

# 'Why Does It Have to Be So Hard?'



Eric\*, a hardworking mechanic, once thrived on providing for his family. But as inflation soared and rents rose, he now struggles to make ends meet. He still wants to provide, but sometimes it takes some help.

Will you help Eric and others like him make it through a difficult time? The number of employed visitors to the pantry is rising. Your support can make all the difference.

\*names changed to protect neighbor

With your \$25 gift, you can help a family put food on the table.

Your donation today fills that gap—providing nutritious food and relieving some of the tension of fighting for security every day.

**IT COSTS JUST \$25 TO PROVIDE GROCERIES FOR A FAMILY. WILL YOU HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS?**

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

Please Use My Gift to Help My Neighbor:

- \$25 to provide food for a family
- \$100 to help four families
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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)



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## GOOD NEIGHBOR

# CONNECTIONS

Spring 2024

### Your Generosity Astounds!

Week in and week out, we see **hundreds of families**. All facing a **shortage of food** and funds. All feeling the stress of how to make ends meet.

Week in and week out, **you are there**. You are here. **Filling that gap** with fresh, delicious foods. Filling the gap with funds to pay rent and utilities, to keep people in their homes. You keep being there. You keep giving hope.

*"Thank you for the food and thank you for reminding me that people care."  
 ~neighbor after shopping.  
 Thank you for making this possible!*

Last year, over **290,000 meals came from you**. You allowed us to be here to serve. Thank you for your generosity and your commitment, your constant presence. For walking with your neighbor in their hardship.

Often we hear, "Thank you for the help, but the hope you provide, the feeling that someone cares, is so much more important." That **hope and care come from you**. We get to be the conduit that carries and delivers it.

As always, we pray that you are blessed for your generosity and commitment. Putting others first can be a challenge. **We are grateful** that you continue to put your neighbors first.



Your generosity fills shopping carts every day, every week. Thank you!

## NUGGETS

NETWorks Nugget #1

# 354,574

Pounds of Food Distributed in 2023

NETWorks Nugget #2

# 63,853

Times You Helped a Neighbor in 2023

NETWorks Nugget #3

# 2,086

Average Pounds of Food Every Day We're Open

NETWorks Nugget #4

# 3,762

Families Assisted at Least Once in 2023



Celebrating **20** Years 2004 - 2024

# YOU TOUCH LIVES

MAKING AN IMPACT

## You Just Never Know!

Years ago, a man came to our pantry. He didn't want to sign in, he just wanted to take a loaf of bread. Volunteers welcomed him, honored his request. **He came in for months for only bread**, always greeted, eventually by name.

After several months, he agreed to get more than bread and we provided groceries. A few weeks after that, he brought his wife in and we got to know her. They didn't come every week, **only when they were in a pinch** and funds were low. When we moved, we saw them on occasion, sometimes him, sometimes her.

In the past few months, we saw only the husband, Joe\*. He would get groceries, chat with the volunteers, and head

\*names changed to protect neighbor

home. We didn't think anything of it that we hadn't seen his wife, Marie\*, because they often took turns.

we've been coming here to save some money on our groceries so we could save up for hearing aids." She looked at

**'We've been coming here to save some money on our groceries so we could save up for hearing aids' she said, showing off her new aid.**

A few weeks ago, Marie came in to do the shopping in the food pantry. She was greeted by our volunteer JM (one of the volunteers who greeted Joe in his first visits). JM said how nice it was to see her, that **we'd missed her**.

Marie looked down, then up, and said "I've been so depressed I haven't left the house in a long time. I lost my hearing and it really affected me." She went on to add, "But

the volunteer and took out her hearing aid. "I just got them!" **she beamed.** JM removed one of her hearing aids, showing how she understood. They hugged and laughed and cried together.

If you wonder if your donations make a difference, remember the freedom you gave Marie and **enjoy the hug!** You never know the impact you are making in a life.

## "I'm Calm. It's Going to Be OK."

Luisa\* came to us with an eviction notice. Her hours had been cut and she got behind on her bills; she was frantic that she and her son would lose their home.

Despite a language barrier, Case Manager Lillian was able to work with her and her property manager to help

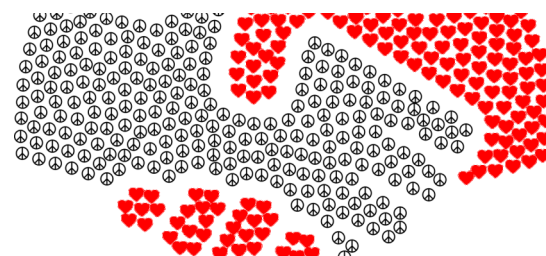
pay her rent—to prevent her eviction, prevent becoming homeless.

As you might expect, there is a process we have to go through before letting

a neighbor know we can help with a bill. Luisa kept checking in, getting more and more nervous as her court date approached. Lillian kept reassuring her that "All will be good. Breathe."

Finally, just a few days before her court date, Lillian was able to confirm the payment to the apartment, preventing the eviction. Talking through translation devices, Luisa told Lillian, "I'm calm. I'm good. Everything is going to be okay."

Thank you for helping Luisa and so many like her and her son. Our appreciation cannot be overstated!



Thank you  
for your  
Prayers  
Food  
Toiletries  
Funds



### Top of My Mind

Maybe you missed our posts or our emails. Maybe you

didn't see the proclamation by the City of Tucker. But, we have declared February as "**Love Your Neighbor As Yourself**" Month here at NETWorks ("LYNAY" for short!).

As one of our mission imperatives, LYNAY is how we strive to work with neighbors every day. **You, our supporters, model the idea of LYNAY day in and day out**, giving of your time, your talent, and your resources to support your neighbor.

We are hoping that bringing attention to the concept of LYNAY throughout our community will encourage people to see the stranger a little differently, to react with a kinder demeanor, nicer words. We are saying "**thank you**" to our volunteers, our donors, our staff, and our program participants. We are offering ways for the community to build empathy with neighbors facing food insecurity. We hope to make this an annual event, something to look forward to every year.

Thank you for Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself. Those we meet in our programs feel that love and thank you over and over.

As do I. **Peace and blessings!**

~David Fisher, Executive Director

# ONE NEIGHBOR AT A TIME