

 THE STOREHOUSE
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Since 1999, we have walked alongside our neighbors, meeting physical hunger with the warmth of a steady hand. In a world that often feels divided, we choose to unite under a single, radical promise: to “*Love until they ask why*”. Whether we are packing a student’s backpack or rescuing fresh produce, every action is an investment in human dignity. We don’t just provide a meal; we provide a community where everyone belongs and no one is forgotten.

For over 25 years, The Storehouse has served as a cornerstone of support for families in the 98042 area. We are a non-profit, food distribution program dedicated to easing the burden of those facing food insecurity by partnering with local businesses, churches, and schools. Our commitment to our neighbors extends beyond simple food security; we strive to improve the overall quality of life for every individual who walks through our doors.

2025 was a milestone for our organization, marked by both a significant increase in need and an overwhelming outpouring of community support. As client visits rose to record levels, it became clear that our mission required a larger home to meet the diverse needs of our growing

neighborhood. This growth led us to launch our ambitious **Building Hope Campaign**, successfully hosting our inaugural auction to help turn our vision of a comprehensive community resource center into a reality.

Our work is guided by the core values of **dignity, community, compassion, and stewardship**.

We believe that every person deserves access to nourishment with the utmost respect for their worth. By maximizing every donation and volunteer hour, we ensure that The Storehouse remains a place of unwavering support and hope for those facing food insecurity. Together with our dedicated Heart Work Squad and local partners, we continue to fuel the backbone of our operations every single year.

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

This past year reminded us why community matters. At The Storehouse, every day brought new examples of neighbors stepping up for one another—volunteers giving their time, donors sharing their resources, partners opening their doors, and staff working tirelessly to ensure no one in our community goes without food.

As Board Chair, I am proud of what we accomplished together. Thanks to your support, we expanded access to nutritious food, strengthened partnerships across the region, and continued to serve families with dignity and respect. We also invested in the systems and safeguards that keep our organization strong, from improving our operations and technology to deepening our commitment to equity and inclusion.

This year also marked a major milestone: the launch of our Building Hope for the Future Campaign. For years, our team has worked creatively within the limits of an aging, undersized facility. With demand continuing to rise, it became clear that we needed a space designed for the scale and complexity of today's hunger-relief work. Your early support has already moved us closer to a modern, efficient home, one that will allow us to store more fresh food, welcome more volunteers, and serve families with greater dignity and ease. This campaign is not just about a new building; it is about strengthening our community's safety net for decades to come.

The challenges of rising food costs, increased demand, and ongoing economic uncertainty tested our capacity. But our community responded with generosity and determination. Because of you, many individuals and families in the Covington community received the food they needed to thrive.

Looking ahead, our board remains focused on long-term stability and responsible stewardship. We are committed to supporting our dedicated staff, strengthening volunteer engagement, and ensuring that every dollar entrusted to us is used wisely. Most importantly, we will continue to listen to the people we serve and adapt our programs to meet their needs with compassion.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for standing with us. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier, more resilient community.

With gratitude,
David E. Kulp
Chair, Board of Directors
The Storehouse



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Neighbors, Partners, and Friends,

As I reflect on this past year at The Storehouse, one word keeps coming to mind: **gratitude**.

Every number in this annual report tells a story of people choosing to show up for one another. This year, we witnessed an incredible outpouring of support from businesses, churches, schools, and individual donors who stepped forward in ways that continue to humble me. Time and time again, when there was a need, our community responded with love in action, bringing a powerful sense of hope into places of deep uncertainty.

We see this community being built beautifully outside our walls, right in our parking lot. Conversations happen while families wait, volunteers serve, and neighbors connect. For many of our seniors, coming to The Storehouse is about so much more than food; it may be the one time all week they get out of the house. It has become a vital place of connection, friendship, and belonging where they check on one another, laugh together, and remind us that a brighter tomorrow is possible when we stand together.

Behind these moments are working families struggling with rising costs, seniors stretching fixed incomes, and neighbors facing unexpected hardships. Often, food insecurity looks like hardworking people doing everything they can and still falling short. Because of your generosity, volunteer hours, and financial support, those families did not have to face that struggle alone. You ensured our shelves stayed stocked and that food was distributed with dignity, offering a lifeline of hope to a single parent trying to feed growing kids or a senior choosing between medication and groceries.

The Storehouse has never been just about food; it is about community, dignity, and compassion. What matters most is what these numbers represent: hope for a family navigating a difficult season, and the comforting assurance that someone truly cares. I am deeply grateful to every volunteer, donor, partner, staff member, and advocate who has walked alongside us this year. You are part of something bigger than yourselves. You are helping build a community where no one has to face hunger alone.

Thank you for believing in this mission.

Thank you for trusting us.

Thank you for continuing to serve with generous hearts.

Together, we are building more than meals. We are building hope.

With deep gratitude and hope,
Stephanie Lawson
Executive Director
The Storehouse



OUR MISSION

To serve neighbors struggling with or vulnerable to food insecurity by providing nourishing food, prayer, and referrals.

OUR VISION

To improve quality of life for neighbors beyond food security.

DIGNITY

We believe that every person deserves access to food security with the utmost respect for their worth and honor. We are committed to providing nourishing food while upholding the inherent dignity of all individuals we serve, ensuring that they feel esteemed throughout their journey to food security.

COMMUNITY

Community to us means facilitating the interaction and inclusivity of diverse individuals coming together to serve those in need within our local area. We believe that by uniting our community in a shared purpose, we can provide not only nourishment but also a sense of belonging and shared responsibility, creating a stronger, more supporting environment for all.

COMPASSION

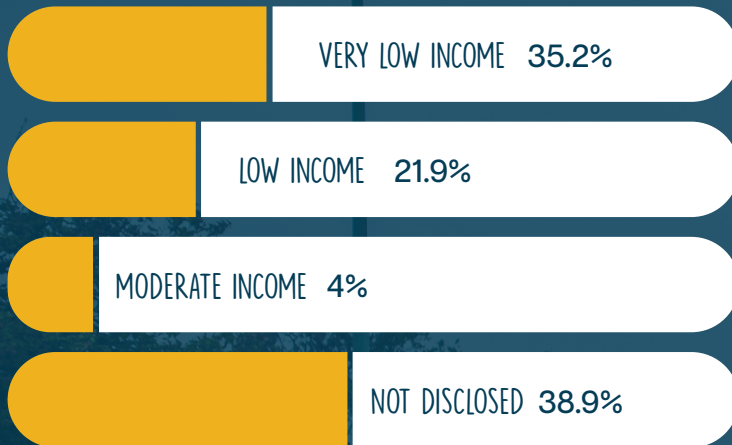
Compassion is a core value at The Storehouse, defined as a sympathetic understanding of others' distress and a deep desire to alleviate it. We are dedicated to providing not only nourishment but also unwavering support and empathy to those facing food insecurity, with the aim of alleviating distress and fostering hope.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a core value at The Storehouse, embodying the careful and responsible management of the resources entrusted to our care. We are committed to maximizing the impact of every donation, volunteers time, and food item to serve our community with integrity and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

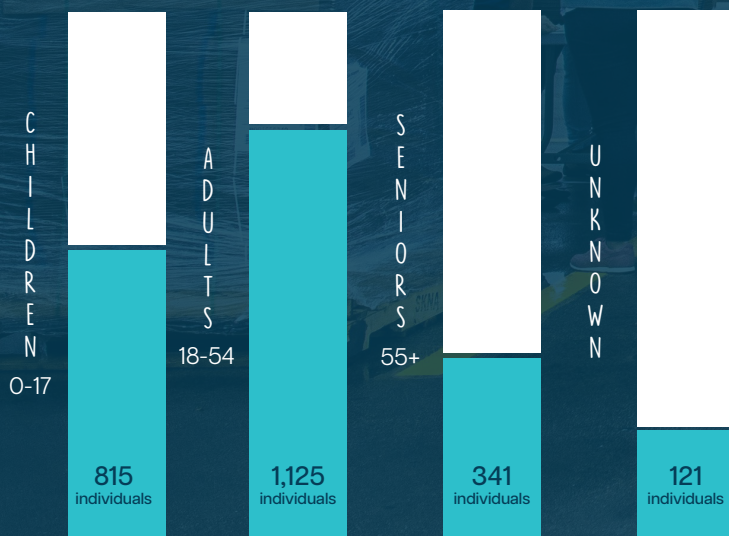
ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Our services bridge the gap for families facing significant economic challenges. Of the 759 households profiled in Covington:



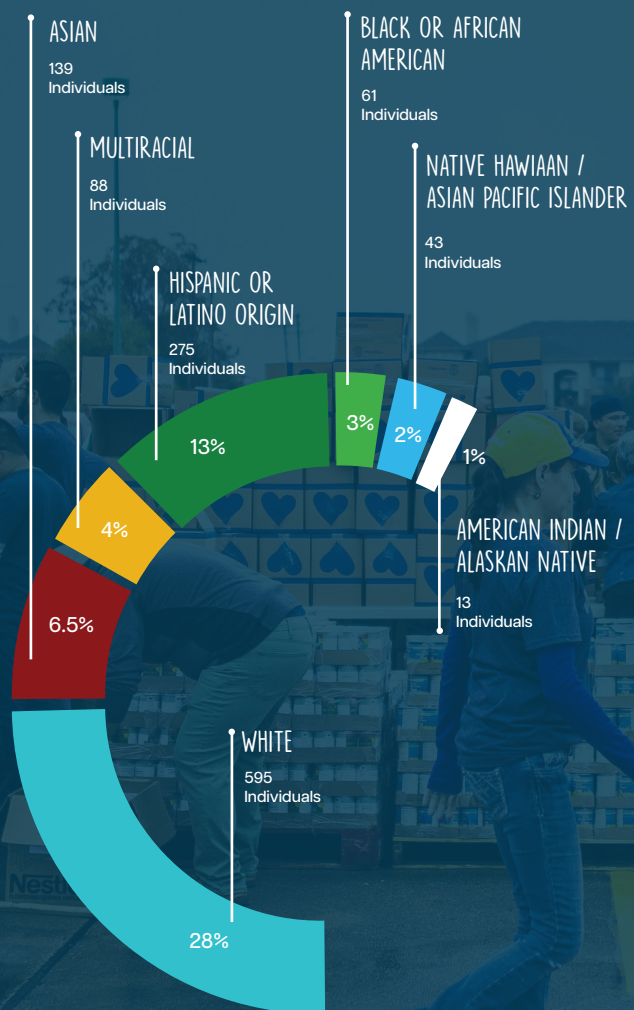
AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

We are committed to supporting our neighbors at every stage of life, from our youngest students to our most vulnerable seniors.



RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY

We are proud to serve a vibrant, multicultural community. Among the 2,131 individuals who shared their background:



NOURISHING OUR COMMUNITY IN 2025

Thanks to the generous support of our community and partners, in 2025, The Storehouse provided 1,446,846 pounds of food and grocery products to children, adults, seniors, and families across the 98042 area and surrounding King County.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE ACHIEVED REMARKABLE OUTCOMES LAST YEAR:

General Food Distribution

Our storefront serves as a vital resource for the 98042 area, operating with a dignity-first shopping model that allows families to choose the items they need. In 2025, we facilitated 19,927 client visits, a record-breaking increase from 14,894 visits in 2023. This growth was supported by the dedication of our community, which contributed 15,665 volunteer hours to ensure our shelves remained stocked and our neighbors remained served.

Mobile At-Home Delivery

To ensure that no neighbor is left behind due to physical or logistical barriers, we continued our vital partnership with Amazon to bring nourishment directly to those who are homebound. This program bridges the gap for families and individuals facing transportation challenges across our service area. Throughout 2025, this collaboration successfully completed 4,864 home deliveries.

Backpack Buddies

Our commitment to the next generation remains one of our highest priorities, ensuring that students do not face hunger when school meals are unavailable over the weekend. This program provides carefully packed, easy-to-open, and nutritious bags to nearly 500 students in the Kent School District every week. In 2025, we distributed a total of 12,121 student food bags, a mission that is 100% funded by community support.

Grocery Rescue

Guided by the value of stewardship, our grocery rescue initiative intercepts high-quality food that would otherwise go to waste, giving it a “second life” on our neighbors’ tables. Using our refrigerated truck and dedicated volunteer teams, we completed 1,000+ rescue pickups from local grocery partners over the year. This effort successfully rescued 723 tons of food, and any items past their prime were donated to local farms for animal feed to ensure a zero-waste cycle.





4,589

Total individual clients served in 2025.



1,332

Total number households served in 2025.



72,005

Total visits to The Storehouse in the last year.



+1.4M Pounds

Of food distributed into our community in 2025.



723 Tons

Of food were diverted from waste and redirected to families in need.



12,121

Student food bags were distributed to ensure children had nutritious meals over the weekend.



4,864

Successful deliveries were made to homebound neighbors or those with transportation barriers.



15,665

Total number of hours worked by our generous community volunteers.

\$66,603

In grant funding was secured to bolster specific programs.

\$148,822

Amount raised at our first ever Building Hope Auction to seed our capital campaign for a new facility.

\$239,940

Total cash donations were received throughout the year to support general operations.

\$2.7 Million

The estimated value of food distributed to the community in 2025

OUR OPERATIONS ARE FULLY SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY DONATIONS AND SUCCESSFUL GRANT/EVENT CYCLES.



IN-STORE SHOPPING

Our in-store shopping program is designed around the core belief that **every person deserves access to food security with the utmost respect for their worth and honor**. Rather than receiving a pre-packed box of items they may not want or need, neighbors participate in a shopping model that prioritizes personal choice and individual preference. This approach ensures that our guests feel esteemed throughout their journey to food security, as they are able to select the specific items that best serve their families.

OUR MODEL IN ACTION

DIGNITY FIRST

Our model helps maintain the dignity of our neighbors by allowing them to shop just as they would in a traditional grocery store.

REDUCING WASTE

Because families pick out items they actually use, this program helps reduce food waste at the household level.

PERSONAL AUTONOMY

Guests no longer have to wonder what is in their box; they have the freedom to choose nutritious items that meet their specific dietary needs.

PARTNERING FOR QUALITY

We partner with local businesses, churches, and schools to ensure our shelves are stocked with a wide variety of nourishing food options.



COMPASSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

BACKPACK BUDDIES

No student should have to face a weekend of hunger when school meals are unavailable. Our Backpack Buddies program is a **critical community initiative that is 100% funded by local support**. Every week, our team carefully packs bags with easy-to-open, ready-to-eat, and nutritious items to bridge the gap between Friday and Monday.

Each bag is carefully packed with items specifically chosen for children and teens to ensure they have the support they need when school meals are unavailable. These bags contain nutritious, ready-to-eat items that require no complex preparation, allowing for immediate access to nourishment. Every item is selected for being easy-to-open, which ensures that students can access their food independently and with ease. Throughout the process, the focus remains on providing wholesome, nourishing items that support the overall growth and health of our younger neighbors.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN SUCCESS

The program's sustainability relies entirely on the generosity of the 98042 area and surrounding partners. By providing these essential resources, The Storehouse works to improve the quality of life for students beyond simple food security, fostering hope and a sense of belonging within the school system.

AT-HOME DELIVERY VIA AMAZON

We recognize that food security is only possible when people can actually access the food we provide. To serve neighbors facing significant hurdles, we partner with Amazon to bridge the gap between our facility and the doorsteps of those in need. This partnership allows us to serve neighbors who cannot visit our physical location due to health challenges, lack of transportation, or other life circumstances. By leveraging professional logistics, we ensure that the same high-quality, nourishing food available in our store reaches every corner of our service area. This program embodies our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring no one is left behind due to physical or logistical barriers. **In 2025, this vital collaboration successfully completed 4,864 home deliveries across our community.**



4,864

Successful deliveries were made to homebound neighbors or those with transportation barriers.



12,121

Student food bags were distributed to ensure children had nutritious meals over the weekend.



GIVING GROCERIES A SECOND CHANCE AT FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY

GROCERY RESCUE PROGRAM

Stewardship is a core value at The Storehouse that drives us to manage every resource with the highest level of responsibility. Our Grocery Rescue program stands as a primary example of this commitment, as we work to turn potential waste into a vital community resource by creating a “second life” for high-quality food that does not sell at local grocery stores. By intercepting this food before it reaches a landfill, we serve as a bridge between surplus and need, benefiting both the environment and our neighbors.

Operating this program requires sophisticated logistics and consistent coordination with our regional partners. We maintain active contracts through Food Lifeline to facilitate consistent pickups from major retailers, utilizing a dedicated refrigerator truck to ensure food safety and freshness while transporting rescued perishables to our facility. This operational dedication was evident throughout 2025, as our team and volunteers completed 1,514 total grocery rescue pickups across the region.

The impact of these efforts is substantial, providing a massive volume of nourishment while maintaining lean operational expenses. In 2025 alone, we rescued 723 tons of food, which served as a major contributor to the 1.4 million pounds of food we distributed to

the community throughout the year. This rescued inventory, valued at over \$2.7 million, allows us to provide a wider variety of fresh produce, dairy, and meats that might otherwise be unavailable to our neighbors.

Our commitment to sustainable stewardship and zero waste even extends to items that are past their prime for human consumption. To ensure that nothing of value is discarded, any food that is expired is donated to local farms to feed their animals. By maximizing the impact of every food item entrusted to our care, we continue to fulfill our mission with integrity and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.



723 Tons

Of food were diverted from waste and redirected to families in need.



1,000 +

Total number of grocery rescue pickups our team and volunteers completed in 2025.

A FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

BUILDING HOPE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

For over 25 years, The Storehouse has served as a vital lifeline from a modest 1,400-square-foot facility. While this space has been the heart of our operations, it is no longer sufficient to meet the diverse and growing needs of our neighborhood. Today, we strive to serve approximately 2,000 individuals each month, and as **the demand continues to rise, the limitations of our current building have become a barrier to the level of care our community deserves.**

To address this, we have launched the **Building Hope Capital Campaign**, an ambitious vision to construct a new, larger facility that will function as a comprehensive community resource center. This expanded space is designed to do far more than store food; it is a commitment to the long-term well-being of our neighbors. The new hub will enable us to enhance our food distribution

with increased storage and improved logistics, offering a wider variety of nutritious options to families. **Crucially, it will provide dedicated areas for programs aimed at helping individuals overcome legal challenges, secure employment, and access essential services through our network of community partners.**

2025 marked a historic turning point for this vision with the success of our inaugural Building of Hope Auction. This landmark event brought together local businesses and families, **forging stronger partnerships and raising nearly \$150,000 to lay the foundation for our new home.** Beyond the financial milestone, the campaign represents a promise to our volunteers, who will finally have a dry, safe space to work during gleaning and distribution prep, and to the families who will find a place of belonging and support for years to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our next steps focus on finalizing the site logistics and expanding our circle of “Building Hope” partners. We invite our community to join us as we move from vision to reality, ensuring that The Storehouse remains a beacon of hope and a center for dignity for the next 25 years and beyond.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DONATE DIRECTLY TO OUR
BUILDING HOPE CAMPAIGN



https://covingtonstorehouse.harnessgiving.org/donate/?selected-method=monthly&amount=50&campaign_id=17503





THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

We often say that our mission is fueled by “Heart Work.” While our facility and food rescue programs provide the infrastructure, it is our dedicated volunteer force that breathes life into our core values of compassion and community. In 2025, **our volunteers contributed a staggering 15,665 hours of service.** Whether they were braving the elements to unload the refrigerator truck, carefully packing weekend bags for students, or walking alongside our neighbors as personal shoppers, these individuals are the hands and feet of our promise to “Love until they ask why.”

THE HEART WORK SQUAD

Beyond our weekly service teams, we are supported by a distinguished circle of champions known as the **Heart Work Squad**. This group consists of local businesses, families, and individuals who make a foundational commitment to our general fund with an annual donation of \$1,000. These partners provide the reliable, consistent fuel necessary to keep our lights on and our trucks running. By joining the Heart Work Squad, these donors stand firmly behind the backbone of our operations, ensuring that the 98042 area remains a place where no neighbor has to face food insecurity alone.

The sheer scale of our impact in 2025, **including over 1,000 grocery rescue pickups and over 1.4 million pounds of food distributed, would be impossible without a community that is willing to show up.** Our volunteers represent every walk of life: retirees sharing their wisdom, students learning the value of service, and local professionals giving back on their weekends. As we look toward our new facility, we aren’t just building walls; we are building a home for this incredible workforce, ensuring they have the space and resources they need to serve our neighbors with dignity for decades to come.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

REVENUE

	2023	2024	2025
CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS	\$2,526,351	\$2,649,719	\$3,444,937
INVESTMENT INCOME		\$875	\$389
OTHER INCOME			\$23,790
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,526,351	\$2,650,594	\$3,469,116

EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$2,314,017	\$2,528,394	\$3,098,324
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES	\$68,442	\$79,453	\$78,138
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$40,607	\$47,261	\$56,672
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,423,066	\$2,655,468	\$3,232,134

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

CASH	\$246,246	\$197,339	\$435,080
SAVINGS & TEMP. CASH INVESTMENTS		\$50,875	\$61,264
LAND, BUILDING, EQUIPMENT	\$94,425	\$87,702	\$78,390
TOTAL ASSETS	\$340,671	\$335,916	\$574,734

LIABILITIES

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$2,901	\$3,019	\$4,903
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,901	\$3,019	\$4,903

NET ASSETS

RETAINED EARNINGS, ENDOWMENTS, ACCUMULATED INCOME, OR OTHER FUNDS	\$337,700	\$332,897	\$569,831
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$337,700	\$332,897	\$574,734



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The Storehouse is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization
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