



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



CREATING PATHWAYS TO HEALTHY,  
STRONG COMMUNITIES

Dear supporters,

2023 was another impactful, record-breaking year for the team at VEAP. I am so proud of our staff and volunteers who rose to meet the ongoing challenge of tackling hunger and housing insecurity in our community.



Last year was marked by the continued after-effects of high inflation and the official end of many pandemic-era benefits. Extra SNAP support officially sunsetted last summer, and many families turned to us in crisis when they suddenly could no longer afford groceries. We launched a special summer campaign to help support these individuals and ensure our pantry could keep up with the extra demand. The community came through for us and for their neighbors: we received much-needed funding to continue our mission-critical work.

Our team understands our visitors' struggles stem from various issues, and VEAP's Social Services team continued its innovative approach to building responsive and holistic support for these program participants. We are committed to providing them with the extra help they may need in building stability in their lives.

2024 marks VEAP's 50th Anniversary in service to our community. I am confident that together we are creating a brighter future where no one has to worry about keeping a roof over their head or food in their cupboards.

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!

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ross Widmoyer, President**  
Faribault Woolen Mill Co.

**Dion Evans, Vice President**  
BJ's Wholesale Club

**Joe Bauer, Treasurer**  
Tradition Capital Bank

**Shannon McCormick, Co-Secretary**  
Medtronic

**Brianna Williamson, Co-Secretary**  
BMO Wealth Management

**Jim DeBuse**  
Ameriprise Financial

**Jackline Erikson**  
Bloomington Public Health

**Josh Gerber**  
Optum

**Tai Giwa**  
CA Ventures

**Rebecca Johnson**  
Financial Consultant

**Molly McCormick**  
Portico Healthnet

**Lisa Oster**  
Jack Links

**Shawn Nelson**  
New Spaces

**Megan Rogers**  
Larkin Hoffman

**Corrine Shepherd**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield, retired

**Jennifer Siedow**  
Yale Mechanical

## 2023 STAFF

**Kari Thompson**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Marnie Anderson**  
Finance Director

**Jose Aviles**  
Warehouse Specialist

**Tara Broker Lashley**  
Advancement Director

**Shari DeBlieck**  
Operations Director

**Trisha Gilbert**  
Program Manager

**Karen Hancock**  
Volunteer Manager

**Jessica Hering**  
Social Services Director

**Paul Jacobson**  
Basic Needs Director

**Aaron Kapinos**  
Grant Writer

**Lesley Kraft**  
Advancement Coordinator

**Amy Lon**  
Human Resources Director

**Caley Long**  
Marketing and Communications Director

**Anthony Marca-Loja**  
Warehouse Specialist

**Melissa Maurer**  
Database Coordinator

**James McCants Jr.**  
Social Worker

**Becky Patton**  
Special Events Manager

**Dave Rannow**  
Distribution Manager

**Nathan Rust**  
Food Operations and Sourcing Manager

**Nicole Rust**  
Program Support Coordinator

**Ryan Sager**  
Office Manager

**Miles Sandbo**  
Mobile Food Coordinator

**Gabriela Sicard**  
Bilingual Intake Specialist

**Beatriz Urzua-Viveros**  
Bilingual Case Manager

## 2023 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

# 5,330,213

pounds of food distributed

# 205,562

individuals supported by  
our food programming

# \$769,000

in financial assistance granted

# 578

households received financial  
assistance



*"There is nothing aside from calling these people angels that should or could be said for the volunteers and staff at VEAP. Their client care is so wonderful to watch. They're diverse, patient, and professional. I am so grateful for the immense support I received from the entire team." -K.R.*

# 2023 PROGRAM UPDATES

**Food and Basic Needs** VEAP significantly increased our culturally-appropriate food choices last year, implemented a pantry guide system, and offered better, more consistent service for participants.

**5.3** million pounds of food distributed **41%** produce

**205,562** people accessed food programming

**15%** increase in food deliveries as compared to 2022

**15** local schools supported with food through our Student Hunger Initiative



*"VEAP helped me at a time when I was in despair. The food pantry provided healthy food for my family. The staff was so kind and helpful." -C.P.*



**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.

**\$769K** in financial assistance to **578** households

**90%** remain housed three months later

**1,376** applications for assistance fielded and processed

**1,800** phone calls logged from people seeking support



*"I really appreciate the food support that I have received and delivered to me and my granddaughters. Being disabled with limited mobility, the delivered food was a blessing. Thank you, VEAP." T.H.*

# WHO USES VEAP SERVICES?



## Food and housing insecurity do not discriminate...

Last year, Minnesotans made 7.5 million food pantry visits— two million more than the previous record set in 2022. The need remains staggering across our state and VEAP logged our busiest year on record since we opened fifty years ago.

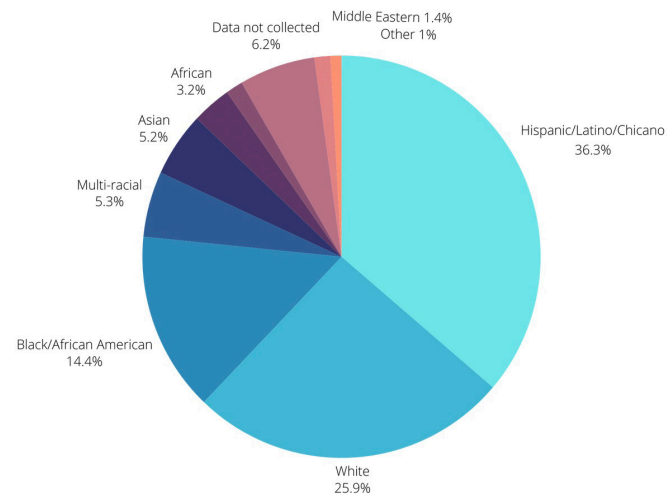
Our team is humbled to support anyone in our community who is finding themselves going through a difficult period. Our staff and volunteers work collaboratively with individuals and families to help build stability in their lives, be that via a grocery cart of food for the week or connections to local resources.

While we never turn anyone away from our food pantry because of background, we do ask basic questions about their demographics to better adjust our programming to meet their needs.

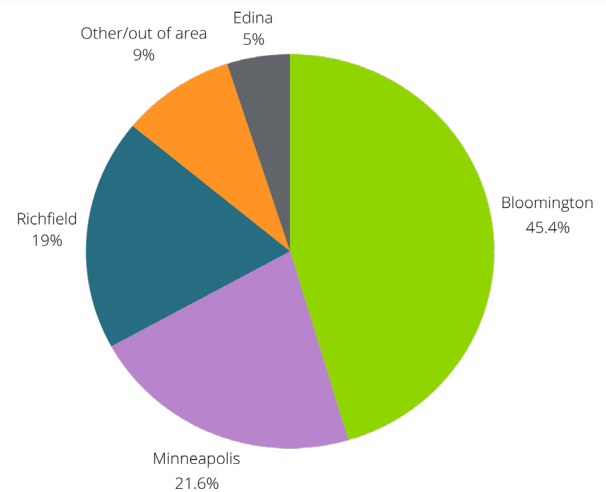
Here is a snapshot of the people who used our services in 2023.

## What is their household makeup?

**24%** single people  
**72%** families (2-9 people in the home)  
**33%** have children at home  
**18%** single parents  
**7%** seniors (age 65+)



## Where do they live?



Average household made **6** pantry visits throughout the year

**70%** of households earned less than **\$2,500/month**

# CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

VEAP volunteers make it all happen! Collectively, they donated more hours last year than ever before, serving in critical roles across our food pantry and general operations. From watering our office plants to delivering food directly to our participants, our volunteers power every aspect of our organization. We couldn't do it without them!



# 1,768

volunteers in 2023

# 71,695

total hours volunteered



# \$2,279,901

cost-savings to VEAP because of volunteers\*

\*as determined by the 2023 Independent Sector Value of \$31.80 per volunteer hour

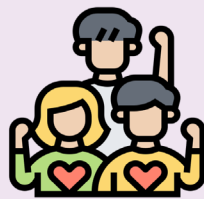


# 34

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

VEAP volunteers are simply the best! Their commitment is unrivaled, especially the **20 volunteers who personally gave more than 350 hours of volunteer service in 2023!** As a whole, they volunteered a total of nearly 10,000 hours!

Thank you!



Jane Albright  
Leo Bruhl  
John Crawford  
Kent DeBlicek  
Dave Dreblow  
Kathy Fischer  
Liz Jones  
Jan Kidd  
Judy McCallion  
Ilham Mohamed

Holly Monson  
Katie Muhlbach  
Nancy Nagel  
Helen Nikiel  
Elizabeth Olson  
Riley Praska  
Nancy Reichert-Sisson  
Michele Sexton  
Corinne Shepherd  
Joyce Taylor

# THANK YOU 2023 DONORS

## **\$100,000+**

City of Bloomington  
City of Edina  
Hennepin South Services Collaborative  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Kopp Family Foundation  
Taste Fore the Tour

## **\$99,999 - \$50,000**

C. Curtis Dunnavan Fund  
The Four Leaf Clover Foundation  
Hennepin County CDBG  
Estate of Gary Hudson  
Dorothy Malin  
Martin and Esther Capp Family Foundation  
Estate of Karen Orren  
Otto Bremer Trust

## **\$49,999 - \$25,000**

Charlson Foundation  
Chorzempa Family Foundation  
City of Richfield  
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)  
Hennepin County CAHFD  
Michael Morris and Robin Durst  
Margo Sprengeler  
Rosemary Townsend  
The Trustmark Foundation  
Western National Insurance

## **\$24,999 - \$10,000**

David Abrams and Cynthia Bemis Abrams  
AMVETS Post #1 Home Inc  
Greg and Pam Anderson

C.H. Robinson Foundation  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church  
Darrell and Lynne Christensen  
Connexus Cares Foundation  
Edward R. Bazinet Charitable Foundation  
Anne Marie and James Gavel  
Karin L. Larson Fund of the California Community Foundation  
Roger and Pat Kerber  
Margaret Longlet  
Jessica MacEntee  
Margaret A. Cargill Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation  
Medica Foundation  
Meetinghouse Church  
John and Quay Mitchell  
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Richard Pedersen  
Robert and Sally Purvis  
Robert and Jean Rydell Charitable Fund  
Robert and Judith Kleinman Charitable Fund  
Brenda Rosen  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Stevens Square Foundation  
Think Mutual Bank  
Larry and Victoria Zobel  
Estate of Anne Zuelke



**\$9,999 - \$5,000**

Terri and Boz Albinson

Allina Health Foundation

Korey Bannerman

Barr Engineering Company

Chris and Andrea Baumgardner

Bloomington Lions Club

Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation

BMO Wealth Management

Jana Brown

Chapel Hills United Church of Christ

Christopher Chow

Community Housing Coalition

Community of the Cross Lutheran Church

Michael Debelak and Janet Conn

John Duda

John Ellingboe and Catherine Cella

James and Christina Furber

Good Samaritan United Methodist Church

The Grammie Jean Foundation, Inc.

Noelle Hawton

Hennepin County HSPHD

Paul and Sue Justen

Daniel and Candace Kauffman

Stephen Kenney

Lakewinds Natural Foods

Tom and Rachel Larson

Harry and Pam Lienke

Cori and Christopher Loyd

Kathleen Lucas

Nativity of Mary Catholic Church

Laurie and Joseph Nemanich

Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church

Normandale Lutheran Church

Oak Grove Presbyterian Church

Frans and Helen Officer

Panetti Family Foundation

Robert and Kimberly Pederson Charitable Gift Fund

The Porter Legacy Fund

R. E. Purvis & Associates, Inc.

The RAK Charitable Fund

Matthew Rench

Tim and Linda Ribbens

John and Leslie Rimstad

The Rob and Carolyn Goedken Fund

Richard and Susan Rud

Ruth and Fred Sauer Charitable Fund

Second Harvest Heartland

Sensata Technologies Foundation

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Stiles Foundation

Tankenoff Families Foundation

Thrivent Financial Services

United Health Group

United Methodist Church  
of Peace

James and Lynn  
Wangen

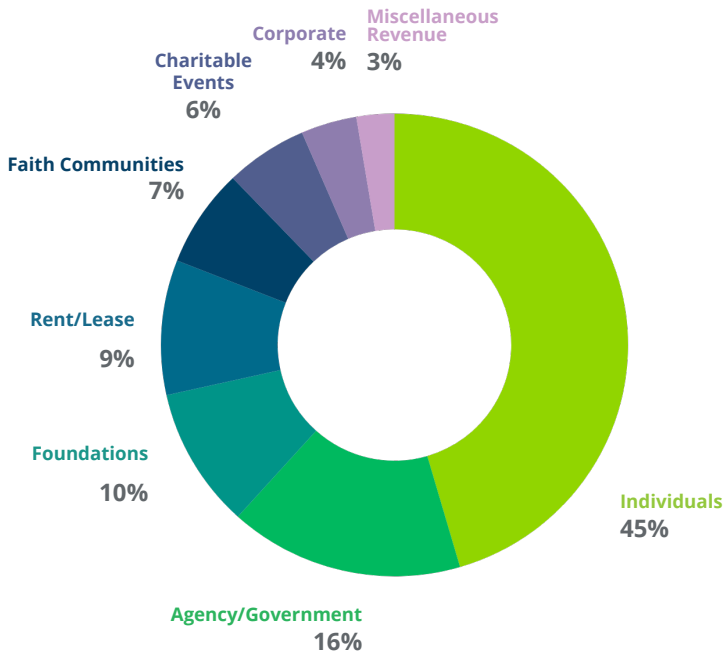
Bree and Jeremy  
Williamson

Marvel and John  
Yager

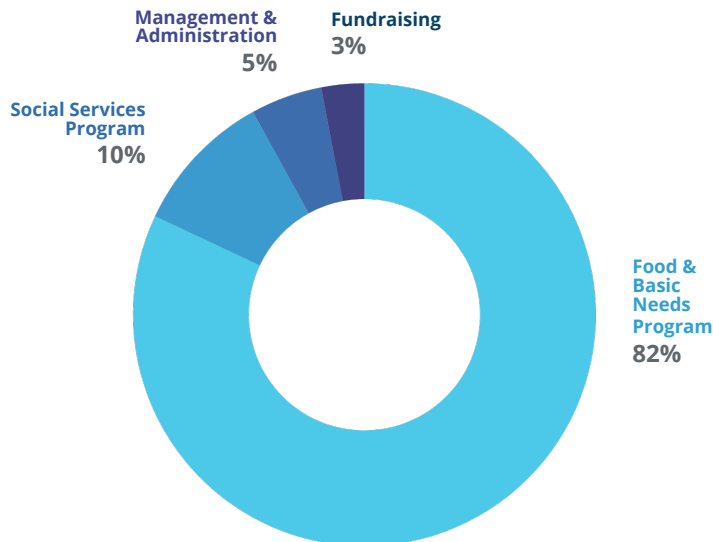


# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023 FISCAL YEAR

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



To view VEAP's 2023 audited financials visit:  
[veap.org/about/financials](https://veap.org/about/financials)

## ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,456,517
Inventories	\$215,120
Accounts Receivable	\$22,650
Grants Receivable	\$125,128
Prepaid Expenses	\$65,353
Property & Equipment (net)	\$4,123,561
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,006,329</b>

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$3,512,825
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$100,000
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$4,393,504
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,006,329</b>



VEAP held our annual gala, Wishful Doing, in November, raising nearly \$250,000! Hundreds of people attended in their sparkly best attire to support our cause.



# YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

- THANK YOU 2023 DONORS & SUPPORTERS -

**VEAP Food Drive**  
April 17-21, 2023  
Northstar Tavern is partnering with  
Normandale Hills Elementary!  
All proceeds collected between April 17-21  
will be donated to the school's total amount of  
funds raised.



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Platinum  
Transparency  
2024  
**Candid.**

