

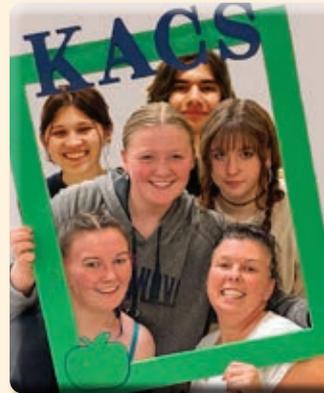


# KACS Annual Impact Report

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025



Building Hope  
and Stability for  
Our Neighbors



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on 2025, I am struck by how deeply this work is rooted in community. KACS exists because neighbors show up for one another. Your support makes that possible every day.

This year, families across Southern Chester County faced real and growing pressures: higher costs, pauses in public benefits, and unexpected emergencies that pushed already-tight budgets to the edge. Because of you, KACS was able to respond when it mattered most. Your generosity provided not only food, but reassurance, guidance, and practical support that helped families regain stability.

In this report, you'll see what that support made possible. Neighbors accessed nourishing food with dignity and choice. Emergency assistance helped families remain housed and meet critical needs. Workshops offered tools to strengthen financial stability and move forward with confidence. And throughout it all, volunteers and partners extended our impact—proof that when we work together, our reach is greater.

I am continually inspired by the resilience of the neighbors we serve and the compassion of this community. Together, we are not only responding to immediate needs; we are building a stronger, more stable future for families throughout our region.

Thank you for standing with KACS, for believing in our mission, and for making this work possible. We could not do this without you.

With gratitude,



Julie Bensen  
Chief Executive Officer, KACS



# KACS Annual Impact Report

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

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### 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.



# Hope Begins Here

At KACS, hope begins with meeting essential needs, ensuring every neighbor who turns to us for help has access to food, a safe place to call home, and the resources needed to move forward.

Behind every number in this report is a real family, a real story, and a moment where compassion made a difference. This impact is possible because of the generosity and commitment of our donors, community partners, and volunteers who stand with our neighbors when it matters most.



**\$3,714,883**

in community support delivered by KACS to build hope and stability for neighbors across Southern Chester County



**2,291**

Households received support

=



**6,298**

Total neighbors served



**85¢**

of every dollar goes directly to our neighbors in need



**15,478**

Hours served by 258 volunteers



**13,896**

Services provided at our Food Cupboard



**1,137,974**

Pounds of food and essential supplies distributed



**3,951**

Social Service Interactions



**\$258,708**

Financial Assistance to stabilize families in crisis



**278**

Community Education Participants



**3**

Affordable Homes owned by KACS



**22**

Partner Agencies



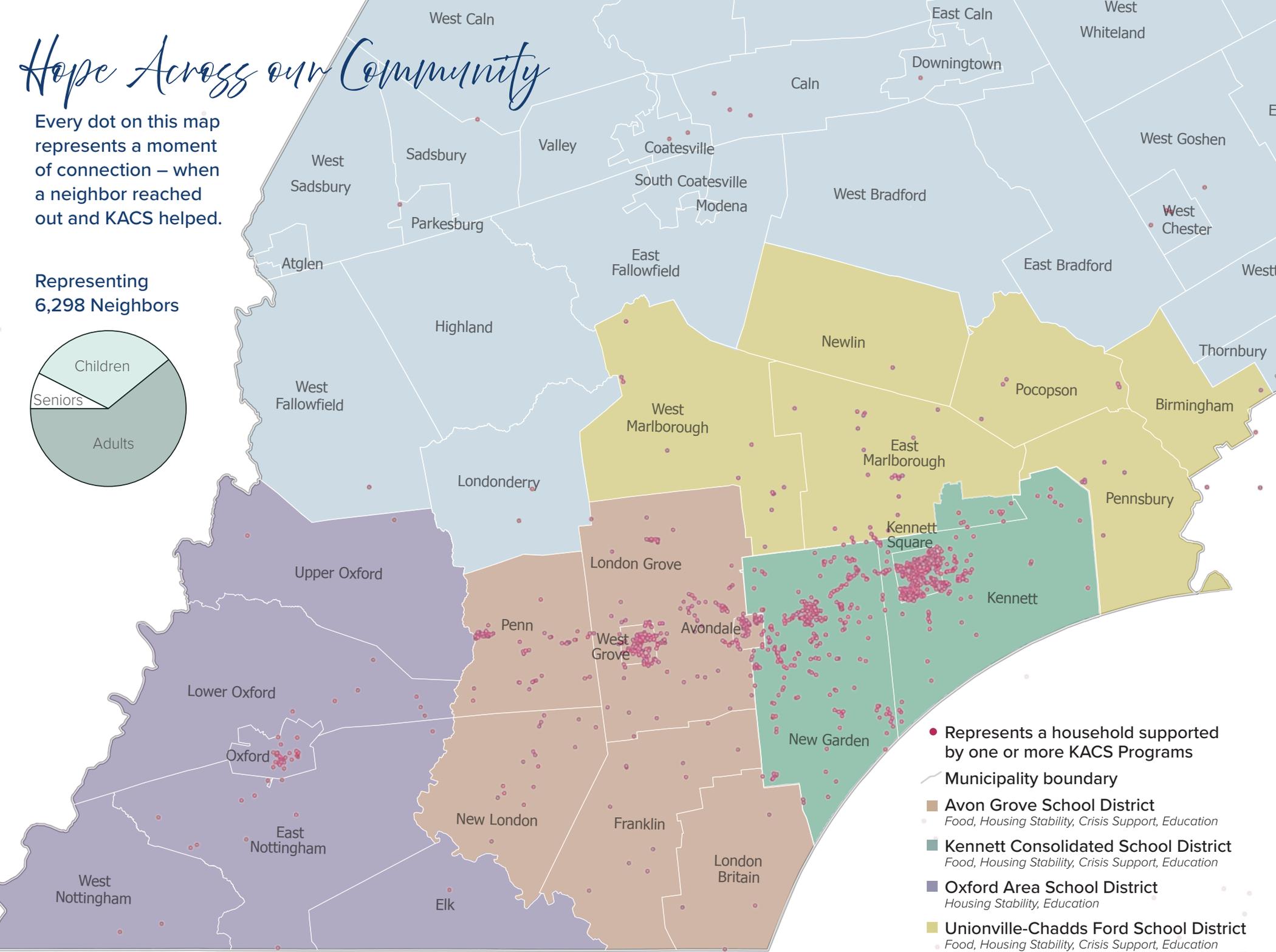
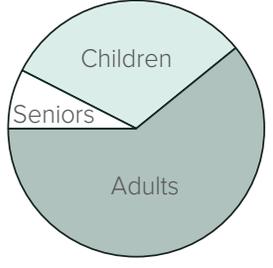
**1,483**

Festive food boxes for Holiday meals

# Hope Across our Community

Every dot on this map represents a moment of connection – when a neighbor reached out and KACS helped.

Representing 6,298 Neighbors



- 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*



# Social Services

Emergency assistance that stabilizes families, seniors, and individuals.

This year, the KACS Social Services Team walked alongside 458 households, helping them move toward the fundamental right of safe, stable housing. A home is more than a place to sleep, it is the foundation for well-being, where families can share nutritious meals, children can learn and grow, and individuals can plan for the future.

As the cost of living continues to rise, working families are being pushed to the edge of housing instability. The consequences are far-reaching: long commutes, interrupted education, and weakened community connections. Yet even in these challenges, there is hope.



**458**

Unique Households received Social Services support

This represents **1,447 Individuals**



**24**

Households: rehoused from homelessness or imminent homelessness



**3,951**

Participant Interactions: to establish and maintain safe, stable housing



**54**

Households: prevented eviction and homelessness



**24**

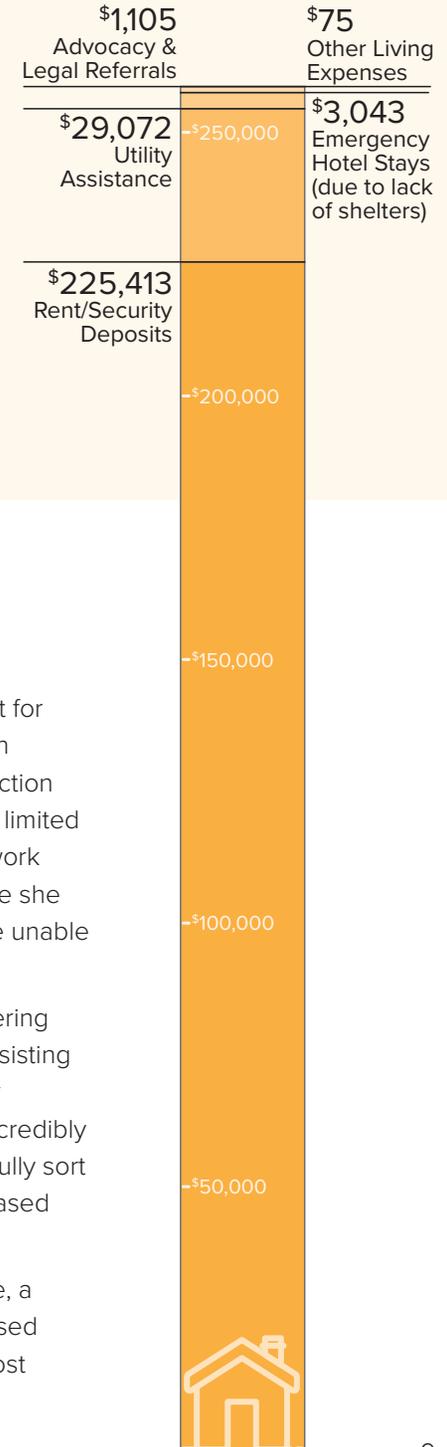
Households: prevented utility shut off

*"I really appreciate how KACS employees respect and help people that need the help."*

*- KACS Participant*

## Financial Assistance

KACS provided \$258,708 in direct financial assistance to help neighbors remain safely housed and connected to essential services. The largest share of support was dedicated to rent and security deposits, preventing homelessness and promoting long-term housing stability. Additional funds helped neighbors keep utilities on, access emergency hotel stays during crises, receive advocacy and legal referrals, and help with transportation and other living expenses.



### A Safe Home and Compassion When It Mattered Most

After living in her apartment for 16 years, June, a senior with disabilities, received an eviction notice. With no local family, limited

transportation, and a long walk to and from work each day, she faced the loss of the only home she had known. KACS staff and the landlord were unable to establish a resolution.

KACS helped June secure a new home, covering her security deposit and first month's rent, assisting with a housing voucher application and utility assistance, and supporting her through an incredibly difficult transition, including helping her carefully sort her belongings and honor her recently deceased cat with dignity and care.

Today, June is settled safely in her new home, a reminder that compassionate, community-based support can provide stability, even in life's most challenging moments.



# Food Cupboard

Providing food with dignity and choice

This year, KACS witnessed firsthand the growing strain on families struggling to make ends meet. The Food Cupboard became an even more critical source of support, serving an average of 926 households each month who rely on the nourishment we provide.

Through the Food Cupboard Shopping, KACS-on-Wheels Deliveries, Emergency Food Boxes, and Friday Bonus Shopping, KACS ensures that nutritious food reaches neighbors facing hunger. Together, these programs form a vital, responsive network, meeting immediate needs while helping families maintain stability and dignity.



**2,091**

Unique Households received food and essential supplies

This represents **5,749** Individuals



**2,215**

Deliveries to individuals' homes and seniors living in communities



**13,896**

Services provided to our neighbors in need



**1,483**

Festive food boxes for Holiday meals



**1,137,974**

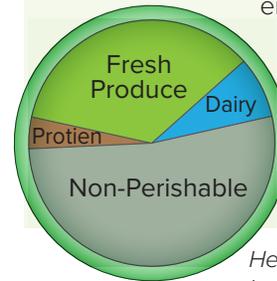
Pounds of food and essential supplies distributed

*Because of our community's support, KACS Food Cupboard remains a reliable source of food for families facing hunger.*

## Filling KACS Food Cupboard shelves

The Food Cupboard is made possible through the generosity and collaboration of our community. Nutritious food is sourced through individual and business donations, food rescue efforts that recover surplus food from grocers and other partners, a strong partnership with Chester County Food Bank, and strategic bulk food purchases to fill gaps.

Together, these sources allow KACS to offer a consistent, reliable supply of healthy food while responding quickly to changes in need. By leveraging community generosity and trusted partnerships, the Food Cupboard remains a vital resource,

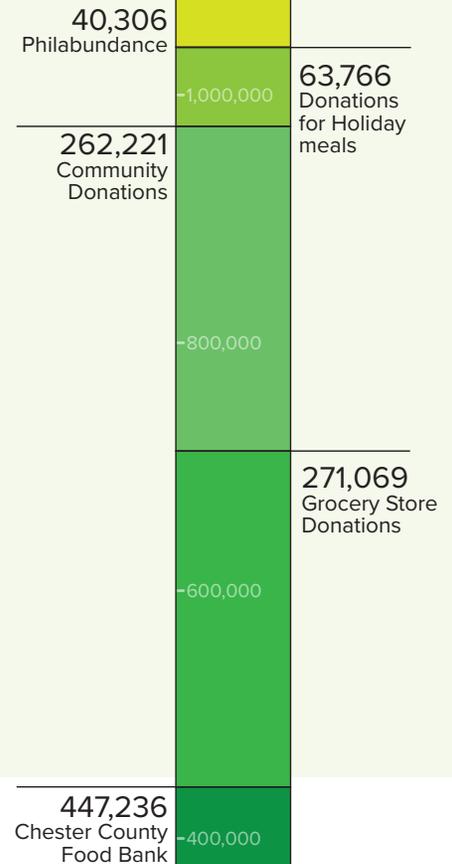


ensuring neighbors across Southern Chester County have access to nourishment with dignity and care.

*Healthy Foods distributed by the Food Cupboard*



**1,084,598**  
Pounds Donated





# Community Education

Workshops and guidance for long-term stability

KACS offers participant-focused programs that build connections, resources, and confidence for people with lived experience of poverty, while community-wide workshops educate the public about the realities of poverty and pathways to economic mobility.



Getting Ahead Workshop



**278**

Community members participated in these workshops that are offered free of charge



**46**

Getting Ahead Graduates



**38**

Financial Empowerment Graduates



**194**

Bridges Out of Poverty and Poverty Simulation Participants



**13**

Community Advisory Committee Members

*Ten Financial Empowerment Workshop graduates previously relied on KACS Social Services, and none have needed support in the year since completing the program.*



**Getting Ahead** is a 16-week program designed for individuals with lived experience of poverty to explore resources, build practical tools, and develop supportive connections that move them toward greater economic stability while also strengthening the community as a whole. Offered in Spanish and English.

Inspired the following outcomes:

- 30** Increased Income
- 30** Lowered Debt
- 15** Started a New Job
- 10** New Bank Account
- 4** New Certification
- 2** Volunteering at KACS



The **Financial Empowerment** Workshop is a five-week program for Getting Ahead graduates that builds practical skills and confidence around financial decision-making. Offered in Spanish and English.

Witnessed the following outcomes:

- 29** Increased Savings
- 27** Decreased Debt
- 36** Increased Financial Skills
- 24** Earned Savings Match

These graduates are eligible for a Savings Match of up to \$1,000, providing a meaningful boost toward important life goals such as emergency savings, first home, or child's education.



The **Bridges Out of Poverty** workshops and **Poverty Simulation** help community members better understand the realities and complexities of poverty while building empathy and shared language across sectors. Through interactive discussion and hands-on experiences, participants gain insight into the challenges faced by individuals and families with limited resources.



The **Community Advisory Committee** is a bilingual program that brings together dedicated community members who share their lived experience to help guide KACS programs and services. By listening to the voices of those most directly impacted, KACS is better able to respond to real needs, strengthen program effectiveness, and ensure services are delivered with dignity and respect.



# Housing Initiative

Home is the first step out of poverty

Stable, affordable housing is a cornerstone of economic security and community well-being. The KACS Housing Initiative represents a long-term, proactive step toward making that a reality in Southern Chester County.

With its designation as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), KACS is able to acquire, renovate, and preserve residential properties as permanently affordable rental homes for low-income, working families, a solution that aligns with our mission to support neighbors where they live and work.

By creating and preserving homes whose rent costs no more than 30% of household income, KACS is helping neighbors achieve stability, reduce the risk of displacement, and build stronger futures.



3

Houses are owned and remain affordable for the working families who call them home.



18

Family members living in KACS homes



\$34,800

Housing Subsidy provided through these homes

*Preserving affordability. Strengthening stability through community support*

## When a House Becomes a Home

Across the country, families are being displaced as affordable housing is sold or converted beyond their reach. By accepting the donation of a home and retaining the low-income tenant, KACS preserved affordability and ensured the family could remain rooted in their community. When significant repairs became necessary, the family temporarily relocated while renovations were completed through a HOME Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Grant from the Chester County Department of Community Development.



*KACS team welcoming the family to their newly renovated home.*

## Four months later, the family returned and couldn't stop smiling.

They noticed the big changes first: an extra bedroom and new kitchen appliances. But what mattered most were the thoughtful details that made the house feel like it was designed for their daily lives, including a shelf built just above the washer and dryer, wider doorways, and a gently sloped ramp into the living room so their child who uses a wheelchair could move safely and freely throughout the home.

## These weren't just construction choices. They reflected care, dignity, and respect.

The family shared another concern. They had lost access to their backyard garden and storage shed. These were essential resources that helped stretch their grocery budget and safely store a generator required for their medical needs. KACS listened. Two raised garden beds and a new shed are now being added, restoring independence, pride, and a sense of normalcy. Together, these thoughtful choices transformed a renovated house into a true home.



# Volunteers & Community

The Power of Community in Action

KACS is deeply grateful to our volunteers and community partners whose unwavering support makes our work possible. Through generous contributions of time, expertise, and collaboration, you help ensure neighbors have access to food, housing stability, and essential resources when they need them most. Your commitment strengthens not only KACS, but our entire community—building a more compassionate, resilient future for all.



**252**

Active volunteers support KACS across all programs



**15,478**

Hours served by volunteers



**18**

Corporate and Community volunteer groups



**22**

Partner Agencies actively collaborating with KACS

*We couldn't do it without your time, dedication and support!*

Deb Alesantrino  
Dina Appleby  
Jesus Arias  
Dennis Babcock  
Marguerite Barbeau  
Effie Barnes  
Betsy Barr  
Megan Basilio  
Rosemary Basquill  
Kimberly Benfer  
Grady Benfer  
Julie Bensen  
Amy Berg  
Allison Blackwell  
Hanne Blau  
Julie Block  
Mary Boeni  
Karen-Lee Brofee  
Scott Brown  
Colette Brus  
Mary Beth Brutout  
Vic Brutout  
Martha Bryans  
David Buck  
Mary Lou Burkhart  
Greg Burkhart  
Audrey Cahill  
Susan Caldwell  
Dee Campbell  
Thomas Campbell  
Katherine Capperella  
William Carl  
Beth Carson  
Joseph Case  
Shelly Case  
David Castina  
Rachel Castro  
Suzanne Claricurzio  
Lauren Connell  
Christina Conway  
Susan Cornett  
David Corum  
Lucy D'Angelo  
Pete D'Angelo  
Nate Dalton  
Ellen Davies  
Jacquelyn Delaney  
Rick Delaney

Todd Denton  
Cynthia DeVitto  
Jennifer DiFelice  
Maria Dizon  
Shirley Dogan  
Stephanie Dowling  
Susan Dunn  
Sally Ewing  
Steven Ewing  
Janet Fassbender  
Harry Fatzinger  
Wayne Faulkner  
Camille Faust  
Tom Felder  
Lorna Fenenbock  
Janice Finn  
Ingrid Fischer  
Audrey Fleisher  
Lisa Flynn  
Stu Fornoff  
Adrienne Fornoff  
Sylvia Fox  
Carrie Freeman  
Marissa Frizzell  
Angela Gaesser  
Paige Ganti  
Robin Garrett  
Jennifer Gaskins  
Kathryn Geary  
Kathy Gilbert  
Margo Giroux-Doehring  
Patti Godri  
Sue Gordon  
Beth Gotthold  
Matthew Grabowsky  
Ellen Gray  
Nick Grieshaber  
Roxann Grimes  
Alexander Groff  
Eudis Guerra  
Jessica Guzman  
Ashley Harris  
Barbara Harrison  
Judy Harvey  
Mary Hastings  
Trish Hatcher

William Haubert  
Barb Heck  
Nathaniel Helm  
Silvia Hernandez  
Andreik Hernandez  
Cathy Hinkelman  
Susan Dunn  
Diane Hochstuhl  
John Hochstuhl  
Frieda Hopkins  
Debbie Hornbeck  
Suzy Hughes  
Robert Hughes  
Gloria Ibarra  
Lisa Iervolino  
Thomas Iervolino  
Amy Jackson  
Linda Jacobson  
Lauren Johns  
Kate Johns  
Elain Johnson  
Elle Johnson  
Nicholas Keating  
Rachael Kelley  
Megan Kelly  
Alex Kemble  
Michele Kemble  
Neal Kenney  
Michael King  
Heather King  
Lisa Kletter  
Daniel Knabb  
Park Komacek  
James Koterski  
Anne Krouse  
John LaFemina  
Linda LaMantia  
Bob LaMantia

Barbara Larsen  
Jim Lawson  
Marcie Lee  
Jerry Legros  
Veronica Lennon  
Julia Lennon  
Sara Lennon  
Frank Leslie  
Kathy Leslie  
Nancy Letts  
Mary Ann Levan  
Stephen Lewis  
Jane Lienesch  
Rosemary Liljestrand  
Susan Lillard  
Jay Liska  
Taylor Liska  
Ann Lofting  
Omar Lopez  
Carol Lorah  
Margie Lutz  
Roger Lynch  
Lynn Majarian  
William Majarian  
Caroline Mange  
Christina Marinello  
Cathie Martyny  
Bill Mattingly  
Hope Mazzeo  
Meg McCown  
Michelle McCutcheon  
Jack McDonough  
Margo McDonough  
Kimberly Medina  
Jim Mercante  
Anne Moran  
Pamela Moriarty

Ed Murphy  
Ellen Musser  
Dean Musser  
Tom Musser  
Lucia Nemeth  
Scott Nemeth  
Barry Neufeld  
Hoang-Q Nguyen  
Jason Nichols  
Melissa Nolan  
Kelley Norton  
Jean O'Neil  
James O'Neil  
Susan Obara  
Marianne Pacek  
Sally Palic  
Bob Panaro  
Jennifer Panaro  
Janet Parks  
Gianna Parrish  
Faye Pember  
Steven Peuquet  
Joann Pfeifer  
Sherry Pinamonti  
Mike Piombino  
Mike Politi  
Nancy Prindle  
Alyssa Quigley  
Michael Quigley  
Brain Rehill  
Annie Rehill  
Nan Reinhardt  
Janis Reynolds  
Lisa Rider  
Gary Rindone  
Leslie Rindone  
Maria Robinson  
Anne Rodgers  
Lisa Rodriguez  
Andrea Rozsits  
Omar Sanchez  
Maria Sanchez  
Paul Sapko

Karl Saxe  
Alma Schmidt  
Kai Schubert  
Dana Schuessler  
Amanda Sheehan  
Bernie Simasek  
Sara Simasek  
Elizabeth Simpson  
Susan Singer  
Scott Smith  
Sharon Smith  
Lisa Sommer  
Melissa Stabler  
Lauren Stabler  
Craig Stabler  
Lauren Stables  
Sakeri Starry  
Allison Stautberg  
Donna Suglia  
Claire Suto  
Caitlin Swarr  
Tom Swartz  
Theresa Swift  
Troy Thompson  
Mark Tracy  
Po-ching Tsoi  
John Twardus  
Amy Van Kleeck  
Joanne Velazquez  
Olivia Velez  
Tom Volk  
Patricia Ward  
Steve Warner  
Peter Waterkotte  
Leitha Watkins  
Heather Whittle  
Rachel Wickenheiser  
John Williams  
Allison Wright  
Pat Wright  
Andrew Yetter

# Volunteers

are out of this world!





# Financial Report

Measurable outcomes of your generosity

In 2025, KACS generated **\$4,547,788** in operating revenue, reflecting strong community support and diversified funding. Revenue was driven primarily by food donations, individual, business, sponsorship, and faith-based giving, along with government funding, grants, investment income, events, and program revenue.

Total operating expenses were **\$4,362,893**, supporting core programs including the Food Cupboard, Social Services, Housing Initiative, and Community Education, while maintaining responsible administrative and fundraising operations.



**85¢**  
of every dollar spent by KACS directly supported programs that provide essential services for our neighbors



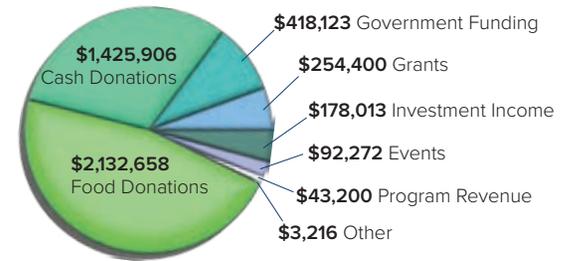
**\$3,558,564**  
Community Donations



**\$3,714,883**  
Program Expenses

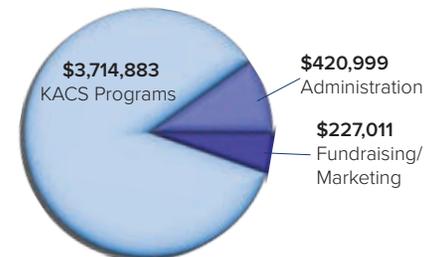
## OPERATING REVENUE **\$4,547,788**

Food Donations	\$2,132,658
Cash Donations	\$1,425,906
Government Funding	\$418,123
Grants	\$254,400
Investment Income	\$178,013
Events (net of expenses \$64,199)	\$92,272
Program Revenue	\$43,200
Other	\$3,216



## OPERATING EXPENSES **\$4,362,893**

Food Cupboard	\$2,653,578
Social Services	\$741,942
Administration	\$420,999
Fundraising/Marketing	\$227,011
Housing	\$163,409
Community Education	\$155,954



Figures shown are unaudited financials.



# New Home

## Building Hope for the Next 70 Years

In the years following the pandemic, the number of individuals and families served by KACS has more than doubled. Rising housing costs, food insecurity, and economic instability continue to impact households across Southern Chester County, placing unprecedented demand on our services.

While our mission has remained constant, our space has not kept pace.

### Today's reality:

- Demand continues to grow
- Staff and volunteers work in tight quarters
- Families experience longer wait times, often outside, creating safety and accessibility challenges
- Critical services have been paused due to space constraints



### A Major Organizational Milestone

After evaluating multiple options, KACS reached a major milestone when our bid was accepted to purchase a large portion of 600 S. Broad Street in Kennett Square.

This downtown property provides the space and accessibility needed to support integrated services all under one roof.



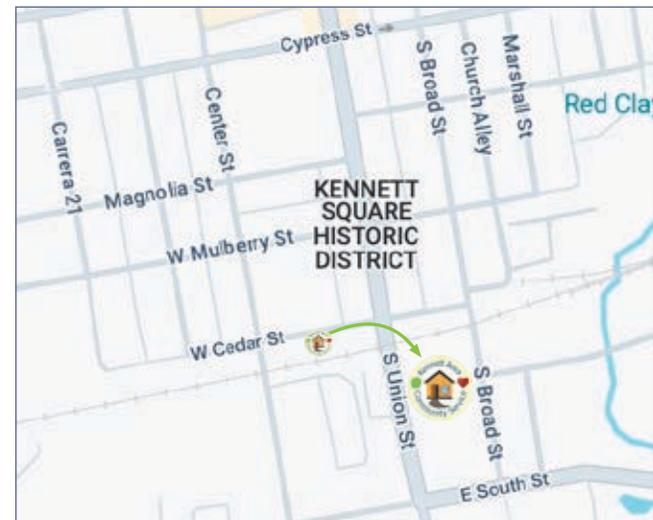
600 South Broad Street – KACS New Home

### Meeting Today's Need ... and Tomorrow's

Our future facility is not simply a larger building. It will be designed for how we serve today and how we must grow into the future. Planning for KACS's future will continue to be focused on long-term sustainability and community impact.

Key planning priorities:

- **Function-driven design** – shaping the building around how we serve families
- **Safety, dignity, and accessibility** – creating welcoming, easy-to-navigate spaces for all
- **Operational responsibility** – aligning facility size and costs with long-term operating plans
- **Flexibility** – designing spaces that can adapt as programs evolve
- **Scalability** – room to grow without repeated relocations





Together, we are building more than a building.

*We are building capacity, safety, dignity—and hope.*

This new home represents what is possible when a community comes together around a shared commitment to care for its neighbors. It will allow KACS to meet today's urgent needs while preparing for the challenges ahead by expanding access to services, creating safer and more welcoming spaces, and ensuring every person who walks through our doors is met with respect and compassion.

Philanthropic partners and countless volunteers have already played a critical role in reaching our goal, helping transform a long-held vision into a tangible path forward. Their generosity has supported thoughtful planning, responsible financing, and the acquisition of a space that will serve our community well into the future.

As the project continues, ongoing community partnership will remain essential to completing this transformation. Together, we are strengthening a vital community resource and ensuring KACS remains ready to respond with compassion, dignity, and stability for years to come.



*Capital Campaign Co-Chairs:  
Anne Moran, Nancy Pia, Lynn Majarian  
whose leadership is helping to guide  
this important project*



For information about the project, visit [www.KACSImpact.org/New-Home](http://www.KACSImpact.org/New-Home)

or contact Julie Bensen  
[Julie@KACSImpact.org](mailto:Julie@KACSImpact.org)  
610-925-3556 x112

*Let's build hope together*



# Our Team

The dedicated team behind our mission

## BOARD (2024-25)

- Ana Amarante-Craig, Esq.**  
President
- Ellen A. Musser**  
Vice President
- Nikolaus H. Grieshaber**  
Treasurer
- Carrie Freeman**  
Secretary
- Curtis Fenstermacher**  
Diversity and Inclusion Officer
- Christine Bacon**
- Eric Connolly**
- Crystal Crampton**
- Paige Ganti**
- Lauren Johns**
- Lynn Majarian**
- Thomas H. Musser**
- Lisa Reed**
- Andrea Vega**
- Shannon Waterkotte**

## STAFF (as of Dec 31, 2025)

- Julie Bensen**  
Chief Executive Officer
- Cheri Dill**  
Chief Financial Officer
- Kecia Crowl**  
Communications & Engagement Director
- Clark Davis**  
Community Education Director
- Elizabeth Flores**  
Program Director
- Loren Lynch**  
Food Cupboard Director
- Cheryl R. Miles**  
Community Housing Development Director
- Mariana Calderon**  
Front Office Coordinator
- Gonzalo Cano**  
Emergency Assistance Advocate
- Sheila Eames**  
Controller
- Dean Kelly**  
Process Improvement Manager
- Yajayra Nunez**  
HR & Grant Administrator
- Johana Perez**  
Emergency Assistance Advocate
- Lily Rodriguez**  
Systems Administrator
- Yvonne Rodriguez**  
Data Entry Clerk
- Delaney Marin Tapia**  
Resource Navigator
- Nancy Tapia**  
Participant Advocate Administrator
- Rebecca Villanueva**  
Housing Stability Advocate

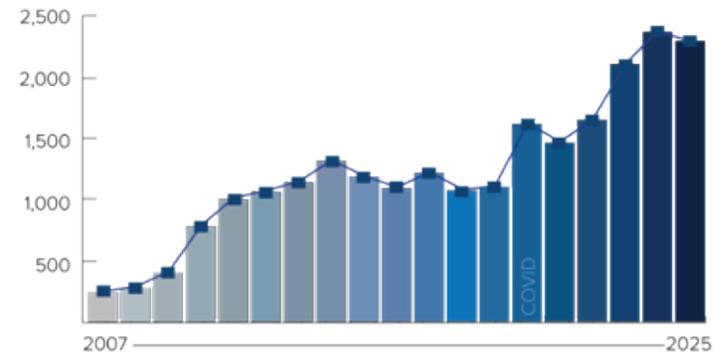


# KACS Through the Years

Over 70 years of helping neighbors

- 1954** Christmas food baskets delivered to 14 families in need—planting the seeds of KACS’ mission.
- 1966** The Food Cupboard opens out of Bill Buffington’s home.
- 2009** KACS relocates to Cedar Street to better serve the growing community.
- 2011** Social Services become available at KACS, expanding support beyond food assistance.
- 2016** The Resource Center opens next door and educational workshops begin, strengthening community education and economic mobility efforts.
- 2023** The Housing Initiative accepts its first home, marking a major step in preserving affordable housing.
- 2025** KACS provides food, housing, crisis services, and education for more than 6,000 of our most vulnerable neighbors across Southern Chester County.

From 14 families in 1954 to 2,219 households this year





You can make a positive impact on our community:



*Support*  
KACS online

*Join us*  
at KACS events



*Volunteer*  
for KACS programs

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

PO Box 1025 • 136 W. Cedar Street  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

610-925-3556

Info@kacsimpact.org



KennettAreaCommunityService

Kennett Area Community Service is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

EIN: 23-2215441