

Food Pantry News

Volume 6, Issue 2—April 2024



Our mission: To provide emergency food assistance to families of Plainfield who find themselves in need..

Charitable donations decline

Charitable giving dropped 2.1% in 2023 after inflation, according to the most recent Giving USA report, the key findings of which were released recently, per an article in The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

For years now, nonprofits have been worried about the decline in the number of Americans who give. This year's Giving USA report won't allay their concerns: Giving by individuals in 2023 dropped 2.4%. The share of overall giving that came from individual donors continued to decline, albeit slightly, from 67.4% in 2022 to 67.2% in 2023. As recently as 2013, individual donors accounted for 73% of overall giving.

Inflation was 8% in 2022, which contributed to a precipitous drop in giving that year. (Giving USA's updated estimates put that decrease at 8.4%.) In 2023, inflation was just 4.1%, but it was still enough to wipe out any gains in giving. Using current dollars, giving grew from \$547 billion in 2022 to \$557 billion, a gain of 1.9% that turns into a 2.1% loss after taking inflation into account.

The nonprofit world's reliance on wealthy donors is a problem, says Woodrow Rosenbaum, chief data officer for GivingTuesday. He says everyday donors will likely continue to fall away unless nonprofits work hard to bring them back into the fold.

Here at Star Fish we don't rely on wealthy donors, we rely on EVERYONE! Our supporters do include a few business and some generous grants, but the vast majority are people like you. Whether you send a few dollars or a few thousand, it is your contributions and support that lighten our burdens and make our tasks easier.

We're hitting the summer doldrums, and a good pick-me-up would be a donation of any amount to help us keep going. Donate today at <https://www.starfishplainfield.org/contact-us-or-donate.php>. We thank you!!!

Board of Directors

Pat Bixel

Executive
Director



Michael Townley

Secretary



Kathleen Nitzsche

Treasurer



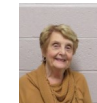
Sarah Mazzaresse

Statistician



Catherine Renga

Chair
Holiday Meals



Jerry Zukowski

Chair
Food Procurement



Marie Pase, Board
Advisor

Newsletter

We welcome any
comments or
suggestions. Email us!

If you don't want to
receive emails from us,
opting out is easy—just
send an email to

Secretary@
starfishplainfield.org

Please forward to your
contacts.

Thanks to our donors, some new, some previous givers...



Student volunteers from Fanwood-Scotch Plains High School French Club (left) and Habitat for Humanity Club (right) helped us out this Spring. As did students and parents of Holy Trinity School with their food drive.



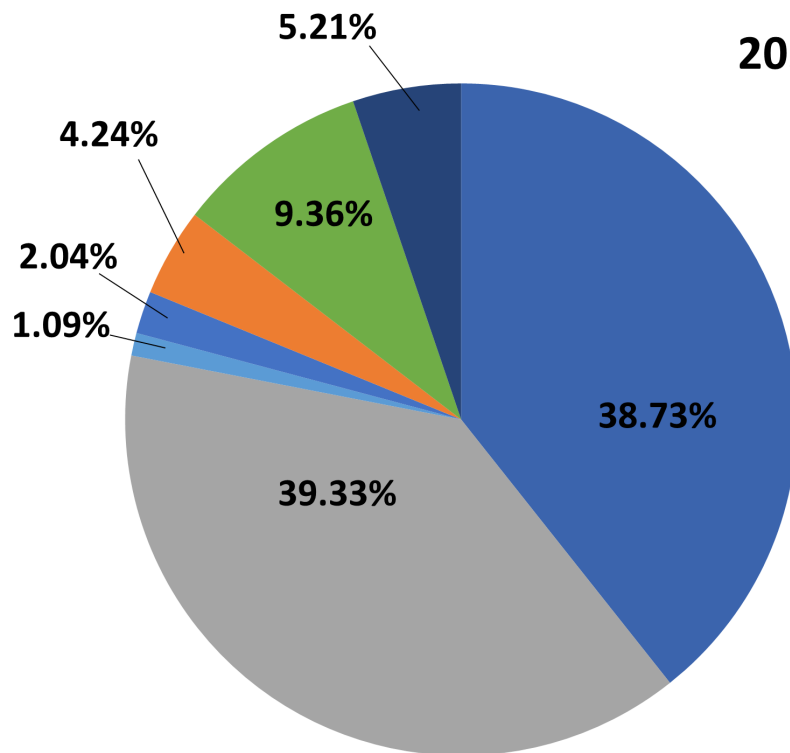
Patty Bixel (c) and our treasurer Kathleen Nitzsche (r) posed with Hillside Historic District's Jeff Paul and other members to accept their \$1,350.00 donation from their holiday luminaries sale.



Cicely Caldwell (l) poses with the ShopRite gift cards Patty Bixel presented for the clients at Centerpath Wellness to use for Easter dinner food..

Where Does the Money Go ? ?

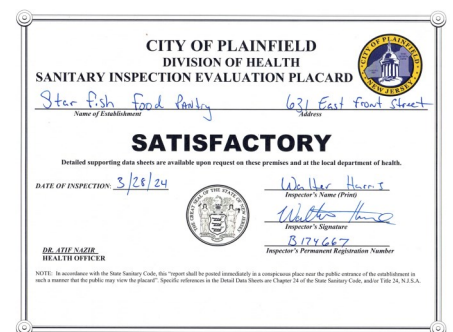
2023 Total Expenses - \$87,793.00



- Regular food supplies - \$34525
- Holiday food supplies - \$34000
- Food supplies - other - \$960
- Business Expenses - \$1793
- Facilities and Equipment - \$3720
- Operations - \$8217
- Other expenses - \$4578



Left—a donation from the Cranford United Methodist Church by Sue and Vinnie VanGorden. Right—for the first time ever, we were required to get a Health Department license. There is no “excellent”, or we would have earned that!



Mt. St. Mary students collected 6 large bags full of cereal, an annual project.



Volunteers who helped accept and sort hundreds of bags of food from the Postal Workers collection

Star Fish, Inc.

P.O. Box 2822

Plainfield, NJ 07062-0822

Phone: 908-755-8888

E-mail:

secretary@starfishplainfield.org

Donate at

www.starfishplainfield.org

Visit our website, click on the Contact or Donate link in the menu bar, and then click on the "Donate" button as shown below.



What is Star Fish?

We are a group of volunteers from Plainfield and the surrounding area who belong to a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in existence since 1971. Star Fish operates three days each week throughout the year, preparing and distributing grocery food orders to an average of thirty to thirty-five families in need each week.

Our primary function is to maintain the food pantry. Our volunteers pack and deliver grocery food orders to clients who have been referred to us by local social service agencies. Most of these agencies are listed on our website Partners page. We also prepare and help give out 150 bags of food twice a month at the walkup Plainfield Food Security Project.

Using a referral system helps us better manage our resources. These agencies vet the client to help assure that our limited resources are given to those truly in need. Our team also prepares special food gift cards for 160 families at Easter, Thanksgiving, and at Christmas. This enables the families to buy food that is appropriate to their heritage and beliefs.

Food We Provide To Those In Need—Items & Amounts Vary Based on Family Size

- 1 Package of frozen meat
- 1 Loaf of bread
- 1 lb of Pasta
- 1 Pasta Sauce
- 1 bag rice
- 2 Cans Soup
- 2 Macaroni and Cheese
- 1 Small bag of tea bags
- 1 Jar Peanut Butter
- 1 Jar Jelly
- 1 Can of Fruit or Jar of Applesauce
- 2 Cans Vegetables
- 2 Can of Tuna
- 2 Cans of Beans
- 1/2 Dozen Eggs
- 2 box of cereal (or 4 Instant Breakfast Cereal envelopes for single persons)
- 1 dry or shelf-stable milk
- Paper goods and personal care item (when available)



A typical food order

Too busy to do extra shopping? Donate instead and we'll buy it. Just go to www.starfishplainfield.org and click on the "Donate" button.