



We are Wellspring

interfaith social services inc.

2020 COMMUNITY REPORT



2020 Board of Directors

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Staff List

Melissa Rinehart,
Executive Director

Lori Otis, Assistant
Executive Director

Lois Ehinger,
Youth Department Director

Cierra Thomas,
Youth Department
Assistant Director

Rachel Rosin,
Older Adult Program Director

Roy Hossler, Older Adult
Program Assistant Director

Linda Hansen,
Food Bank Director

Kelli Weaver,
Food Bank Program Assistant

David Long,
Wellspring Shoppe Coordinator

Jenny Sargent, Wellspring
Shoppe Program Assistant

JR Stopperich, Office Manager

Alicia Pearson, Receptionist

Melissa Joseph, Custodian



2020 proved challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Wellspring persevered. To say I'm incredibly proud of my team and the work we did last year is an understatement. Even with furloughing and juggling staff around, no one ever complained. In fact, everyone jumped in like never before.

How did we adapt at Wellspring?

Our Food Bank operations made us an essential provider and as you can imagine, the need was huge. I relaxed Food Bank requirements and offered curb-side service, thereby enabling staff to serve more people safely. I also added an additional weekly pop-up site for Wellspring on Wheels (WOW) throughout 2020.

We also launched a Mask-Operations Program in early August. With emergency grant funding, we partnered with 10 mask makers in the community and nearly 7,000 masks of various styles were made for men, women and children alike. In all, we distributed over 5,700 masks in 2020 to 3,410 clients.

We also provided home-sewn masks to several area organizations including: SCAN, Whittington Homes, Bridge of Grace Church, Faith United Methodist Church, Friends Fellowship Church, Come As You Are Community Church, North Adams Community Schools, Kekionga Middle School, the Adams County Council on Aging, the Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana Michiana, ResCare, and the Fort Wayne Police Department.

Melissa Rinehart, Executive Director

In their own words, program directors shared how 2020 impacted them.

"The challenges of 2020 inspired the Older Adult Program to recreate and reinvent in order to continue to meet the needs of 'Our Family!'"

-Rachel Rosin, Older Adult Program Director

"I felt proud to support an organization that was providing free food when our community was really struggling. It feels great to give families a small relief in such a turbulent time."

-Lori Otis, Assistant Executive Director

"The strain of COVID-19 this past year has put serving the food insecure in our community in perspective for me. I am thankful to continue to help so many families in need. Despite the challenges, the rewards have been many."

-Linda Hansen, Food Bank Director

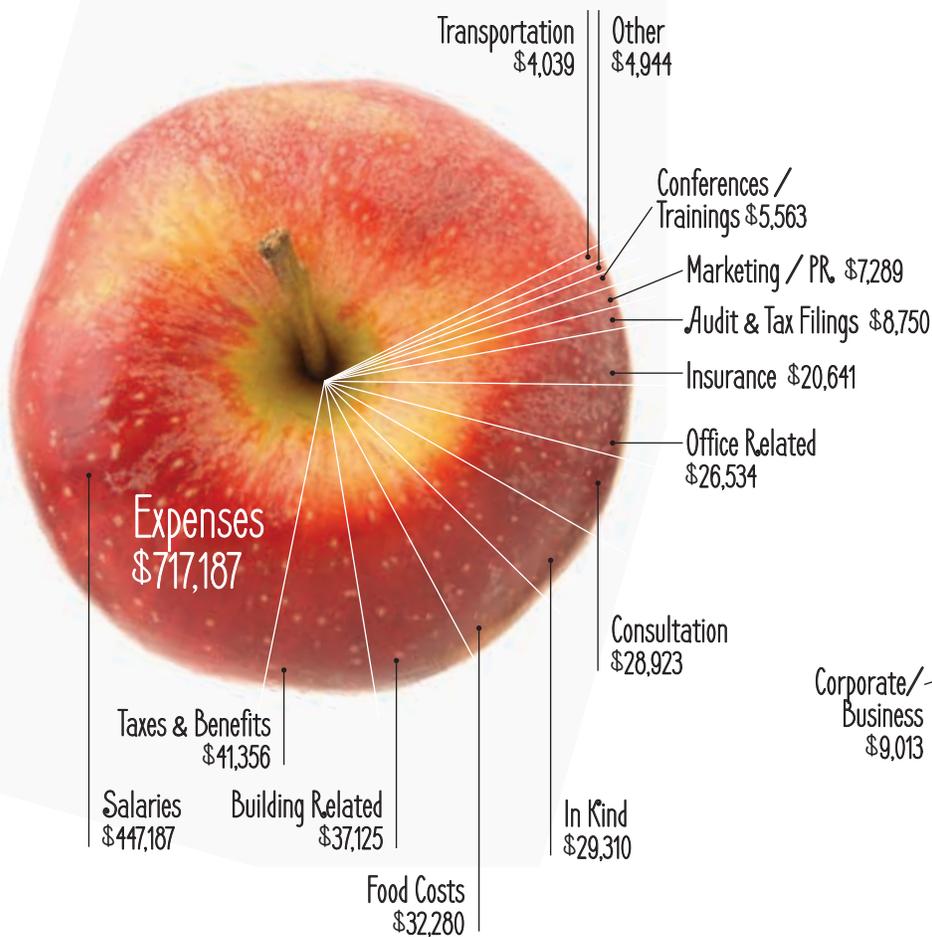
"Despite the problems associated with the pandemic, the Wellspring Shoppe has forged ahead with restrictions only on the number of clients allowed in the Shoppe at one time. We still offer free quality clothing to all of our clients in our boutique-like setting. We're proud of the work we do, and we're especially proud of the work Wellspring has done rising to the challenge of the many problems 2020 brought our way."

-David Long, Wellspring Shoppe Coordinator

"Working during the pandemic was crazy, but ultimately it was also a very positive experience. Having to constantly change plans and adapt has helped me to be more focused and flexible. It reignited my passion for working with people. I feel reenergized and ready to face whatever new challenges 2021 has in store for me."

-Lois Ehinger, Youth Program Director

2020 Financials*



2020 Program Summary

Camp Lift-Off	10
After-School Program	66
Older Adult Program	128
Food Bank.....	9,919
Wellspring on Wheels	18,685
Mask Operations.....	3,410
TOTAL.....	32,218

Providing free programs and services to our neighbors in need.

*unaudited financials

We are Fighting Hunger

IN 2020
WE SERVED



9,919
individuals



2,822
families

AND
DISTRIBUTED



42 tons
of food



Food Bank

Our Food Bank had record-breaking numbers in 2020 with the last quarter being especially busy. Feeding America estimates that before the coronavirus, more than 35 million people were considered food-insecure – this was the lowest food insecurity rate in more than 20 years. However, the pandemic increased food insecurity to over 50 million people including 17 million children.

We definitely experienced the rising need at our Food Bank due to the economic impact of the pandemic. We served 9,919 individuals, 2,822 families and distributed 42 tons of food through our Food Bank last year.

HERE'S WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAID...

"They gave me food when I didn't have a dollar to my name."

"They kept me from starving, and my dog too!"

"Wellspring improved my nutrition and gave me resources to pay bills."

"It's made a huge difference. My husband and I are able to make more bills on time."





We are Mobilizing Hope

IN 2020
WE SERVED


18,685
individuals


4,883
families

AND
DISTRIBUTED


30 tons
of product

Wellspring on Wheels (WOW)

WOW helped us reach even more food insecure people throughout Allen County. We not only served the City of Fort Wayne, but also Huntertown, New Haven, and Hoagland. Rain or shine, our staff distributed quality food and hygiene items to 18,685 individuals, 4,883 families, and 30 tons of product in 2020.



Due to the generosity of funders, we were able to build our capacity with the purchase of additional refrigeration and a dedicated cargo van for WOW – we call her 'Margo the Cargo' van.

HERE'S WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAID...

“Thank you to Wellspring for their continued effort to help not only my family, but the community as a whole. You are doing an incredibly amazing job during such trying, scary times for everyone. Having all four of my children at home all day and my husband out of work, we are going through food so fast. You are helping to ease my family’s food insecurity as well as others. I can’t tell you how much that means to me.

“The fact that this program exists is wonderful and the locations are convenient. The meat is a definite plus and the personal hygiene items are a bonus. Because of WOW, I receive enough food to provide for my family. I can budget that money I’d normally spend on food for other expenses. It’s nice not to worry about money for groceries.”



We are Empowering Youth

Camp Lift-Off

Although we were saddened to have canceled our flagship program – the annual Youth Summer Day Camp where thousands of children have graduated from the last 52 years, we were able to design a safe and innovative camp to support our community's youth during the pandemic. We held 'Camp Lift-Off' at our Wellspring facility three days a week during the month of July. Ten children enjoyed structured weekly themes ending with a fun carnival full of games and prizes.

IN 2020
Camp Lift-Off SERVED | **10** children

HERE'S WHAT ONE PARENT SAID...

"Your staff is on it! Temping [taking temperatures] at the door, making sure the kids are masked up and hands washed before signing in. We know our daughter is safe."

After-School Program

We also adapted our After-School Program to the pandemic for 66 youth in 2020 who continued to spend the vulnerable after-school hours in a safe, structured, and supportive environment. Other school-age children joined us virtually for homework assistance or came on-site for remote learning. This hybrid approach helped us meet the needs of our families while keeping youth safe, supervised, and engaged.

IN 2020
The After-School Program SERVED | **66** youth

HERE'S WHAT OUR PARENTS SAID...

"I don't know what I would do without Wellspring! You guys are perfect and (the) staff is awesome! Thank you for all your help and support."

"This program has made it easier to know that my child doesn't have to sit at home alone. She receives help with homework, healthy snacks and meals."



We are **Lifting Up Seniors**

Older Adult Program

Through our daily Older Adult Program, we helped 128 seniors and older adults with intellectual disabilities stay connected to the community in 2020. We found innovative ways to reach participants without putting anyone's health at risk. Staff kept in touch with clients through phone calls, newsletters, and letters from the Executive Director. Program directors also took their program virtually, telephonically, and outdoors when it resumed.



IN 2020
The Older Adult Program SERVED | **128** seniors

HERE'S WHAT OUR SENIORS SAID...

"Wellspring is a lifeline. They provide a space where you can socialize with friends."

"This program has made me more assertive and confident."

"It gives me a sense of purpose and community."

We are **Fitting the Community**

HERE'S WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAID....

"The staff was very friendly and went out of their way to help my family."

"The staff were VERY nice, kind, polite, with beautiful energy. The clothing store is very clean and organized. I love it!"

"Just to know that they are here to help me out is a blessing."



Wellspring Shoppe

After the mandated shutdown, we adapted the Wellspring Shoppe operations by staggering appointments thereby limiting the number of clients in the building at one time. We also required temperature checks upon entrance

and masks. Nearly 3,000 clients were served last year and over 17,500 items of clothing were distributed. That's no small feat given the unpredictable nature of 2020!

IN 2020
The Wellspring Shoppe SERVED | **3,000** clients



Mural done by Theopolis Smith III

Ways you can invest in Wellspring...

Volunteer at the Wellspring Shoppe to help sort clothing.

Volunteer at the Food Bank to help distribute food and hygiene items.

Volunteer in the After-School Program to help children with their academics.

Donate gently-worn clothing to the Wellspring Shoppe.

Donate food to the Food Bank.

Invest in the David B. McCracken Wellspring Camp Endowment.

Make a financial contribution.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Wellspring interfaith
social services inc.
Serving Fort Wayne's Central City Every Day.

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**Providing free programs and services
to our neighbors in need.**

WellspringInterfaith.org

Disclaimer: the unmasked photos
were taken prior to the pandemic.

