

# gather

FOR A HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITY

## impact report 2023



# Gather by the Numbers 2023

**100,894**

Individuals served across all programs

**1,544,932**

Pounds of food distributed

**66,600**

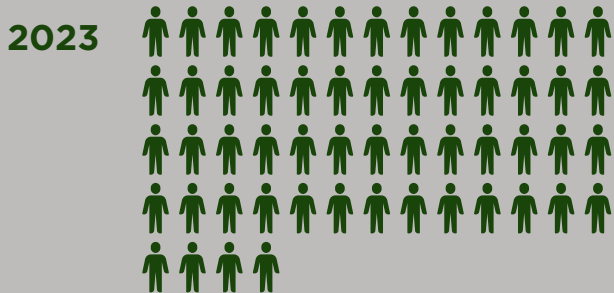
Nutritious meals prepared and distributed

**768,105**

Pounds of food diverted from landfills

## Food insecurity is on the rise

### Mobile Markets



= 100 people

The total number of individuals served through mobile market visits has **more than doubled** from 2,600 in 2021 to 5,500 in 2023.

The total number of individuals served per month at the pantry has increased from 1,560 to over 2,200, **a 41% increase since 2021.**

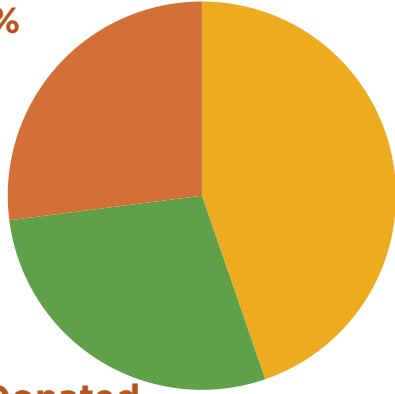
Food insecurity continues to be a major concern for communities across the Seacoast. According to the latest report from New Hampshire Hunger Solutions, 44% of adults and 52% of children in New Hampshire live in households facing chronic food shortages. The precipitous rise in food prices and the end of pandemic-era safety nets are exacerbating this situation.

In 2023, there was a notable surge in the number of people seeking food assistance from Gather. The number of individuals served by Gather's Pantry Market and Mobile Markets increased by 43%, while the organization has faced a **29% decline in food donations**, the equivalent of 10 weeks worth of food. Despite these challenges, the organization remains committed to its mission of building food security on the Seacoast.

In addition to serving more people than ever before, Gather launched innovative new programs like the Fresh Food Bus, expanded its Cafe model at Great Bay Community College to include a catering service, welcomed new board members, forged new partnerships, and continued to advocate for food systems change at the state level.

## Where Gather's Food Comes From

Purchased  
27%



Fresh Rescue  
44.7%

Donated  
28.3%

Gather relies heavily on the Fresh Rescue Program, run by the New Hampshire Food Bank, for nearly half of its food donations. This partnership allows Gather to collect fresh meat, produce, and other perishable items directly from supermarkets, "rescuing" food that would otherwise go to landfills.

The remainder of Gather's food is either purchased in bulk from local farmers and vendors or is donated by individuals, businesses, and community organizations.

Gather also receives generous donations from local farmers and gardeners.

## Innovation Spotlight: Fresh Food Bus



In the summer of 2023, Gather launched the Fresh Food Bus, lovingly called "Gus the Bus", by Gather volunteers and staff. The completely renovated Fresh Food Bus has been thoughtfully equipped with freezers and refrigerators to allow for the transportation of fresh produce, meats, and dairy items, as well as bread and non-perishable pantry items. Addressing transportation barriers is a crucial aspect of improving access to healthy food, and the Fresh Food Bus allows Gather to reach those who need it most.

In 2023, "Gus" served **4,060 individuals** and brought **56,587 pounds of food** directly to communities with the highest rates of food insecurity.

## Did you know?

Gather operates Mobile Markets and Meals 4 Kids across the Seacoast, including Portsmouth, Seabrook, Hampton, Somersworth, Hampton Falls, Rochester, Dover, Farmington, and Kittery.





## Building a Healthy Community Together



# 40-50

Number of volunteers that work at Gather each day

# 26,247

Number of hours Gather volunteers contributed to our mission in 2023

*"I found [Gather's] Mobile Markets and I was thrilled because it was something I could do during the pandemic, and I loved it. I started volunteering once a week, twice a week, and then three times, and now I do a little bit of everything at Gather, including cooking on Fridays. I think Gather does such a wonderful job of meeting people where they are. The innovative programs, the food repurposing - it's wonderful. I'm thrilled and honored to be a part of it."*

**- Michelle Doverspike, Gather Volunteer since 2020**



*"I have 'shopped' many times at your Mobile Market. You have really fostered positive relationships with those in need in your community. Thank you so much for your contribution to hunger relief efforts and for helping people like me to eat a variety of good quality foods that are tasty, filling, and nutritious."*

**-A letter to Gather from Laura S.**



## Program Spotlight: Cooking 4 Community

# 5,550+

Nutritious meals prepared and distributed every month

# 95,904

Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> diverted from landfills by repurposing recovered food into meals



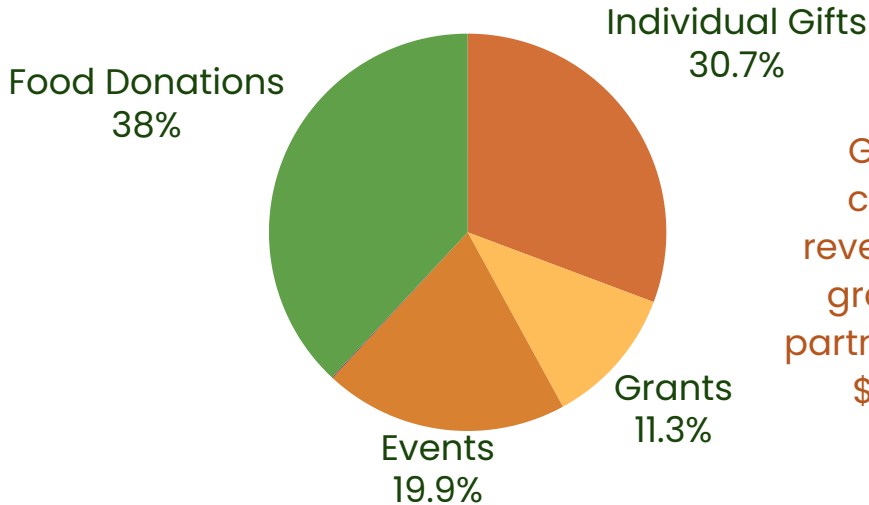
Gather's Cooking 4 Community program partners with local restaurants and food businesses to save food that otherwise would have been thrown out due to minor appearance flaws or excess amounts and turns it into healthy, delicious ready-to-eat meals which are available to Gather members.

# Financial Snapshot

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

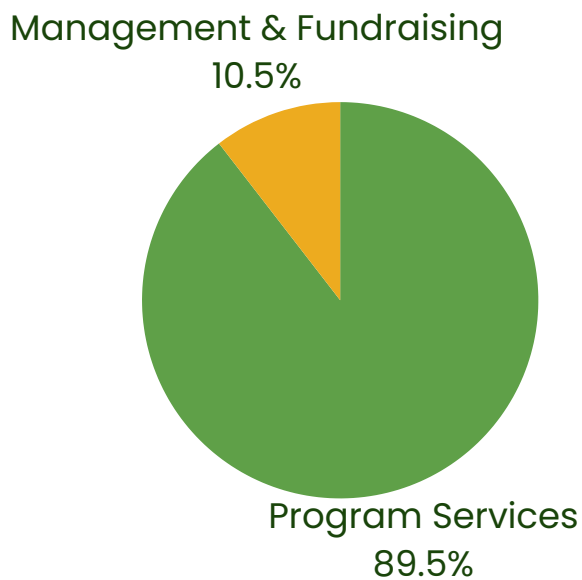
**Candid.**

## Revenue 2023



Gather relies on the generosity of our community to operate. \$2.8 million in revenue comes from individual donations, grants from foundations and corporate partners, and our fundraising events. Nearly \$2.3 million comes from in-kind food donations that are distributed to community members.

## Expenses 2023



While many nonprofits spend 20%-30% of their revenue on management and fundraising expenses, Gather spends **90% of all revenue on direct program expenses.**

Only **\$0.05** for every dollar raised is spent on fundraising activities.

## Acknowledgements

Gather is immensely thankful to our community for making our work possible. We appreciate our generous donors, committed volunteers, and dedicated staff and board members for their continued partnership as we work to build a hunger-free Seacoast.