



Providing services that help and heal, and programs that educate and inspire with the people of Chester since 1985.



2022 Annual Report

Table of Contents:	Program Committee.....3	Development Committee.....9
Chair of the Board.....1	OST After School & Camp.....5	Proposal Writers.....10
Executive Director.....1	Food Pantry.....6	Community Garden.....10
St. Paul's.....2	Technology.....7	Episcopal Legal Aid.....12
Operations Manager.....3	Finance Committee.....8	

Unwavering Commitment to Excellence

Chester Eastside was founded in 1985 as an urban mission, focused on supplying food, clothing and education geared towards closing the disparities experienced by inner-city residents of Chester. While these disparities and inequity still exist, our unwavering commitment has been to provide unimpeded access to food, clothing, and high-quality education. While our organization has not been exempted from the challenges of the pandemic, economic downturn, and its effect on our most vulnerable, will still rise. Our teams have shined in the face of this adversity. Our staff, partners, donors, and volunteers have risen to the challenge. Operationally, our team has onboarded new staff and board members. Programmatically, we have increased the amount and quality of our food. This unwavering commitment has resulted in a record year operationally, programmatically, and financially. We continue to improve the outcomes of our educational efforts, and ensure we are good stewards of the gifts we receive. With your help, we are positioned for continued growth and transformation.

Our early years were focused on basic delivery of services. Over the years we've experienced challenges in delivering basic services. The basics are no longer enough to bring about lasting change. We are battling what seems to be a significant and growing challenge to bring equity to Chester. Our values of integrity, social

justice, love, and respect continue to guide us through these times of challenge. I am happy to say that our last year has been focused on thriving and delivering with excellence. Those we serve, deserve no less than our best. My hope is that as we provide our best, you will join us in whatever way represents your best.

Whether it is your time, talent, or treasure, please answer the call.

My hope has always been to be so effective, that these gaps no longer exist, and our services are no longer needed. Until that time, we will continue to need and expect your unwavering commitment to the people of Chester and beyond as we deliver with an unwavering commitment to excellence.

John Mackey
Chairman of the Board



Executive Director's Report

Given my August 1 start date, by all rights my report could be 42% shorter than the rest. That is an offer I will respectfully refuse. There is simply too much to say...

Although it has not yet been six months, I have seen...

- leadership that is unwavering in passion for, and commitment to, our core mission;
- the faces of young children when they rush into the after school program in anticipation of learning and laughing;
- volunteers who never pause before responding: *whatever it takes to get the job done...*;
- an amazing, committed, and incredibly generous base of support who immediately and consistently respond to the needs of the people we serve, whether it be food, funds, clothes, gift cards, or...turkeys!;
- recipients of our services who offer deep gratitude for what we are able to offer, and, more importantly, for being treated with dignity and respect.

Each day I am filled with gratitude for all that I have seen and heard that has reinforced my belief in the goodness that happens when people engage together in caring for one another. The resulting product, true community, is an uncommon and beautiful gift; may we rejoice in that very gift as it thrives at 301 E. 9th St under the name Chester Eastside.

In spite of my newcomer status, I enter into this new year filled with anticipation for all that lies ahead for us and for those we serve. May all of our efforts to deliver comfort, relief, and hope be blessed to bring...

Peace,
Andy

From Our Primary Partner: St. Paul's

When I was seeking a parish to serve in 2020, fresh out of seminary and during a pandemic shutdown, one of the primary attractions of Saint Paul's was the presence and ministry of Chester Eastside. In a very small parish, but a parish which is rich in assets, I saw the great potential for dynamic ministry between the parish and Chester Eastside in a very depressed city that is in great need. I envisioned a kind of partnership. The pandemic slowed down progress and things seemed muddled to me, but in the last year and a half I've seen real movement towards this potential.

It has been a pleasure to have worked side by side with Zuline Wilkinson and Andy Jacob. Under their leadership I have learned so much. I have also felt real collegial support in what might otherwise be a very lonely place. One of the saddest aspects of leaving St Paul's is that I will no longer be working with Andy. His energy and new ideas have truly been inspiring and he seems to have developed a good relationship with the lay leaders in the parish.

Chester Eastside and the diocesan Wellness Center breathes ongoing life into this part of Chester. It breathes life into the parish of St Paul's. Chester Eastside is a vital ministry that the parish must continue to support. These past two and half years, my principal goal has been to act as a bridge between what happens downstairs and what happens upstairs. I've encouraged a closer relationship with the Wellness Center, and I've continued to advocate for increased financial giving and

use of church space, including the third-floor gym. Separate funding has been secured through the diocese to renovate the gym.

Many thanks for these past two and a half years. May God bless Chester Eastside as it continues to live into all that God calls it be.

Faithfully yours,
Fr Larry Civale

Operations

In 2022 after internal change, Chester Eastside, Inc. made the decision to hire an Operations Manager.

operations manager

*In general, the role of an operations manager is to **manage all activities involved in producing the goods and/or services of a business.***



Hired in June, I was tasked with bringing order to the office and internal process for all programs. Not only did I have to learn the ins and outs of the food pantry, OST after school and OST summer camp programs but organize the office. The first

order of business was to scan old documents and files so that the physical copies could be shredded or thrown out, now that an electronic copy exists. This scanning continued in earnest for two months and still continues to some extent to this day. I can say that at minimum 85-90% of all office files have been scanned.

Cleaning, filing, and throwing out old items have drastically changed the look and feel of the office from when I started. Less boxes and clutter make the office look brighter and cleaner. Organized files allow anyone to easily find information. With an organized office, all the other programs can work more efficiently. Volunteers and new employees have a central point of contact for completing paperwork and submitting timecards. Forms used in normal operations have been created or updated to reflect new contact information, approval process and/or the new website address.

Lisa Sneed
Operations Manager

Program Committee

Our program has focused on providing enhanced programming to support our community from voter education to practical needs over the holiday season. As summary of these efforts are Get Out the Vote, Thanksgiving Baskets, and celebration of our holidays.

Get Out the Vote. The Committee of Seventy sent CEI literature in English and Spanish. For a month, a couple of volunteers set up a table so people could register to vote. Forms were given to each

child in the Out of School Time program to share with their parents.

Thanksgiving Baskets. The annual distribution of Thanksgiving baskets occurred on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Depending upon the size of the family, either turkeys or chickens were given along with food for the side dishes. One hundred forty-two baskets were distributed. We are thankful for 33 volunteers in addition to the pantry volunteers who assisted with packing the baskets on Friday and Saturday and distributing on Sunday.



Holiday Celebration. Our holiday celebration was held at CEI on Saturday, December 17, 2022. Lisa Sneed, the operations manager did a wonderful job organizing the event. After partaking of a delicious meal and socializing among attendees, the recognition segment began. Lisa recognized 41 volunteers who were presented with certificates. Five volunteers had more than 300 hours of service in 2022: Norman Jordan, Joan Lindsay, Marvin Caldwell, Geraldine Davenport, and Steve Burrell.

A new award was the Spirit of CEI. The first recipient was Dr. Will Richan who was selected for his continuous support of Chester Eastside, Inc. A professor emeritus at Temple University, he taught social work for nearly 30 years before retiring in 1993. He is an enthusiastic supporter of Chester Eastside having served on the Board and coordinating Hi-Set, the adult education program in pre-pandemic years. Will, as he prefers to be called, has a long history of peace and social justice activism.



Holiday Gift Cards. Since the start of the pandemic, gift cards were substituted for gifts of toys for Christmas. We were blessed to receive over \$10,000 in gift cards this year from individuals, churches, and Acme. Because of the large number of cards received, disbursement was not limited to families with children, single persons were also recipients. Cards were distributed according to the size of the family at the bazaar on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. ‘

Dr. Joyce Rasin
Program Committee Chair

The Phoenix Out of School Time (OST) After School Program and Summer Camp



The return to the OST in-person format was delayed in January due to the emergence of the Omicron Variant. Originally scheduled to start on January 2, 2022, it was delayed until January 31, 2022.

This delay caused a sudden and unexpected revival of the Virtual OST platform. We began by adapting the program to opportunities offered during our in-person Fall term. Below is the programming offered during the brief return to Virtual OST.

Literacy: iReady: Conducted iReady Diagnostic Test on approximately 70% of the children attending in-person.

Dreamscape Reading is an online program that combines reading strategy, engagement, and curriculum aligned literacy activities for grades 3-8. Guides children through their reading assignment working with them on comprehension, word attack, retelling, prediction, vocabulary, etc.

Reading: K-2nd grade:

- Consonant Letter recognition and sound
- Dolch Sight Word List K, 1st, and 2nd
- Blending sounds
- Making words from sounds

Math Literacy: Prodigy Math is an online math program that encourages students to like math. It assesses the students' level of competence and delivers lessons on that individual student's level. This program keeps an account of each student's progress and level.



One-on-One Tutoring The One-on-One tutoring component of the OST program has continued without interruption. The contributions and support of Beth Israel Synagogue congregation provide tutors who provide a One-on-One tutorial experience in the subject area the student has the most need.

Parents, students, and tutors are connected and agree upon a schedule for the student and the tutor to work together that works best for everyone. Ms. Ashley Program Manager

Swarthmore Dare2Soar Dare2Soar student volunteers engage in a one-on-one, hour-long session with a child assigned to

them. They engage the children in grade level academics, primarily Math and reading, from various resources provided to aid and make available learning materials that can be shared between the volunteer and child.

Homework Help Homework help remains an important part of the OST program. It is an immediate concern of the children as it is collected on a daily/weekly basis.

Clubs One of the most exciting pieces of the after-school program are the Clubs. Here is what our children experienced in the winter/spring sessions:

- Engineering - 4th to 7th grades - Club Leader Dr. A. Signh, Widener University
- Mythology - K-9th grades - Martha Pearlman - Retired teacher
- Visual Arts - K-9th grades - Kathryn Redd - OST staff
- Gardening - K-9th grades - Barbera Nagel
- Nutrition - K- 9th grades - Kate McAllister
- Games - 3rd-9th grades - Edward Wsaekanes - OST staff

Challenges:

- We returned to the in-person format on Monday, January 31, 2022. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of the times, and cold harsh temperatures, there the drop in attendance was even greater than expected.
- The shortage of staff has been increasingly challenging. Mrs. Redd has taken on the responsibilities of the cook, the food purchaser, Assistant Director, and the duties no longer provided by Dr. Doherty, which were considerable.

- Due to Covid restrictions of Swarthmore College, students' return to campus was delayed weeks beyond the original date.
- Limited number of Widener student volunteers also created a shortage of in-person tutors.
- On a good note, we welcomed an intern, Aidan Campbell, from Widener

University, who served as our Volunteer Coordinator/Liaison.

Ms. Kathryn Kelly-Redd

OST Program Director

Food Pantry



In 2022 we relied on a core group of volunteers every Monday and Wednesday. Seventy-nine unique volunteers provided 4,078 hours of service to the residents of Chester, averaging 340 hours per month.

Food donations in 2022 increased slightly to 49,237 total pounds. Our largest and most consistent donators were Wawa, Giant, Bread Drop, CEI Garden, Ryan's Deli, Wallingford PC, Holy Trinity, Wallingford & Swarthmore PC, Philly Bike Fest, Caring For Friends.

Month	Bags Distributed	Bagged Meals	Families Served	Adults (18-59)	Children (0-17)	Seniors (60+)	New Families (not indiv)	Total Individuals Served	Total Bagged Meals (Grab & Go Meals)	Total Bagged Meals + Grab & Go	Est. Value of Meals Provided (\$)*
January	342	1,188	115	170	192	59	29	421	6,156	7,344	\$10,234.35
February	348	1,817	121	192	186	62	31	440	6,264	8,081	\$10,413.90
March	501	2,268	166	226	251	121	32	598	9,018	11,286	\$14,992.43
April	529	1,770	176	297	285	64	23	646	9,522	11,292	\$15,830.33
May	460	2,061	159	235	227	86	30	548	8,280	10,341	\$13,765.50
June	467	1,575	152	221	273	85	36	579	8,406	9,981	\$13,974.98
July	420	1,700	142	220	210	65	135	495	7,560	9,260	\$12,568.50
August	530	2,773.5	172	278	332	78	93	688	9,540	12,314	\$15,860.25
September	464	2,023.0	153	224	277	113	53	614	8,352	10,375	\$13,885.20
October	392	2,351.0	140	183	236	90	35	509	7,056	9,407	\$11,730.60
November	484	2,428.0	181	258	323	88	46	669	8,712	11,140	\$14,483.70
December	432	2,003.0	176	198	263	92	29	553	7,776	9,779	\$12,927.60
	5,369	23,957.5	1,853	2,702	3,055	1,003	572	6,760	96,642	120,600	\$160,667.33

We ended the year off strong with over two hundred turkeys and chickens donated for the Thanksgiving basket giveaway. Combined with stuffing, potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes, our families enjoyed a great meal. We hope that we can double our efforts in 2023!

Norman Jordan
Food Pantry Coordinator

Technology Committee

2022 technology projects included improvements to office technology, continued rollout of our donor management system, and a new website (ceichester.org).

Office Technology:

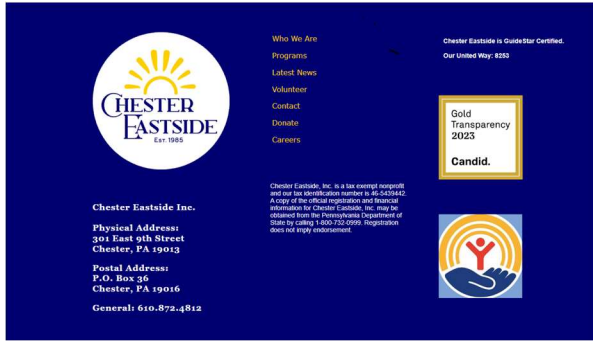
- New computers were purchased for the Executive Director and Operations
- Managed after unsuccessful attempts to re-build their old workstations.
- Office cleanouts disposed of obsolete workstations and printers.
- A new wifi node was added to isolate the office from OST student traffic.

- Next steps - the office needs a shared drive capability (both intra-office and with the Board).

Donor Management:

- DonorPerfect implementation continued with the configuration and deployment of new functions for thank you notes (letters and emails), pledging, soft crediting and donor maintenance.
- The DonorPerfect donor database doubled in size and was used for four donor appeals throughout the year.
- A new payment engine was implemented to process online donations between the new website (ceichester.org) and DonorPerfect.
- The PayPal payment engine was shut down after all 2022 payments were converted onto DonorPerfect.
- Next steps – 2022 year-end tax statements and the implementation of an accounting interface between DonorPerfect and the Quickbooks general ledger.

New website (ceichester.org)

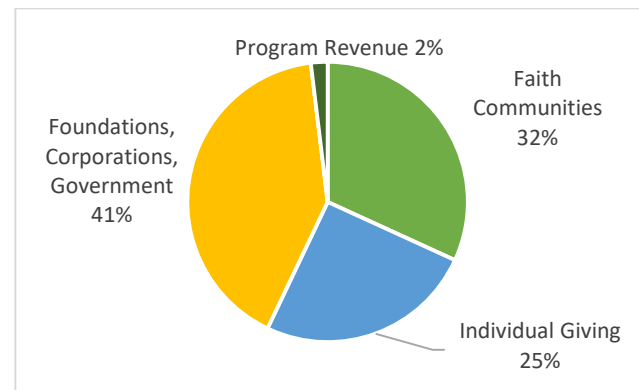


- Under the leadership of our board members, leadership team, staff, and volunteers, we completed the development and deployment of our new website—the first major upgrade in twenty years.
- The website was originally designed and built by University of Delaware students in 2021.
- Planning for the website transition happened over the summer, we went live in October after a month of testing. In addition to seeing a complete metamorphosis of the new design, visitors can now read posts from our leadership team in addition to donating through our new streamlined process. We have also streamlined the donations management process through our new website.
- Over the past few months, our pages have been viewed over 4000 times with an average engagement time of 2 minutes and 31 seconds, and our most read blog post was Thanksgiving Fixins', published in November. The new website was deployed in September with a new payment engine and straight-through-processing into DonorPerfect.
- Next steps – Implement an interface between DonorPerfect and Constant Contact for email blasts (for solicitations and newsletters, etc.).

Jeff Jones,
Technology Committee Chair

Finance Report

Financial Systems are usually based upon prediction and control; that is, budgets are produced based on anticipated income and then expenses are controlled accordingly. For Chester Eastside Inc. (CEI), 2022 did not unfold as expected. While the financial results for the whole year were balanced, the path taken to achieve this result was not what was anticipated. For example, the position of Executive Director was vacant from January, when Zuline Wilkinson resigned, until August, when Andy Jacob arrived. Additionally, the anticipated Operations Manager position was not filled until June. The anticipated but unpaid salary expense from these two positions offset all of the shortfall in anticipated revenue. CEI continued to operate as expected thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.



With respect to anticipated revenue, support from churches and individuals remained high in 2022 (\$198,000 vs \$190,000 anticipated) while support from foundations, grants and governments was considerably less than anticipated (\$116,000 vs \$198,000 anticipated). Total

cash income in 2022 was \$325,000 vs. anticipated income of \$405,000. On the other hand, total cash expenses in 2022 were \$360,000 vs. anticipated expenses of \$460,000. Savings in general administration expenses, offset by some increased professional service fees, accounted for the savings beyond those in salary and related expenses. In 2022, CEI also received in-kind food contributions of \$135,038, distributed \$141,697 worth of food, and had \$7,342 worth of food in inventory at year end.

In summary, CEI came through a tumultuous year in a strong position, having reduced cash reserves less than anticipated, and begins 2023 in a strong position with more than a quarter million dollars in the bank.

Bob Kenworthy
Finance Committee Chair

Development Committee

The Board, staff and volunteers are deeply appreciative to those whose financial gifts keep CEI on the tracks running full steam ahead. Those gifts continue to make all things possible: the staff, food, program supplies, and equipment we need to offer the services we provide.

Many have joined in to support the core mission of CEI in 2022. The local businesses who took up collections of funds, food, gift cards, and... turkeys! The corporations who committed to matching employee donations to the charities they cherish. The city, state, and federal staff who work tirelessly to funnel funds to nonprofits seeking and serving to improve

the quality of life in their communities. The legion of individuals who trust us with their hard-earned money because they recognize the value of healthy communities, and deeply believe that all people should have access to the basic necessities of life.

We would be remiss if we did not offer a special shout out to the many houses of worship that continue to support CEI year after year. Last year congregational giving accounted for 25% of our total revenue. Having been created by the Presbytery of Philadelphia (1985), we lift up the Presbyterian Churches in and around Chester that accounted for 63% of the total funds received from church communities.

Having extolled the virtue of numbers, we offer that the largest importance lies beneath them. Yes, money matters...but: with every contribution comes a vote of confidence, trust, and faith. Every last one, no matter the size, fuels the radical hope of a transformed world. With all of them comes affirmation of our mission, and solidarity in pursuing its fulfillment.

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.

Jane Kamp
Development Committee Chair

Proposal Writers



2022 was a year of change for Chester Eastside, much of which affected grant writing efforts. While the transitions limited our ability to seek funding in the short term, a new, coordinated approach is energizing our long-term plans.

Our plans for 2023 involve “casting a wider net” to explore funding possibilities beyond the foundations/churches that have so generously provided grants in the past. The plan includes:

- Monthly Zoom meetings among Rev. Andy and grant writers Claire Walton and Leslie Krowchenko to review upcoming deadlines, assign proposals, etc.
- Compiling and refining a list of potential funding sources using the foundation directory available through the University of Pennsylvania, in the hope of applying to those organizations whose missions align with CEI’s.
- Grant writers meeting, as needed, with the Program and/or Development committees for input and review.

CEI takes seriously the mandate to exercise wise stewardship and works to promote sustainability as well as service reach and delivery by diversifying its funding streams, collaborating with a variety of organizations across the public

and private sector and benefiting from the participation of volunteers.

Claire Walton and Leslie Krowchenko
Proposal Writers

The Community Garden



2022 was the 5th year of the Chester Eastside-St. Paul’s Community Garden. The children of the Out of School Time Program (OST) and Phoenix Summer Camp participated in all stages of growing crops, including planting, tending, harvesting, and preparing the soil for a later season crop. They learn about the importance of pollinators and the difference between insects that are good and those that are bad for the garden. They also learn the cycle of the garden year from planting seeds, tending plants, harvesting crops, and composting plant waste which turns to soil they can use the following spring. The children are proud to take home what they harvest. The remaining food is donated to the Chester Eastside Food Cupboard. We also share herbs and vegetables with neighbors who stop to admire the garden.

The garden program had many additions and special events this year. In the

summer the Phoenix campers enjoyed making homemade ice cream with the owner of Center City's Franklin Fountain, Eric Burley. Eric came back in December with homemade cocoa and marshmallows for all. With the help of volunteer Doug Crosby, we began charts to keep track of crop rotation. Doug also donated an organic soap backpack sprayer which helped us keep pests under control. Volunteer Jennifer Stantisi worked with the children to make mosaic planters out of cinder blocks. We were fortunate to engage Lauren Kauffman from 4H and Joan McMeniman from Penn State Extension. Lauren taught botany and Joan taught nutrition at Phoenix Summer Camp. Lauren stayed on to teach a 4th and 5th grade STEM class in the fall. Also in the fall, volunteers Kate McAllister and Barbara Nagel started a cooking class in which the 4th and 5th graders learned cooking with garden vegetables, nutrition, cooking skills, and kitchen safety.



In 2023 our program will be growing. In January, Brittany Marshall from Penn State will teach the 4th and 5th graders nutrition and Lauren Kauffman will continue to teach STEM classes. Kate and Barbara will continue the Cooking from the Garden class until March when we go outside again. With Andy's help we have leased the open land adjacent to the garden and will be growing pumpkins, squash, pole beans, and a butterfly garden arranged in a way that the children can interact and have some fun in this open area.

We are very grateful to Trinity Church Swarthmore, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and Trinity's Sanctuary Yoga program for their generous donations. A special \$1,000 donation from Sanctuary Yoga paid for the Camp Phoenix Children to experience the wonders and beauty of Longwood Gardens.

Barbara Nagel
Community Garden Leader

Episcopal Legal Aid



Episcopal Legal Aid holds a legal clinic at Chester Eastside on the second Wednesday of each month. While the meals pantry is in full swing, offering meals and groceries to those who walk in, ELA has a table nearby that is staffed by an experienced attorney (and sometimes by a knowledgeable law student as well). Clients stop by with a quick question or a more involved legal problem that may involve a review of documents or even a court appearance after the clinic is over. ELA handles all cases, at no charge, until they are resolved or can be referred to other counsel with specialized knowledge.

ELA partners with churches and service organizations in the Delaware Valley that, like Chester Eastside, offer free food or clothing to community members in need. By attending these events, ELA reaches clients who are unable to seek help for their legal problems from more traditional organizations due to transportation problems, time constraints, or a lack of information about available resources. Its mission fits right in with the goals of Chester Eastside.

This past year, ELA helped Carol, who thought she had settled a large PECO obligation by entering into one of its payment programs only to find that her debt resurfaced after a brief period when she lived with family and cancelled her electricity service. ELA prepared an administrative appeal which was resolved prior to a hearing when PECO reinstated Carol's discount plan. ELA also assisted Betty, who had agreed to relinquish title to a small piece of property she jointly owned with her husband as part of their divorce settlement. Years went by during which the husband did not conclude the transaction by transferring the title, until he reappeared this past year and threatened Betty with a court action if she did not sign the final papers. After ELA reviewed the relevant documents, it was able to advise Betty as to a proper course of action to resolve the issue once and for all. ELA also provided immigration advice to Chester Eastside clients and referrals for people who want to try to expunge their criminal records.

Episcopal Legal Aid is grateful to Chester Eastside and the volunteers in the meals pantry for providing space and a welcoming environment for both clients and staff.

Steve Chawaga
Executive Director, Episcopal Legal Aid

