



# 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.

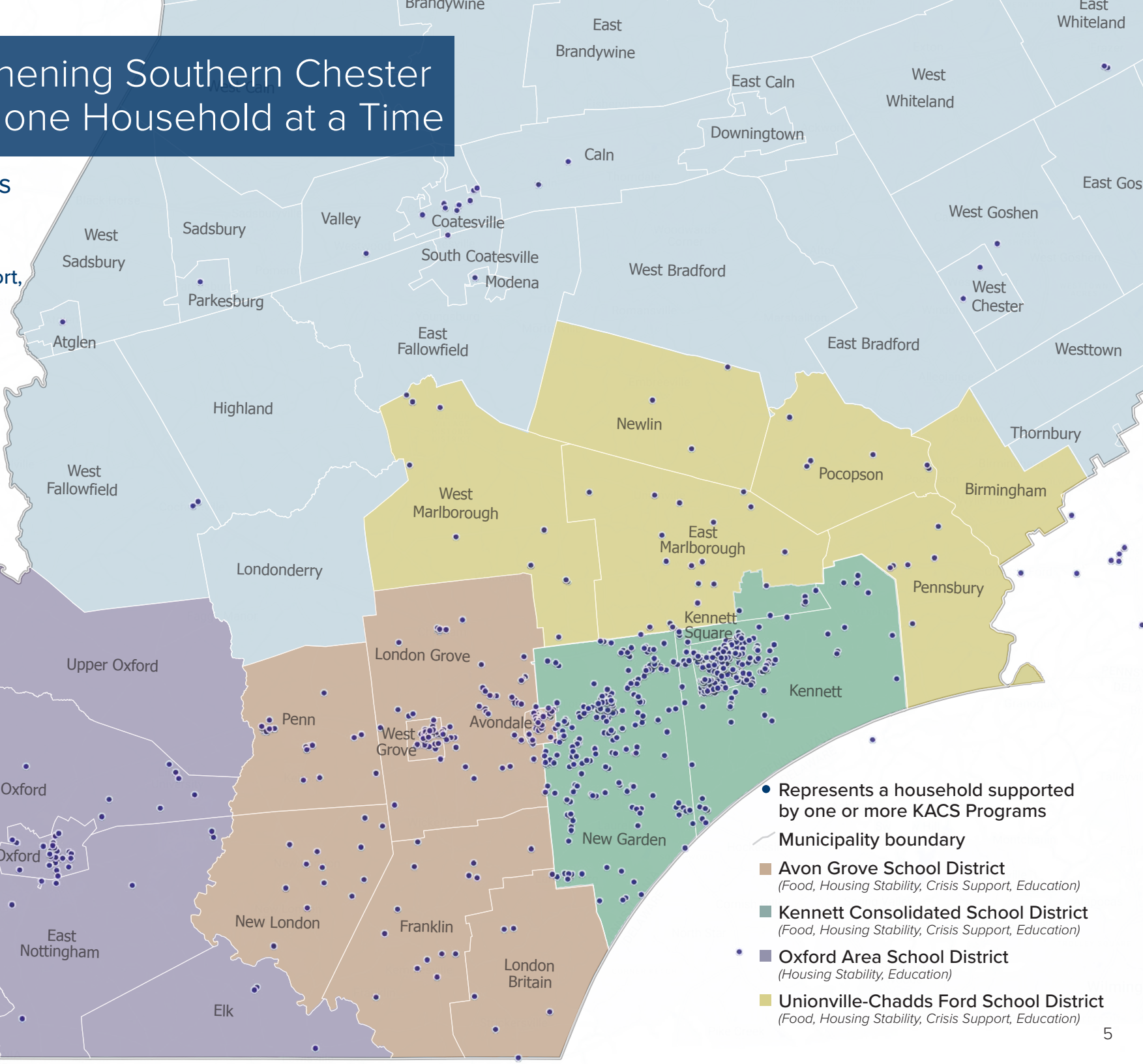


# Strengthening Southern Chester County one Household at a Time

With your help, KACS delivered hope to **2,356** households—providing housing stability, crisis support, and nourishment. Your support paves pathways for education and brighter futures.

These 2,356 households represent **6,511** Individuals:

- 455 seniors
- 4,037 adults
- 2,019 children



- 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)

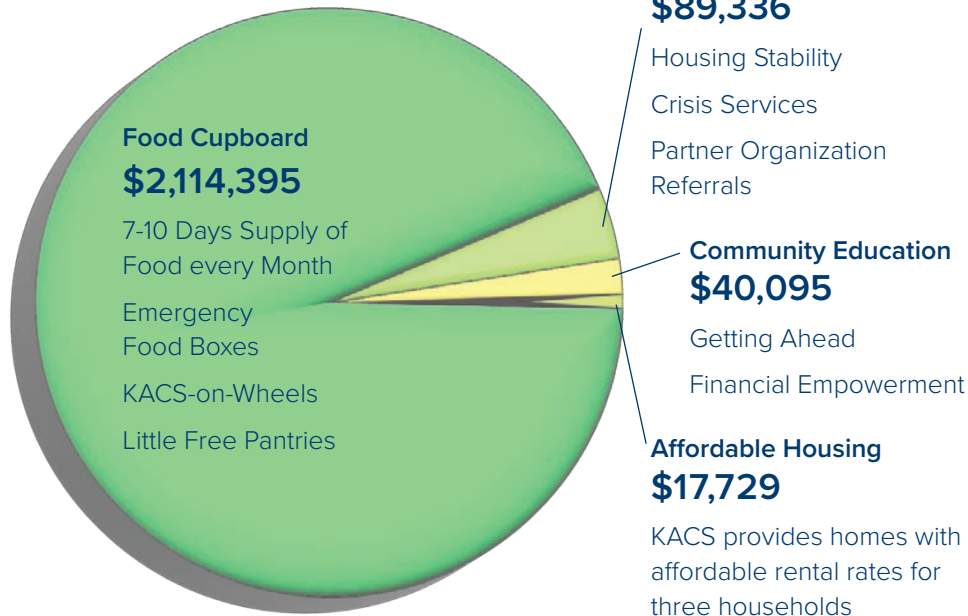




## KACS Value

### 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

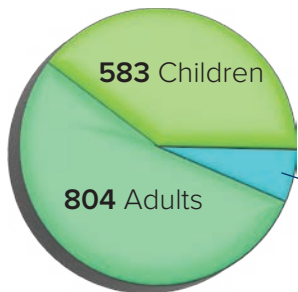
**472**  
Unique  
Households  
received Social  
Services support

**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.



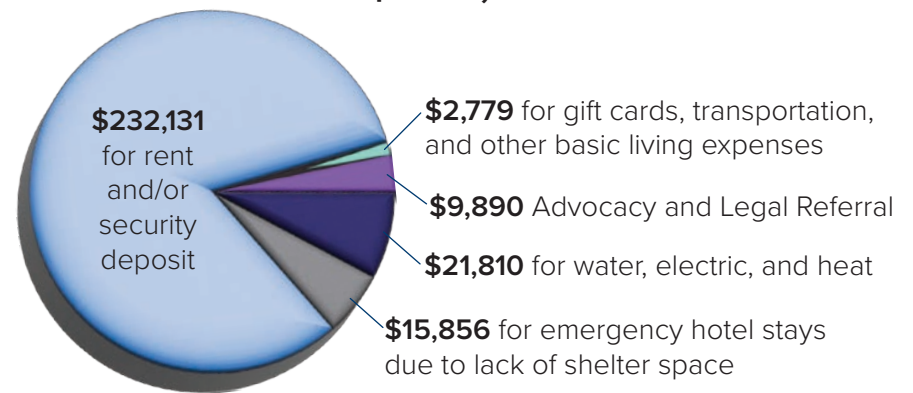
**1480** individuals  
represent these  
households:

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

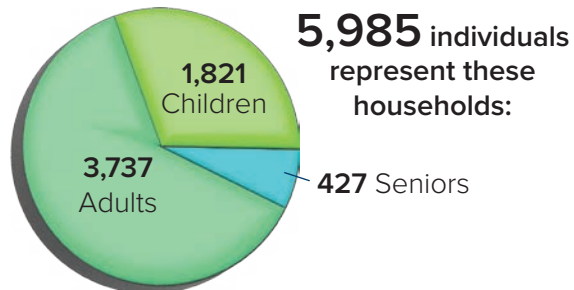
**11,711**  
Food Services  
Provided

**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.

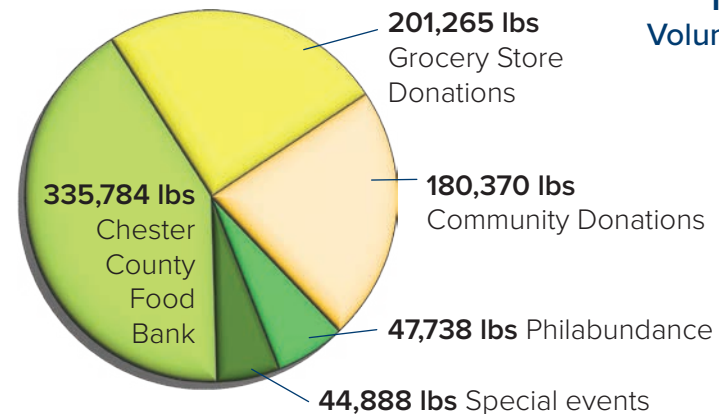
Now there are six Little Free Pantries, ensuring accessible, nutritious food for our most vulnerable neighbors around the clock. These pantries, along with our Food Cupboard, KACS-on-Wheels, and Emergency Food Boxes, are vital lifelines for those facing hunger in Southern Chester County.



*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

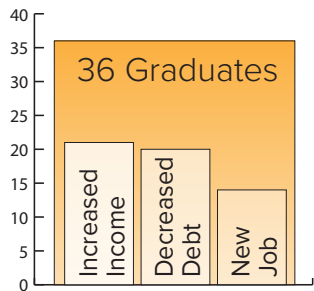
**13,186**  
Volunteer Hours



## 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.

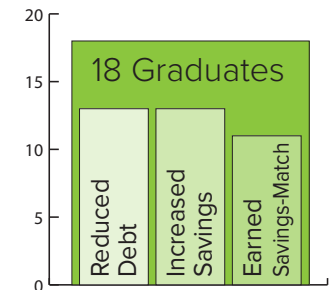
- 2 Spanish-language cohorts
- 2 English-language cohorts
- 575 stipends distributed for a total of \$14,775



*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](http://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.*



Color Me Healthy  
June 2024

*Coloring bags for children to raise awareness and increase food donations*

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*



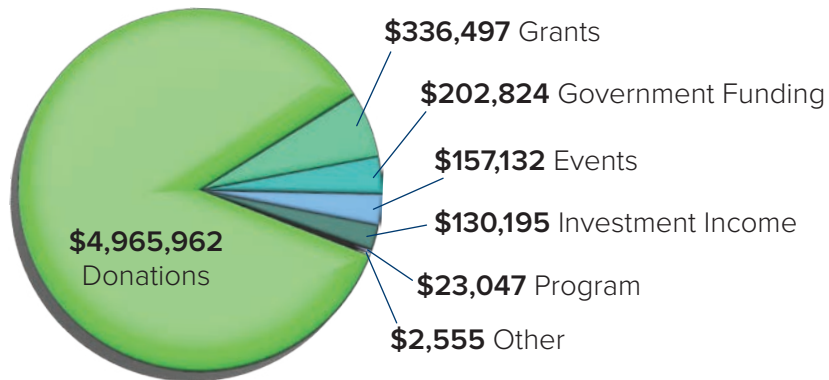




# Financial Report

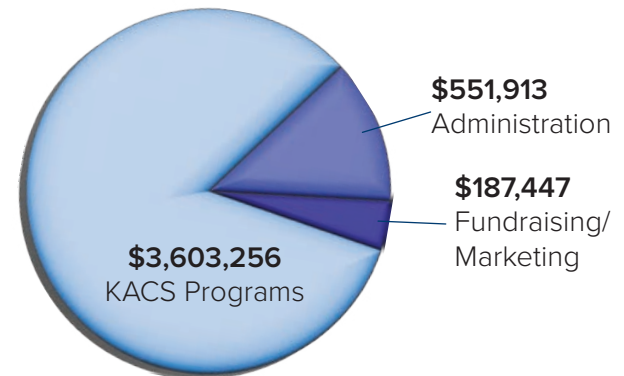
## OPERATING REVENUE

Individuals, Business, Sponsorship, and Faith Based Donations	\$1,836,568
Food Donations	\$2,114,394
Real Estate Donations	\$1,015,000
Grants	\$336,497
Government Funding	\$202,824
Events	\$157,132
Investment Income	\$130,195
Program Revenue	\$23,047
Other	\$2,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,818,212</b>



## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,342,616</b>





# 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, BSW**  
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 Claricurzio  
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

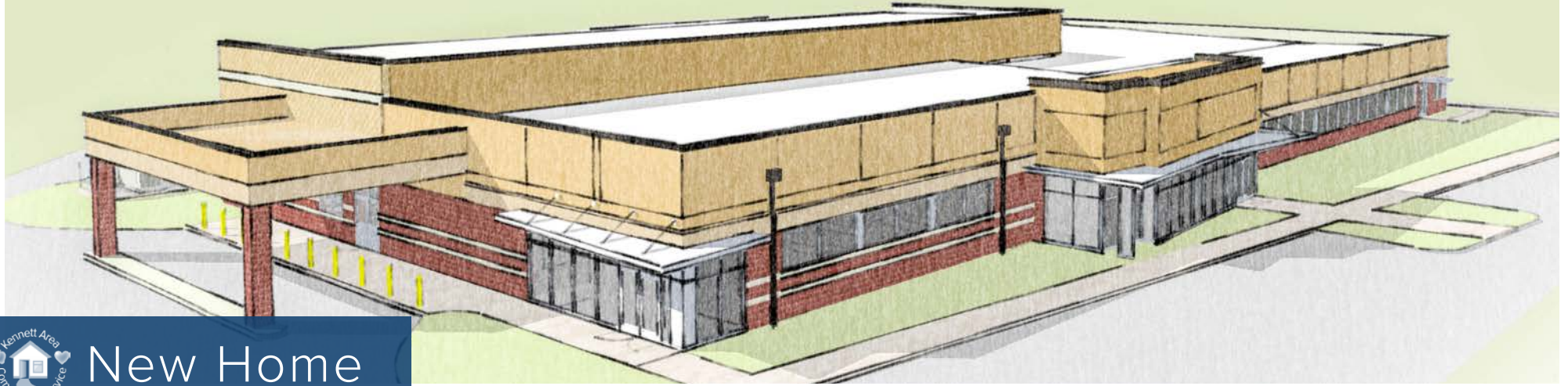
Lauren Esteves  
Sally Ewing  
Steven Ewing  
Janet Fassbender  
Wayne Faulkner  
Tom Felder  
Lorna Fenenbock  
Ingrid Fischer  
Audrey Fleisher  
Lisa Flynn  
Adrienne Fornoff  
Stuart Fornoff  
Kimberly Gallen  
Kathryn Geary  
Kathy Gilbert  
Margo Giroux-  
Doehring  
Patti Godri  
Sue Gordon  
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

Please visit [www.KACSImpact.org](http://www.KACSImpact.org) for a list of our dedicated supporters and donors.





# 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.

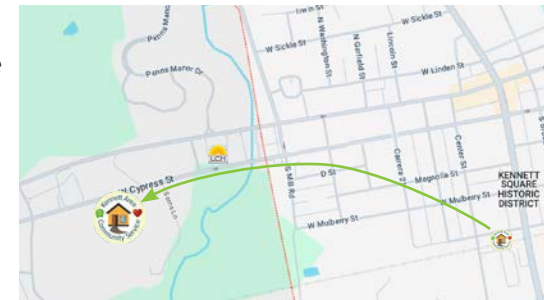
### Key Features of the New Facility:

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://KACSImpact.org/)  
Volunteer

Donate food  
and supplies

Ready, Set, Collect!  
Food Drive Toolkit  
[KACSImpact.org/Support](http://KACSImpact.org/Support)

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



**KACS Events**



**[www.KACSImpact.org](http://www.KACSImpact.org)**

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