ST. JOHN’S 
bread&life

IMPACT Report 2022

795 Lexington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221
718-574-0058
www.breadandlife.org
Dear Friends,

2022 was a milestone year at Bread and Life. We celebrated 40 years of continuous service in the community and smashed all previous distribution records, all while battling Covid at the same time. The numbers are staggering in our community with 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 seniors not having adequate food. Last year, 269,296 people received at least one service from us. We saw a 35% increase (66,000 families) in those who visited our food pantry; served an additional 40,000 at 20+ mobile market sites touching all parts of Brooklyn and Queens and distributed more than 206,688 hot meals from our grab and go program and mobile soup kitchen. As the numbers continue to grow so do our expenses. We saw a 14% increase in the cost of food alone and a 21% increase over the same time last year. Our operational costs continue to rise and we are continually being asked to do more with less. In our 40 years, we are proud to say that we have never turned anyone away and will work harder than ever to keep this promise to our guests into the future.

Over the course of the year we have had many site visits from potential funders all of whom marvel at what our small staff accomplishes in a given day. We feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, provide appropriate referrals for housing and medical needs and reach out time and again to walk with our guests during times of crisis.
Our partnership with the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation has helped us expand our mobile market program to reach 40,000 individuals annually, mostly seniors and children helping to ensure that no one goes hungry and that the food available is healthy and nutritious. In FY 22 our case management team secured more than $3.5 million in emergency entitlements including more than $1 million in tax refunds benefitting our guests and the community. Our partnerships with Care For The Homeless, Urban Justice, Catholic Migration and local hospitals ensures that anyone in need of support can be seen and assisted helping to alleviate crisis situations.

In 2022, 67% of the households served were headed by women. 65% of guests served were at or below poverty level; 20% were elderly or medically compromised and 15% were homeless, many struggling with mental or behavioral challenges and these numbers are on the rise with safety nets at their breaking point. As a founding member of the Roundtable - Allies for Food Access, we continue to join with other emergency food providers to advocate for more funding and changes to antiquated programs that challenge our ability to serve our guests with the utmost dignity and respect.

As we look back over 40 years, we are grateful to those who founded Bread and Life and we remember the gifts of Sr. Bernadette Szymczak, DC, (January 1998) and Joe Martino (June 2022) who were instrumental in laying the ground work that continues today. We are blessed with so many caring people who join with us each day to make a difference in the community and for that we are grateful.

Be assured that we will continue to be a presence in the community for those who need us in the “Bread and Life way.”

With gratitude,

Sr Caroline Tweedy, RSM 
Executive Director
Our Leadership Team

Our leadership team carries a deep understanding of the agency’s mission, is committed to achieving its goals, and possess strong leadership and management skills. They work collaboratively with all staff to create a shared vision and develop strategies to achieve it, while also ensuring the financial stability of the organization. Additionally, our staff and leadership team are dedicated to transparency, accountability, and ethical standards befitting a trusted nonprofit organization which has delivered impact and results for more than 40 years.
Food insecurity is a serious issue in Brooklyn and Queens, NY, affecting a significant portion of the population. In 2022, it has been reported that 1 in 4 Brooklyn residents faced food insecurity, which means they lacked reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Food insecurity has serious health consequences, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with chronic health conditions. St. John’s Bread and Life plays a critical role in addressing the hunger and social service needs of this growing population. We provide quality hot meals and distribute fresh and nutritious produce, dairy, meats and pantry staples to individuals and families through our Food Pantry, Grab & Go Meals, Mobile Soup Kitchen, and Mobile Market programs. Additionally, our caring and compassionate case management staff builds relationships with those we serve, learning about their individual or family needs and seeking to empower and support them in their journey towards self-sufficiency and independence.

2022 marked the 40th Anniversary of St. John’s Bread & Life. Over the past 40 years, we have served over 20 million meals to our neighbors in need across Brooklyn and Queens. We are thankful for the wisdom and foresight of the Daughters of Charity, the Vincentians, and the parishioners of St. John the Baptist — the women and men who set Bread & Life on the course to become one of the largest emergency food providers in New York City.
Demographics
269,296 Guests Across All Services

- 65% at or below poverty level
- 20% elderly & mentally compromised
- 15% homeless

Our client base has fundamentally shifted since the pandemic began

Since the beginning of COVID, we have seen our demographics rapidly shift, with Latinx clients doubling, and the Asian population tripling; this is due to extensive outreach into 20+ communities in Brooklyn and Queens. Numbers in local catchment areas remained steady.
FY 22 IMPACT

- 9,000 individuals served weekly on average across all food programs
- 4.2 million meals, 5 million pounds of food distributed
- 1.5 million pounds of produce distributed
- 40,000 individuals served through the Mobile Market
- 750 families participated in our Sponsor a Family Program
- 7,400 hours of volunteer service
- $2.7M in entitlements secured (SNAP, TANF, Medicaid)
- $1.6 million in tax refunds through our partnership with Grow Brooklyn
- 3,000 baby and personal care kits were distributed
- 438 individuals regularly accessed onsite mail service

GUESTS SERVED WEEKLY

MEALS SERVED ANNUALLY
KEY PARTNERSHIPS

1. Brownsville Community Fridge (Brownsville)
2. Bedstuy Community Fridges (8 sites in Bedford-Stuyvesant)
3. Changing Lives Christian Center (East New York)
4. Children of the City (Sunset Park)
5. Flatbush Community Fridges (5 sites in East Flatbush)
6. Heights and Hills (Brooklyn)
7. Housing Works (2 sites Brooklyn)
8. Iglesia Tabernaculo De Reunión (Bushwick)
9. Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center (Flatbush)
10. Lord’s Blessing (Bushwick)
11. One Community Fort Greene (3 in Brooklyn)
12. Osbourne Association Brooklyn (Brooklyn)
13. Quebradillas Baseball Organization (Bushwick)
14. Ridgewood Tenants Union (Ridgewood)
15. Rogosin Institute (East New York - Suspended during Covid-19)
16. Sheltering Arms (Jamaica, Far Rockaway)
17. St. Mathias Church (Ridgewood)
18. Union Pool (East Williamsburg)
19. Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Red Hook)
20. Wat Buddha Thai Thavorn Vanaram (Elmhurst)
21. Wonderful Life Adult Daycare (Brownsville)
22. Bushwick Abbey (Bushwick)

ST. JOHN'S BREAD & LIFE IMPACT REPORT FY22

37 Sites

Thirty-seven sites throughout Brooklyn and Queens including community fridges, churches, social service agencies, community-based programs, and Mobile Soup Kitchen sites depend on us for food to fill their pantries, serving diverse communities that include newly arrived immigrants, religious minorities, LGBTQ youth, the working poor, and persons who are homeless.

As a founding member of the Roundtable - Allies for Food Access, we continue to join with other emergency food providers to advocate for more funding and changes to antiquated programs that challenge our ability to serve our guests with the utmost dignity and respect.
Financials

PUBLIC SUPPORT & OTHER REVENUE

Individuals ........................................... $1,272,087
Corporations ........................................ $48,465
Foundations ....................................... $2,208,685
Government ....................................... $2,024,484
Religious Organizations ........................ $20,000
Special Events .................................... $416,345
In-Kind Donations ................................. $869,207
Miscellaneous ...................................... $15,071
Total Public Support .............................. $6,874,344

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES
Meals and Nutrition .............................. $5,277,026
Social Services ................................. $602,681
Total Program Services ....................... $5,879,707

SUPPORTING SERVICES
Fundraising ........................................ $350,076
Management ...................................... $594,656
Total Supporting Services .................... $944,732

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES ........ $6,850,812
Change in Net Assets ......................... $49,905
Net Assets - Beginning of Year ............... $8,061,529
Net Assets - End of Year ...................... $8,111,435

St. John’s Bread & Life does not and shall not discriminate on basis of race, color, religion, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of our activities or operations.

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Our Supporters

We are grateful to recognize organizations and individuals who have contributed to St. John’s Bread & Life from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The full list of supporters can be found on our website at breadandlife.org. If your name was omitted or was recorded incorrectly, we hope you will understand and inform us so we may make a correction. Call (718) 574-0058 or email development@breadandlife.org.

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Mother Cabrini Health Foundation

$250,000+
Jerome L. Greene Foundation
NYS Department of Health
Nourish New York
NYPD Department Of Youth And Community Development
Robin Hood Foundation

$100,000+
Carson Family Charitable Trust
NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

$50,000+
Constans Culver Foundation
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Our Lady of Peace, Lynbrook
Rethink Food
United Way of NYC
Through our Sponsor A Family campaign, our generous donors helped to bring holiday joy and celebration to those who are struggling, spreading cheer and hope to families who might otherwise feel isolated or forgotten.

Bread & Life is a refuge for those who need assistance. Not one person has ever been turned away from Bread & Life since 1982. The need for Bread & Life’s essential emergency food and human services programs has increased dramatically since 2019.

Partnerships with community food hubs, like Resurrection Ascension Roman Catholic Church, fuel positive change and amplify Bread & Life’s capacity to address the growing food insecurity crisis.

The Johnny’s Angels Awards recognize the extraordinary efforts of our honorees that reflect the Vincentian spirit on which St. John’s Bread & Life was founded.

Longtime staff member, Mabel Lebron, prepares hot Grab&Go meals for our guests.

2022 marked the 40th Anniversary of St. John’s Bread & Life. We are grateful and blessed with so many caring people who join with us each day to make a difference in the community.

Heartfelt gratitude to St. John’s University, its leadership, and their community of staff, faculty, students, alumni, family, and friends, for their steadfast support. It is clear that the SJU community truly lives the message of St. Vincent de Paul – to put our words into action.
UNLEASH YOUR PASSION
VOLUNTEER & TRANSFORM LIVES AT BREAD & LIFE

RENELLE MERISTIL
Volunteer Manager
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breadandlife.org/volunteer

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