

# 'This Heat's Running Up My Bills!'



This heatwave has families like Lisa's\* struggling to pay their power bill. Did you know NETWorks helps with overdue rent and utility bills? Your donation today can prevent evictions and utility shut-off. Families with kids, older folks...no one can live safely in this heat without air conditioning.

Will you help them make it through another month?

\*names changed to protect neighbor

With your \$35 gift, you can help keep the power on, as well as supporting all the work we do with our neighbors.

Your donation today prevents homelessness (did you know having utilities shut off is grounds for eviction?). Can we count on you?

**YES! I will help my neighbors.**

Please Use My Gift to Help My Neighbor:

- \$35 to prevent a family losing their housing
- \$100 to prevent a family losing their housing
- \_\_\_\_\_ to help as many hungry people as possible

Set up a recurring donation at [www.networkscoop.org/donate](http://www.networkscoop.org/donate)

Give online today: [www.networkscoop.org/donate](http://www.networkscoop.org/donate)

**NETworks**  
Cooperative Ministry

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## GOOD NEIGHBOR

# CONNECTIONS

Summer 2023

### NUGGETS

NETWorks Nugget #1

**104,933**

Meals provided January through May 2023

NETWorks Nugget #2

**226**

Counseling Sessions Held January—May 2023

NETWorks Nugget #3

**4,436**

Individuals Served in the Pantry, January—May 2023

NETWorks Nugget #4

**1,522**

Cubic feet in our walk-in cooler/freezer

### You Have Filled the Gap!

“Supply chain” used to be an industrial term most people weren’t familiar with, but now we all use it routinely. Over the last several months, “supply chain issues” and inflation have had a significant impact on the availability of food for our pantry.

Our usual sources were low on all but the snack-type foods.

*You have responded to supply chain and inflation issues with MORE food, MORE funds to put MORE food on your neighbors’ table. Thank YOU!*

But you stepped up. You saw that prices were going up and that shelves were bare, and you realized that your neighbors facing financial difficulty would have an even harder time putting food on the table.

Since moving into our new location, we have seen a dramatic increase in requests for food. Through May, we are on pace to double the amount of food distributed through the Pantry (not counting the Grocery Alliance).

In the first five months of this year, you have donated almost 37,000 pounds of food! Adding in donations from companies and other organizations, it totals 83,000 pounds! That’s two-thirds of all the food we have distributed. Thank you for seeing the need. Thank you for stepping forward to fill the tables of your neighbors.



**NETworks**  
Cooperative Ministry

Thank you for responding to the increased need for food! You have fed your neighbors, even through inflation and supply challenges. Aren’t you amazing!

# YOU

# TOUCH LIVES

NEIGHBORS GIVE BACK

## Masa Becomes Lunch

When we opened our new location on December 14, it ended 34 months of distributing food in the parking lot. Almost three years of not being able to connect well with folks visiting the pantry.

Now, every day our lobby is full. Parents with their kids. Folks who are living unsheltered. Lots of chatter, laughter, and patience. Volunteers working hard to get food to neighbors facing a bare cupboard.

NETWorks has always been about relationships. Yes, providing food is important. Keeping someone stably housed is important. But **doing that work while getting to know our neighbor is even more important.**

\*names changed to protect neighbor

So, when two neighbors mentioned one day that they wanted to bring lunch for the volunteers and staff, we felt

like maybe we were making progress in getting to know the folks coming in every day. Little did we know what treat awaited us!

Marta\* and Maria\* came in different days with foil-wrapped food. Each volunteer and staff person received one of the items. Unwrapping the foil, we found homemade burritos, full of tasty beef, rice, beans and perfect seasoning.

The next week, a basket full of homemade pupusas from Maria's El Salvadoran culture! Their way of saying "Thank

you" for the food that feeds their family. We wish you could have tasted the food—not only delicious, but the sentiment behind it goes to you. **You made the food possible through your support.** You are helping build community. Neighbor helping neighbor, regardless of personal circumstance. No judgement, but on occasion, a heartfelt repayment in the shape of a burrito or pupusa.

Bringing burritos and pupusas was their way of saying "Thank you" for the food that feeds their family. We wish you could have tasted the food and felt the "Thank you" behind it!

## What Would You Do with \$0.26?

There are some folks we've seen in the pantry for quite some time. Many of the "regulars" are living unsheltered, in the woods or other spots in the community. They don't have much. Often, they will hang out in our lobby the entire time we're open, getting out of the heat or the cold or the rain. And we're happy to provide that respite.



Recently, one of our neighbors, who has had a rough go of it for quite a while, stopped one of the staff members. They said, "I'd like to make a donation." They then proceeded to offer a quarter, a penny, and a screw. But, they offered exactly what the screw could be used for (and they were right!).

Just like you, this donor got a thank you letter with a personal note on it. In this case, it was delivered to them right here as they make use of our mail service.

Thank you for creating a space where we can welcome everyone the same. Where anyone feels comfortable giving as well as receiving. You are invited to visit!

Thank you  
for your  
Prayers  
Food  
Toiletries  
Funds



## Top of My Mind

The stories shared in this newsletter highlight program participants giving back. I'm very proud of our organization for creating an atmosphere that is open and welcoming.

NETWorks has often spoken of "mutuality"—the notion that **we are all the same, just facing different circumstances.** Another facet of mutuality is brokenness—we are all broken in some way. The beautiful thing about mutuality is that the way you're broken can heal the way I am broken, and vice versa.

So, the neighbor needing food—financial "brokenness"—can fill my need for a great meal, or fellowship—an area I'm broken. Getting to experience that grace is an amazing "benefit" of my job, and I get to see it practically every day.

But that mutuality isn't just about participants and staff. It's about volunteers and donors. Some feel a need to give their time, and are healed in that giving. Others are called to share their resources—food and funds—and receive grace while filling a table.

**Thank you for giving. However you give—time, talent, treasure, prayer. It is ALL important, needed. And it's healing many people. Hopefully you too!**

~David Fisher, Executive Director

# ONE NEIGHBOR AT A TIME