



Strengthening our Community

One Family at a Time



KACS Annual Impact Report

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the same hope and determination that fuels our mission here at KACS. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our impactful initiatives, and I'm thrilled to share some of the outstanding milestones we've achieved together.

Thanks to generous donations, KACS has received three homes, creating affordable housing opportunities for those in need. We've also marked a historic moment with the election of our first Hispanic Chairman of the Board of Directors, a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

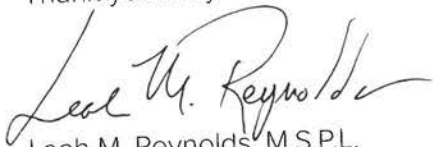
Our Financial Empowerment Workshop was a resounding success, with 11 of the 18 graduates earning their \$1,000 Savings Match – a life-changing accomplishment for each individual. Yet, amidst these triumphs, the need in our community continues to grow. We've seen a **12% increase in households facing poverty** – a stark reminder of the work that lies ahead.

The recent Supreme Court ruling in Grants Pass V. Johnson poses new challenges, potentially criminalizing homelessness. More than ever, we need to stand together to support those living in poverty.

As we prepare to break ground on KACS' future home, I am filled with excitement at the thought of what we will build together. This will be a place where hope is not just a concept, but a reality for many.

Together, we build hope and create a future where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support.



Leah M. Reynolds, M.S.P.L.
Chief Executive Officer of KACS

KACS Annual Impact Report

October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024

Contents

2	Letter From Leah M. Reynolds, Executive Director
4-5	KACS Impact In Southern Chester County
6-7	KACS Value
8-9	KACS Social Services
10-11	KACS Food Cupboard
12-15	KACS Community Education
16-17	KACS Housing Initiative
18-19	KACS Highlights
20-21	Financial Report
22-23	KACS Team
24-25	KACS New Home
26-27	Together We Build Hope
28	Help KACS Strengthen our Community

Mission:

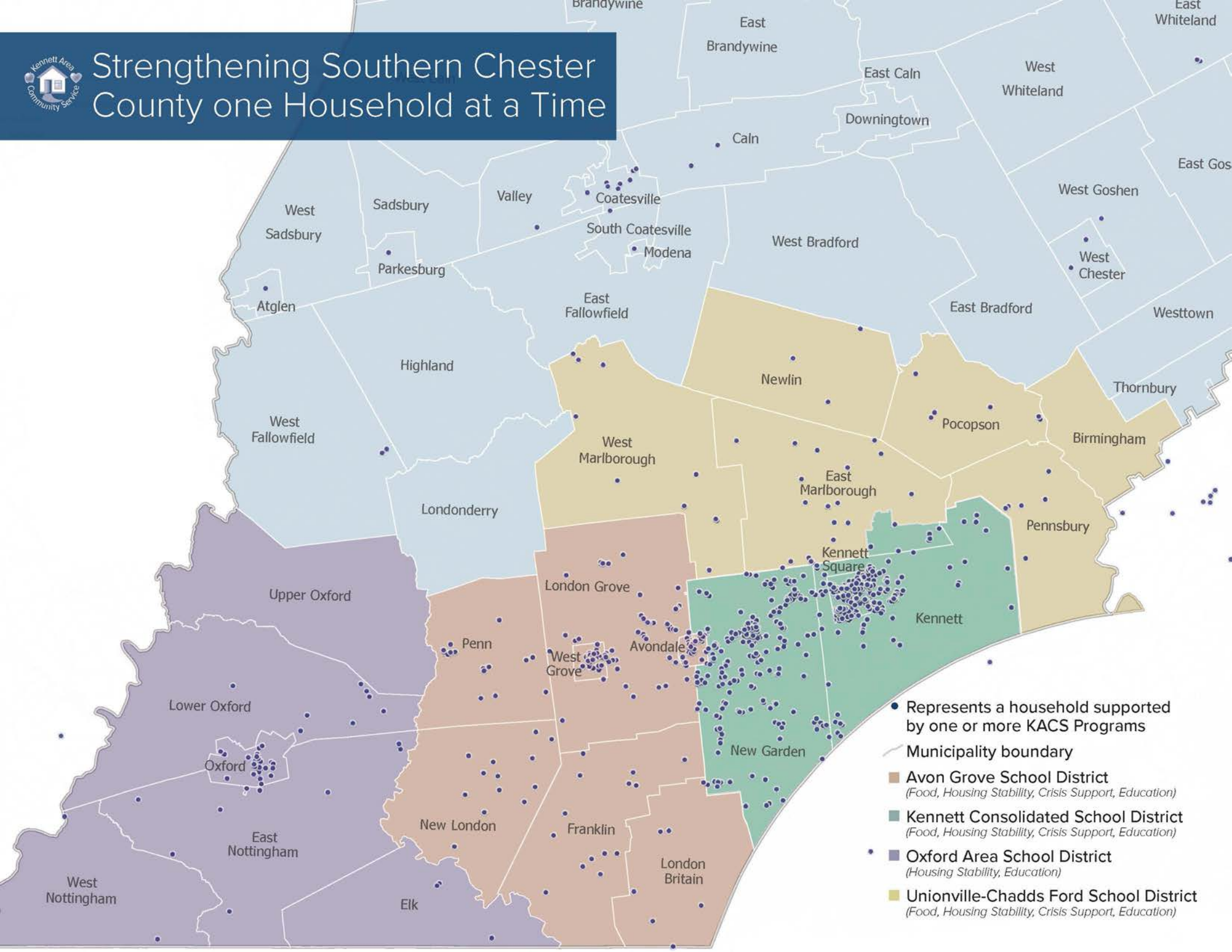
Strengthening Our Community In Southern Chester County
Through Food, Housing, Crisis Services, And Education.

Vision:

A Community Without Poverty Where Everyone Can Live Well.



Strengthening Southern Chester County one Household at a Time

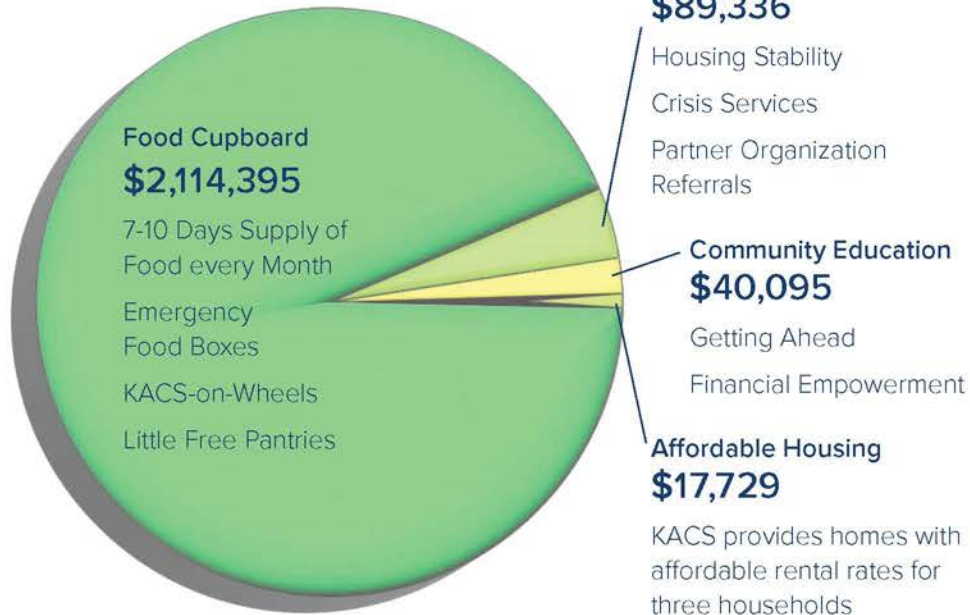


- Represents a household supported by one or more KACS Programs
- Municipality boundary
- Avon Grove School District
(Food, Housing Stability, Crisis Support, Education)
- Kennett Consolidated School District
(Food, Housing Stability, Crisis Support, Education)
- Oxford Area School District
(Housing Stability, Education)
- Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
(Food, Housing Stability, Crisis Support, Education)



KACS supports seniors, families, and individuals throughout Southern Chester County.

This year, KACS provided a value of \$2,261,554 to our communities through food, housing stability, crisis services, community education, and affordable housing.



The value that KACS provides to the community totals \$2,261,554.

Here's a breakdown of the contribution for each municipality:

\$141,721	Avondale Borough
\$44,003	East Marlborough Township
\$8,989	East Nottingham Township
\$455	Elk Township
\$18,401	Franklin Township
\$750,927	Kennett Square Borough
\$201,034	Kennett Township
\$4,456	London Britain Township
\$129,918	London Grove Township
\$1,863	Lower Oxford Township
\$479,049	New Garden Township
\$25,461	New London Township
\$3,825	Newlin Township
\$5,691	Oxford Borough
\$201,554	Penn Township
\$9,607	Pennsbury Township
\$2,024	Pocopson Township
\$181,639	West Grove Borough
\$21,226	West Marlborough Township
\$29,713	Other or Outside KACS' Service Area

\$2,261,556 KACS Value to our Community



Social Services



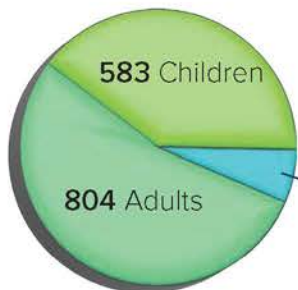
472
Unique
Households
received Social
Services support

42
Households
rehoused from
homelessness
or imminent
homelessness

3376
Participant
Interactions to
Establish and
Maintain Stable
Housing

This year, the dedicated KACS Social Services Team stood alongside 472 seniors, families, and individuals, guiding them towards the fundamental right of safe, stable housing. A home is more than a shelter—it's the cornerstone of a thriving life, where nutritious meals are shared, and dreams are nurtured.

The escalating cost of living threatens this basic need, pushing working families to the brink of homelessness. Long commutes, disrupted education, and fractured community ties are just a few of the challenges they face. But there's hope, and that hope comes from the support of our community.



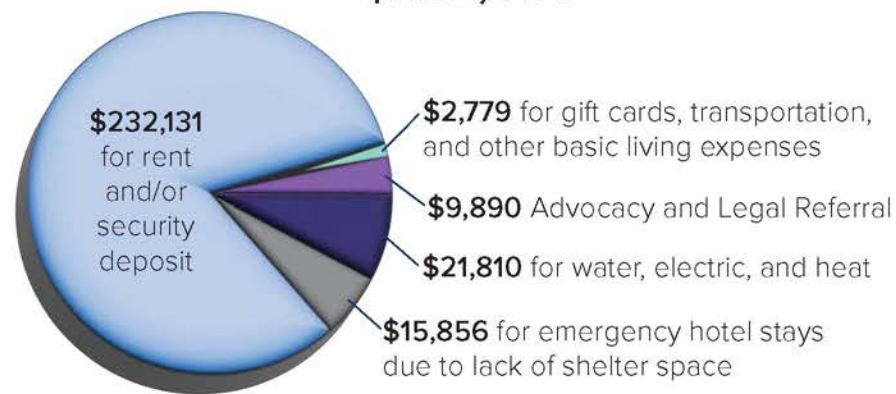
1480 individuals
represent these
households:

93 Seniors

Bradley and his family came to KACS after receiving a notice to vacate their home. They met with a KACS Advocate to help find a new place to live. Bradley was able to locate an apartment that they could afford but needed help with the security deposit. KACS provided the security deposit to their new landlord, and now he and his family are stably housed and love their new home.

**KACS Financial Assistance funds
to maintain or obtain safe, secure housing:**

\$282,466





Food Cupboard

2,162
Unique
Households
received
Healthy,
Nutritious Food

1,095,541 lbs
Food Distributed
through
Shopping,
Deliveries,
& Little Free
Pantries

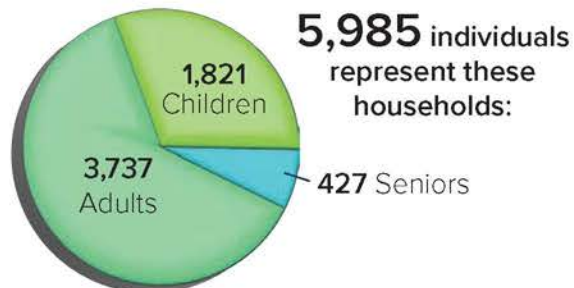
11,711
Food Services
Provided

504
Thanksgiving
Meals

760
Holiday Meals

We've witnessed firsthand the increasing strain on families struggling to make ends meet. With a 13% increase in households seeking help, KACS Food Cupboard has become a beacon of hope, serving an average of 973 households monthly, including 856 children who rely on the nourishment we provide.

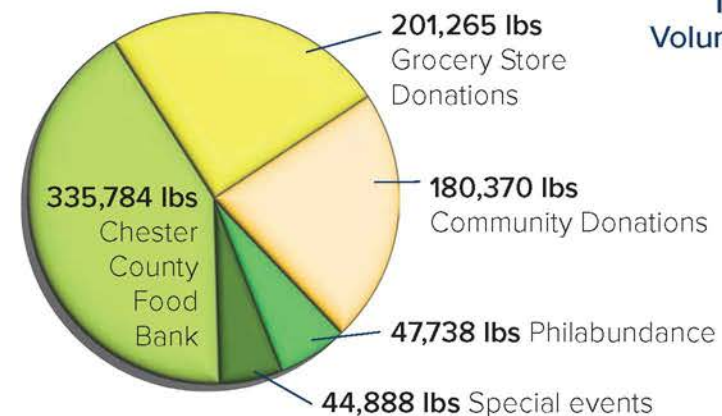
Now there are six Little Free Pantries, ensuring accessible, nutritious food for our most vulnerable neighbors around the clock. These pantries, along with our Food Cupboard, KACS-on-Wheels, and Emergency Food Boxes, are vital lifelines for those facing hunger in Southern Chester County.



Silvia first came to KACS for food during the pandemic and later graduated from KACS Getting Ahead workshop. In the workshop, she not only gained new insights but also found a way to make a difference in the lives of others. She now volunteers at the Food Cupboard every week, showing a deep sense of gratitude and a desire to help others who may be facing similar challenges. It's people like Silvia who truly strengthen a community.



KACS Food Cupboard received 810,045 lbs of Food Donations from:



188
Volunteers

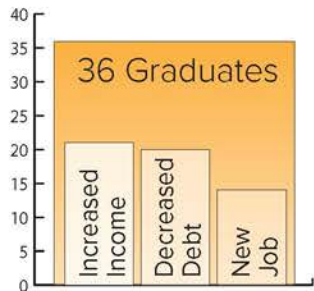
13,186
Volunteer Hours



Community Education

The Bridges Out of Poverty programs at KACS reach a variety of audiences with the same common goal: to work towards ending the cycle of poverty in our community by creating an environment of empathy, common language, and mutual understanding.

Getting Ahead



Getting Ahead is a 16-week program where participants with experience living in poverty investigate resources, tools, and connections to help them move closer to economic stability and add to the strengthening of their community. Each investigator receives a warm meal, free childcare, and a stipend every week.

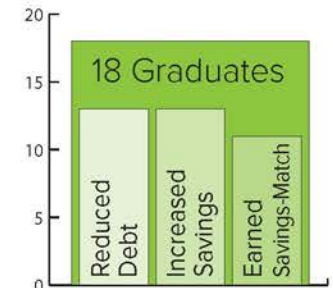
- 2 Spanish-language cohorts
- 2 English-language cohorts
- 575 stipends distributed for a total of \$14,775



We are deeply inspired by the dedication and commitment these graduates have shown in improving their lives and the lives of their families. Their desire to give back and help others achieve similar success has led to five past Getting Ahead graduates to serve as paid facilitators.

Financial Empowerment

The Financial Empowerment Workshop is a five-week program where Getting Ahead graduates learn different approaches to financial decision-making and tailor each method to their personal situations. Topics include savings, budgeting, credit, identity protection, and more. Those who complete this workshop are eligible to participate in a savings-match program of up to \$1,000.



- 1 Spanish-language cohort
- 1 English-language cohort
- Upon completing the program, 18 graduates are more confident in their financial decisions & 13 increased their financial wellbeing

Savings-Match Program

11 savings-match checks of \$1,000 were distributed. This life-enhancing money will be used for important aspects like emergency savings fund, certificates of deposit investment, help with first time home buyer's down payment, assist with funeral arrangement funds, and help a parent move to closer after decades apart.



Community Education

Bridges Out of Poverty

87

**Bridges Out of Poverty
Community Attendees**

4

**Workshops offered
this year**

Bridges Out of Poverty Workshops offer practical tools and strategies to understand and address the root causes of poverty. In these training sessions, participants are empowered to break the cycle of poverty by fostering understanding, empathy, and opportunity for collaborative action.

Attendees represented various sectors: social service, community volunteers and donors, executive boards, education and childcare, healthcare, and banking

If you are interested in participating in a Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop, check our website for upcoming community workshops:

www.KACSImpact.org/Events



Community Advisory Committee

The KACS Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is a group of past and current program participants and other low-income residents within KACS' service area. The CAC gives feedback to KACS on how to improve its programs and services, including the Food Cupboard, Social Services, Educational Pathways Forward, Affordable Housing, and its demonstration of diversity, equity, inclusiveness, accessibility, and belonging.

\$475 has been distributed in stipends for their time and insights

13

Participants

3

**Bilingual
Sessions**



Housing Initiative

Becoming a Reality

Chester County has pledged to build 1,000 affordable housing units by 2032 as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) House America Initiative. As of the writing of this report, the County has accomplished 30% of its goal. That is great news. The problem is that it is not enough. There is a waiting list of 5,000 plus residents in Chester County on the waiting list for affordable housing. The lack of affordable Housing has created a state of crisis, and there is not any one particular entity that can solve this problem. It takes a community. Various community stakeholders' contributions, collaborations, and coordination are the key that could significantly increase the number of affordable units per year surpassing the pledge of the County and quickly reducing the wait list for affordable housing. KACS is proud to be a community stakeholder committed to being a part of the Chester County affordable housing solution.

KACS celebrated its 2nd year as an Affordable Housing Program in May 2024. It has been an amazing year. In twelve months, we acquired three tenant-occupied properties gifted to KACS by an anonymous donor. As a result, we preserved affordable housing for 18 individuals, consisting of seven adults and eleven children. We have settled well into our new role as a landlord and a property manager, providing safe, well-maintained affordable rental units. KACS was also invited to explore and consider a variety of housing opportunities for the next housing development activity within the next two to four years.

By securing affordable housing, all three households in the Affordable Housing Program have gained the foundation they need to become self-reliant – none of them come to KACS for help anymore.

KACS Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has completed its first year. Twelve members, consisting of English and Spanish speakers, who were past or present program participants or other low-income residents in the community, met quarterly to advise the KACS organization in decisions regarding the design, setting, growth, and supervision of KACS' services. This year the CAC reviewed the Food Cupboard, the Social Services Department, and the incorporation of DEIAB principles in KACS's programming. KACS is also proud to have maintained 1/3 low-income representation on our Board of Directors to ensure that those experiencing resource gaps lead us toward solutions.

KACS continues to collaborate with community stakeholders to develop solutions that address the causes and effects of poverty. In February, KACS Affordable Housing Program Director and other non-profit housing programs went to Harrisburg to meet with State Representative Paul Friel and House Speaker Joanna McClinton, and other officials to discuss the affordable housing crisis and ways to address the issues. KACS also partnered with Allies for Housing for All and the Chester County Commissioners to host the 3rd Annual Housing Forum for Legislators in August. This year, persons with lived experience in housing instability were highlighted, sharing their personal challenges and leading the discussion on how the legislators and community can work together to help ensure their housing stability.



Highlights

Home Sweet Home
November 4, 2023

Gingerbread house decorating and raising awareness for Affordable Housing



National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
December 21, 2023

On the longest night of the year, we honored all those who lost their lives while homeless



KACS' Empty Bowls
February 23, 2024

417 guests helped to end hunger and feed hope



Volunteer Appreciation
April 26, 2024

Celebrating the dedication of KACS' outstanding volunteers

Thanksgiving and Holiday Distribution
November & December 2023

Provided a Thanksgiving meal and a Holiday Feast with children's toys to over 700 families



KACS' Annual Meeting
January 31, 2024

1st Annual presentation of KACS impact and plans for the upcoming year.



Capital Campaign Kickoff
May 8, 2024

Cheers to KACS New Home at Braeloch Brewing



Bourbon & Brix • September 14, 2024

A magical evening of bourbon and wine paired with delicious food under the stars



Color Me Healthy
June 2024

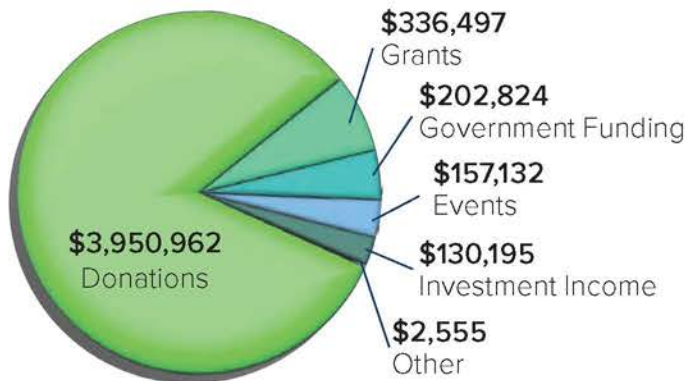
Coloring bags for children to raise awareness and increase food donations



Financial Report

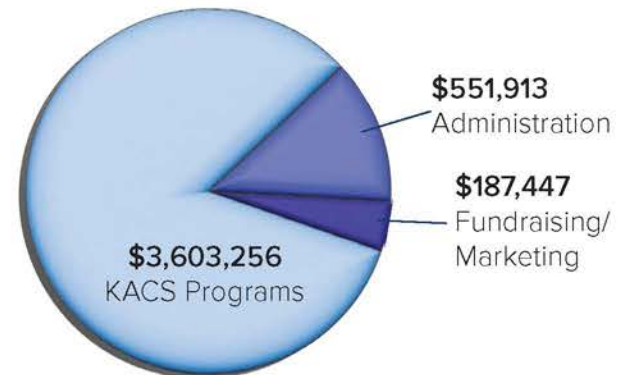
OPERATING REVENUE

Individuals, Business, Sponsorship, and Faith Based Donations	\$1,836,568
Food Donations	\$2,114,394
Grants	\$336,497
Government Funding	\$202,824
Events	\$157,132
Investment Income	\$130,195
Other	\$2,555
Total	\$5,818,212



OPERATING EXPENSES

Social Services	\$742,536
Food Cupboard	\$2,600,004
Administration	\$551,913
Fundraising/Marketing	\$187,447
Low Income Housing	\$145,503
Community Education	\$115,213
Total	\$4,342,616





Team

STAFF

Leah M. Reynolds, M.S.P.L.
Chief Executive Officer

Elizabeth Flores, BSW
Program Director

Gonzalo Cano, BS
Emergency Assistance
Advocate

Rebecca Villanueva, BS
Housing Stability
Advocate

Johana Perez, BA
Emergency Assistance
Advocate

Yvonne Rodriguez
Data Entry Clerk

Delaney Marin Tapia
Resource Navigator

Nancy Tapia
Participant Advocate
Administrator

Loren Lynch
Operations Coordinator

Mariana Calderon
Front Office Coordinator

Roger Lynch, BS
Finance Director

Kecia Crowl, BFA
Communications &
Engagement Director

Cheryl R. Miles, MSW
Community Housing
Development Director

Stephanie Sullivan
Development
Director

Clark Davis, MA
Community Education
Director

Sheila Eames, MBA
Controller

Lily Rodriguez
Systems Administrator

Yajayra Nunez, BS
Administrative Assistant

BOARD

**Ana
Amarante-Craig, Esq.**
President

Ellen A. Musser
Vice President

**Nikolaus H.
Grieshaber**
Treasurer

Carrie Freeman
Secretary

Lenda Carrillo
Diversity and
Inclusion Officer

Crystal L. Crampton

Curtis Fenstermacher

Lynn Majarian

Thomas H. Musser

Christine Prisco

Josh Griswold

Lisa Reed

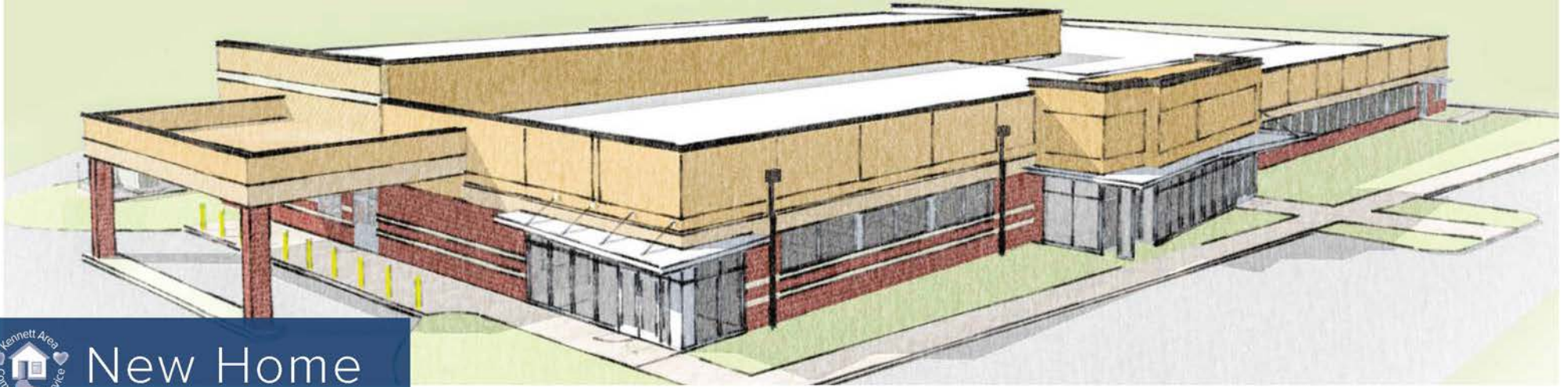
AND OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!

Deb Alesantrino
Nancy Arnosti
Dennis Babcock
Suzanne Barba
Marguerite Barbeau
Effie Barnes
Betsy Barr
Megan Basilio
Rosemary Basquill
Kimberly Benfer
Grady Benfer
Amy Berg
Hanne Blau
Julie Block
Mary Boeni
Scott Brown
Vic Brutout
Mary Beth Brutout
David Buck
Greg Burkhart
Mary Lou Burkhart
Jacqueline Burns
Angie Cadichon
Audrey Cahill
Susan Caldwell
Dee Campbell
Tom Campbell
Katherine Capperella
Bill Carl
Beth Carson
Joseph Case
David Castina
Suzanne Claricuzio
Christina Cohen
Christina Conway
Susan Cornett
David Corum
Lucy D'Angelo
Pete D'Angelo
Nathan Dalton
Ian Dargitz
Morgan Davis
Rick Delaney
Jacquelyn Delaney
Todd Denton
Maria Dizon
Shirley Dogan
Susan Dunn-Lisuzzo

Lauren Esteves
Sally Ewing
Steven Ewing
Janet Fassbender
Wayne Faulkner
Tom Felder
Lorna Fenenbock
Ingrid Fischer
Audrey Fleisher
Lisa Flynn
Adrienne Fornoff
Stuart Fornoff
Kimberly Gallen
Kathryn Geary
Kathy Gilbert
Margo Giroux-
Doehring
Patti Godri
Sue Gordon
Ellen Gray
Roxann Grimes
Ashley Harris
Barbara Harrison
Alex Hart
Judith Harvey
Mary Hastings
Bill Haubert
Barb Heck
Nathaniel Helm
Silvia Hernandez
Martin Andreik
Hernandez
Kathy Hinkelman
Diane Hochstuhl
John Hochstuhl
Frieda Hopkins
Deb Horak
Mike Horak
Debbie Hornbeck
Deanna Huber
Rob Hughes
Suzy Hughes
Gloria Ibarra
Lisa Iervolino
Thomas Iervolino
Amy Jackson
Linda Jacobson
Elaine Johnson

Joanna Johnson
Henry Johnson
Sally Kaesemeyer
Tom Kaesemeyer
Rachael Kelley
Megan Kelly
Neal Kenney
Mike King
Lisa Kletter
James Koterski
John Lafemina
Linda LaMantia
Robert LaMantia
Barbara Larsen
Marcie Lee
Jerry Legros
Veronica Lennon
Jane Lienesch
Rosemary Liljestrand
Susan Lillard
Jay Liska
Taylor Liska
Ann Lofting
Carol Lorah (Bland)
Roger Lynch
Krystina Mahoney
Lynn Majarian
Will Majarian
Caroline Mange
Christina Marinello
Bill Mattingly
Hope Mazzeo
Meg McCown
Michelle
McCutcheon
Margo McDonough
James Mercante
Anne Moran
Pamela Moriarty
Ed Murphy
Dean Musser
Ellen Musser
Barry Neufeld
Hoang-Q Nguyen
Katya Nieburg-
Wheeler
Jesse Noa
Melissa Nolan

Kelley Norton
Jean O'Neil
Jim O'Neil
Michael O'Neil
Susan Obara
Marianne Riley
Sally Palic
Jennifer Panaro
Robert J. Panaro
Janet Parks
Gianna Parrish
Faye Pember
Steven Peuquet
Joann Pfeifer
Nancy Pia
Lauren Powelson
Nancy Prindle
Brian Rehill
Annie Rehill
Lisa Rider
Gary Rindone
Leslie Rindone
Andrea Rozsits
Karl Saxe
Horace Scherer
Alma Schmidt
Kai Schubert
Sara Simasek
Bernie Simasek
Susan Singer
Scott Smith
Sharon Smith
Lisa Sommer
Blake Starnes
Sakeri Starry
Karen Sundquist
Theresa Swift
Mark Tracy
John Twardus
Joanne Velazquez
Rashida Wali
Cierra Walker
Patricia Ward
Joelle Waterkotte
Peter Waterkotte
Leitha Watkins
Heather Whittle
John Williams



New Home

We are poised for a significant transformation to eradicate poverty, hunger, and homelessness in Southern Chester County. The new, purpose-built facility is going to provide many opportunities to expand our reach and improve the lives of those in need. Here's a brief summary of what stands out about this new project:

KACS's New Facility for Hope and Collaboration

Thanks to the support of loyal donors and volunteers, KACS is moving into a larger, purposefully designed facility that will enable us to deepen our impact and create lasting change for the community. Our new location, strategically positioned near local employment opportunities, partner agencies, and the SCCOOT bus stop, will significantly improve accessibility for those who need our services the most.

Key Features of the New Facility:

Space for Programs: The new building will provide room for expanded services, including facilities for unstably housed or homeless families, such as free showers and laundry facilities.

Collaboration in one Location: 3 Offices will be available for partner agencies to offer a wide range of services, making it easier for individuals to access multiple forms of support in one location.

Improved Food Distribution: A more dignified shopping experience in the larger food cupboard with interior waiting rooms and a larger selection of goods. The warehouse will allow more substantial storage and more efficient deliveries.

Sustainability Through Partnerships: We will lease space to partner agencies, generating earned income to support our programs, while also fostering collaboration and improving resources for participants.



Looking Ahead:

With this new facility, KACS is not just increasing its capacity; we are building a sustainable future that brings together organizations and individuals committed to addressing the root causes of poverty, hunger, and homelessness. We are excited about the many opportunities ahead to strengthen our community and create lasting change.



Watch for exciting updates and Ground-breaking events! Visit www.KACSImpact.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



Together We Build Hope



*Capital Campaign Co-Chairs:
Anne Moran
Nancy Pia
Lynn Majarian*



Capital Campaign Kick-off



Picnic at the Ruins

This year, we kicked-off “Together We Build Hope” – KACS’ Capital Campaign to raise \$15 Million to build an anchor institution to provide a central space for collaboration to combat hunger and homelessness in Southern Chester County.

KACS New Home will expand food distribution, enhance social services, grow community education workshops, and amplify community services to help our neighbors who are living in poverty.

Join us in this transformative effort that will strengthen our community where everyone is responsible for its success.

Your donation will create a healthy, thriving community in Southern Chester County where everyone can access the resources they need to lead a life filled with opportunity.



To date, we have raised **\$6,190,000*** of our \$15 Million goal, thanks to the incredible support of people like you. And we still have a way to go.

Your donation today is an investment in a healthier, more vibrant community and a lasting legacy that echoes through the lives of countless individuals and families in Southern Chester County.

For information about ***Together We Build Hope*** KACS Capital Campaign, and to donate online:

www.KACSImpact.org/NewHome



Let's build hope together.



*As of September 30, 2024



Help Strengthen our Community

How you can make a positive impact on our community:

Online

Visit
www.KACSImpact.org
and click
“Please Donate”

Cypress Legacy –
Your Opportunity To
Leave A Lasting Legacy

Order your donation
on Amazon and ship
directly to KACS

Check out KACS
Impactful Impressions
and order your swag



Ways to support KACS

Out & About

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

Join us at
KACS events:

January 29, 2025
Annual Meeting

February 28, 2025
Empty Bowls

March/April
Ground breaking
Fundraiser at the
Yellow House

September
Kennett Arts Festival
Bourbon & Brix

And more!

In Person

Volunteer at KACS
Food Cupboard
KACSImpact.org/
Volunteer

Donate food
and supplies

Ready, Set, Collect!
Food Drive Toolkit
KACSImpact.org/Support

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



KACS Events



www.KACSImpact.org

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