

TONI'S KITCHEN 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

### GROWTH FOR GOOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In 2022, Toni's Kitchen embarked on a campaign to raise \$1 million to make space available to support our food initiatives going forward. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to make this project a success.

We will soon have **5000+ square feet of space** available to ensure everyone in our community has reliable access to healthy food. We are excited to see new walk-in refrigeration being installed and workspace for our growing grocery programs. We especially look forward to our soup kitchen program moving back into the dining room. We can't wait!



For Toni's Kitchen, 2022 was a year of harnessing the innovations and lessons of the pandemic and putting them to work to truly END food insecurity. As the pandemic tested us, we learned that even in the midst of tough times, solutions are possible. Volunteers launched new neighborhood mobile markets, built a food truck program and visited with seniors as they delivered groceries to their home.

The pandemic lifted the veil on the breadth of food insecurity in the suburbs. The number of neighbors unable to weather even those first few weeks of the shutdown was shocking. As the impacts rippled and inflation set in, needs for some populations increased. We learned that a **robust and lasting solution** is needed, one that will **expand and contract** as the economic environment around low-income families and seniors changes.

Looking ahead, we are focused on **solutions**. We are taking the lessons of the last few years to heart and **setting a target of living in a FOOD SECURE community within the next 3-5 years**.

What does a fully food secure community look like? We know the structural issues that give rise to food insecurity will persist - inflation, high housing costs, medical bills. But imagine a community where healthy food is embedded in the daily gathering spaces of our struggling neighbors. Imagine as well that these are supplemented with targeted programs that cover all the pockets and varieties of food insecurity and ensure there is an easy, accessible, appropriate connection readily available.

If you can embrace this vision and want to help realize it - join us!! Donate funds and volunteer your time and talents. Let's build a fully food secure community and enjoy the health and stability that will accompany it!

## Anne Mernin

Executive Director, Toni's Kitchen



A FOOD MINISTRY OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

# ONE SIMPLE VISION: RELIABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL

2022 was a year of innovation and rebuilding. As inflation caused food prices to soar and continued to challenge family budgets, Toni's Kitchen took the lessons of the pandemic and created some stability for struggling neighbors.



**SUBURBAN** hunger  
is **SURPRISING**,  
**HIDDEN** and  
**REMARKABLY**  
**DIVERSE**. It is also  
**SOLVABLE**



A FOOD MINISTRY OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

# OUR APPROACH: LEVERAGE OUR FULL COMMUNITY

01

## FIRST WE WORK THROUGH OUR PARTNERS

Toni's Kitchen embeds healthy food in **over 60** community partnership programs that help low-income neighbors become resilient and healthy - tutoring, mentoring, English language classes, schools, summer camps and social groups for older adults.

02

## THEN WE TAKE IT ON THE ROAD

- **NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETS** - Weekly farmers market-type spaces in low income neighborhoods and gathering spots **serve over 250 families**.
- **FOOD TRUCK** - Cooked-to-order meals provide **over 500 meals** a week and are a popular option for our unhoused neighbors and those with limited cooking facilities.
- **HOME DELIVERIES** for **over 200 older adults** and **80 families** ensure disabilities or transportation are not obstacles

03

## AND, OF COURSE, WE OPEN OUR DOORS

- **CHOICE PANTRY** - **Over 1500** neighbors use our pantry to select groceries, toiletries and clothing. Guests also enroll in SNAP and learn about other important health and housing resources.
- **SOUP KITCHEN**-Our heart and soul. **50-65 guests** who are unhoused, or in unstable housing find a warm place to gather for a meal and connect with other important services. In the colder months, a **WARMING CENTER** provides an afternoon gathering space.
- **TONI'S CLOSET** - In addition to our regular free clothing distributions, nothing replaces the dignity of shopping for one's own needs.



# OUR GUESTS

*"Toni's Kitchen helped me out a lot. I have a part-time job at UPS and it is just enough to cover my rent, not enough for food. Toni's Kitchen helps me, and my mother who lives with me, to eat well."*

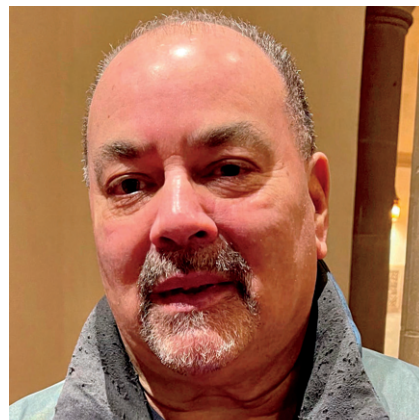
Sandra

*"I appreciate that Toni's Kitchen welcomes everyone and doesn't discriminate...including speaking to many of us in Spanish. I come and select groceries and my daughter uses them to cook."*

Robert

*"Most importantly, those that work at the pantry, the meal service, the warming center and the Closet are very nice people, who show true concern."*

Mike



A FOOD MINISTRY OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

# 2022 LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR FOOD SECURITY



OVER 2000 VOLUNTEERS from 16 towns, 8 high schools, 42 faith communities, 6 special needs programs, and aged 5 - 94 energized our work.

TONI'S CLOSET COMPLETES ITS FIRST YEAR ON SITE with regular free clothing distributions at our Choice Pantry, and over 31,000 items repurposed through Toni's Closet sales, raising \$157,000 to support our work.



TONI'S HIRES OUR FIRST SOCIAL WORKER to connect the 1500 families who use our Pantry with other needed services.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SPACE BEGINS to add 5000+ square feet of food packing, sorting and refrigeration space to build a food secure community.





**FOOD TRUCK LAUNCHED AT JAZZ FESTIVAL:**  
This outreach to those without housing or cooking facilities makes 3 trips a week providing 500+ meals.

**DIABETES PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH SUMMIT HEALTH AND COMMUNITY FOOD BANK:** Helps 38 guests with diabetes management through nutrition education, special food boxes and blood glucose tests.



**TOWN WIDE FOOD DRIVES:** Brought in almost 19,000 pounds of food thanks to 42 drivers and 170 volunteers

**NEIGHBORHOOD MOBILE MARKETS:** Weekly 'shopping' experiences in 3 low-income neighborhoods help an average of 250 families each week plus 2 special summer markets help when school is out.



In 2022, our donors and volunteers stepped up to the challenge. We provided more meals than ever before. New partnerships and programs energized our work, and it all came together because of you! Thank you!!



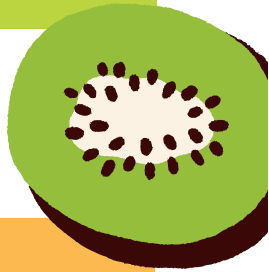
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# TONI'S KITCHEN

IMPACT REPORT

# 1.7 MILLION MEALS



CHOICE PANTRY

# 1500

households

HOME DELIVERIES

# 200+

older adults

SOUP KITCHEN

# 50-65

guests

NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETS

# 250+

families

FOOD TRUCK

# 500

meals per week

# 60

community partners

# 25

warming center guests



TONI'S CLOSET

# 7,951

visits

# 100+

life skills training participants

