



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CAER Receives Mobile Food Shelf Grant

In October of 2016, CAER applied for and received a \$65,000 grant from Hunger Solutions to expand its Food Outreach Programs. Outreach is a critical component in our mission to help those who struggle with hunger, but do not have the opportunity to get to CAER's facility. To reach these individuals, CAER has been slowly building a multifaceted food outreach program. The grant funds will give us an opportunity to grow these programs faster.



To expand the Senior Delivery Program, CAER purchased a full size van, and with grants from the Elk River and Otsego Lions Clubs, CAER equipped the van with a cargo lift.

This new van gives CAER the ability to deliver a large number of monthly food orders to seniors at low-income housing units; and the lift allows volunteers to load and unload them with greater ease.

In 2016 CAER also applied for and received the opportunity to collect food rescue items from Walmart, Aldi and Kwik Trip. These new stores, along with Cub, Coborn's and Target, have made it possible for CAER to reduce its food costs by 28% and increase the pounds of food distributed by 9% over last year. CAER doubled its blessings by utilizing the new van and lift to collect over 419,000 pounds of food rescue products, an amazing increase of 211,000 pounds over 2015.

Receiving the grant funds and increasing our food rescue opportunities has given CAER the chance to serve the three cities and five surrounding rural communities in our service area in new ways. We will continue to seek out and explore novel ways to reach those in our communities who are hungry. Our goal is always to empower families and relieve hunger wherever we can.

2016 Grantors

Hunger Solutions

- Mobile Food Shelf
- State Allocation

Sherburne County Area United Way

St. Cloud Mission Office

Eddy Family Foundation

Wright Hennepin Electric Trust

- General Operating Grants

Open your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless

- Matching Challenge Grant

Initiative Foundation

- Car CAER Grant
- Capacity Building Grant

Three Rivers Community Foundation

- Food Outreach Grant

Federal EFSP

Edina Realty Foundation

- Rental Assistance Grants

Greater Mpls Council of Churches

- MN FoodShare Matching Grant

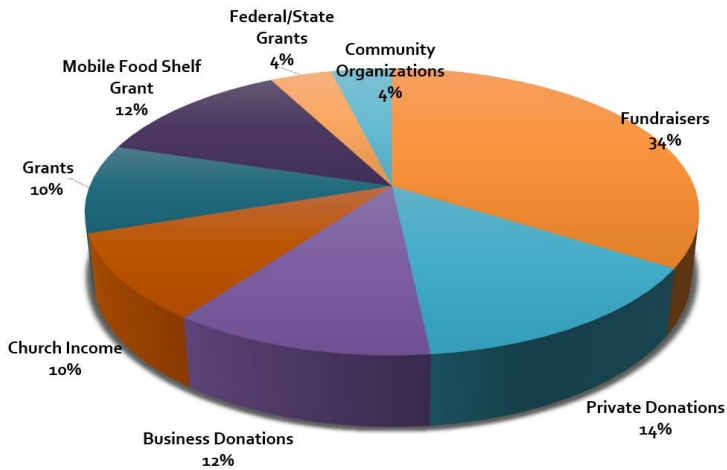
Elk River Lions Club

Otsego Lions Club

- Equipment Grants

2016 INCOME

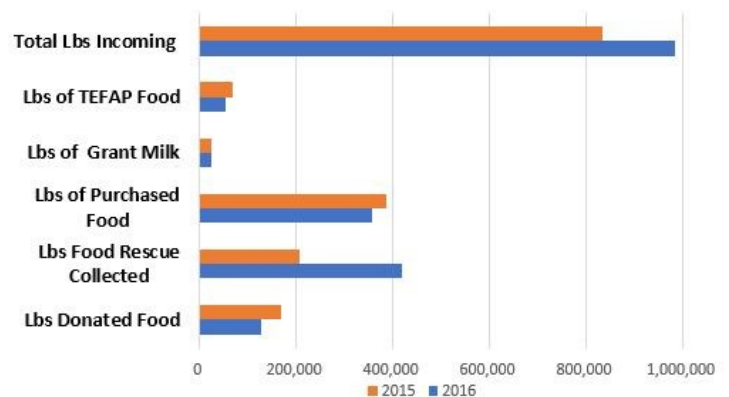
Cash Donations



CAER's 2016 cash income report shows that we have a broad range of support. This graph illustrates that the majority of our cash donations come from fundraisers and private donations. Local churches, businesses and grant funding, represent the next largest amounts, followed by community organizations and Federal and State funding.

The total pounds of donated food in 2016 increased by 148,000 pounds over 2015. The biggest increase was from CAER's food rescue program. TEFAP Food is food that is allotted to CAER based on the number of clients served and is distributed through Second Harvest. The federal program called - The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

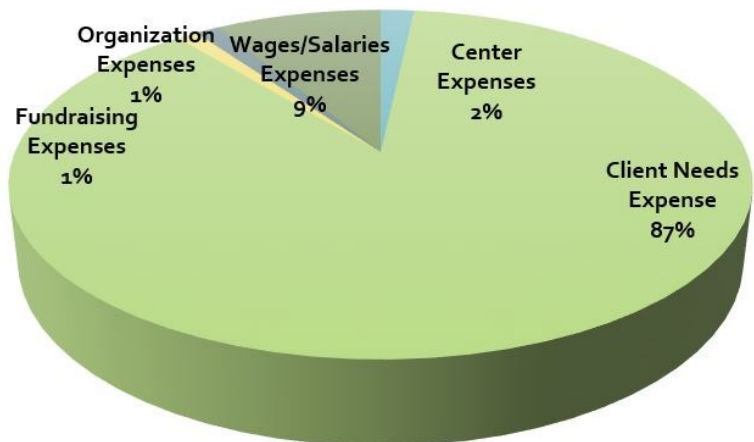
In-Kind Food Donations



2016 OPERATING EXPENSES

This graph shows the breakdown of 2016 Operating Expenses. It combines the cash expenses with the In-Kind food expenses. Client needs make-up 87% of CAER's expenses. 98% of these expenses are for food, the balance is made-up of Car CAER, Shelter, and Utilities.

CAER's wages/salaries totals 9% of all expenses, this supports 2 fulltime and 5 part-time employees.



Programs and Services: Financial Assistance and Car CAER

Financial Assistance is offered in the form of emergency help for shelter and utilities. These funds are used to prevent homelessness and avoid disconnection of utilities. In 2016 CAER assisted **44** families with shelter assistance and **45** families with utility assistance.



Car CAER is a program designed to help families with minor car repairs or tires. CAER's service area lacks access to public transportation, making private transportation critical to families.

By partnering with Elk River Tire and Auto and utilizing volunteer mechanics, CAER helped **28** households with car repairs and/or tires at a retail value of more than **\$36,000**.

Programs and Services: Food Shelf Shopping

Food Shelf Shopping is CAER's biggest program and continues to grow and change as the needs do.

In 2016 CAER was able to provide **50%** more fresh fruits and vegetables than the past year.



1,472 Families Served
4,655 Individuals
7,712 Visits
917,438 lbs. of Food Distributed

In addition, CAER distributed over **3,000** books, **710** winter coats, numerous hats, mittens, scarves and boots, along with birthday treats, Mother's/Father's Day gifts and holiday items to families at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. CAER volunteers and staff Intake Specialists assist visitors with referrals to other area resources. CAER's goal is to empower families with the tools they need to fight hunger and overcome poverty.

Programs and Services: Food Outreach

CAER's Food Outreach service is its fastest growing service and has several different types of programs. These multi-faceted programs are designed to bring food out into the community to places that seniors live and children gather.

CAER's mission is to increase the opportunities for those in need to access healthy foods, close to home.



392 Families
926 Children
103,000 lbs. Distributed

Kidz Kitz - CAER's popular weekly supplemental summer food program, is designed to help families with school aged children during the summer months when they don't have access to the free/reduced school lunch program. Families can access this program each week, picking up Kitz containing milk, juice, bread, cereal and kid-friendly lunch and breakfast items.

Brain Food - This program delivers perishable snack items to before and after school programs, among them are the Boys and Girls Clubs of Elk River and Zimmerman, and Targeted Services Programs at area elementary and middle schools. In addition CAER delivers perishable lunch items to Ivan Sands Alternative High School.



4,110 lbs. distributed - fueling the brains of more than 400 students.

Senior Delivery - CAER

delivers monthly food orders to homebound low-income seniors. In 2016 CAER delivered food to 5 different senior housing units, serving **98** seniors. In 2017, plans for this program include expanding monthly delivery to homebound seniors in private homes. CAER will match volunteers to senior applicants. Studies show that seniors are among the fastest growing hungry population. CAER believes that providing a monthly connection to a volunteer that is bringing nutritional food, will benefit both the physical and mental well-being of seniors in the program.



School Shelves - This program consists of a non-perishable food shelf located on-site at Open Doors for Youth. This outreach program reaches at-risk teens and young adults, providing them access to nutritional food choices and personal care items. **In 2016 CAER provided 1,357 lbs. of food for 135 visits by young adults.** CAER will expand this program in 2017 by establishing a shelf inside the Elk River High School and surrounding area middle and high schools.



Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of CAER, we rely on them in every aspect of our organization. In 2016 CAER committed to improving the volunteer program with the implementation of an action plan that was developed with training from Points of Light Twin Cities and MAVA. CAER's staff and Board successfully implemented this action plan which included writing a new handbook, establishing new procedures for training volunteers, developing/publishing written job descriptions of each position, and utilizing on-line tools for signing up volunteers. Because of this commitment and the work that we continue to do to include volunteers in all areas of our organization, CAER was certified as a Service Enterprise Organization. CAER is one of only 16 organizations throughout the state to receive this recognition.



667 volunteers 24,024 hours of service

Thank You!!

Mission Statement:

CAER is **Committed** to the community, **Assisting** with resources, **Empowering** families, **Relieving** hunger

Vision Statement

Hunger is no longer a barrier to the health and well-being of the people in our community.

Core Values

CAER has its foundation in Christian outreach and maintains a strong partnership with faith based organizations.

CAER strives to build collaborative relationships with individuals, businesses, civic organizations and other non-profits in order to better serve our clients and our community.

CAER practices good stewardship of food and financial resources to ensure the greatest benefit.

CAER provides a welcoming environment that respects the dignity of all people.

CAER promotes volunteerism at every level of the organization.

CAER employees, directors and volunteers consider it a privilege to serve our clients and our community.

President:: Mary Murphy - Otsego Community Member
 Vice Pres.: Angela Weitnauer - Zim. Community Member
 Treasurer: Sandie Barthel - Ramsey Community Member
 Secretary: Kris Anderson - Union Congregational Church
 Directors: Chad Sevre - Christ Church
 Pam Black - Otsego Community Member
 Miranda Winbush - E.R. Community Member

2016 CAER Board of Directors



Directors:

Sandi Dummer - Deneen Flanary & Associates, Ltd
 Brandon Hanson - Gateway Financial Strategies
 Galen Cadle - Bank of Elk River
 Andrew Cockcroft - Zimmerman Community Member
 Not Pictured: Gretchen Morris - Alpha Apparel



Community Aid Elk River
 12621 Elk Lake Road
 Elk River, MN 55330

Phone: 763-441-1020
 Fax: 763-441-1377
 E-mail: info@caerfoodshelf.org

Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Mon and Thurs Evenings 6 - 8 p.m.

Find us on the Web.....
www.caerfoodshelf.org