Message from the Board President

Dear Friends of VEAP,

“Together, we create pathways to stronger, more hopeful, communities.”

Together is who VEAP is as an organization. It is the way we work, and it is at the heart of the services we provide to our clients. Together is our volunteer base – nearly 3,000 strong, and a highly committed group of givers and doers. Together is our staff — guided by a strategic plan and a vision for the future of the communities we serve. Together are our donors, sponsors and funders — whose contributions support all of our programs and operational needs. And together are VEAP’s clients – our neighbors — as we work with them to provide hope for their future and empowering them to continue on the path to stability.

Many of the residents in our community work hard, sometimes at two or three different jobs, and yet continue to face the reality of suburban poverty. Rents are on the rise, and many neighborhoods have a low vacancy rate. A family may face the choice between housing and food. Safe, affordable and stable housing is often the key to employment for adults, success in school for children and security for seniors. VEAP’s holistic approach to client services takes into account each of the issues our clients face. Using the food pantry as a key strategy to managing a budget, a household can receive healthy food each month, helping them free up dollars for rent payments, car repair, medical bills or job search. Each of these steps is part of that pathway to stability.

VEAP’s strategic plan has set clear goals and milestones to address each need and advance our work:

In the last 18 months we have:

- Launched our Mobile Food Pantry: Answering our clients’ request of more frequent access to healthy foods, the Mobile Pantry makes weekly distributions of fresh produce and other perishable foods. Communities of friends and neighbors are built at the distribution sites, providing vital social connectedness. People who were unaware of VEAP now have access to healthy food each month, helping them free up dollars for rent payments, car repair, medical bills or job search. Each of these steps is part of that pathway to stability.

- Deepened our engagement in Housing Support and Advocacy. The intersection between healthy food access, housing and other supportive services has positioned VEAP as both a resource and leader with partners and advocate groups. We work with other organizations, tenants, landlords and elected officials to ensure dignified and affordable housing for all.

- Continued to be guided by our vibrant Strategic Plan “Hope for the Future”. This plan addresses the goals and priorities of VEAP as we serve our community. It carries us through our leadership transition period. It further identifies priorities to ensure we work in an engaging, accountable and forward-thinking manner.

- VEAP is moving toward a more focused and impactful future with innovative programs and services to better meet the needs of our community. We partner with volunteers, corporations, faith communities, civic organizations, schools and individuals to create these pathways to stability.

Will you join us on that path, so that all are free to pursue their dreams?

John Mitchell, VEAP Board President

For more information:
Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People
9600 Aldrich Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420
veap.org  952.888.9616

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People

The value of donated goods in 2017 was $6,973,123!
Thank you!

For more information:
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$9.42 of every $10 goes directly to programs!

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Building Stronger,
More Hopeful, Communities

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Building Stronger,
More Hopeful, Communities
In 2017, individual and group volunteers donated 73,064 hours for a value of $1.7 million to our community. The V in VEAP drives our ability to meet our operational needs as an organization. Without the nearly 3,000 individual and group volunteers we would be unable to provide daily access to fresh, healthy foods and connect clients to the services they need.

Together, we create pathways to stronger, more hopeful, communities through access to healthy food, housing stability and supportive services.

Our mission

Social Services

$135,090 in financial assistance helping local families with housing, car repairs, utilities and transportation

199 new client intakes
2,182 assessments
7,430 resources and referrals for support (housing, car repairs, utilities, transportation)

78% of surveyed households that received housing assistance maintained stability and current on rent for a minimum of three months following services from VEAP. 97% of those households stayed in their same residence.

By taking a holistic approach to the needs of our clients, VEAP provides support to prevent homelessness and to maintain long-term housing stability. Our clients report that the number one factor in staying up to date on rent was stable employment that pays a living wage, so we collaborate with other agencies and local employers to provide resources for jobs.

Our values

Compassionate
Collaborative
Inclusive
Innovative
Responsive
Integrity

Housing Advocacy

One Client’s Story

When a single mother with two young children in South Minneapolis had a work contract end, she got behind in rent and faced eviction right as she gained new employment. She came to VEAP for help. In addition to providing her direct funding to help her catch up on her rent payments and avoid eviction, VEAP provided gift cards for gas and Target to help her meet the needs of her family while she earned her first paycheck at her new job. Because of VEAP, this mother and her children could stay in their home and regain stability.

In March of 2018, VEAP launched a Mobile Food Pantry, increasing accessibility for individuals without reliable transportation.

A woman had not been able to leave her apartment for weeks due to health issues, and was struggling to get adequate food. The Mobile Food Pantry not only provided easy and quick access to healthy produce; it also reminded her that her community was there for her when she needed them the most.

Our Programs

Basic Needs

118,055 individuals served

VEAP operates one of the largest food pantries in the state of Minnesota with approximately 10,000 individuals having access to healthy foods every month.

3.7 million pounds of food distributed
2.035 million pounds of fresh produce (55% of total food)
8,791 pounds of food distributed by Mobile Food Pantry March-June, 2018
4,548 food packs via Student Hunger Collaborative
3,461 rides home from the pantry

In 2017, individual and group volunteers donated 73,064 hours for a value of $1.7 million to our community.

Our Programs

VEAP runs on volunteers

The V in VEAP drives our ability to meet our operational needs as an organization. Without the nearly 3,000 individual and group volunteers we would be unable to provide daily access to fresh, healthy foods and connect clients to the services they need.

2,972 volunteers, to be exact

668 Donate & Do groups (corporate, faith and civic partners)
453 new volunteers in 2017
620 Most hours by an individual volunteer
907 Most hours by a volunteer group

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