

**WHAT'S YOUR**

# SUPERPOWER!

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





Another year in the books and what a year it was! The pandemic did not prevent us from offering quality programs, in fact it compelled us to look for new ways to adapt programming while ensuring the safety of everyone. COVID-19 slowed us at times, but we remain steadfastly committed to serve anyone experiencing

food or clothing insecurity, and to any youth and seniors needing important enrichments.

Two years into the pandemic and I still marvel at how much our staff pitched in without reservation or complaint. I am also deeply humbled by ongoing financial support from donors, foundations, and corporations alike. Everything we do at Well-spring is a team effort and it ironically made me think of us as a family of superheroes.

Our superpower at Wellspring is our ability to meet people where they are. By providing clients critical supports, ranging from food to after-school tutoring, we empower them to live their best lives. Relationships are at the core of everything we do, and it is not uncommon to hear staff and board members alike speak about our relational approach – our work is done with dignity and grace every step of the way.

Just as Superman once said, "There is a superhero in all of us. We just need the courage to put on the cape." Our capes fly high at Wellspring and we will always rise to the occasion when it comes to serving others!

*Melissa Rinehart, PhD, CFRM  
Executive Director*

"Our superpower is a combination of care and compassion. We have the compassion to make sure the free clothing we offer matches a high standard of quality, and the care to give each client individual attention."

-David Long, Wellspring Shoppe Coordinator

"Wellspring's superpower is building relationships with youth, their families, schools and staff."

-Lois Ehinger, Youth Department Co-Director & Cierra Thomas, Youth Department Co-Director

"Wellspring's superpower is assuring basic needs are met including food, clothing, and connections. We offer a support system that allows them to thrive."

-Rachel Tobin-Smith, Board President

"Wellspring's superpower is FLEXIBILITY because we are able to adapt to anything that comes our way."

-Linda Hansen, Food Bank Director & Sam Bruening, Assistant Food Bank Director

"Wellspring's superpower is COMPASSION! The staff can see into the tangible and intangible needs of our clients and will do their very best to provide for those needs."

-Mandy Waters, Older Adult Program Director

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Faith Van Gilder,**  
Vice President,  
Community Relations

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Fort Wayne City Utilities

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**Jenee' Johnson,**  
Junior Achievement  
of Northern Indiana

**OUR SUPERHERO LEAGUE  
STAFF LIST**

**Melissa Rinehart,**  
Executive Director

**Lois Ehinger,**  
Youth Department Co-Director

**Cierra Thomas,**  
Youth Department Co-Director

**Mandy Waters,**  
Older Adult Program Director

**Renee Smith,**  
Older Adult Program Assistant

**David Long,**  
Wellspring Shoppe Coordinator

**Kimberly Michaelsen,**  
Wellspring Shoppe  
Program Assistant

**Linda Hansen,**  
Food Bank Director

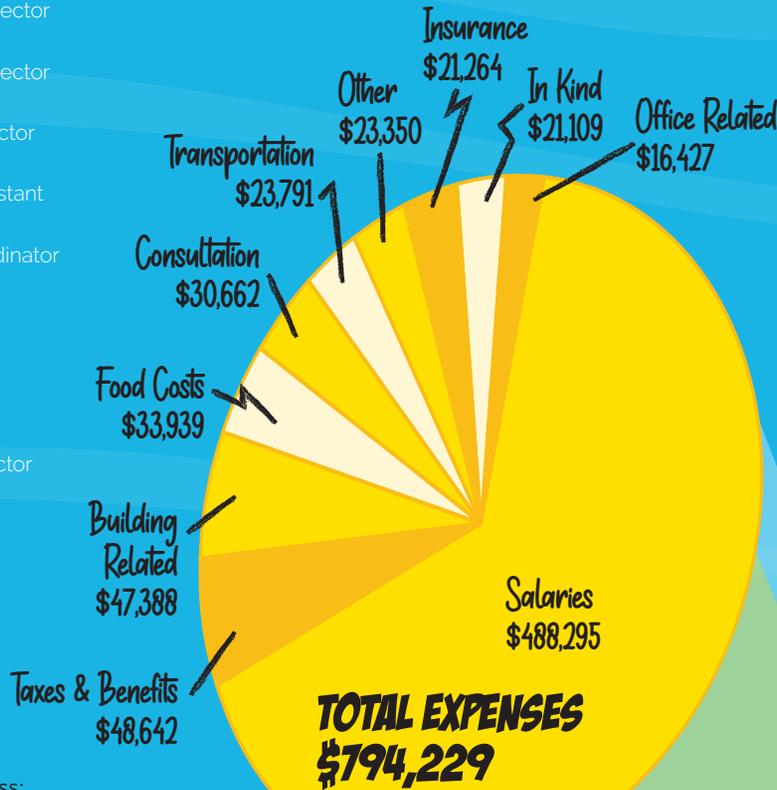
**Sam Bruening,**  
Assistant Food Bank Director

**JR Stopperich,**  
Office Manager

**Alicia Pearson,**  
Administrative Assistant

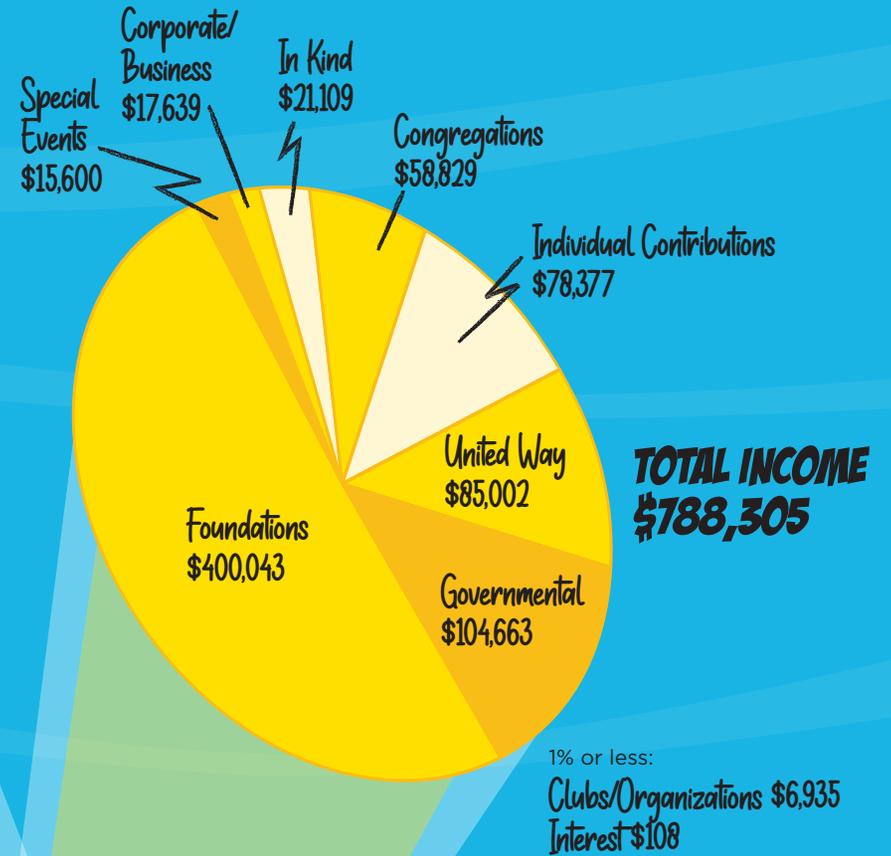
**Melissa Joseph,**  
Custodian

**2021 FINANCIALS\***



1% or less:  
 Capital Expenses \$11,994  
 Audit/Tax Filings \$10,518  
 Marketing/PR \$9,506  
 Conferences/Training \$7,344

\*unaudited financials



1% or less:  
 Clubs/Organizations \$6,935  
 Interest \$108

**2021 Program Summary**

After-School Program	50
Food Bank	5,364
Older Adult Program	150
Summer Day Camp	235
Wellspring Shoppe	4,595
Wellspring on Wheels	12,590
<b>TOTAL CLIENTS SERVED IN 2021</b>	<b>22,984</b>

Providing free programs to anyone in need.

# CRUSHING HUNGER

## Food Bank

Wellspring's Food Bank remains one of the most accessible food pantries in Allen County. Clients no longer need to show a form of identification, therefore, the Food Bank is open to anyone every 30 days. Open five days a week and the second Saturday of the month, 1,650 families were served in 2021 totaling 5,364 clients that received 50,000 pounds of distributed food. Increasing grocery prices brought many new families to Wellspring last year.

"It is very important to have food when our income is low and we cannot afford healthy food."

"The monthly help and pop-up [WOW] locations have helped me tremendously. So grateful"

"It allows me to concentrate on bills versus food."

**17,954** food insecure clients were served

**51** tons of food was distributed

**85,848** total number of meals

## Wellspring on Wheels (WOW)

Our mobile food pantry, 'WOW', partnered with churches, a township trustee, a mobile home park, a public library, a non-profit and an apartment complex in 2021. Each of these sites were located in carefully selected areas with food deserts. In fact an impressive 27 tons of product – including food, hygiene items and diapers - was distributed to 12,590 clients. WOW is a mobile superpower helping food insecure neighbors all around the county and is open to anyone in need.

"Thank you for allowing us to have food and hygiene products for our family during this rough season financially. We appreciate how God is using Wellspring to answer our prayers."



# SMASHING DUDS

## Wellspring Shoppe

It was great to be back in the full swing of things at the Wellspring Shoppe. This donation-based clothing boutique received a significant amount of clothing and apparel donations in 2021, so much so the Shoppe received an organizational facelift. Wellspring also took the Shoppe on the road for part of the year, piggybacking at the WOW distribution sites. Clients were thrilled to receive quality clothing alongside food, hygiene items, and diapers!

**22,660**

items of clothing,  
ranging from

**WORK ATTIRE**

to

**WEDDING  
DRESSES,**

were distributed to

**4,595**

grateful clients



"Coming in and feeling like I'm in a mall but I can have them because I couldn't pay for them on my own."

"The clothing was fresh."

"The Shoppe is a great resource for all of my foster children."

"Best experience ever."



Superheroes wear cool shoes, too!

# SOARING YOUTH

## Summer Day Camp

Youth Summer Day Camp is a longstanding tradition at Wellspring. Conducted at four sites in 2021, 235 youth from pre-K to high school benefited from this six-week summer day camp. Activities ranged from field trips, to walks, to science activities and more. Relationships have always remained at the core of this program. In fact, eight staff members were former campers themselves last year.

"The field trips are fun, and my favorite was Bell's Skating Rink!"

"This is kinda the best camp!"

**235**  
enrolled campers



## After-School Program

Relationships are also the focus of the After-School Program. A small staff-to-child ratio is maintained so that staff get to know the youth and their families well. Carefully planned activities, such as arts and crafts, exercise, tutoring and snacks/meals make these important after-school hours action-packed.

**50**  
enrolled youth

"This program has been a lifesaver. Keeps kids safe and supervised versus being home alone."

"I am blessed it's free."

"I appreciate the quality services provided."

"Wonderful experience!!! Great staff. Help with homework has been worth its weight in gold."



# LEGENDARY LEAGUE

## Older Adult Program

After over a year of being shut down, seniors were thrilled to be back in person! With a new room set-up that allowed for social distancing and masks provided to all. Wellspring was a safe place for seniors to enjoy a multitude of enrichment activities and a healthy meal. Wellspring also took the Older Adult Program on the road one day a week to the New Haven Community Center in 2021!

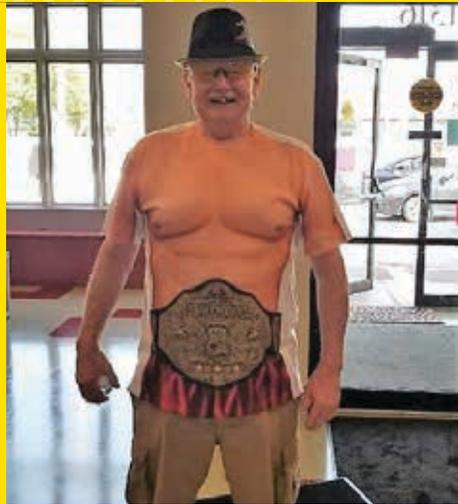
150  
seniors

"It gives me something to look forward to do or just somewhere to go and participate."

"I'm not as lonely, have somewhere free to go to hang out with people my age."

"I like the variety of activities and learning more about peoples lives"

"It gives structure to my life."



WHAT'S YOUR

# SUPERPOWER?

2021 COMMUNITY REPORT



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

1316 Broadway • Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
260-422-6618

**Providing free programs and services to anyone in need.**

WellspringInterfaith.org

