



Making a Positive Impact

Annual Impact Report

October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022



KACS ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

October 1, 2021
through
September 30, 2022

Strengthening
our Community in
Southern Chester
County through
Food, Housing,
Crisis Services and
a Path Forward.

CONTENTS

3	LETTER FROM LEAH REYNOLDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
4-5	COLLECTIVE IMPACT
6-7	KACS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
8-9	KACS FOOD CUPBOARD
10-11	KACS BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY
12	HURRICANE IDA
13	FINANCIAL REPORT
14-15	KACS TEAM
16	2022 HIGHLIGHTS
17	HELP KACS HELP OTHERS
18-19	FOUNDATION FOR KACS FUTURE

Dear Friends,

Once again, we have proven that when KACS and our community work together, we can make a positive impact. I am inspired by our donors, community partners, volunteers, and staff who have risen to the unprecedented challenges of this past year. Together, we have demonstrated resilience and dedication to the community we serve.

Despite uncertainty in the face of a global pandemic that magnified and exposed social and economic inequalities, we maintained an unwavering commitment to our mission to end poverty.

There have been many exciting changes that positively impacted KACS and the neighbors we support. In May, we reopened the Food Cupboard for shopping, allowing participants to choose the foods they enjoy. A few months later, the Chester County Commissioners awarded ARPA funds for KACS to repair and restore the first floor of the flooded Resource Center.

We are a step closer to realizing the future home of KACS! Almost 6 acres of land, donated by Michael and Nancy Pia, have been assessed, and we began designing the new facility. I invite you to learn more about KACS' commitment to eradicating homelessness and ending poverty in our community as you read this year's annual report.

Your extraordinary generosity and support allows us to meet the needs of Southern Chester County's most vulnerable residents and allocate our resources for the greatest impact – today and for years to come.

Thank you for inspiring us and joining us to build a stronger, more equitable community together.

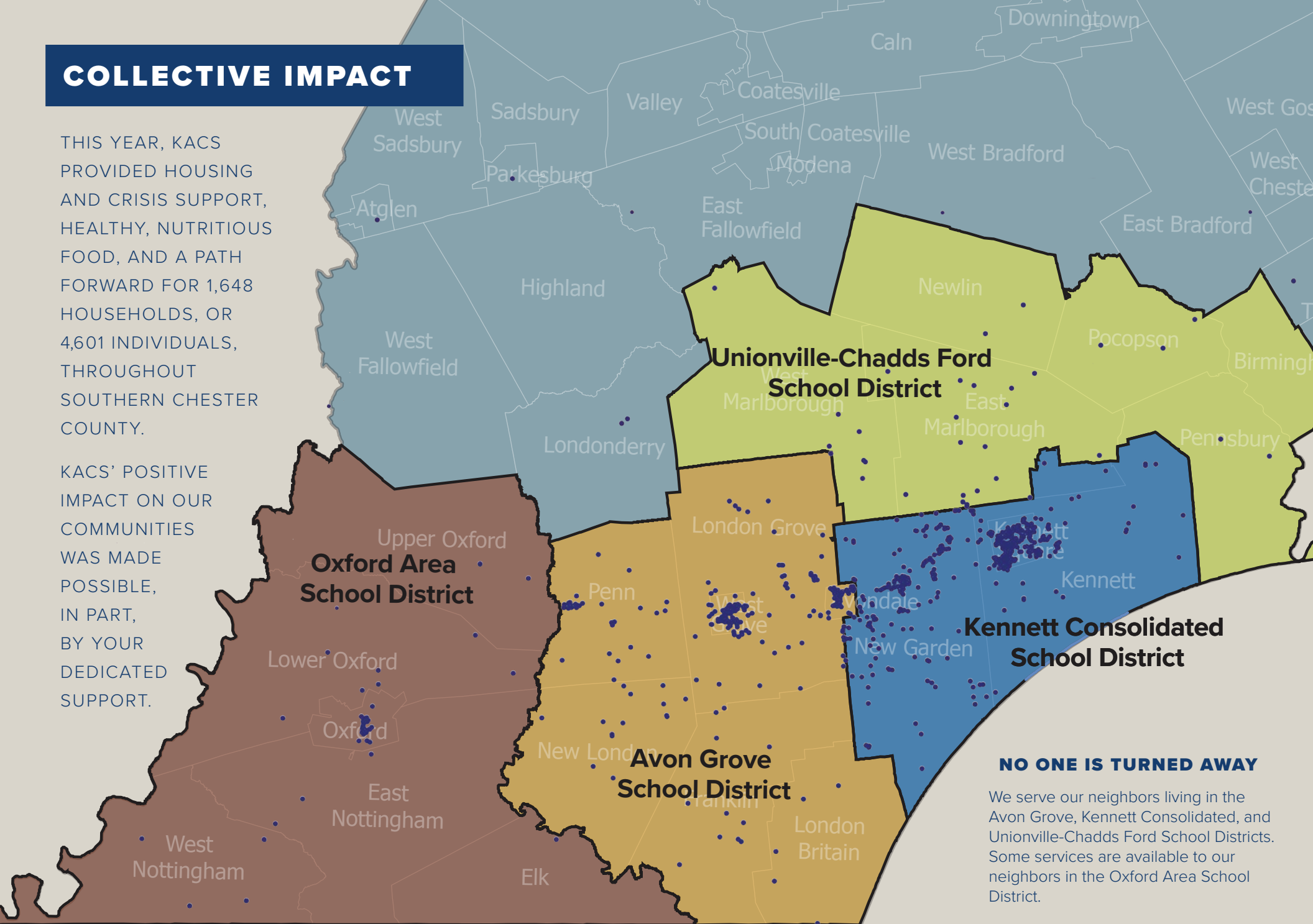


Leah M. Reynolds, M.S.P.L.
Executive Director of KACS

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

THIS YEAR, KACS PROVIDED HOUSING AND CRISIS SUPPORT, HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD, AND A PATH FORWARD FOR 1,648 HOUSEHOLDS, OR 4,601 INDIVIDUALS, THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY.

KACS' POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES WAS MADE POSSIBLE, IN PART, BY YOUR DEDICATED SUPPORT.



NO ONE IS TURNED AWAY

We serve our neighbors living in the Avon Grove, Kennett Consolidated, and Unionville-Chadds Ford School Districts. Some services are available to our neighbors in the Oxford Area School District.



KACS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES



551 Unduplicated Households received Emergency Assistance services

We continue to overcome the adverse effects of the pandemic, a second consecutive year of severe weather, and a significant increase in the cost of living.

The KACS Emergency Assistance Team worked alongside hundreds of families in need of maintaining or establishing stable housing – the first step to ending poverty. People need basic necessities like a safe, secure home and food before attending to anything less critical, such as pursuing employment and improving their quality of life.

This year's inflation has impacted families of all backgrounds, **forcing many neighbors to choose between paying bills or buying food** to feed themselves and their loved ones. KACS offers financial assistance to these families so they may remain in their residence or, if homeless, find an affordable place to live.



After five years of being unstably housed, and/or homeless this single senior is grateful to the KACS Emergency Assistance Team for finding her a safe place to call home.

KACS Emergency Assistance Team provided support for:

1,665 individuals

136 seniors • 912 adults • 617 children

42 Households
rehoused from homelessness
or imminent homelessness

\$142,095.50
in financial assistance for rent
and/or security deposit

\$28,096.54
in financial assistance for
water, electric, and heat
(combined)

\$18,714.13
in financial assistance for gift
cards, transportation, and
other basic living expenses

\$136,722.48
in financial assistance for
emergency hotel stays due
to lack of shelter space

\$37,000
in disaster gift cards
distributed to Hurricane Ida
flood victims in Avondale



KACS FOOD CUPBOARD



KACS Food Cupboard served:

4,119 individuals

427 seniors • 2,350 adults • 1,342 children

571 Families

Average Served Monthly

51,334 lbs

Average Monthly Food Distribution

112 Volunteers

Donated their Time and Skills in the Food Cupboard

616,002 lbs

Food Distributed this Year

6,454 Hours

Volunteer Time at the Food Cupboard

150,880 lbs

Community Food and Supplies Donated

459 Families

Received a Food Box at the KACS Thanksgiving Event

533 Families

Received a Food Box at the KACS Holiday Event

1,459 Unduplicated Households received Healthy, Nutritious Food

This year marks 68 years of service to the community!

The KACS Food Cupboard is taking steps to resume pre-pandemic operations. We were excited in May to officially reopen in-person shopping with a new format and expanded hours – Tuesday 12-6pm, Wednesday 12-7pm, and Thursday 12-6pm. This new procedure allowed participants to safely choose the food they wanted, including a variety of canned goods, eggs, meat, dairy, fresh produce, and bread or tortillas.

During this economic crisis, food prices are soaring and the **KACS Food Cupboard has seen a 40% increase** in the number of families seeking help to feed their families. This includes shopping at the Food Cupboard, KACS on Wheels, and Luther House deliveries.

As we continue to face new challenges that often have a disproportionate effect on the low-income population we serve, your generous contributions directly impact the health and nutrition of our neighbors in need. Thank you.

KACS Food Cupboard supplies food for an average of 521 children every month – offering them the opportunity to grow to their fullest potential.





KACS BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY



27 Getting Ahead Graduates

Getting Ahead is a 16-session workshop based on the Bridges Out of Poverty model that helps individuals in poverty build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

This year we were excited to resume classes in both English and Spanish!

The weekly sessions included a hot meal and babysitting, removing barriers and allowing more families to attend.

Once an individual graduates from the Getting Ahead Workshop, they continue to receive support with Staying Ahead Workshops - offering key resources to obtain and maintain self-sufficiency.



Additionally, KACS offers Bridges Out of Poverty workshops to our community members to tackle the roots of poverty, and build sustainable communities where everyone can live well.

Getting Ahead Investigators celebrate their accomplishments with family and friends – excited to forge a new path for themselves and their children.

KACS Bridges Out of Poverty Workshops

14 Graduates

Getting Ahead Winter/Spring

13 Graduates

Getting Ahead Summer

12 Investigators

Staying Ahead

47 Community Members

Bridges Out of Poverty



Staying Ahead Workshops build relationships with community resources.

HURRICANE IDA

ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, HURRICANE IDA FLOODED THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE AVONDALE APARTMENTS, DISPLACING 87 FIRST-FLOOR RESIDENTS.

These families and individuals lost nearly everything in the flood. KACS partnered with the Garage Community and Youth Center in the days immediately following the flood to provide emergency shelter. Other organizations, community groups, and individuals were involved in collecting furniture and clothing for the people who were displaced.

The Garage's West Grove location became a temporary shelter for two nights while the KACS Emergency Assistance Program conducted intakes with all households that needed ongoing emergency shelter. KACS provided emergency hotel rooms at the Fairfield Inn in Kennett for 10 households while the repairs and renovations were conducted. These households included 32 people (22 adults and 10 children).

The rest of the displaced residents diverted with friends, family, or upstairs neighbors and did not need a hotel stay. We maintained contact with each of those households and provided referrals/

information regarding FEMA, Red Cross, etc. even if we did not formally open an Emergency Assistance case or make any payments on their behalf.

Emergency Assistance staff provided case management and referrals to connect all affected households to FEMA, the Red Cross, and the Chester County Department of Community Development as well as other resources.

Despite the possibility of another flood, the majority of the households that went to the hotel returned to their former residences after the apartments were repaired because they were unable to find other affordable housing.

87 Individuals
displaced by flooding caused by Hurricane Ida

10 Households
required hotel stays (others were able to divert with friends or family)



KACS FINANCIALS

REVENUE

INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESS, SPONSORSHIP, AND FAITH BASED DONATIONS	1,381,900
FOOD DONATIONS	1,102,643
GOVERNMENT FUNDING	221,775
GRANTS	225,860
INVESTMENT INCOME (UNREALIZED LOSS)	10,205 (70,315)
FUNDRAISING EVENTS	77,108
OTHER	35,836
TOTAL	2,985,012

EXPENSES

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	852,326
FOOD ACTIVITIES	1,522,485
ADMINISTRATION	326,281
FUNDRAISING	168,089
BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY	93,564
TOTAL	2,962,744



KACS TEAM



STAFF

Leah Reynolds, MSPL
Executive Director

**Amy Scheuren, MSS,
MLSP, LSW**
Program Director

Kecia Crowl
Communications &
Engagement Director

Elizabeth Flores, BSW
Emergency Assistance
Advocate

Lily Rodriguez
Office Manager & Data
Information Specialist

Gonzalo Cano, BS
Emergency Assistance
Advocate

Sheila Eames, MBA
Staff Accountant
Bookkeeper

**Keila Hernandez-
Sullivan, BSW**
Housing Stability
Advocate

Nancy Tapia
Participant Advocate
Administrator

Margie Merced, BS
Emergency Assistance
Advocate

Kimberly Matos
Bridges Out of Poverty
Coordinator

Yvonne Rodriguez
Data Entry Clerk

Britton Elwood, MHP
Food Operations
Coordinator

Carina Villagomez
Receptionist

Diana Russell
Administrative
Assistant

Delaney Marin Tapia
Program Assistant

**Jasmin Castano
Arellano**
Gift Processing
Assistant

BOARD

Lynn Majarian
President

Leon Spencer
Vice President

Thomas H. Musser
Treasurer
Oct-Dec 2021

**Nikolaus H.
Grieshaber**
Treasurer
Jan-Sept 2022

Lenda Carrillo
Diversity and
Inclusion Officer

Christine Prisco
Secretary

Robert George

Ravi Jain

David L. Myers

Jim O'Neil

Lynne Seligman

Lisa Teixeira

Dennis Babcock
Eliot Baram
Effie Barnes
Katherine Belliveau
David Bockhoven
Mary Boeni
Andrea Boulet
Kathleen Boyle
Mary Beth Brutout
Vic Brutout
David Buck
Mary Lou Burkhart
James Butler
Susan Caldwell
John Caldwell
Bill Carl
David Castina
Suzanne Claricuzio
Christina Cohen
Leslie Cole
Christina Conway
Jeanette Corgnati
Susan Cornett
Pete D'Angelo
Lucy D'Angelo
John Daly
Michael Daly
Tracy Daly
David Devoe
Kimberly Eagle
Lynn Engle
Thomas Engle
Lauren Esteves
Janet Fassbender
Wayne Faulkner
Jacquie Faulkner
Kris Firey-Poling
Audrey Fleisher
Glynis Gallivan

VOLUNTEERS

Kathy Gilbert
Diane Gouge
Estefania Guzman
Dean Hammond
Tara Haplea
Ashley Harris
Maureen Harris
Darryl Hartz
Joseph Hedrick
Diane Hochstuhl
Debbie Hornbeck
Suzy Hughes
Amy Jackson
Suchi Jain
Megan Kelly
Neal Kenney
Mike King
James Koterski
Linda LaMantia
Veronica Lennon
Susan Lillard
Jay Liska
Ann Lofting
Carol Lorah
Patti Luis
Michael Lukaszewicz
Roger Lynch
Chris Magers
Andrew Mazzeo
Hope Mazzeo
Meg McCown
Dave Moughalian
Leah Mulcahey
Ed Murphy
Ellen Musser
Kristin Nicholson
Daniel Nicewonger
Melissa Nolan
Tim O'Leary

Jim O'Neil
Jean O'Neil
Susan Obara
Kathy Olsen
Jaime Pantoja
Megha Pathak
Faye Pember
Paulet Persing
Jamie Phillips
Bradley Piper
Lauren Powelson
Kathy Reinhardt
Ray Reinhardt
Josefina Reumann
Marianne Riley
Laura Robidoux
Tammy Rusner
Kris Russomagno
Ann Salisbury
Joan Salvo
Bernie Simasek
Susan Singer
Sharon Smith
Lisa Sommer
Bill Stahler
Karen Sundquist
Theresa Swift
Michelle Szakas
Salatiel Tapia
Ken Tesh
Lisa Texteira
Claire Turnage
Maxwell Vernooy
Alex Villagomez
Irma Villagomez
Ellen Wasserman
Michele Wenzel
John Williams
Andrew Winter



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



2022 Making a Positive Impact

We transformed our brand to more accurately represent how we impact the community – everything centers around a place to call home. The house represents KACS' ultimate goal – offering participants the path necessary to establish a stable home with access to healthy food and, in doing so, strengthening our community. The KACS logo and website (www.KACSImpact.org) have been remodeled to represent this new brand.

In just 365 days, KACS offered housing and crisis support, served healthy, nutritious food, and provided a path forward for 1,648 households throughout

Southern Chester County. Our staff, board, and volunteers are magnificent but we couldn't have this level of impact without the generous contributions of community members and local businesses like you. We are eternally grateful for all your love and support – thank you!



Mila personally delivered her donation



The new KACS logo looks fabulous on our box truck!

Help KACS Help our Neighbors in Need How you can make an impact on our community:

Online

Visit
KACSImpact.org
and click
"Please Donate"

Shop Amazon?
Visit
smile.amazon.com
and choose to
support Kennett Area
Community Service

Shop Walmart?
Visit walmart.com/
SparkGood and
choose Kennett Area
Community Service

Out & About

Encourage friends and
family to donate to
KACS in honor of
your birthday,
anniversary or
special occasion

Join us at
local events that
support KACS. Visit
[KACSImpact.org/](http://KACSImpact.org/events)
events



In Person

Volunteer at KACS
Food Cupboard
[KACSImpact.org/](http://KACSImpact.org/volunteer)
volunteer

Food Donations for
KACS Food Cupboard

Ready, Set, Collect!
Food Drive Toolkit
Visit [KACSImpact/](http://KACSImpact.org/support/#FoodDrive)
support/#FoodDrive

Mail a check payable
to KACS, PO Box 1025,
Kennett Square, PA
19348

www.KACSImpact.org



A FOUNDATION FOR KACS' FUTURE

IN APRIL, AFTER A THOROUGH FEASIBILITY STUDY, THE KACS BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED MICHAEL AND NANCY PIA'S GENEROUS OFFER OF LAND DONATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO HELP MAKE KACS' NEW HOME A REALITY.



You may have seen our sign as you traveled north on Cypress Street into Kennett Square.

Approximately 6 acres of donated land spanning Kennett and New Garden Townships will become our permanent home. KACS, home of the Kennett Food Cupboard, has been serving our neighbors in need in one location or another for 68 years in Southern Chester County.

This year KACS supported an average of 571 households every month and is seeing a 40% increase due, in part, to the continuing effects of COVID-19, an economic downturn, and soaring inflation. This new building will accommodate the necessary programs to address homelessness, housing instability, and food insecurity as well as classroom space for KACS' Bridges Out of Poverty workshops that address financial literacy and help individuals in poverty build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

The new facility will significantly increase the Food Cupboard's capabilities to store and distribute healthy, nutritious food and become a distribution site for all the pantries and food cupboards in Southern Chester County in partnership with the Chester County Food Bank. This year, the Kennett Food Cupboard is distributing an average of 51,334lbs of food every month from the current, modest facility which was once a small autobody shop.

For those experiencing homelessness or housing instability, we will offer secure facilities for showers and laundry to help them maintain their dignity until they can find stable housing.

We are ecstatic about KACS' future and the opportunities it will bring to our community!



www.KACSImpact.org

PO Box 1025
136 W. Cedar Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610-925-3556

THANK YOU