



2023

Annual Report



Chester Eastside, Inc.

301 East 9th Street

Chester, PA 19013

www.ceichester.org

610-872-4812

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

“Beating all odds, despite all odds”

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25:35-36

Chester Eastside has been serving the community for almost four decades now, with a primary objective meeting the most basic needs of people who are struggling to make ends meet. Our services are critical to the survival of many individuals, who are facing food insecurity, systemic inequity, home insecurity, and a general lack of hope. Despite seemingly insurmountable challenges, Chester Eastside has managed to continue serving people who need it the most.

As an organization, Chester Eastside has faced numerous challenges, including issues related to funding, staffing, partnerships, and general support. However, we have managed to overcome these obstacles and continue to develop programs that produce positive results while giving our guests

a sense of dignity and hope. Chester Eastside is proud to have served the community for almost 39 years, a milestone that few organizations can claim.

I would like to express my gratitude for the support that Chester Eastside has received from our partners, volunteers, staff, guests, and contributors. Your contributions have been essential to our existence, and I encourage everyone to continue helping us overcome obstacles. We are currently facing significant challenges on all fronts, including funding, social services, and the growing disparities in health, education, and opportunity. Despite these challenges, we are prepared to meet the growing needs of our community. Our guest population is increasing, and we need your assistance to continue making a difference. I challenge you to extend yourself and consider extending your privilege as you commit to joining us in our efforts. Together, we can make the impossible possible for future generations. Let's unite and continue to beat all odds!

John Mackey, Chair of the Board

The More Things Change...

Most likely you know the rest. But before getting there, I would offer a word about change. It's all around us, and it seems to be happening faster and faster; I had a mentor who called it “constantly shifting sand.” No sooner

do we place our foot in one place than the ground shifts - even before the next step.

In 2023 the CEI sands never stopped shifting. In the following pages you will read about changes in personnel, programs, and partnerships. In the last year we witnessed the expansion of our services, a fine tuning in our vision, and a deepened commitment to our mission. We painted, patched, renewed, and restored our home. We welcomed new people into the CEI journey and shared in the pain of losing others. And yet...

In the face of so much change, we also know that the more things change... *the more they stay the same.*

Make no mistake: CEI is a rock on the east side of Chester. Next year we will celebrate forty years of service on East 9th Street. The commitment of the volunteers, staff, and board of Chester Eastside to remain steadfast in providing services and programs that impact the lives of the people we have been called to serve will never change. Although what we offer, when we offer it, and who is offering it may change, our mission never will.

With great gratitude for all who are a part of the CEI journey, and trusting in our common vision, let us never stop changing - even as we remain the same.

Andy Jacob, Executive Director

From the Desk of the Operations Manager

Approximately one year ago, I replaced the talented Lisa Sneed as Chester Eastside's Operations Manager. Her hard work and dedication laid a foundation that was easy to expound upon. Following in her footsteps, I have continued to strengthen community and volunteer engagement while building a welcoming environment for all those who enter our doors. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with so many individuals who believe in a like-minded sense of servitude. Together, we foster new relationships and strengthen our familial bond as we collectively serve a community that we love and respect.

2023 Operations:

- Revised our internal and external documentation by adding our new logo and streamlining the paperwork so that it is more efficient for program specific use.
- Started a Policies and Procedures Binder for every aspect of the Operation Managers Position. It is a step-by-step guide to ensure continuity and can be used as an easy transitional training tool in the case of personnel changes.
- Transitioned to an electronic registration process for our food pantry with the use of Food Bank Manager at no cost to the organization.
- Reinstated the hot meals program in June 2023 with the launch of "The

Open Table” which serves full balanced and appetizing meals to the community twice a week.

- Streamlined our ordering process for operation/program supplies down to a single vendor. We have changed our paper products such as plates, cups, bowls, utensils, and napkins to sugarcane products making them compostable which lessens CEI’s footprint on the environment.
- Restarted our relationship with Philabundance Foodbank. From July 2023 through December 2023, CEI has received and distributed over 28,000 lbs of free food to the community from this one source.
- Fostered new relationships with neighboring food pantries and local churches where we barter and trade goods to meet the growing needs of our community.
- With the addition of Philabundance and other free food sources, CEI has been able to decrease spending from our Share Food allotment aiding in our efforts to serve the community making it easier to stretch food purchases throughout the fiscal year.
- Formed a partnership with the IAE Foundation which provides CEI with a monthly donation of diapers, wipes, male & female hygiene products, socks, clothing, and homeless kits.

It has truly been an honor to serve this organization and the City of Chester. I look forward to this next year where I pray that we can continue to foster new relationships and provide programming

that will help lessen the strain of homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity.

Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Margaret Meade

Tiffany Kea, Operations Manager

Educational Programming

In September of 2023, CEI’s education programs launched anew. The primary focus of CEI’s educational programming is to combat poverty through increasing access to knowledge and skills subsequently, increasing earning potential. This goal is being realized through the current efforts and team which consists of the Director of Education, Whitney Wright and Program Educators, Raheem Curry and Sonya Hazelett. The Director of Education oversees the functions and operations of all education related programming, and the Program Educators support the Out-of-School Time programs.

There are several positive changes taking place that build upon the Out-of-School Time’s (OST) long history. There is now a concentrated effort towards building out multigenerational educational programming to further advance CEI’s efforts to support the whole family. Our developing youth and adult programs will focus on enrichment, math and literacy interventions, career readiness, and

social and emotional learning. With the new direction and staff, the future of CEI’s educational programming is bright.



Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs

After School Program

Students in grades K-12 participating in CEI’s After School Program enjoy a hot meal, recreation time, enrichment activities, math and literacy interventions, homework help, family nights, and field trips. The theme of the program is STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics). Specifically, the enrichment activities and field trips consist of hands-on experiences in agriculture, photography, aviation engineering, nutrition, environmental science, solar engineering, and much more.



Additionally, the After School Program has a newly adopted curriculum and framework in IXL Learning and Collaborative for Academic, Social, and



Emotional Learning (CASEL). IXL Learning provides targeted math and literacy interventions that are aligned to the state standards. With IXL, we can track student performance growth using assessments.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) offers a framework for social and emotional learning (SEL). We reference the “CASEL wheel” and their other resources to guide us daily and during focused enrichment activities like Wellness Wednesdays. The framework

is used to help our participants cultivate skills towards resiliency to better advance their learning and development.

Summer Camp



Similarly to the After School Program, our Summer Camp focuses on math and literacy intervention activities as well as enrichment activities. The theme for the Summer Camp is STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) as well. Furthermore, there is an emphasis towards exposing our youth to different environments and experiences through an increased number of field trips. The goal of the summer program is to reduce or eliminate any learning gaps that occur over the summer while fostering student growth and building friendships.



Adult Programming

Our developing adult programs will focus on nutrition, career readiness as well as social and emotional learning. In the Spring of 2024, CEI is launching its Seed to Support Adult program in partnership with Penn State Extension. Participants will develop the skills and knowledge to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget.

The success of the OST programs is dependent on partnerships and volunteers. The following are a few narratives from our volunteers explaining why they support the OST programs.



“I volunteer with CEI's After School Program because it is a wonderful program in which the staff truly care about the students, and I believe that the program makes a difference in the lives of the students who attend. Whether the students are burning off energy in the gym, enjoying food together, or settling down to do their homework, the atmosphere is warm and supportive. There is a real feeling of

community, for example I love to see the children's excitement when the college students arrive! I feel very lucky to be able to contribute in a small way. On a personal level, I enjoy being at CEI because the staff is so welcoming and appreciative, and the students are an absolute joy. Volunteering at CEI is one of the highlights of my week!" – Marianna



"I am dedicated to supporting my community. I was first inspired to volunteer after following my grandmother's acts of service in cooking. I use my love of writing to highlight critical issues and the importance of understanding others' perspectives. My interest in children's media and journalism encourages me to help children to find their dreams, express their thoughts and learn more about their history. I believe that each child has a story to tell. In 2022, I had the chance to take part in organizing a creative writing workshop. This year, I look forward to organizing a workshop for students to connect shows like anime to understanding emotions, body responses, and how to interact with

others in a safe environment." Damya W. Whitney Wright, Director of Education



The Children's Garden & Chester Eastside Farm

It was an exciting 2023 for our young gardeners at Chester Eastside! It was the 6th year for the Children's Garden and the 1st year for Eastside Farm, a huge expansion in the neighboring four

lots. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of volunteer Doug Crosby and the support of volunteers Kate McAllister and Barbara Nagel, the expansion demonstrated creative ways to grow food vertically. We accepted requests from neighbors and families about what to grow and are encouraging more community participation.

The children participating in the Out-of-School Time (OST) Program gain knowledge and exposure on how plants grow from hands-on work during which they see plants grow from seed to harvest. They start seeds indoors under grow lights, participate in mapping the

gardens, transfer plants to the garden beds once it is seasonally appropriate, and do all the work it takes to grow the plants. Summer Camp participants get to work in the garden once the plants are fully established.

In 2023 we followed their curiosity, which led to the construction of the VIP Bug Hotel and Buffet. This exercise taught our youth how to cohabitate with the good bugs in the garden and the important roles bugs play. It was an exercise of creativity, imagination, empathy, and literacy. Their enthusiasm was wonderful!

The Children's Garden is a big picture program, and our students get to practice problem solving, do math and measuring as we plan the garden, and gain a deeper understanding of the world as we create compost from old plants to nourish the newly planted. The educational opportunities in the garden are vast.



The children's hard work paid off when the garden was awarded first place for the Children's Garden award by the Penn State Delaware County Master

Gardeners in 2023. This was a highlight of the year, and a huge point of pride for the kids. We also celebrated our amazing harvest with the first ever Harvest Festival! This was a wonderful celebration in the community, and we had many student helpers, in addition to hundreds of pounds of produce to give away.

We are so proud of their hard work. The remaining food is donated to CEI's Open Table and Food Pantry Programs. We also share herbs and vegetables with neighbors who stop to admire the garden. It is a point of pride for the neighborhood and for Chester Eastside. Kate McAllister, Volunteer

The Food Pantry

In 2023 the Food Pantry was open every Monday and Wednesday that were not holidays. Residents from throughout Delaware County who qualify are welcome to come to the Pantry once every thirty days. The amount of food received is based upon the size of the family. We thank our many partners, including Share, Philabundance, Caring for Friends, and the many congregations and businesses who offer food and funds on a regular basis.





Chester Eastside Food Pantry 2023 Participation Report

	Bags Distributed	Families Served	Adults (18-59)	Children (0-17)	Seniors (60+)	New Families	New Individuals	Total Individuals Served	Bagged Meals	Grab & Go Meals	Hot Meals	Total Meals Served	Estimated Value of Meals
January	437	145	223	245	66	37	130	534	7,866	2,120	N/A	9,986	\$13,077.2
February	400	138	186	214	71	29	80	471	7,200	2,234	N/A	9,434	\$11,970.0
March	477	168	255	231	88	41	143	574	8,622	2,798	N/A	11,420	\$14,274.2
April	363	146	189	189	78	37	91	450	6,534	2,006	N/A	8,540	\$10,862.8
May	521	235	279	316	78	58	147	673	9,378	2,269	N/A	11,647	\$15,590.9
June	486	186	274	260	82	49	122	616	8,748	1,514	353	10,615	\$14,543.6
July	447	159	253	264	79	159	454	596	8046	415	582	9043	\$13,376.48
August	628	213	341	380	96	143	475	817	11,304	2,435	518	14,257	\$18,792.9
September	660	229	367	383	86	125	372	836	11880	1678	383	13941	\$19,750.5
October	887	291	507	479	125	131	406	1,111	15,966	1,470	492	17,928	\$26,543.5
November	845	279	454	478	104	81	297	1,036	15,210	1,226	470	16,906	\$25,286.6
December	610	202	349	313	84	38	120	746	10,980	1,924	306	13,210	\$18,254
Total	6,761	2,391	3,677	3,752	1,037	928	2,837	8,460	121,734	22,089	3,104	146,927	\$202,322.9

**Chester Eastside Food Pantry and Hot Meals
Families, Individuals, and Hot Meals Served
August 2022 – January 2024**



The Open Table

Chester Eastside has always adapted to meet the changing needs of the community, which is evident in the return of the hot meals program. The Open Table has been well received by the community and what a difference it has made. Providing hot meals and a place to gather has always been a cornerstone of what we offer at Chester Eastside, but Covid shut us down. Now this new adaptation welcomes all from the community without the demand of need and has been humanizing to us all.

It provides a healthy meal in a welcoming setting, but it also offers a different kind of nourishment that we all need. That of contact and connection with each other. We have partnered with local vendor Everybody Eats Philly to offer a full hot buffet every Monday and Wednesday. The food has been delicious, and the community has embraced the opportunity to visit while dining. We enjoy working with a high-quality local business who shares our goal of doing good in this special community.

The Program Committee

The Program Committee provides support and oversight to the food safety net programs - the food pantry and the Open Table (the hot food meal) and the after-school program. More details of these programs are provided later in the report.

As chair of the program committee, I was an interviewer for the selection of our new Operations Manager, Tiffany Kea. I was also a member of the very active search committee for the Education Director. We reviewed resumes of many applicants resulting in interviews with several. We were excited that this process led to the selection of Whitney Wright, M.A, ABD as the new Director of Education.

We hosted many successful events in 2023:

- June 4 - The resumption of the hot meals programs, renamed The Open Table was introduced to the community with a dinner in the parking lot. Grilled food with delicious side dishes were served and door prizes were given to the excited guests!
- August 14 - A retirement celebration was held at CEI for Mrs. Kathryn Redd recognizing 20 years of service to the after-school program. The dinner was catered by Everybody Eats Philly, a business located just a few blocks from CEI. They prepare the meals for the Open Table on Monday and Wednesday. This is a valued partnership with a local Chester business.
- October 21 - A Harvest Festival was held in the parking lot. In addition to the produce from our Community Garden, there was breast cancer awareness literature, free breast exams by Dr. Gray, the nurse practitioner director of the Wellness Center at CEI, face painting, chili cook-off, a purple sweet potato (from

our garden) pie bake-off, and a fire truck from Chester Fire Department for fire prevention education. It was also announced that the CEI Community Garden was awarded first place by the Delaware County Master Gardner’s Children Garden Contest.

- November 11 – Students in the After School Program were models in a fashion show at Macys in Springfield. The students were able to select the clothes they modeled, which greatly increased their excitement.
- November 18 &19 – One hundred fifty Thanksgiving meals were packed on Saturday and distributed on Sunday
- December 9 – The annual staff and volunteer recognition banquet was held at The Ballrooms at Boothwyn. Joan Lindsay was presented the second Spirit of CEI award.
- December 21 – A Holiday Bazaar was open to members of Chester community. A wide variety of household items, clothing and gift items were available for selection. Over \$9,000 in gift cards were distributed to Chester residents.

Dr. Joyce Rasin,
Program Committee Chair

2023 Financial Report

The financial condition of Chester Eastside Inc. (CEI) remains strong as we enter 2024. The plan for 2023 was to invest in building the strength of CEI staff and the quality of community programming, requiring a significant

increase in revenue. While revenue did increase, it did not increase as much as needed to fund all programmatic increased expenditures coming in at 85% of budget.

Additionally, expenditures were slightly more than forecast at 103% of budget.

Chester Eastside Inc.			
Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Board Approved Budget			
January - December 2023			
	Total		% of
REVENUE	Actual	Budget	Budget
Total Church Support	\$ 124,684	\$ 145,000	86%
Total General Contributions	\$ 256,147	\$ 264,360	97%
Total Other Revenue	\$ 6,020	\$ 8,750	69%
Total Revenue	\$ 386,850	\$ 455,610	85%
EXPENSES			
Total Program Supplies	\$ 74,179	\$ 12,723	583%
Total General Administrative Expenditu	\$ 66,094	\$ 59,267	112%
Total Payroll Expenditures	\$ 280,577	\$ 309,678	91%
Total Professional Service	\$ 35,815	\$ 63,576	56%
Total Expenditures	\$ 457,507	\$ 445,244	103%
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (70,657)	\$ 10,366	-682%
Other Revenue	\$ 81	\$ -	
Other Expenditures	\$ 3,840	\$ -	
Net Other Revenue	\$ (3,759)	\$ -	
Net Revenue	\$ (74,416)	\$ 10,366	-718%

This combination of financial results yielded a decrease in CEI’s cash position of about \$74,000 versus year-end 2022 (\$218,000 vs. \$292,000).

Going forward into 2024, the plan is to bring income and expenditures into a balanced position by focusing on and increasing income while holding expenses at or near their current level.

The financial challenge for 2024 will be to manage operationally in tune with the evolution of income as the fund-raising efforts yields results and, for that reason, a series of benchmarks have been established to guide rapid

action in response to circumstances. The following reports give the details of our year-end financial condition as well as a presentation of the 2024 plan (budget).

Chester Eastside Inc.	
Statement of Financial Position	
As of December 31, 2023	
	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 TD Bank- Operating Account (6609)	39,826.17
10500 TD Bank- Money Market Account	176,411.55
11000 WSFS Small Business Checking (8179)	5,232.45
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 221,470.17
Total Current Assets	\$ 228,811.80
Fixed Assets	
15000 Furniture and Equipment	60,200.51
15500 Rights of use Asset- leases	0.00
16000 Accumulated Depreciation	-37,657.60
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 22,542.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 251,354.71
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 11,522.30
Equity	
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	289,403.78
33000 Restricted Net Assets	23,109.00
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Net Revenue	-72,680.37
Total Equity	\$ 239,832.41
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 251,354.71

Bob Kenworthy, Board Treasurer

Development Committee

The CEI Board, staff and volunteers are deeply appreciative to all whose financial gifts enable us to remain energized and charging ahead to support the Chester communities we serve. Overall, 2023 donor gifting was up 2% from 2022. As always, these gifts continue to make all things possible: the staff, food, supplies, and tools. Again,

our mission of helping folks in Chester is only possible because of these gifts.

2023 saw changes in our donor base. Churches, foundations, and individuals accounted for 97% of our funding. Fortunately, gifts from individuals increased by more than 27%, enabling us to see the overall increase from 2022 levels. This offset decreases from the loss of all government funding in 2023.

2023 saw a significant change in our development strategy. Our historical strategy of three annual appeals was redefined to be one of donor outreach and engagement. In addition to increasing the number of appeals, increased emphasis was placed on new community activities, expansion of our food and school programs, and ongoing newsletters and email updates. This both kept our constituents aware of our work and helped contribute to the 27% increase in gifting from individuals. More importantly, these efforts also allowed us to increase both our footprint and impact on the communities we serve in Chester.

Donor Class	2022	2023	Change	2023 % of Total
Corporations	\$3,500	\$4,000	114%	1%
Foundations	\$123,000	\$121,000	98%	34%
Government	\$14,000	\$ 0	0%	0%
Individuals	\$86,000	\$109,000	127%	30%
Organizations	\$6,000	\$7,000	117%	2%
Religious Organizations	\$120.00	\$118,000	98%	33%
Totals	\$352,500	\$359,000	102%	100%

Since our founding in 1985, our mission and commitment have never changed. Our legacy drives us to press forward and receive energy from the gifts made by our faithful supporters. Because of this, it is appropriate for me to close this report with a direct quote from retired Board member Jane Kamp: “To all who have given out of their abundance seeking to eradicate poverty, injustice, and oppression, we offer our pledge that as we humbly receive your trust, we will work tirelessly to make the most out of every last cent”.

Jeff Jones, Development Committee Chair

Technology Report

Technology investments continued to be made to improve technology capabilities across the facility:

- New router system that provides reliable wireless service throughout our whole area.
- New laptop for the Education Director.
- New tablet for registering and tracking the guests in the food pantry.
- Year-end gifting statements for donors produced with donation recording software.
- Through a generous donation, received forty new laptops for the Out of School Time programs.
- Installed security cameras in three locations inside and outside.

Our Grantwriters

We supported CEI’s steadfast commitment to sustainable fiscal stewardship through our fundraising efforts. Our team submitted 24 proposals to philanthropic institutions, which include banks, family foundations, congregations, and local government. We are grateful for the support we received, and we are eager to build on our work this upcoming year.

Importantly, we have adapted our strategy to build relationships with prospective funders. Outreach to business and civic leaders in the Greater Philadelphia region has offered us an opportunity to not only to learn about funding possibilities but also elevate attention to our work. We expect our partnerships will contribute to CEI’s long-term growth.



Finally, under our “one team” vision, we have further integrated internal feedback from our colleagues leading our programmatic development in our proposals. These meetings have enabled us to project clearly our aspirations to our prospective development partners. As our programs continue to evolve, we look forward to evolving the ways we support our broader team.

Harry Hou and Claire Walton, Development Associates

Episcopal Legal Aid

Episcopal Legal Aid is pleased to have been invited to be a partner with Chester Eastside for another year. We hold monthly clinics at churches and community organizations in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Delaware Counties while food is being distributed to community members in need. People who otherwise have little access to an attorney can speak with us about their civil legal issues. We can answer some questions on the spot and in the other cases we review and prepare documents, appear in court, and do whatever else is necessary to solve our client's problem.



At Chester Eastside we are on site on the second Wednesday of the month during the lunchtime food pantry and hot meal services. We have a table in the corner where we can watch the steady stream of people obtaining their groceries, waiting to be served their lunch, or signing up for services. We opened 13 new cases in 2023, including Marcella, who is in a dispute with her homeowners' insurance company about

paying for mold remediation and water damage in her home. We also helped Sheila obtain a new ID and Augustus straighten out an immigration issue. Herman and Moyna both wanted to appeal denials of their claims for social security disability, and we helped them with the necessary forms and documents. We referred Emelia to another clinic where she could obtain assistance in having her criminal record expunged. And we answered a number of questions for people while they waited their turn in line.

It has been a joy for us to work alongside the faithful volunteers at Chester Eastside to help improve the lives of Chester residents. Chester Eastside provides us with a table and good wi-fi connection and spreads the word about our visits to the local community. But, more importantly, the good spirit of the Chester Eastside community revitalizes us on every visit and reinforces our faith in the value of sharing gifts.

Steve Chawaga, Episcopal Legal Aid

The Wellness Center at St. Paul's 2023 Report

Our clientele has been steadily building with the majority now seen being Africans. At the end of last year, we were beginning to see some more Latinos than usual.

The following is a breakdown of the clinic activities:

2023

of visits -132

of new clients - 54

of student volunteer hours - 112 hrs

of professional personnel hours (NPs & RNs) -117 hrs

Considering the cost of healthcare these days, these clients benefit financially by getting professional care free of cost, and for some free laboratory work up including blood work and cervical cancer screening.

We continue to do outreach activities to offer healthcare services to those in need.



Clinic Outreach Activities for 2023

St. Katerine-Drexel BP check Oct. 8.2023

Murphy's Giving market- BP checks Oct.10.2023

Breast Exams- Chester Eastside, Oct. 21. 2023

The Healthier You Health Conference- Breast Exams- November 11. 2023

During the summer Widener University graduate students conducted a health promotion session with the clients of Chester Eastside on the Awareness of High Blood Pressure and its Management. The client's BP was checked, and they were given pamphlets to take home regarding prevention of high blood pressure through diet and exercise.

Dr. Paula Gray, Widener University

