteers never missed a beat. We continued serving hundreds of families each month in numerous capacities. The generosity of our community has been overwhelming. Local businesses, school groups, churches, and individuals have stepped up with donations, food drives, partnerships, and countless volunteer hours.

As we look toward 2025, we remain committed to addressing food insecurity in Hilliard and beyond. The need in our community continues to grow, but so does our resolve to meet it. Thank you for being part of this journey. Whether you've donated food, funds, or time, or all of the above, you've made a tangible difference in the lives of your neighbors. Together, we're not just providing meals, clothing, and assistance, we're nourishing hope.

With deep appreciation,

Emily Morash
Board President

Erin West
Executive Director



Our Mission



Improve the well-being of our community by providing food and support.

Our Values

At Hilliard Food Pantry Plus, we believe in the power of community to lift each other up.

The Pantry

In 2024, **we welcomed 14,062 people through our doors.**



- Grocery style shopping experiences
- Senior box deliveries
- Cooking, Nutrition, & Parenting Classes
- Harvest Festival



The Plus

Connecting families to valuable resources:



- Utility assistance
- Holiday Shop
- Resource Clinics
- Share Closet--Giving new life to clothing and home goods, reducing waste, and promoting a sustainable community.

Our values guide us in creating connection, possibility, and shared purpose:

Hospitality
Respect
Integrity
Sustainability
Partnership
Community Focus

Why We Do What We Do: Henry's Story

Meet Henry, whose story shows how kindness can transform lives during tough times. After a stroke on July 20, 2022, Henry lost his job as a restaurant manager on Hilliard Rome Road.

Without disability assistance, he relied on savings until they ran out. Seven months ago, a friend introduced him to the pantry, where he found support.

"When I first came to the pantry, I could feel the warmth and friendliness of everyone," Henry shared. "It touched my heart to see so many caring people, especially in Hilliard."

Reflecting on his journey, Henry recognized his stroke had given him a new outlook on life. "I used to take life for granted," he admitted. Grateful for the pantry's support, he began giving back by volunteering.



*"I have a second chance at life.
I'd better treasure it and do
something useful and
meaningful. It makes me
happy to be able to help others
in need."*

The Food Pantry: Our Foundation

Sandy Kellem
Pantry Associate



Jessica Deem
Pantry Manager



William LeRoy
Pantry Associate

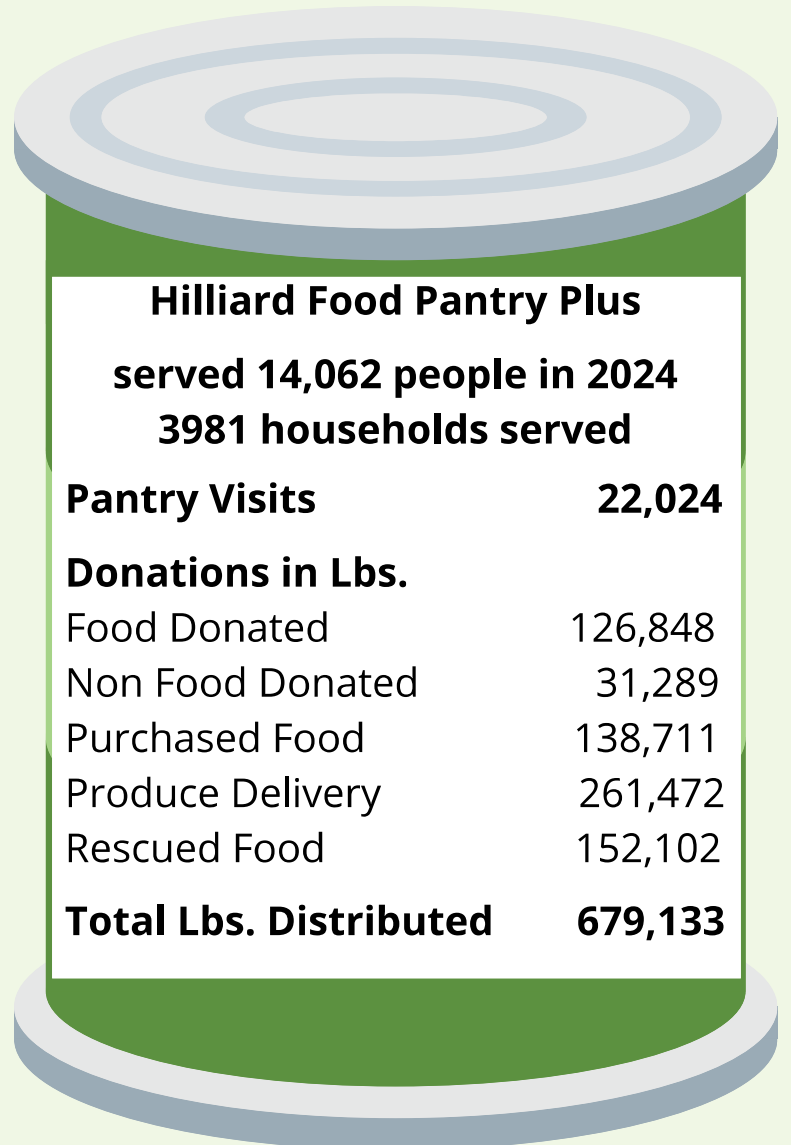
Evan Reed
Pantry Coordinator
AmeriCorps VISTA



17,715
Volunteer
Hours

At the heart of our work, the Food Pantry is a living example of hospitality and sustainability.

Our volunteers make it all possible—their time, energy, and dedication power our programs and help us serve the community every day. We couldn't do this without them.



The Share Closet: More Than Essentials



1,029
Volunteer
Hours

1576 adults
received
assistance

14,470 items
distributed

The Share Closet does more than provide clothing—it **gives new life** to gently used clothes and household goods, reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

By reclaiming and sharing these items, we keep resources in use and create opportunities for everyone to enjoy quality clothing and household essentials.



Brenda Martínez-Nieves, PhD
Share Closet Manager



Kim Poling
Share Closet Associate

Resource Team: Working Toward Stability

368
People attended
54 Classes

355
Families
and **863** Children
received gifts from
the Holiday Shop

908
Referrals
given for
resources

394
Families received
utility assistance
totaling **\$66,434** to
avoid shut offs

Our Resource Team is here for every family who visits, helping them connect with a wide range of support. At the resource table, families can explore options and access assistance with food, employment, housing, childcare, and more.



Adam Householder
Resource Manager



Raimonda Braddock
Resource Associate



Sonia Bowen
Resource Associate



Scott Hartman
Resource Associate

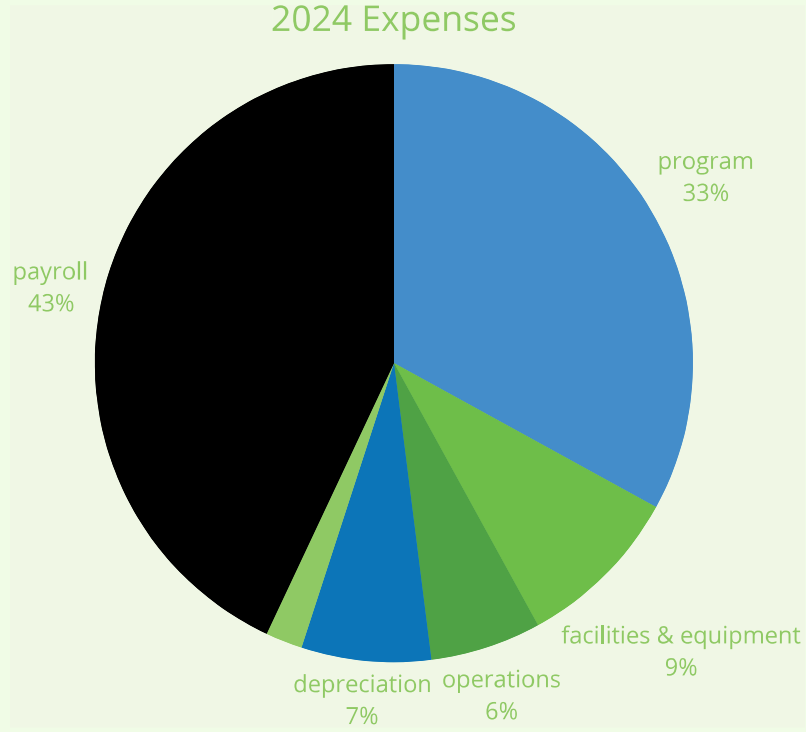
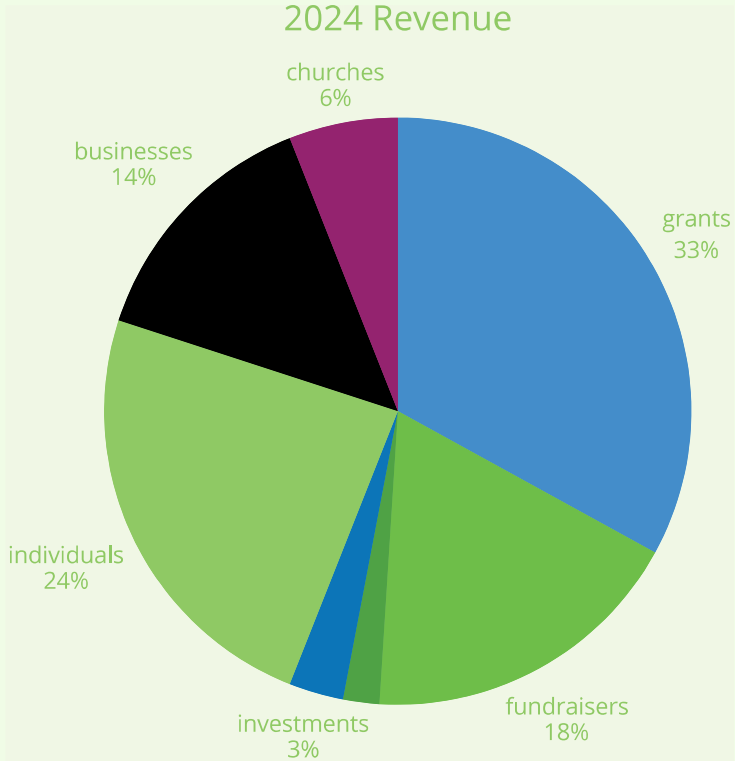


Gabby Keaton
Resource Associate



Alea Sprouse
Resource Specialist

2024 Financial Highlights



Fundraising Team



Erin West, L.S.W.
Executive Director



Keri
Community Engagement
Manager



Kayla Long
Community Engagement
Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA

Ways to Give Financially



Round Ups:

With Round-Ups, **your credit card transactions are rounded up to the nearest dollar** and the spare change is donated to the Hilliard Food Pantry Plus. You can **set limits** on how much to donate each month. Every little bit adds up to a big difference!



Donate:

Your gift of **any size** makes a difference! Your donation helps us **nourish, clothe,** and provide a **helping hand** to those in our community.



Kroger's Community Rewards:

You can support the pantry simply by grocery shopping—yes, really! And the best part? **It won't cost you a thing!**

1. Scan the QR code and create or login to your Kroger account
2. Follow the steps for enrolling in Community Rewards
3. Enter '**Hilliard Food Pantry**' and click 'enroll'
4. Shop at any Kroger





More Than Just a Pantry



Thank you to our Volunteers, Donors, Partners, and Friends

Thanks to you, we're no longer just a food pantry! The "Plus" in Hilliard Food Pantry Plus reflects our expanded vision and deepened commitment to broaden & deepen our ability to accomplish our mission "To Improve the well-being of our community by providing food and support."

Your generosity has done more than stock shelves—it has transformed lives. At Hilliard Food Pantry Plus, we provide respect, solutions, and a path forward for individuals and families navigating difficult seasons. We restore dignity, offer hope, and empower families not just to survive, but to thrive.

This year, we took a bold step forward—adding "Plus" to our name. Because we are more than a pantry. We are a comprehensive support system working tirelessly to remove the barriers between families and a stable, healthy future. "Plus" means we listen deeper, serve wider, and build stronger partnerships to uplift the whole person and the whole family.

Every way you partner and every dollar you give fuels our mission-focused, data-informed, and community-driven approach. As we look ahead, we see not just needs, but possibility. Not just challenges, but solutions. And we know that with you beside us, the future isn't just hopeful, it's within reach.

**You are a vital part of this journey.
Together we are restoring hope, rebuilding dignity, and reimagining
what's possible.**

