CHHOP'S Mission and Purpose

At CHHOP, we believe that every person is entitled to safe and affordable housing and healthy, nutritious food. We work to alleviate hunger and homelessness in Peekskill and its surrounding community by providing temporary housing, long-term housing, advocacy, and clinical and support services to veterans, domestic violence survivors and chronically homeless men and women. We also provide healthy and nutritious food through our food pantry.

62,483

Total number of individuals including children, veterans and seniors served by CHHOP in 2020.
Executive Statement

Dear Friends

The year 2020 changed all our lives. Images of racial injustice, political tensions that rent relationships, and the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic inalterably changed the nation. As the author Charles Dickens wryly noted, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” We saw incredible acts of individual courage and unimaginable pain and suffering. At CHHOP, we worked hard to meet the challenges faced by our clients and staff. We bore witness to all that took place and stood in solidarity with those who struggled. Proudly, we rose to meet our most significant challenge by developing policies to keep our clients and staff safe.

Shelter-in-place orders and social distancing mandates kept many of our employees home during the early days of the pandemic. Throughout this time, our dedicated case workers operated from home, and found creative ways to remain in touch, safely visit their clients, and ensure there was no disruption in their services. For many of our clients, particularly clients in our Turning Point permanent supportive housing program, this work proved to be a vital lifeline. Our client care workers remained on site 24/7 at Jan Peek House to ensure that clients were housed, fed, and supported during this difficult time. We thank each CHHOP staff member for their commitment to our hungry and homeless neighbors throughout this time of great uncertainty.

CHHOP’s Board

CHHOP’s steadfast Board of Directors continued to guide the organization through the turbulence of 2020. Our diverse Board of Directors includes business owners, non-profit executives, health care professionals, business executives, faith leaders, and community leaders. They sincerely believe our mission at CHHOP is to ensure that everyone has access to healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food and safe, affordable housing. Because of their stewardship, CHHOP is a more vital, strong, and agile organization.

Feeding the Hungry

At the start of 2020, our Fred’s Pantry was a weekly “choice” operation, feeding approximately 380 people each Saturday. When the pandemic struck, we shifted to pre-packed grab-and-go foods and opened a second distribution mid-week to accommodate the 1,500 food insecure clients each week for an annual duplicated total of 62,174, up 311% from 2019.

For overall safety reasons, we implemented a change in the distribution process by having our socially-distanced volunteers assemble food bags. This enabled us to speed our operation and reduce time that had previously been spent during an individualized selection process.

Meet the CHHOP Board of Directors

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Generous grants from Mother Cabrini, the MAV Foundation, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Phelps Community Corporation, the Rotary Club of Peekskill, Episcopal Charities, NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, Feeding Westchester, the Westchester Community Foundation, United Way of Westchester and Putnam, 914Cares, M&T Bank, Field Hall Foundation, People’s United Community Bank, and hundreds of individual donors who provided much-needed financial assistance to meet the increased costs associated with feeding so many families.

Opportunity

In 2020 we looked at ways to improve the lives of our diverse population. In Fred’s Pantry, we focused on surveying our clients to better understand their nutritional needs. This resulted in guiding us to focus on ways to improve the quality and types of food, ensuring healthier items and increasing fresh fruits and vegetables in our distributions. We worked with our food sources to reduce sugar and sodium levels for the items provided.

In September 2020, CHHOP recognized that many of our clients had a minimal understanding of financial basics, so we engaged the MHV Federal Credit Union to start a financial literacy program for survivors of domestic violence who are part of our Rehousing In Supportive Environments (RISE) program. The program provided financial education topics such as budgeting, preparing to live independently, and eventually purchasing a first home. Our clients demonstrated an improved ability to manage their money and felt hopeful about the future. The financial literacy program has helped our clients become more aware of how to handle their money and ways to improve their financial situation.

Looking Forward

As 2020 closed, the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine brought all of us hope. While we are seeing the economy begin to stabilize and people return to work, the heightened need for food continues for countless individuals and families. Many families lost income and have been unable to fully pay rent during the pandemic. While financial assistance is available for struggling renters and small landlords, we remain concerned about the impact of lifting the eviction moratorium will have upon struggling families. We assure you that the entire team at CHHOP will continue to devote our efforts on expanding our programs to those in need. We are working tirelessly to connect with a variety of public and private funding streams to secure more funds to meet these needs. We cannot rest until every single person has their basic needs met. In Westchester County, one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, there should be no man, woman, or child who has to face the question of where their next meal will come from and where they will sleep tonight.

CHHOP’s mission to alleviate hunger and homelessness, is more needed and more important than ever before. Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

John Hallinan
Board Chair

Cynthia B. Knox, Esq.
CEO
Services

**Jan Peek House Shelter** is a DSS-funded 24-hour, 365-days-a-year shelter for single adult men and women. We provide supportive case management services for clients. Clients work with a case manager to develop an independent living plan that focuses on obtaining housing and supportive services such as medical, behavioral, employment and educational services.

**Jan Peek Drop-In Services** provides shelter, food and supportive services for homeless adult men and women, particularly during inclement weather. In 2019 we added robust case management services to assist our drop-in clients with accessing the housing and support services they need.

**Fred’s Pantry** was opened in response to the demand created by the recession to serve the community with healthy and nutritious food. Until the Covid-19 pandemic, Fred’s operated as a choice food pantry that enabled clients to select the food that is right for them and their families. Beginning March 2020, we pivoted to a “bag and go” model. In 2020, Fred’s Pantry served an average of nearly 1,500 individuals a week.

**Health Care for Homeless Veterans** was developed to assist the growing epidemic of homelessness among our nation’s veterans. We started this 90-180-day transitional housing program for VA eligible veterans, and working closely with the VA, we provide supportive case management services and linkage to VA medical and support services.

**Turning Point Program** addresses the complex needs of individuals who have been chronically homeless. It is a permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless adults with a disability. Clients live in their own apartment and receive supportive case management services that enable them to live productive lives while maintaining permanent housing.

**RISE-Rehousing in Supportive Environments** is a collaborative program focused on helping survivors of domestic violence and their families move forward from the trauma, isolation, and financial instability arising from domestic violence. We partner with My Sister’s Place and Lifting Up Westchester to provide housing, case management, domestic violence counseling and support, and specialized employment services.
CHHOP’s Major Sponsors

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“CHHOP in essence, is addressing the challenges of the most vulnerable in our society - people living with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, our veterans and seniors- who need assistance with shelter and food. They are making Westchester County and Peekskill a stronger and better community.”

*George Latimer, County Executive Westchester*
When veterans return home from service, their transition to civilian life can be marked with great challenges -- including depression, trauma and substance abuse. CHHOP works with veterans who are experiencing homelessness to make sure that they receive the healthcare and other assistance they need to move forward in their lives and reintegrate into civilian life.

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2020 Statement of Functional Expenses

- Revenue less Expenses: 7.24%
- Management and General Expenses: 7.61%
- Fundraising Expenses: 0.20%
- Program Service Expenses: 84.95%

Legend:
- Program Service Expenses
- Management and General Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses
- Revenue less Expenses