



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A close-up photograph of a woman with long dark hair smiling warmly while holding a baby. The baby is wearing a white knitted sweater and looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus field of yellow and orange autumn leaves.

CREATING PATHWAYS TO STRONGER,
MORE HOPEFUL COMMUNITIES

Dear supporters,

When I reflect on 2021, there are a few words that immediately come to mind: **Resilience.** Our incredibly adaptable and creative staff continuing to work together to bring hope to our community. **Determination.** The collective power of 1,460 volunteers who gave almost 58,000 hours of their time to make our community stronger (that's just about 40 hours per volunteer!). **Generosity.** Thousands of individuals—along with faith communities, businesses, foundations, schools and civic organizations—sacrificially giving financial donations to make sure VEAP continued to meet the increased needs in our community. **Togetherness.** Our partners in the community joined forces to make sure the most vulnerable children, teens, adults and seniors in our neighborhoods received the food, housing and case management support needed to make it through the pandemic.

As we travel through 2022 together, and as the federal supports that helped so many over the past two years continue to fade away, please remember that the people we are here for will experience the lingering economic impact of this pandemic for quite some time. So let's stay resilient, determined and generous, as together, we build stronger and more hopeful communities.

Sincerely,



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

A thriving community where all are free to pursue their dreams!

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2021 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

4,031,112

pounds of food distributed

23,236

individuals supported by
our food programming

\$5,815,717

in financial assistance granted

4,323

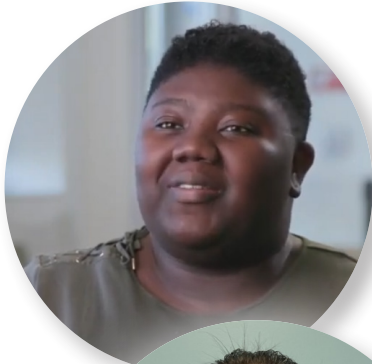
people received help with rent,
utilities, gas and other needs



"I've never known a better food shelf anywhere else in the city. I don't say that lightly. I've nearly felt like crying at times especially with the rise of rent and groceries and gas. We would be eating rice everyday if it wasn't for you all. VEAP is one of the most crucial programs in the area. Thank you!"

-Sam, recent participant

2021 PROGRAM UPDATES



Food and Basic Needs VEAP continued our unique approach to food distribution and delivery, serving thousands through our drive-through, Mobile Pantry and at-home food delivery service.

4 million pounds of food distributed **44%** produce

23,236 people supported by our food programs

1,665 individuals served with at-home food deliveries

2,920 Student Food Packs to food-insecure youth

107,840 total food access visits across all programs



"VEAP has really helped me to survive. I am so thankful to you all. You do a lot for people who need it."

-Olena, Food Pantry visitor



Social Services VEAP's team of housing specialists, social workers and case managers rose to the ongoing financial challenges facing those in our community, supporting thousands of households with financial assistance grants.

\$5.6 million in rent assistance granted to **3,039** people

\$182,149 in utility assistance to **804** people

\$4,647 average rental grant distributed, over two to three months

479 individuals received help with gas, bus passes and gift cards



"VEAP is family: you've got the elders in the back, grandmas and grandpas, you got aunties and uncles and cousins and friends here, because they care about me. I come here and feel love."

-Lisa, Food Pantry visitor

OUR PARTICIPANTS

What compels people to turn to VEAP for support?

The people who pass through VEAP's doors come from all walks of life, but all of them share one thing in common: economic precarity.

According to our statistics from reporting households last year, **78% of our participants earned less than 100% of federal poverty guidelines.** For a family of four, that's equal to less than \$28,000 per year.

Fifty-three percent of VEAP participants were working either full-time, part-time or seasonally last year, but their wages simply weren't enough to make ends meet. Another 32% reported they were retired or unable to work because of health problems or disabilities.

The cost of rent in our service area remains high. In Bloomington, where half of our participants live, the average cost for a 2-bedroom apartment is now **\$1,925/month.** For families struggling, that's entirely out of reach without falling behind on other bills, going without medical care or skipping groceries.

VEAP is humbled to meet this important need in the community and will continue to advocate for changes to move the needle on suburban poverty.



S. Skye



"This place is just all-around fantastic. This is not your parent's food shelf. It relies on the work of volunteers to staff, stock, operate it, and they are such a tremendous group of people. They are just downright kind and easily offer assistance.

There are lots of extra items that have no limits that you're able to take at the end of your regular shopping. They also often have: diapers, wipes, pet food, laundry detergent and household needs like toiletries available too. Each child is allowed to take a free book from the bookshelves before leaving... Even more wonderful, if you don't have a car, they have a mobile food pantry that stops in designated locations weekly so more people have access to food. VEAP also has social workers on staff that can assist with discounted transit passes, help with housing resource and referrals to other programs that may benefit individuals.

Honestly, I cannot say enough positive things about this organization and their desire to care for our community. We are sooo incredibly fortunate to have them. Thanks for all you guys do! You are appreciated! <3"

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Despite the uncertainty in our community and world, there was one thing VEAP could count on last year: our volunteers. In 2021, hundreds of individuals spent their valuable time at VEAP and were indispensable in nearly every area of our daily operations. From phone intake, veggie sorting, and van driving, to cleaning up after a busy day of work in the pantry, our volunteers were there for it all. We couldn't do it without them!



1,785

volunteers in 2021

57,737

total hours volunteered

\$1,647,813

cost-savings to VEAP because of volunteers*

*as determined by the 2021 Independent Sector Value of \$28.54 per volunteer hour



28

full-time equivalent staff
positions filled by volunteers
— effectively doubling our
output

*"Every single volunteer
at VEAP is here to give
their heart and soul
to the organization
because they know it
serves a great purpose."*

-Darrell, VEAP volunteer



VEAP volunteers are simply the best! Their dedication is unparalleled, especially the **21 volunteers who gave more than 300 hours of volunteer service in 2021!** That equates to an average of six hours a week, and for our top few volunteers, nearly 15 hours a week. Thank you!



Kevin Anderson
Jane Albright
Bill Bailey
Terri Behrends-Singer
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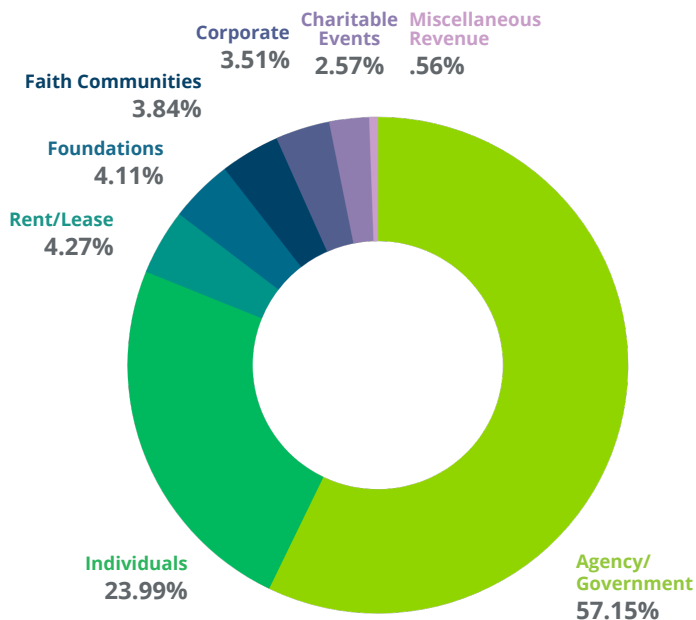
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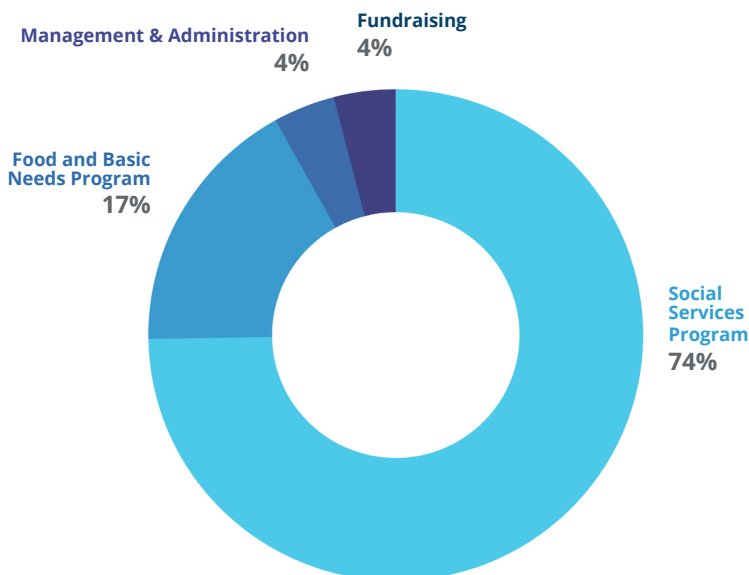
**A warm thank you to every single
one of our donors in 2021.
Your gift made a difference, no
matter the amount!**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021 FISCAL YEAR

INCOME



EXPENSES



\$9.20 of every \$10 we receive goes right to programming!

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,901,476
Inventories	\$230,709
Accounts Receivable	\$2,003
Grants Receivable	\$590,932
Prepaid Expenses	\$52,743
Property & Equipment (net)	\$4,432,110
TOTAL ASSETS	\$8,119,973

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$3,750,674
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$100,000
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$4,369,299
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$8,119,973

To view VEAP's 2021 audited financials visit:
veap.org/about/financials



VEAP held our annual fundraising virtually once again in 2021, raising \$200,000! Watch the recorded stream at veap.org/gala-2021

WE COULDN'T DO IT
WITHOUT ALL OF YOU
- THANK YOU 2021 SUPPORTERS -



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veap.org • 952.888.9616

