



# **Serving People in Their Time of Need**







# **2014 Annual Report**

### Dear Friends,

This year was another of change and excitement as KACS is poised for growth. We are again reminded that Kennett Square and the surrounding communities are both committed to taking care of those in need and interested in providing community supports that build strong foundations for local families.

A Vision was adopted in early 2014 and through the course of the year, the Board, volunteers and staff created a strategic plan that maps a clear direction for the upcoming years. With a focus on building self-sufficiency for clients and preventing hunger and homelessness, KACS is embarking on a plan to strengthen families' financial stability, maintain dignity and reduce dependence.

February's Empty Bowls Dinner once again brought the local story about hunger to the community. Various organizations made and donated 400 handmade clay bowls which were selected by attendees as part of the celebration.

Demand for food services grew to new levels in early 2014 and the Food Cupboard expanded its offerings to increase healthy items and larger quantities. As children grow, it's imperative to have the basic building blocks of good nutrition to make them successful. As government programs were reduced, KACS took steps to ensure good nutrition.

The Food Cupboard volunteers and staff launched the new Healthy Options program in July. Through this program, not only were food allotments increased to include fresh produce, meats and dairy year-round, but Case Management services are being wrapped into the Food program. With this new level of assistance, clients are getting connected to resources to build long term sustainability.

In July, KACS embarked on a new phase to bring services to families and to partner with them in attaining higher levels of stability. First steps were taken to acquire the adjacent facility at 138 West Cedar Street and fundraising began. As we move into 2015, this facility will open office space for partner agencies, improve Case Management space and allow KACS to offer new services to individuals in our area that are experiencing homelessness. This expansion will also allow for increased food storage at the current facility.

People from every facet of our community played an important part in the success of KACS, the Kennett Food Cupboard and our events throughout the year. From the churches and youth groups that volunteered at Empty Bowls to the service clubs and businesses that toiled in the Raised Bed Gardens to the 500 volunteers that made the 61st Annual Christmas Basket distribution an unparalleled accomplishment, local struggling families felt the support and compassion of a community that is dedicated to serving their needs and contributing to their success.

It is clear that the dedicated volunteers, donors and supporters will continue to have a strong, positive impact on families in their time of need. It is in this collaborative effort that we will not only fight hunger and homelessness, but we will find new ways to prevent it. For this and for all of your support, we humbly thank you.

Yours in Service,

Pete D'Angelo President, Board of Directors

Melaniheilu

Melanie Weiler Executive Director



KACS Board of Directors (As of Dec. 31, 2014)

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# **Our Story**



In 1954, Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) began by distributing Christmas Baskets of food to a few families in need in our area. This grassroots effort was begun by Norm Connell and Bill Buffington with community support. KACS was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1993, followed by the Kennett Food Cupboard opening in 1996. In addition to food, KACS has aided residents in crisis with emergency financial assistance for rental and utility payments, heating oil, medical

and transportation assistance, as well as other emergency needs. Over the last eight years, the Emergency Assistance program went from serving a handful to over 300 families per year. KACS has become a significant access point for families in need in the Southern Chester County region and meets the mission of:

### Serving People in Their Time of Need

KACS continues to grow in order to meet the needs of struggling families. Through two programs, the *Kennett Food Cupboard* and the *Emergency Assistance Program*, KACS stabilizes scores of families and individuals residing within the core service area, encompassing the school districts of Kennett Consolidated, Unionville-Chadds Ford, and Avon Grove. To these families, the assistance received from KACS represents food on the table and a roof overhead or heat during the winter. We assist with these basic needs because it means a world of difference to our friends, families, and neighbors in need.

### The Vision

We are an organization committed to serving families and all individuals in the fight against hunger and homelessness in the Kennett area and surrounding communities.

We are responsible stewards of the community, helping members of the greater Kennett community to lift themselves in a dignified manner out of the cycle of poverty.

We achieve this goal through both **raising awareness** in the community to the needs of the underprivileged with few resources and working with them to **identify and work towards solutions** to their challenges through a network of community connections that care.

### Kennett Area Community Service Staff

Melanie WeilerExecutive DirectorKate UhlerEmergency Assistance Case ManagerVeronica JenkinsFood Cupboard Manager/Case Manager

\*Over 45 volunteers work at the Kennett Food Cupboard each week. \*Hundreds of volunteers assist with events, food drives,

\*Hundreds of volunteers assist with events, food drives, administrative tasks and more.



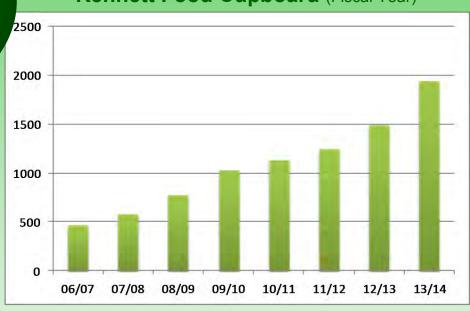
# Because of your support

The **Kennett Food Cupboard** offers food to local struggling families on a monthly basis, with special food projects at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and to the residents of Luther House. The Kennett Food Cupboard is run almost entirely by volunteers, working over 1,000 hours each month. We distributing over 30,000 pounds of food each month, and 90% of this food comes directly from the community in the form of community food drives, partnerships with local farmers and grocers, community and family gardens, and individual donations. This truly is a community organization.

gardeners and donors. Your generosity allows us to offer fresh produce year-round.

Thanks to you ~ the grocers, farmers,

### Average People served each month at the Kennett Food Cupboard (Fiscal Year)



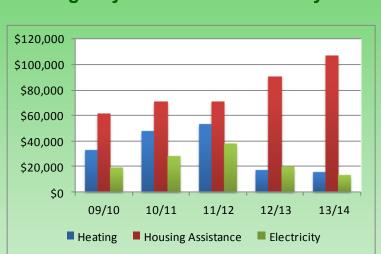
# 2013-14 Accomplishments

- October 2013 saw a deep cut in government SNAP benefits, which had an immediate impact on local families that are designated as 'Food Insecure". The impact at the Food Cupboard was immediate, as record numbers of families with children poured through the doors. KACS responded by committing to filling that gap, increasing food allotments from 2-3 days to 5-6 days of food per month.
- Collaboration between Longwood Rotary, Longwood Gardens and others created the start of the Raised Bed Garden program with the installation of 8 raised bed gardens, which provided 1,500lbs of high demand produce for the Food Cupboard and numerous future client education options.
- New partnerships with local food providers increased the quality and consistency of nutrition served, including year-round supplies of milk, produce, low fat meats and whole grains.
- Served 1,597 children and 210 senior citizens. A total of 3,461 people relied on the Food Cupboard for food.
- 5,946 'shopping trips' completed by a total of 935 families throughout the year.
- Complete overhaul of intake process, ensuring a high level of dignity and respect for those served.
- Holiday Events: Distributed over 560 turkeys to families to help with their Thanksgiving dinner and 620 Christmas Baskets of food. Also partnered with groups who organized coats for entire families, as well as toys, bikes and helmets.

# How your support assists with Emergency Needs

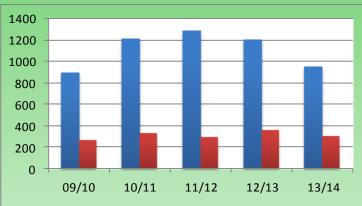
The Emergency Assistance Program offers help with rent, utilities, medical expenses,

transportation, and other emergency expenses paired with comprehensive case management. This is done with the goal of preventing and reducing homelessness and assisting families to resolve immediate crisis and move toward housing stabilization. For families on the verge of or experiencing homelessness, KACS Case Managers partner with the head of household to develop permanent housing plans and find a path to long term sustainability. Record numbers of families in our area are experiencing homelessness. A shortage of safe, affordable housing continues to be the leading factor causing instability for working families in Chester County. KACS assistance means a warm, safe roof overhead for hundreds of households each year.



#### **Emergency Assistance Awards by Year**

**Numbers Served per Year** 



Individuals (Unduplicated) Households (Unduplicated)



# 2013-14 Accomplishments

- 945 individuals (unduplicated) representing 300 families received financial assistance with emergency needs.
- \$139,000 went to families in need through this program in the form of rent, utilities, heating oil and more.
- Each family was referred to appropriate resources to assist them further.
- 77% of assistance went towards housing assistance including: mortgage, rent, security deposits, and lodging at a local motel for homeless individuals until other housing arrangements could be made.
- KACS assisted 56 families experiencing homelessness between October 2013 through September 2014. The average time for these households to become safe housed and stabilized was 3 months.
- Over 90% of the households moved out of homelessness remained stably housed for at least 90 days after placement.

### **Financials**

Kennett Area Community Service STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION September 30, 2014 and 2013

| ASSETS   | 2014   | 2013                                     |
|--|--|--|
| CURRENT ASSETS<br>Cash<br>Gift cards on hand<br>Inventory<br>Deposit<br>Grants receivable            | \$252,269<br>4,076<br>11,223<br>5,900<br>120,207 | \$153,286<br>275<br>31,089<br>114,327    |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS   | 393,675  | 298,977                                  |
| FIXED ASSETS<br>Building<br>Equipment and vehicles<br>Accumulated depreciation<br>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS | 547,569<br>75,243<br><u>(116,504)</u><br>506,308 | 545,974<br>45,134<br>(91,732)<br>499,376 |
| TOTAL ASSETS   | \$899.983  | \$798.353                                |

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

| Accounts payable<br>Payroll liabilities<br>TOTAL LIABILITES              | \$ 2,850<br>2,931<br>5,781      | \$ 2,260<br>2,861<br>5,121      |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| NET ASSETS<br>Unrestricted<br>Temporarily restricted<br>TOTAL NET ASSETS | \$730,248<br>163,954<br>894,202 | \$644,395<br>148,837<br>793,232 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS   | \$899,983                       | \$798,353                       |



#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITES

Year Ending September 30, 2014

#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

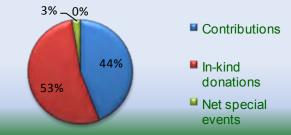
| Total support and revenue | \$1,109,129 |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Interest & Misc Income    | 920         |
| Net special events        | 27,345      |
| In-kind donations         | 595,364     |
| Contributions             | \$490,671   |

#### **EXPENSES**

| Program Services             | \$935,615   |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Management and general       | 52,619      |
| Fundraising                  | 19,925      |
| Total Expenses               | \$1,008,159 |
| Change in Net Assets         | \$100,970   |
| Net assets–beginning of year | \$793,232   |
| Net assets-end of year       | \$894,202   |



### KACS 2014 Income



Thank you to all our donors, supporters and partners! Your generosity has made a positive impact on the lives of many families.

#### Thank you to the hundreds of supporters of Kennett Area Community Service

Karlis Adamsons Nora Adelmann

Aesthetic & Special Care Associates Agilent Technologies Foundation

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#### Thank you to the hundreds of supporters of Kennett Area Community Service

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Kennett Area Community Service 136 West Cedar Street P.O. Box 1025 Kennett Square, PA 19348 (610) 925-3556 www.KACSonline.net

K☆AǿC♥S

Your participation in hundreds of Food Drives, small and large keep the Kennett Food Cupboard stocked. Thank you to our many In Kind Donors and individuals that coordinate these drives.

Acme Market

After the Bell

**Boy Scouts** 

Avon Grove Charter School

Berkshire Hathaway

CCIU TLP Program

Church of the Open Door

Crosslands Community

Avondale Presbryterian Church

Brandywine Valley Association

Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Every attempt is made to ensure accuracy of this list. Please contact Melanie Weiler for errors. We apologize for any omissions.

> Exelon Genesis Healthcare **Giant Markets** Girl Scouts Hamorton United Methodist Church Harvest Market Italian American Citizens League KARMA Kendal Community Kennett Area YMCA Kennett Consolidated School District Kennett Friends Meeting Kennett Grange Kennett High School Humanitarian Club Kennett Presbyterian Church Kennett Rotary Kennett Senior Center Ladies of St. Patrick's Lions Club of Kennett Square London Grove Friends Meeting Longwood Gardens Longwood Rotary MLK, Jr Food Drive Committee Mushroom Festival The Produce Place Prudential Fox & Roach Redner's Market RMCI, Inc. Salon Secrets St. Cornelius RC Church St Gabriel's RC Church St. Michael's Lutheran Church St. Patrick's RC Church Super Fresh Market The Garage Community Youth Center Tick Tock Early Learning Center TJ Maxx Unionville Mom's Club Unionville Presbyterian Unionville-Chadds Ford School District Walmart