THE OPEN LINK

ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT NO. 02

2021

WWW.THEOPENLINK.ORG

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Who knew? 2021 has treated us to another turbulent year. The challenges never ceased as we have ridden the roller coaster of the pandemic. And you, our community, have been there for us every step of the way, helping your neighbors. Thank you!

I am happy to report to you that The Open Link's staff and volunteers, including our board, have stayed strong throughout. And that is good, because there was much to do! In the area of food relief, your generosity helped deliver thousands of meals to hungry kids last summer, as well as thousands more meals to the homebound throughout the year. Through our Food Pantry Without Walls program, low-income seniors, many with disabilities, ordered groceries from home with delivery to their doorstep later that day. And underprivileged families of all ages were able to choose their groceries online and then do a safe/low-contact pickup that afternoon.

For much of the year our senior center was required to remain closed to visitors, so our staff got creative using Zoom for online activities and the phone to keep in touch. Even better were our drive-thru events where we made good use of our covered driveway to safely share good food, games, prizes, and many laughs. Earlier this last summer we were able to reopen for exercise classes and fun activities – always with the safety of our participants in mind.

Community support helped distressed families like Dave and Marsha's (see quote below) through hard times with services such as budget counseling, benefits acquisition, rental assistance, utility assistance, and more. Sadly, the pandemic has worsened the scourge of domestic violence and our staff was there to assist with safety planning, court accompaniment and referrals to legal aid and shelter.

Special programs like our Back-to-School supply program helped children have what they need to succeed academically. Around the holidays, many families were provided Thanksgiving dinners with all the fixings and, through Adopt-a-Family, you gave hundreds of children holiday gifts sparking many smiles on Christmas morning.

Our High School Equivalency program continued to help students with classes and testing to attain their diploma. And our new literacy program is helping adults struggling with the basic skills needed in everyday life.

None of this would be possible without your caring support. Only 27 percent of our income comes from government support. The rest comes from our local communities!

With gratitude,

Stuart G. Bush, Ph.D.

"My wife has incurable cancer and is on dialysis three times a week and chemo once a month. I had a rare form of cancer myself. Your assistance has been a really good thing for us. You make the world a better place!" - Dave and Marsha, East Greenville

HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS

Our impact this year...

THE OPEN LINK

FEED PEOPLE THROUGH THE PANTRY

Did you know that the pantry distributed **168,920 pounds** of food this year? We serve an average of **355** people each month.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL KIDS

164 kids got the backpacks and supplies they needed to succeed in school this year.

MEALS ON WHEELS FOR SENIORS

20,214 nutritious hot and cold meals delivered straight to seniors' doors!

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

This Christmas, **416** children woke up to gifts under the tree thanks to the Adopt-A-Family and Christmas Room programs.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY AND LITERACY

13 students are taking classes to earn their diplomas and we started a brand new adult literacy program in fall 2021!

COMMUNITY LUNCH

1,928 lunches were served to seniors in our community at drive-thru or walk-up events.

GROCERIES DELIVERED TO SENIORS

Through the Food Pantry Without Walls program, **70** senior households, many with mobility or transportation issues, had food delivered to their doors.

INQUIRIES FOR HELP

We responded to **12,164** phone calls, emails, in-person and social media requests for help.

HOUSING AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE

52 households received assistance with housing and utilities for them and their families.

SUMMER KIDS MEAL PROGRAM

4,508 breakfasts and lunches provided to hungry children

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING

48 people assisted

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

55 households received help getting back on their feet

BENEFITS

262 households were helped acquiring government benefits

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

454 people had a holiday dinner with all the fixings to enjoy

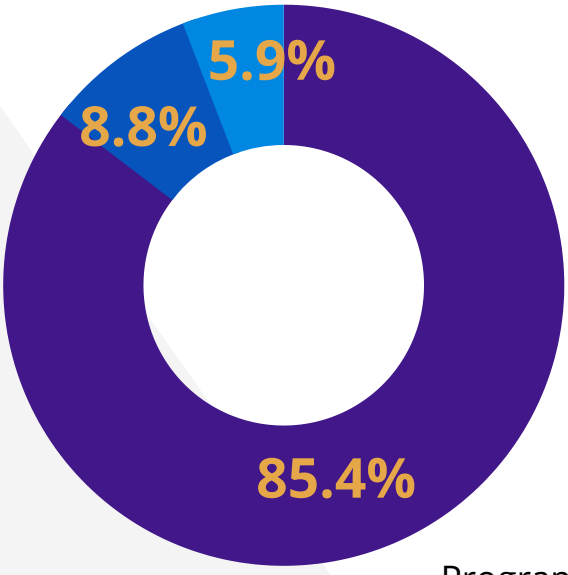
* Statistics based on data from the 2020-2021 fiscal year

OUR FISCAL HEALTH

Expense Allocation

Fundraising
$80,412

Admin/General Expenses
$120,177

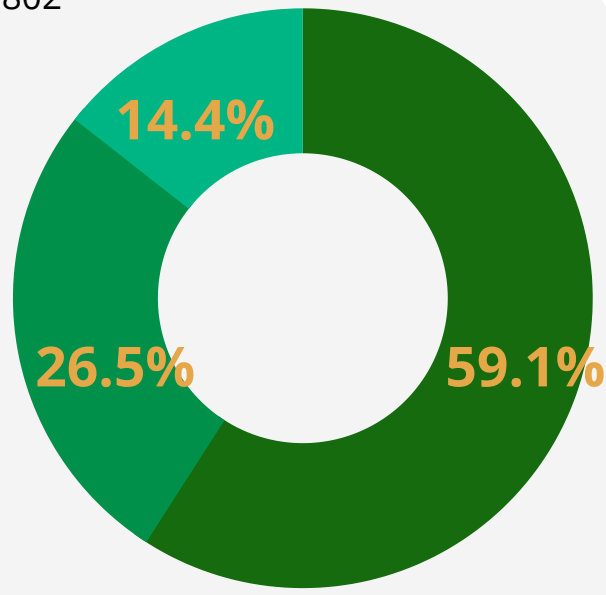


Total: $1,372,394

Program Expenses
$1,171,805

Income Allocation

Foundations/Other
$247,802



Total: $1,718,671

County/State/Federal
$455,525

Community Contributions
$1,015,344

OUR FISCAL HEALTH, CONTINUED

As we move forward into 2022, we want to, first and foremost, express our gratitude for all you have helped us to accomplish in these tumultuous, difficult times. Thank you! As the only provider of much-needed human services in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, we rely on you and your generosity to continue to meet those needs. For 46 years The Open Link has been in the "business" of offering hope to those who need it in our community. We couldn't do it without the support of friends like you!

This past year we were blessed with the second largest gift ever from an anonymous local donor. This individual loved the work that The Open Link does and was committed to serving people in need in our community. This bequest of more than $185,000 has been invested in three ways: 1) making much needed improvements to our two buildings; 2) building on successful programming assisting seniors as well as children; 3) investing carefully in funds that will help us stay strong with respect to serving your neighbors.

We feel so blessed by this donation and by each of your donations! Every time you give, you invest in the future of someone in our community. Your life-giving help can be priceless to the individual served. Thank you for your compassionate choice to make a difference!

The Open Link Board of Directors carefully steward your gifts. This year each gift will again make a difference including:

- Continuing to build our Summer Kids Meals program to ensure children in need are fed next summer.
- Building Food Pantry Without Walls to reach more people including families with children.
- Reinvigorating in-person programming inside our senior center. Throughout the pandemic we have stayed connected with our seniors through drive through, virtual and off-site programming. This year we are rebuilding our in-person programming, keeping your neighbors active and healthy.

Thank you for your interest in our work and helping us to continue it! We're grateful that, thanks to hard work and your generosity, we've made 2021 one of our most impactful years yet. We were able to raise more money, put more into programs and services and change more lives. Here's to a productive and hope-filled 2022!

FROM THE PEOPLE WE SERVE...

"Thank you for all you do for our community. Our family was very happy to be able to get summer meals this year and everyone was always friendly."

"It has been a huge relief to have Meals on Wheels checking in on Mom when I can't and delivering healthy meals. Your organization is sent from above!"

"It doesn't seem like enough to say, but thank you for making our kids' Christmas wishes come true this year!"

OUR SPONSORS

Thank You
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Diamond ($7,500+)
Gillespie Electric, Inc.
Knoll
New Goshenhoppen UCC
St. Philip Neri Catholic Parish
Stauffer Glove & Safety

Platinum ($5,000+)
Gordan H. Baver, Inc.
Keystone Tax Service
QNB Bank
Sands Ford of Red Hill
St. Luke's—Quakertown/Upper Bucks
Titanium Finishing Co.

Gold ($3,000+)
Family Caregivers Network
Fife & Drum Tree Farm
Finland Mennonite Church
Lechner & Stauffer
Perkiomen Animal Hospital
Univest
Upper Perkiomen Community Church
Upper Perkiomen Chiropractic Center

Silver ($1,500+)
American Rock Mechanics
Bally Mennonite Church
Falk Funeral Homes & Crematory
Geryville Self Storage
Palm Schwenkfelder Church
Perkiomen School
Perkiomenville Mennonite Church
Red Hill Dental Office
Rotary Club of Upper Perkiomen
TriCounty Area Federal Credit Union
Trinity Great Swamp UCC
Unami Friends Meeting

Bronze ($750+)
Entrance Systems, Inc.
Green Lane-Marlborough Lions Club
Harleysville Bank
Mann-Slonaker Funeral Home
Master Supply Line
Project Live Upper Perk
Thomas and Muller Systems
U.S. Tape Company, Inc.

Copper ($250+)
Barry Isett & Associates
Bless Precision Tool, Inc.
Boulder Valley Sportsman's Association
Community Bible Fellowship
Dentmaster, Inc.
Great Northern Laminations
Head Hunters Family Salon
Innovative Insurance Group
J.P. Goetz Automotive
John G. Membrino—Building and Remodeling Contractor
K.D. Landis, Inc.
Lampwork Bench
Macoby Self Storage
Mullaney Law Offices
Neuber Fastener Corporation
Peace in Zion UCC
Scooty's Auto Service and Sales
Senior Insurance Solutions
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Delp Group, Inc.
The Silvene Bracalente Memorial Foundation
TriValley Primary Care—Upper Perkiomen
Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA
Wisler Pearlstine, LLP

OUR BOARD

Thank You
FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS!

President: Dale Westwood • Executive VP/CRO, QNB Bank

Vice President: Rev. John Buckley • Pastor, Upper Perkiomen Community Church

Secretary: Greg Dickey • Community Volunteer, Retired School Administrator, Upper Perkiomen School District

Secretary: Frank Falk • Owner and Director, Falk Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.

Treasurer: Alan Siwy • Vice President, Controller, The Schultz Organization

At-Large Member – Executive Committee: Gerry Fioriglio, RN, B.S. Manager/Owner, Family Caregivers Network, Inc.

Sarah Dandridge • Retirement Plan Administrator, Paragon Alliance

Larry Frankenfield • Community Volunteer, Retired Operations Manager, FiberMark North America, Inc.

Christe Konopitski • Director of Advancement, The Center for Vision Loss

Carol Kress, CIC, CISR • Vice President, Lechner & Stauffer, Inc.

Rev. Barbara Pence • Pastor, Peace in Zion United Church of Christ

Becky Putera • Community Volunteer, Retired Owner/VP, Stauffer Glove & Safety

John Sheeran • Community Volunteer, Retired Director of Facilities and Operations, Upper Perkiomen School District

Matt Tomlin • Owner/CEO, American Rock Mechanics

Bob Vogel • Vice President/COO, Miria Systems

Deb Willey, Ph.D. • Director of Development, St. Luke's University Health Network

Kelly Stauffer Zaborowski • Vice President of Marketing/Owner, Stauffer Glove & Safety

Thank you to Dave Baver, Jeff Stauffer and Mary Young (retired, June 2021) for your many years of service to the community!