



Basic Needs

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Reducing Food Insecurity | Building Strong Communities | Providing Basic Needs





Basic Needs Thrift Shop

STORE HOURS

Tues. - Fri. 10:00 - 5:00

Sat. 10:00 - 4:00

DONATION HOURS

Sat. 10:00 - 3:00

651-458-9786

www.basicneedsthirtshop.org



Our Mission

Our mission is to support the basic needs of those in our community, such as housing, food, clothing and coordinated services.

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A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As with many of our community partners, 2021 was quite a year for us! We burst onto the scene with a new mission statement, new branding, a new website, new services, a new executive director, a new board of directors, new office space, and a new location for the thrift shop.

From learning how to navigate a new economy, to building new processes, to scaling our programs to meet the increased demand for our services, it was a year of change and challenge. But through that process, we solidified as a team, broadened and deepened our services, and supported our clients as they successfully navigated their own challenges.

During COVID, and following in 2021, many of our community members continued to be disadvantaged. Utilities prices were not stable, gas prices were on the rise, and food prices were increasing. A car repair or not having enough gas money put community members into a position where they had to make tough choices. As a result, it could end up feeling like a constant fight just to survive, with no way to escape. Basic Needs, Inc. of South Washington County was there to provide a safety net and help bridge the gap for community members in need.

For Basic Needs, success is seeing our clients receive the support they need, instilling self-confidence, empowering them, and helping them achieve self-sufficiency. It's providing food security so they can afford their rent/mortgage or life-saving medication, or a gas card so they can get to work. It's hearing personal testimonies from customers who can afford winter clothes or new shoes for their children from our thrift shop. We see our impact on a daily basis when voucher clients arrive feeling overwhelmed and leave our shop with everything they need in hand. The impact of our efforts is felt when community members open up to us about their needs, the help they require, and the references they make about our services.

Vickie Snyder

Executive Director

Serving Our Neighbors' Needs In 2021



Basic Needs Thrift Shop is open to the public for shopping and provides much needed items to people in need.

But Basic Needs is also a non-profit organization on a mission to help people receive barrier-free access to food and everyday essentials.

Reducing food insecurity

- **The Saturday Supper program** provided 75 – 100 fresh family meals on the first Saturday of the month.

Left over meals were sent to the District 833 Head Start program, delivered to The Wings in Newport, or provided to homeless families.

- **The Free Little Pantry program** is expanding into Newport, St Paul Park, and Cottage Grove. Our Free Little Pantry offers short-term “grab and go” assistance for those experiencing food insecurity with non-perishables available 24/7.

- **Our Growth for Good community garden** became a reality in 2021. We created a 75 x 75 enclosed secure garden with 20 beds.

All beds were sponsored by groups that had to water and weed. Vegetables could be harvested by the groups or be donated for the senior housing units in the area.



In the fall of 2021 the garden was made ADA compliant with raised beds so that wheelchairs/walkers can be used in the space.

In 2022, we hope to expand the garden to 30 beds for a total of 34.

In addition to growing vegetables, we offered educational classes every week from the middle of June Thru August.

- **Thanksgiving Meal Challenge program** worked with school District 833 and Washington County Services to provide a pre-cooked Thanksgiving Meal for 54 families. We partnered with Tinucci's and several volunteers to have the meals delivered to those families referred to us.

- **The Thrift shop provides free bread to the community** that is available three or four days a week and provided by Hy-vee.

In 2021 we distributed 34,644 lbs. of bakery items.

- In partnership with Starbucks, **our Thrift Shop distributed bakery and food items to the community. In 2021 that totaled 1,452 pounds.**

Building stronger communities

Basic Needs hosts events to build community, distribute resources, and offer engaging programming.

- We partnered with District 833 So. Wash Cares to provide activities and food (working with the Lions Club) for Skoolie Nights throughout the summer.
- We started to add more activities that can be held in St Paul Park where we feel there is a greater need for Park and Rec activities. For example, we offered a beginner Snowshoe experience on Feb 19th.
- We also have started partnering with the Vital Aging Network/Wellness 50+ programs in 2021

and continued in 2022. We have a weekly morning social for on Tuesdays from 8-10 which gets people out and networking. We are also offering classes for 50+ individuals, including Basic Smart Phone Functionality, Facebook basic, and an upcoming Estate Planning class.

- In the fall we ran a “Tools-for Teachers” program where we collected over 500 lbs. of school items for teachers in our Title 1 elementary schools in District 833.



Providing for basic needs

Emergency help for families facing emergency situations can be found at Basic Needs Inc. of South Washington County. The primary goal of our services is to provide a referral source for individuals and families in crisis situations to help meet their immediate basic needs.

For over 20 years, Basic Needs has offered our voucher program. Families and individuals are referred to the voucher program through social workers and other agencies and then provided with vouchers to receive free or discounted items from our thrift shop.

In 2021, we distributed 56 vouchers totaling \$6,534.00. Our Voucher program supported the following counties:

<i>Washington</i>	<i>36%</i>
<i>Ramsey</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Hennepin and Dakota</i>	<i>9%,</i>
<i>Scott</i>	<i>4%</i>
<i>Anoka</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Unknown locations</i>	<i>2%</i>

In 2021 we worked closely with the school district homeless liaison and So Wash Cares to provide over **325 hygiene kits to 13 different schools in District 833. We also provided \$1,872 in pants and socks for kids.**



More 2021 Community Collaborations



- Partnered with School District 833 to provide activities and food for Skoolie events at Newport Elementary in Newport MN
- Partnered with Head Start program to deliver food and hygiene kits to the students there.
- Worked with the social workers in District 833 to provide Hygiene kits for students as well as pants and clothing.
- We have donated 40 pair of youth pants to the school district for children that may have accidents.
- Partnered with Marathon Refining in St Paul Park to support our summer camp program for 30 kids and provide 54 families with pre-cooked Thanksgiving meals delivered by volunteers.
- Partnered with the Vital Aging Network to provide an Aging with Gusto class for our community for 16 attendees.
- Partnered with the local car show team-61 Cruzers- to help promote our nonprofit and get donations for our Free Little Pantry.

- Provided 732 pounds of vegetables to White Pines and Norris Square.
- Provided 6,332 lbs. of food to our Free Little Pantry.
- Provided Tools -for- Teachers for Pullman, Newport and Crestview teachers that included over \$500 in supplies.
- Provided 12,880 lbs. of free items through our thrift shop.
- Provided 56 Vouchers to families that totaled \$6,534 of basic needs at our Thrift Shop.

- Worked with the police department on a Bike Safety Camp for the community in St Paul Park for 20 kids.
- Provided Saturday Suppers each month (1200/year) and worked with local restaurants to provide the meals.
- We continue working with the Washington County Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) teams to develop our network for the homeless community as well as explore future collaborations and planning.
- Partnered with local Senior Housing organizations like Wings, White Pines, and Norris Square in to provide vegetables, bread, and boxed meals.
- We have an agreement with Haven Treatment Center to refer clients that may have chemical dependency concerns to provide free assessments.
- Partnered with Washington County Family Services to register families in need and provide Holiday help.
- Partnered with The Connect Center and signed a coordinated services agreement to offer coordinated entry housing access for people in South Washington County.
- Partnered with the Senior Community Center, Washington County Library, and Wellness 50+ to provide senior activities.
- Partnered with the Lions Club to help support the following initiatives: our Community Garden-Growth for Good, Easter Egg Hunt, Skoolie Event (food), Halloween Drive Thru, Thanksgiving meals, Turkey Bingo, and our Holiday meals program.
- Partnered with Park Cafe to offer gift certificates for free meals to 100 people during the holidays.
- Winter Wonderland holiday event, partnered with the St Paul Park police dept to provide free gifts, candy, and cookie kits to ~150 kids.
- Partnered with the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon in Cottage Grove to aid vets that have been deployed (over 120 individuals), provide family activities at the Cottage Grove Armory, and providing basic needs to veteran's families (20).

Our Thrift Shop

Our largest program is the Basic Needs Thrift Shop. One of our strategic 5-year planning goals was to move the thrift shop to a retail-centric building with no environmental issues. We met this goal in 2021 by securing a new location for the thrift shop; the move was completed by the end October and opened for business on the day after Thanksgiving, giving us the highest sales day ever in the history of the organization. While the lease cost increased, the clean, high-traffic location brought brand exposure and increased donations, sales and volunteers.

The goal is to have the revenue from the shop support our programs like offering gas cards, meals, and other emergency support. Due to COVID, in 2021, thrifting became a new pandemic habit that is expected to stick. In fact, resale is just beginning to pass traditional retail. The energy among young people to shop resale is undeniable.

Millennials and Gen Zers, in particular, enjoy frequenting thrift shops and buying resale, shredding the last remnants of social embarrassment about such places. According to ThredUp, 70% of Millennials and Gen Z make up for all resale shopping. We have been excited that this, along with our new location, will assist in getting the organization to its goal. Lastly, the consistency of staffing is a benefit in that our current shop manager, Joanna Doctor Harris, has been a constant for the organization since January 2020.

Separating the thrift shop from other programs and rebranding both was another 5-year strategic goal that was met in 2021. The Board and thrift shop employees spent several months on this project with great success. Basic Needs Inc. changed its mission statement and the thrift shop was renamed to Basic Needs Thrift Shop. Basic Needs Inc. opened an office location away



**Joanna Doctor Harris,
Thrift Shop Manager**

from the thrift shop that better serves the community by offering private offices for those who need vouchers or services through our other programs and a large meeting room for community events and classes. The office also houses the new Executive Director and program staff.



We Love Our Volunteers



3,837

Volunteer Hours Were Given In 2021

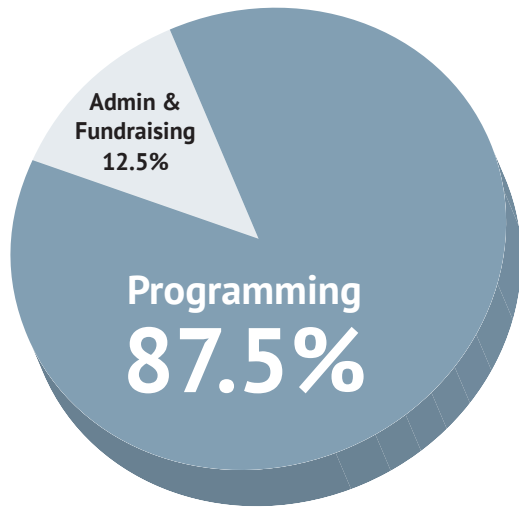
Financial Information

Balance Sheet (\$)

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	80,713.
Investments	15,667.
Inventory	27,374.
Other Assets	38,501.
Total Assets	
Noncurrent Assets (Fixed)	
Furniture & Equipment	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-- 4,665.
Total Noncurrent Assets	
Total Current & Noncurrent Assets	166,920.
LIABILITIES	
PPP Loan Payable	2,101.
Total Liabilities	2,101.
NET ASSETS	
Without Donor Restrictions	164,819.
With Donor Restrictions	0.
Total Net Assets	164,819.
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	166,920.

Income Statement (\$)

REVENUE & PUBLIC SUPPORT	
Public Support	
Grants	402,043.
Fundraising	0.
Total Public Support	402,043.
Revenue	
Program Earned Income	0.
Other Revenue	-27,685.
Investment Income	128.
Total revenue	374,486.
TOTAL REVENUE & PUBLIC SUPPORT	374,486.
EXPENSES	
Program Activities	419,263.
Support Activities	0.
Management & Central	38,861.
Fundraising	20,835.
Total Support Activities	59,696.
TOTAL EXPENSES	478,959.
Change in Net Assets	-104,473.
Prior Period Adjustments	-37,234.
Net Assets Beginning of Year	306,526.
Net Assets End of Year	164,819.



Basic Needs ratio of dollars spent on administrative and fundraising activities versus dollars spent on delivering services to our community **is considered excellent following Charity Navigator’s guidelines.**

Financial Highlights

- Basic Needs ended the year with a net income of (\$42877.76) for 2021. The organization chose to invest in relocating the thrift shop to a new location in Cottage Grove, MN in November of 2021, which included moving and construction costs. In addition, the organization hired it's first Executive Director.
- Grants in 2021 were \$119,000 as compared to \$145,537 during 2020. The difference in 2020 is because of the increased funding due to COVID that was available.
- Total sales of \$121,675 for 2021 were higher as compared to 2020 sales of \$94,656
- Total expenses were \$452,950 in 2021 as compared to 2020 total expenses of \$198,250. This again was due to investment into the organization.
- The 2021 staffing model included two full time and four part-time employees.
- At the end of 2021, there was \$126,673 in cash available.

Board of Directors



Sarah Sturner



Mari Pittman



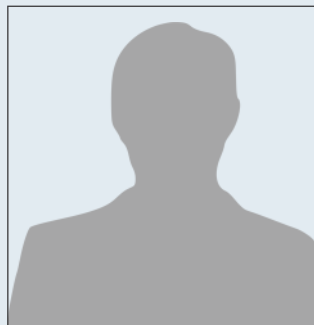
Dominic Busta



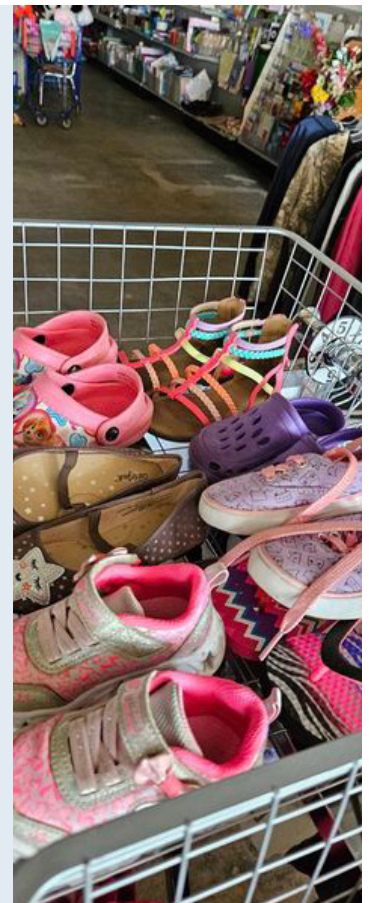
Vicky Sarner



John Notaro



Steve Martin



2021 Donors

\$0 – \$100

Hannah Kelly
Joy Slater
Nancy Buss
Jolene Schipp Thompson
Forrest Bailey
Rob Smith
Diane Schueller
Women of All Saints
Katherine Smith
Deb Hill
Donna Zappa
James & Lisa Spitz
Kristy Dreyer
Laura Hedican
Nicole Rae Barnhart &
Ryan James Barnhart
Ray Kane
Sharon Hansen

\$100 – \$250

Anne Catherine Dwyer
Tracy Brunette
Mike Boland
Eileen Webber
Amy York
Darrin McCawley
George & Linda Arndt

Erling Tufte
Bonnie Matter
Jim Worner
Dan McMillan
Warren Samuelson
Dawn Veigel
Community Shares of Minnesota
George & Linda Arndt
Gospel Lighthouse
James W. Thommes
Martin/Tracy Carlier
Renee Haliburton

\$250 – \$500

Wendy McCoy
All Saints Lutheran Church
Cottage Grove Lions
Courtney Ruiz (New York Life)
Craig Smith
Willie's Restaurant

\$500 – \$1,000

City of Newport
Cottage Grove Chamber
Dominic Busta
Elaine Volkert
James Kurtz
Newport Park Lioness
Rob Smith

\$1,000 – \$5,000

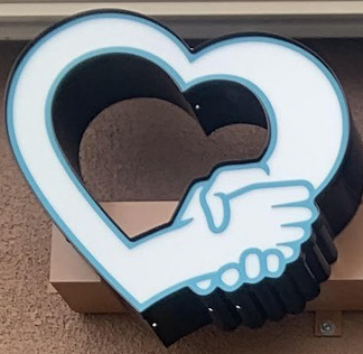
Katharene Olson
3M
American Legion Post 98
David Bernard
John & Catherine Schmit
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Marie & Ron Elmer
Morgan Stanley Gift Fund
Rumpca Services Inc
Van Meter Inc
VFW
M and M Scholz Family
BNSF Railway
LSP

\$5,000 – \$10,000

Andersen Foundation
St Paul Foundation-MIF
Vickie & John Snyder

Over \$10,000

F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Otto Bremer Trust
Hugh J Andersen
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
St Paul Park-Newport Lions



Basic Needs
Thrift Shop





Basic Needs is more than just a Thrift Shop. We're a non-profit organization on a mission to help people receive barrier-free access to food and everyday essentials.



Basic Needs

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Email: info@basicneedsmn.org

Website: basicneedsmn.org

Facebook: BasicNeedsMN

Instagram: BasicNeedsMN