



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY AND
HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dear supporters,

When I consider the arc of 2022 and the progress VEAP made toward our mission of ending food insecurity and homelessness in south Hennepin County, I feel many emotions: optimistic about the future, and our community's generosity to support those in crisis. I feel gratitude for the nearly 2,000 volunteers who gave their time in our pantry last year, many of them every single week. And I feel pride in the work the team at VEAP has accomplished to support those in need, demonstrating compassion and integrity at every turn.

Last year was marked by rapidly rising inflation, which prompted VEAP to launch an Emergency Summer Food Campaign to restock our dwindling shelves. The community came through for us and for their neighbors: we received thousands of pounds of food donations, and much-needed funding to continue our mission-critical work. I am still so grateful for everyone's immediate rallying of aid.

As we travel through 2023 together, with great economic uncertainty ever present, I remain confident in the resiliency and generosity of our collective community. Together, we are forging a brighter future, where no one has to worry about keeping a roof over their head or getting food on the table.

Warmly,

Kari Thompson



MISSION

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

VISION

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

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2022 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

4,691,837

pounds of food distributed

20,019


unique individuals
supported by our
programming

\$3,716,519

in financial assistance granted

3,785

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



"VEAP is a refuge so to speak, because they are kind, giving, and a life sustaining place to get much-needed food where otherwise people would go hungry. I know this because this is what you did for me. Everyone is willing to help and with a smile which always goes a long way too. Thank you for all you do." -D.U.

2022 PROGRAM UPDATES

Food and Basic Needs VEAP grew our hybrid approach to food distribution and delivery, serving thousands on-site, while also offering drive-through, mobile sites and delivery services.

4.7 million pounds of food distributed **43%** produce

20,019 people supported by our food programs

10,462 individuals served with at-home food deliveries

3,946 students supported through school partnerships

45,846 total food access visits by households



"VEAP is such a good organization and has helped my household food health in general, especially being an immigrant struggling to make ends meet." -C.Y.



Social Services VEAP's team grew our wrap-around case management services, supporting thousands of households with financial assistance grants and additional community resources to promote long-term stability.

\$3.5 million in rent assistance granted to **1,813** people

\$1,966 average rental grant distributed

\$136,824 in utility assistance to **531** people

865 individuals received help with gas, bus passes, and/or gift cards totaling \$15,000



"VEAP has been extremely kind and helpful for my family and helped us get through in the hard times at the height of the pandemic. I truly can never express how grateful I am to them and hope that they can spread the same happiness to many, many others." -A.Y.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

VEAP's volunteers are the driving force behind everything we do! Despite decreasing rates of volunteerism across Minnesota in 2022, new and returning volunteers to our organization grew last year, serving in critical roles across our food pantry and general operations.



1,962

volunteers in 2022

63,025

total hours volunteered

\$1,887,598

cost-savings to VEAP because of volunteers*

*as determined by the 2022 Independent Sector Value of \$29.95 per volunteer hour



"I always have an awesome experience when I come in. Everyone is so nice and pleasant. The volunteers are so very kind. They need to be remembered." -J.B.

30

full-time equivalent staff positions filled by volunteers — more than doubling our capacity!

VEAP volunteers are hands-down the best! Their dedication is unrivaled, especially the **20 volunteers who gave more than 315 hours of volunteer service in 2022!** That equates to an average of six hours a week! Many of them even pull double-shifts. Thank you!



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LATASHA'S STORY



Just five years ago, Bloomington resident Latasha found herself newly single and working to close what had been a big chapter in her life after separating from her partner.

Navigating life alone was not something she had expected to do, but she didn't struggle for long. Latasha had always been a helper in her community, and she understood that it was community that would see her through this storm.

"I'm a resourceful person," Latasha said. "I'm always on the internet, always looking for some type of information, so anything that I find out, I'm going to pass it along." As a former United Way 211 operator, Latasha not only knew the value of community social services, but she also knew how to navigate this often overwhelming network of support. This is how she found her way to VEAP.

"The pandemic was still going on, and I was receiving unemployment, but it wasn't enough," she said. She called VEAP for assistance, and the social services staff promised her a call back as soon as the applications for rent help were open to the public. Sure enough, as soon as the applications opened, Latasha received a phone call.

"I just really appreciate you guys being on top of everything, doing what you say you're going to do, returning phone calls and answering emails – that's awesome!" With Latasha's diligence and VEAP's reliability combined, she was able to get back on her feet. From VEAP, she received support for rent, utilities, and was even able to get her vehicle fixed so she could go to job interviews.

"After that, everything was okay. I was working, I had transportation to get there, and I was caught up on my rent," Latasha said.

Today, with her basic needs met, Latasha has the time and freedom to focus on what it means to thrive at this time in her life. She is looking to transition in her career by learning more about information technology and networking at job fairs. And, having used her voice so often to help others, she is now using her voice as a means of self-expression through singing.

"They say use it or lose it," she quips, "and I don't think I've lost it!" Latasha has been taking vocal lessons, and though she hasn't started performing just yet, her vocal instructor has encouraged her to do karaoke.

Latasha knows enough to know that coming into one's full potential is a never-ending journey. She takes the days as they come, knowing that though she is single, she is not alone. And, to others facing change and feeling hopeless, she encourages them to keep going.

"Keep your head up," she said. "You're going to get through this. Whatever it is that you need, whether it's help with rent, or a car, or a job, that information and help is out there."

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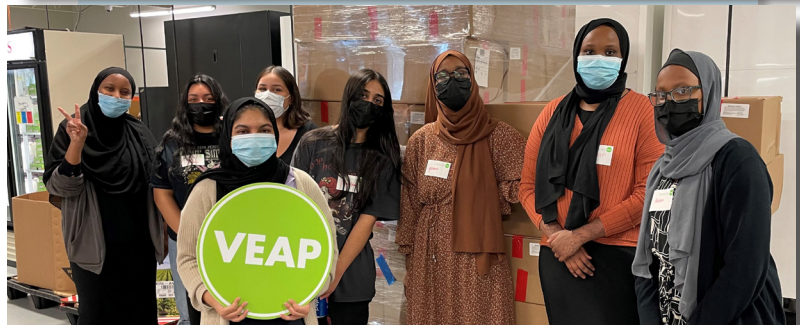


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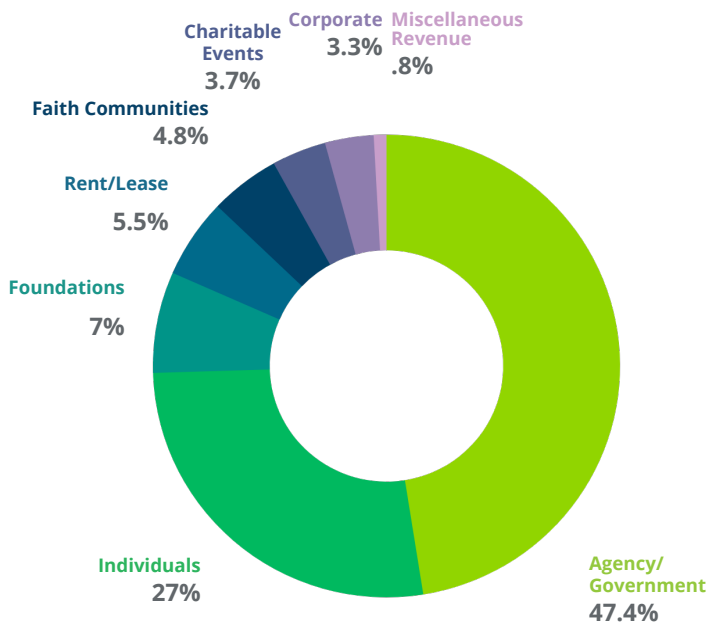
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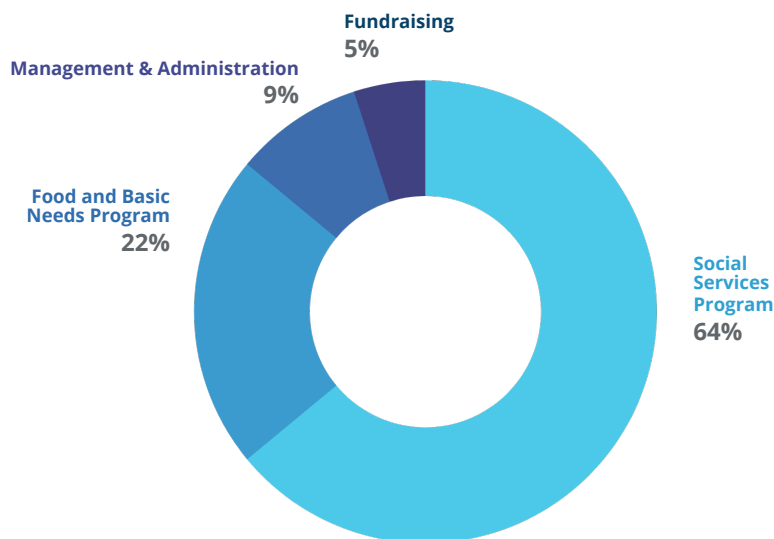


FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022 FISCAL YEAR

INCOME



EXPENSES



\$8.60 of every \$10 we receive goes right to programming!

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,272,409
Inventories	\$116,468
Accounts Receivable	\$6,196
Grants Receivable	\$199,398
Prepaid Expenses	\$50,982
Property & Equipment (net)	\$4,279,507
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,924,960

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$3,589,970
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$87,581
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$4,247,409
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$7,924,960

To view VEAP's 2022 audited financials visit:
veap.org/about/financials



VEAP held our largest-ever fundraising gala last year, raising nearly **\$300,000!** Hundreds of people attended in groovy 70's get-ups, drumming up support for our cause.



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- THANK YOU 2022 SUPPORTERS -



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