

A stylized illustration in shades of green, brown, and white. It features a central corn cob with kernels, wheat stalks, and a bowl of yellow corn. Two hands are shown holding the wheat stalks. The background is filled with abstract, swirling patterns and outlines of various food items like carrots and a bowl of soup.

**just
food** 

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Dear Just Food Supporter,

For over a decade, Just Food has worked to make real the vision of a community where no person goes hungry, guided by a staunch commitment to equity and justice and a holistic definition of health and wellbeing. This year, as COVID-19 worked its way into and throughout our community, Just Food staff were at the vanguard, anticipating and developing strategies to mitigate many of the dangers and challenges the pandemic brought to bear. As a result, instead of scaling back the number of people we could serve, we entrenched ourselves in the fight, offering curbside, delivery, and mobile pantry options, ultimately expanding our reach. Our community then responded by choosing to invest in the future of Just Food by helping us transform our physical space into one that is appropriate and empowering for our growing number of shoppers and one that positions us to continue our work for years to come.

I am in awe of the unwavering care, creativity, and courage our staff showed throughout this year, adapting to every challenge to ensure our shoppers did not go without. I am grateful to our diverse and dedicated corps of volunteers who offered their time, energy, and experience to strengthen our services. I am deeply appreciative for our donors whose belief and investment in our work fueled so much of the progress we have made and continue to make. And, I am humbled to have been able to serve on this board of directors alongside so many wise, thoughtful, and brilliant champions dedicated to moving our community forward beyond the grips of hunger.

Serving as president in this historic moment has been one of the great honors of my life, and I am excited for the future of this organization and for the day our services are no longer needed.

Jevan Bremby
Just Food Board President



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jevan Bremby

KU Center for Public Partnerships & Research

Past President: Amanda Davis

ITFO Communications

Vice President: James Walden

Clayton Wealth Partners

Treasurer: Karey Chester

McDaniel Knutson Financial Partners

Secretary: Sally Hare-Schriner

Retired from University of Kansas

Jocelyn Gunter

State of Kansas

Debbie McCord

Retired from KU Endowment

Kevin Wickliffe

Koprince Law

Shantel Grace

Grace Foods and Ramen Bowl

Jacki Becker

Eleven Productions

John Sebelius

Artist, Washburn University

Elina Alterman

Lawrence Humane Society



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This time marks both significant highs and the lowest lows for Just Food and the community we serve. The organization's team and community members have faced some of the greatest challenges that an organization like ours can face, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Month after month, our organization broke its daily service numbers records serving up to 930 people in a single day. We have also had the opportunity to celebrate moments of hope and new beginnings as we reopened back into our renovated space. This space will take Just Food into the future so we can not only fight hunger but address the root causes of hunger and poverty.

This time revealed just how many people in our community are one paycheck away from going hungry. When financial struggles hit, Just Food is often the first line of defense for individuals in our community. Our work helps families prioritize their finances toward things like housing, preventing deeper financial turmoil, which creates long-term financial consequences for the family, future generations, and the community as a whole. This time showed how important our work is and that thanks to our community, we are resilient enough to take on wherever challenges come our way.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Keever
Executive Director



*"Thank you for everything you do.
I know my household isn't
struggling as much as others,
but I don't know how we would
have been able to make it as far
as we have without you."
-Just Food Shopper*



*"I've only shopped at your facility in Lawrence once because I use the Cruising Cupboard in Lecompton. Everyone is very kind, respectful and helpful. It's a wonderful service, especially during these crazy times."
-Just Food Shopper*



THE JUST FOOD COMMUNITY

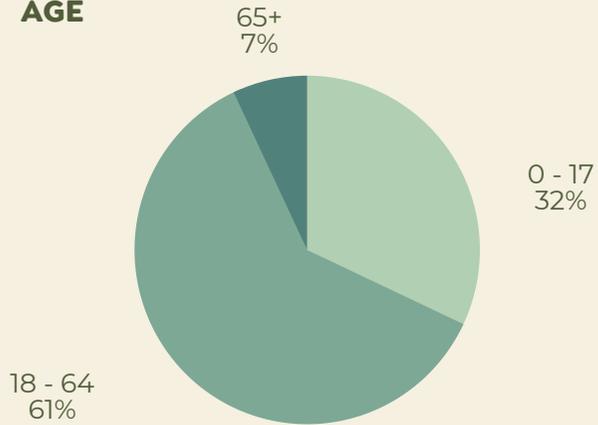
Our Shoppers

In 2020, Just Food and its partner organizations served 22,433 Douglas County residents. These individuals are our friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and family from across the community. Before March of 2020, there were 19,000 Douglas County residents who were classified as food insecure according to Feeding America. At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Douglas County experienced growth in food insecurity by 44%.

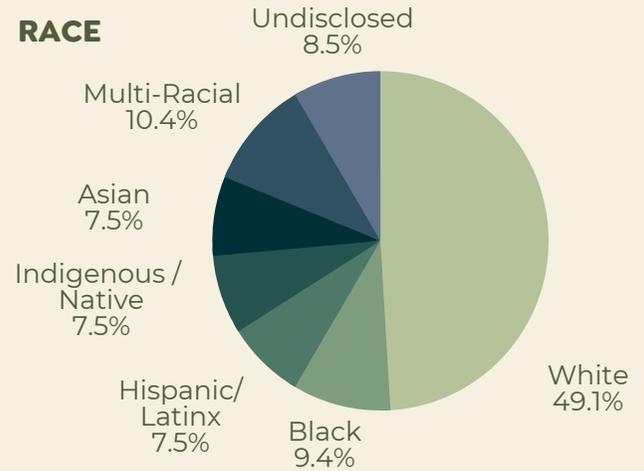
Now, Douglas County is seeing an increase in food insecurity by 20% for adults and 30% for children compared to 2019.



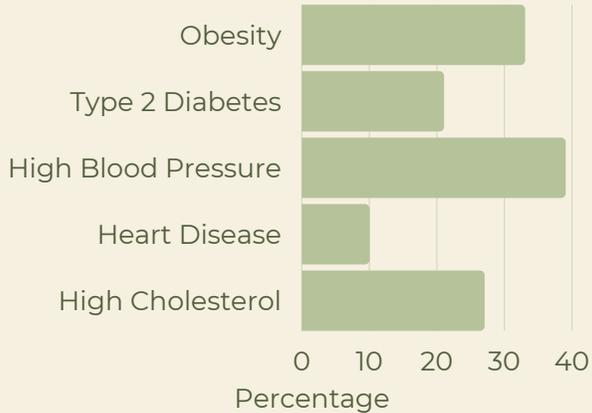
AGE



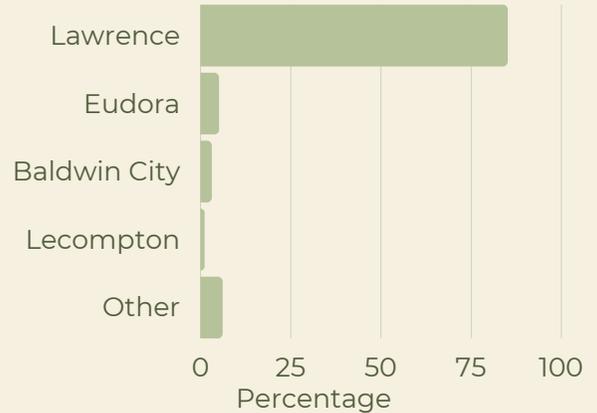
RACE



HEALTH



LOCATION





*"I love Just Food. It has saved me and my family since I lost my job and helped my daughter who makes very little in her social service job. The food is presented ethically, it is like a real grocery store, and I feel like I leave with my dignity intact."
-Just Food Shopper*



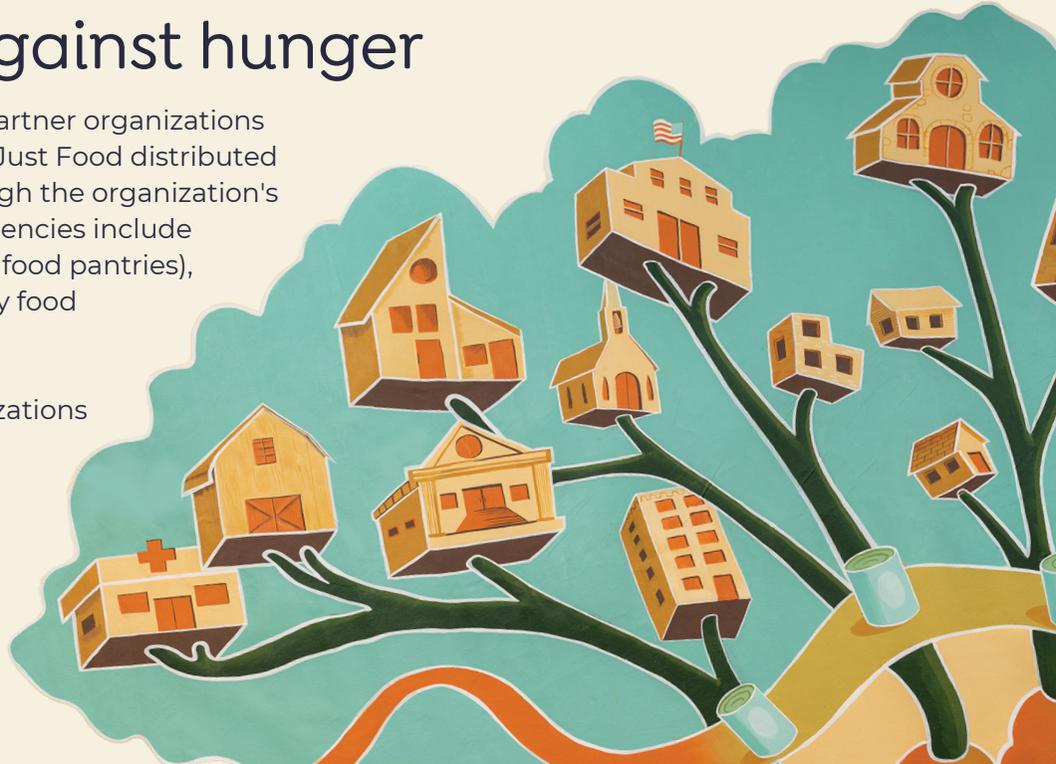


*"I am so overwhelmed with gratefulness to be able to eat fresh and clean foods from the items that I get from Just Food. Keeping good food in my body has kept me from going down a dark path in this difficult time. I know that I would be struggling with so much anxiety if I was not able to access your help."
-Just Food Shopper*

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

in the fight against hunger

Just Food partners with 30+ partner organizations throughout the year. In 2020, Just Food distributed 200,000 pounds of food through the organization's network of agencies. These agencies include Classroom Cupboards (school food pantries), Campus Cupboards (university food pantries), Care Cupboards (health system food pantries), and partner non-profit organizations in Douglas County.



CLASSROOM CUPBOARDS:

Baldwin High School
Eudora Elementary School
Eudora Intermediate
Eudora Middle School
Eudora High School
Billy Mills Middle School
Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Free State High School
Lawrence High School
Hillcrest Elementary School
New York Elementary School
Pinckney Elementary School
Schwegler Elementary School
Sunset Hill Elementary School
Woodlawn Elementary School
Broken Arrow Elementary School
Sunflower Elementary School
East Heights
Juvenile Day School

CAMPUS CUPBOARDS:

University of Kansas
Haskell Indian Nations University

HUNGER AND HEALTH:

Care Cupboard at Heartland Community
Health Center
Lawrence Memorial Hospital Health

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
Community Transition Program (C-TRAN)
Catholic Charities
DARE Center
Douglas County Community Corrections
Ecumenical Christian Ministries (ECM)
Food Not Bombs
Full Circle Youth Program (LDCHA)
Islamic Center of Lawrence
Lawrence Interdenominational Nutrition Kitchen
Lawrence Community Shelter
Lawrence Winter Shelter
Lecompton United Methodist Food Pantry
Midland Care
Prairie Ridge Apartments
Salvation Army
Senior Resource Center
St. Paul Church of Christ - Eudora Food Pantry
Stull United Methodist Food Pantry
Sunrise Project
Trinity Interfaith Food Pantry
Vermont Towers
The Willow Domestic Violence Center
Centro Hispano
Lawrence Family Promise
K-State Research & Extension
Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health
Veteran's Affairs



"I am very, very grateful for Just Food. The staff is absolutely amazing and very helpful and friendly. I'm always very satisfied with all the wonderful food I get there. All the choices are vast. I'm always amazed at all the choices. Thank you for making my groceries stretch a lot longer" - Just Food Shopper



"I have always enjoyed the experience, customer service, and food that I have received from Just Food. They are a helping hand to me and my family when times are hard. I want to thank each and everyone who volunteers and/or donates to make Just Food available for families like mine!!!"
-Just Food Shopper

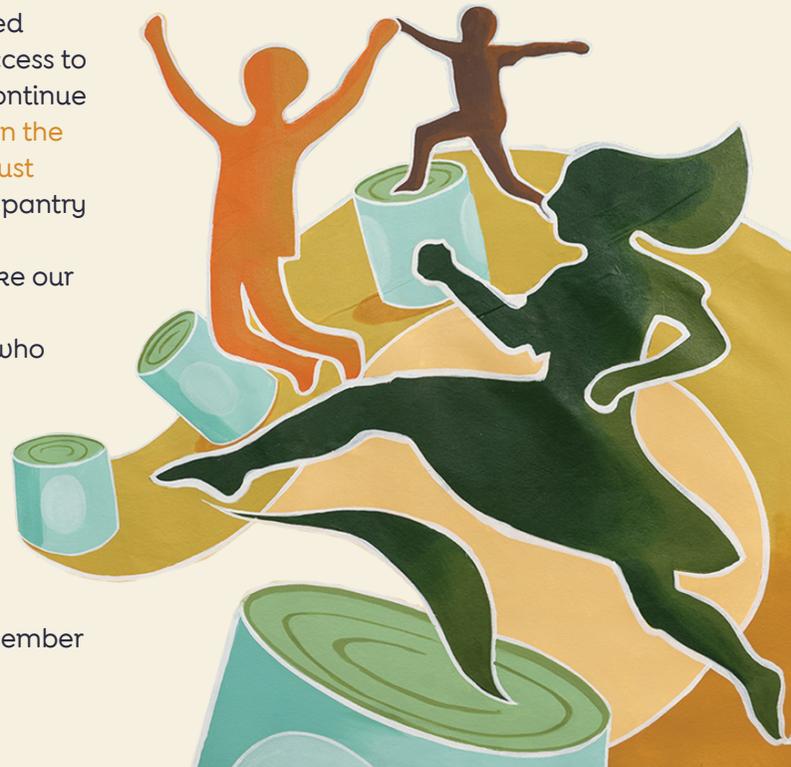


OUR HEROES

2020 Award Winners

Just Food was founded by a small group of committed volunteers who were passionate about increasing access to healthy food in Douglas County. Today, volunteers continue to be the backbone of our work. In 2020, individuals in the community donated over 16,000 hours of service to Just Food, from our daily volunteers who ensure our food pantry and warehouse operate efficiently, to the restaurant employees and owners who help us fundraise to make our work possible, to community leaders who push us to advance our mission. Each year we celebrate those who stand out and go above and beyond to advance the mission and vision of Just Food.

These three awards represent individuals who paved the way in our community. Those awards are The Carol Leffler Volunteer of the Year Award, The Ann Weick Leadership Award, and The Juan Carlos Touar-Ballah Culinary Community Member of the Year.





Paula Elster

The Carol Leffler Volunteer of the Year Award

When the pandemic started, many people stayed home while some heard the call to serve the community. Paula Elster was one of those individuals. In 2020, she contributed 950 hours of time and became an irreplaceable fixture around Just Food. Not only is she a key volunteer, she now takes on the role of onboarding and training new volunteers.



Amanda Davis

The Ann Weick Leadership Award

Amanda has served on the Just Food board since 2016. She has poured her work in development, helping Just Food grow the Kansas Food Truck Festival and Harvest Feast.

Additionally, she guided the organization through the creation of the 5 year strategic plan and led the organization through the uncertain waters of the pandemic. Her commitment to Just Food, the families we serve, and the mission of the organization is unparalleled.



Chetan Michie

The Juan Carlos Tovar-Ballah Culinary Community Member of the Year

As so many restaurants and bars were forced to close their doors, individuals from the service industry stepped up to make sure no families went hungry. Chetan Michie, owner of LatchKey Deli, did just that. He tirelessly worked packing thousands of boxes, sorting produce and streamlining distribution.



"Everyone is so nice and helpful. The variety of vegetables and fruit is encouraging to try new things. I appreciate Just Food very much!"

-Just Food Shopper



*"I appreciate everyone that works and volunteers their time and efforts. Due to Covid-19, this is the first time in my life that I have needed a food bank. It has made all the difference. Thank you!"
-Just Food Shopper*



BUILDING DIGNITY

renovating to meet the need

On March 2nd, Just Food reopened at 1000 East 11th Street after having undergone a renovation that created a more dignified shopping experience for Just Food community members. Just Food's mission is to end hunger in the community by supplying nutritious food, reducing barriers to health and well-being, and cultivating self-sufficiency for the over 20,000 unique individuals who access our services each year. Just Food also offers five specialized, direct-client programs that aim to promote health and self-sufficiency: Just Grow, Just Cook, Cooking Healthy Futures, KitchenWorks and Pots and Pan-try. **As our organization and the impact we had on the community grew, our space needed to grow as well.** Thanks to the generosity of the community, we completed a building renovation project, which accomplished our goal of building dignity at Just Food.



Grew the food pantry footprint by 250%, providing clients with a more spacious, dignified shopping experience.

Created the Ann Weick Wellness Room for private health screenings and other individualized services.

Created Claire's Kitchen, a fully-equipped cooking class area for Just Cook and other Just Food programming.

Created an ADA accessible entrance with automatic doors and an all-weather shelter.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Bo's Hog Wild Children's Fund
#BeMoreLikeClaire

The Sunderland Foundation
Kriz Charitable Fund

The Ethel & Raymond Rice Foundation
Dan Schrinier & Sally Hare Schrinier
Don & Jolisa Buchner

Douglas County Community Foundation
Justin & Jean Anderson

Daniel Watkins
James & Vickie Otten

Bud & Sheryl Jones
Suzanne Anderson

Douglas County - CARES Act Funds



*"You are a great resource. I was delighted that the site is being renovated. The improved appearance and shopping style is a welcome boost for customers."
-Just Food Shopper*





*"Your home delivery program is truly the most help to those of us in wheelchairs."
- Just Food Client*

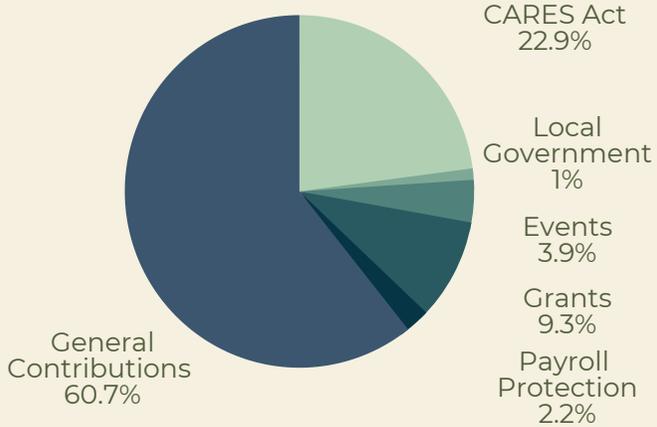
FINANCIALS

community generosity

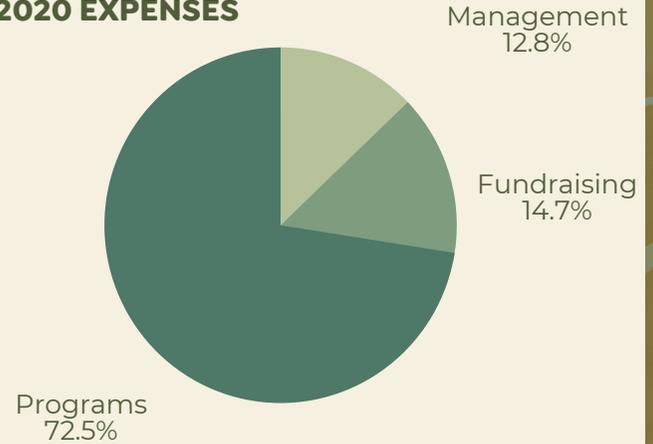
Thanks to the generosity of the Douglas County community, Just Food had the financial resources to address the needs of the increased number of those in our community who experienced food insecurity. In 2020, Just Food distributed 2,180,196 pounds of food in Douglas County. Thousands of people in our community contributed their time, money, and food to allow us to take on the challenges in 2020 and 2021 in all-new ways. Typically, events make up 25% of Just Food's revenue. For the safety of the community, Just Food was unable to have its usual slate of events. Funds from the CARES Act and generous donors made it possible to financially sustain without those events. Additionally, the community generously donated food in a variety of ways, totaling \$1,740,011.00 in value.



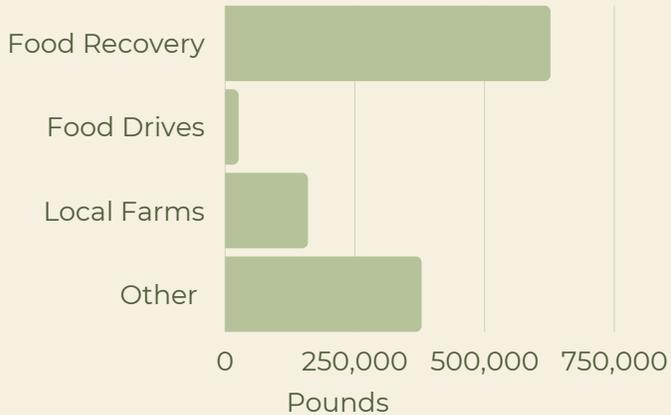
2020 REVENUE



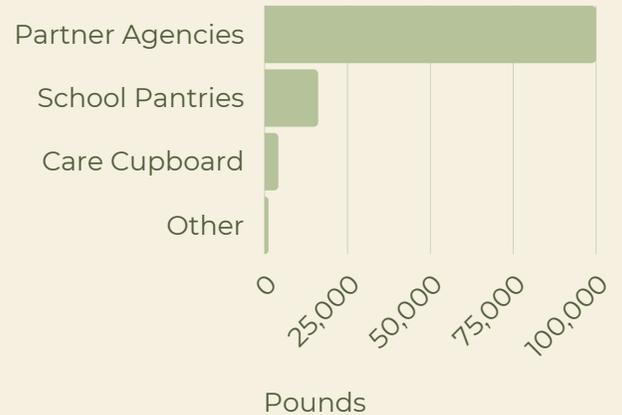
2020 EXPENSES



2020 FOOD DONATIONS



2020 PARTNER DISTRIBUTION





"I love this place and can't wait to give back by volunteering. It's been life changing and taken so much budget stress away and improved the amount of healthy food I can afford to eat! I am blessed beyond measure by Just Food."

-Just Food Shopper



*"Thank you for what you have accomplished. I appreciate the texts I receive. I even got my COVID-19 vaccination scheduled after the alert you sent."
-Just Food Shopper*



Artwork

Generously commissioned by Codi and Simon Bates, the Van Go Youth created this beautiful mural to honor and celebrate Just Food's work in the community including the Just Cook program, community partnerships, and the Cruising Cupboard, Just Food's mobile food pantry. The thoughtful artwork helps create beautiful spaces for those facing food insecurity to shop, no matter where in the county they reside or what barriers they may face to accessing healthy, nourishing food.





"You guys do incredible work in our community. Our family has utilized Just Food in the past but only sporadically when times were difficult. We are a big family living on a teacher's salary. Health insurance through my husband's employer remains downright criminal and even market plans have been out of reach for us. This year I realized that if we could find a way to create wiggle room in our food budget, the only place where we can cut back, that we could afford health insurance for me. I'm so grateful every single day to have access to a solution that not only exists but fits our food values as a family in such an abundant way. A deep-hearted thank you all."

- Just Food Shopper

Thank you
for making this possible.



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