



2022 Annual Report



A Letter From Our Chair

Dear Friends,

In spite of economic and lingering pandemic hardships, 2022 has been a strong year of service, growth, and community support for the BHFP. I am excited by the changes and new opportunities our Executive Director Tom Reeve's steady leadership has made possible:

- Hiring a third employee, Emily Shanahan, as our dynamic new Program Coordinator. (Stop by the food pantry to welcome Emily and say hi to her and Sarah!)
- Improvements to the Food Pantry's space to improve traffic flow and customer service.
- A robust reopening of Serendipity, our fundraising companion resale clothing store, after Covid limitations.
- Renovations to our Timberwolf Community Cupboard to better serve the people of Trenton.
- Organizing a retreat for the BHFP Board to begin the work of strategic planning.
- Working with our Finance Committee to strengthen our investments and endowment.

There have been some changes to the board as long-time members have termed off. We appreciate all their hard work and the institutional knowledge they have shared with us. We've welcomed several new members to our board who come with a range of skills that have added greatly to our organization's strength. (Look for updates on our new board members, as well as employees and volunteers, on our website.) I'm also looking forward to future work and events that are now in their planning stages:

- Completing and beginning the implementation of our new Strategic Plan.
- Exploring our identity to better define our mission, identity, and outreach as we continue to serve all the communities of Mt. Desert Island and Trenton.
- A month-long food and fund drive called Christmas in July, culminating with an event at the Criterion Theater on July 19.

I'll end with a quote by the wonderful Mr. Rogers: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world." My thanks to all those who have donated and supported the work of the BHFP this year. It's what makes the valuable services we provide to our community possible and allows us to continue to grow and flourish.



In Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Carol Shutt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Shutt, BHFP Board Chair



Volunteer Highlight - Marty (and Rena)!

Why did you choose to volunteer here?

M: “I like helping people.”

R: “Marty is probably one of the kindest people I’ve ever met. And she has a very can-do attitude. She’s always looking for how to help, seeing what needs to be done, writing messages to people.”

Favorite aspect of working at the Pantry?

“The connections. I’ve felt very connected with the people who work here and the people who shop here. It’s nice to be able to work and enjoy conversation. Sara is so friendly. I would say that here rather than other volunteer jobs we’ve really bonded with Sara and we always look forward to coming here.”

Trenton Timberwolf Community Cupboard

Last summer, while the school was asleep and the 100-plus students, mine included, were not around, I embarked on a renovation project at the Trenton Timberwolf Community Cupboard. The inside showed some wear and tear and needed new flooring and food-safe wall coverings. For those who don’t know, the Cupboard is a partnership with Trenton Elementary School and Island Connections to bring fresh produce to the Trenton community weekly. Every Thursday, we load 100s of pounds of carrots, onions, potatoes, bananas, apples, and whatever else we have on hand. Then a dedicated volunteer from Island Connections takes the food to the Cupboard.

Using some old vinyl flooring I had lying around, I installed it and new restaurant-quality wallboard to ensure the community has a safe, clean, and comfortable place for food. These changes also benefited Open Table’s Food Access Program, as they also use the site for pickup.

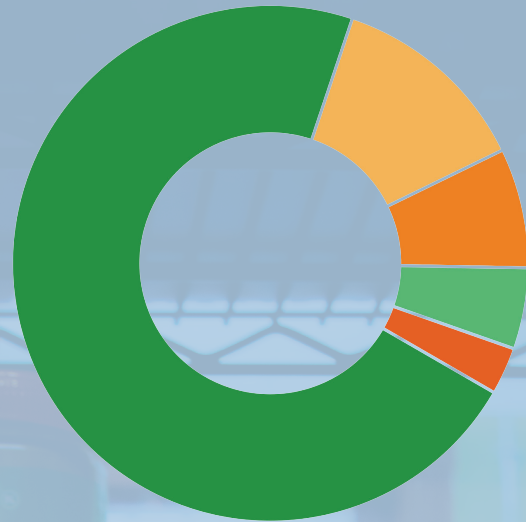
As the need for our services keeps growing, we are glad that support from our community makes projects like the Community Cupboard possible. We look forward to increasing our impact in Trenton and the other Greater MDI communities in the years to come.



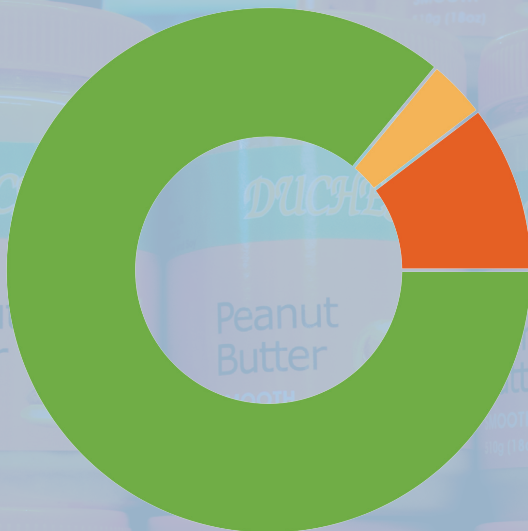
2022 By the Numbers

Individual & Business Donations	\$301,725	71.82%
Serendipity Sales	\$53,056	12.63%
Grants	\$31,500	7.50%
Town Funding	\$21,386	5.09%
Trust & Interest	\$12,450	2.96%
	\$420,117	100%

Income



Expenses



Programs	\$269,630	85.99%
Fundraising	\$11,459	3.65%
Administrative	\$32,472	10.36%
	\$313,562	100%

Volunteer Highlight - Doris

Favorite aspect of working at the Pantry?

“There’s nothing I don’t like, I really like working here. I like seeing the truck come early. It’s kinda fun to make order out of chaos, it’s satisfying. It’s like stacking wood - it’s nice to see the results. And I feel like I’m close enough I can be on call. It’s convenient to come, I don’t have to drive. Bringing home rejected vegetables.”

“I like to be involved without taking responsibility. I was a nurse for 40 years. It’s nice to know I can drop an egg without killing someone.”



Thank you for helping ensure we are able to serve every customer

Have a happy...

Food Sourcing

Value of Donations estimated at \$1.90 per pound

**3000+ Volunteer
Hours Donated!!!**

**211 Bags of Clothing Given
to Customers!**

722 Households Served!

**3605 Customer Visits
to the Pantry!**

**\$268,900 in Food
Given Away!**



**Good Shepherd Food Bank
\$97,950 - 36.4%**

**Purchased from Vendors
\$85,050 - 31.6%**

**Donated by Hannaford
\$67,470 - 25.1%**

**Donated by Individuals
\$18,530 - 6.9%**

Serendipity - Reducing Waste and Funding the Pantry

Serendipity, located next to the fire station in downtown Bar Harbor, is our secondhand clothing store. Every week, members of the MDI community donate their unneeded clothing to us. Dedicated volunteers then sort and price donations, stock shelves, and checkout customers. It is a passion project of so many dedicated community members, raising over \$50,000 annually to support the Pantry.

What has become apparent to me is that it is more than just a way to raise funds for our food insecurity work. It is a needed community resource.

This winter, I began renovating the store's interior space. I had to close the store for eight weeks. In those eight weeks, I lost count of the number of people who stopped by, called, and messaged, asking when we would reopen. Some wanted to shop, but most wanted to drop off donations. That drove home the point that our community relies on Serendipity to ensure its unneeded clothing goes to good use.

The shop has always been used to assist those in our community who need a helping hand. In 2022, we gave out over 200 grocery bags of free clothing. We also gave hundreds of dollars of gift cards to those in need. Know that when shopping at Serendipity, you support more than just the Pantry. You are supporting our whole community.

Volunteer Highlight - Sandi

Favorite thing about volunteering?

"It's fun to be a witness to the generosity of the community. To see how people support. And so many folks come in: seasonal workers, little kids, families, students."



Volunteer Highlight - Helen

Favorite thing about volunteering?

"Like everyone else, I needed something to do. And I liked it. And I like the people. So I continue. And we see interesting things. Usually when there's someone here we'll sort and hold up an odd donation and laugh."



Serendipity Donations Roadmap



Board of Directors

Carol Shutt, Chair
Hannah Phippen, Vice Chair
Kyle McKim, Treasurer
Kim Craighead, Secretary
Veronica Breceda
Kourtney Collum, Ph.D.
Liddy Hubbell
Laura Ingerson
David Lewis
Jena Young

Staff

Sara Graves, Pantry Manager
Tom Reeve, Executive Director
Emily Shanahan, Program Coordinator

**Keep an eye out in July for
our new summer event,
Christmas in July at the
Criterion, presented by
Side Street Cafe!!!**

Volunteer Spotlight - Elise

A Note From Tom:

Elise has been volunteering at the Pantry for eight years. She is one of our most regular volunteers, coming in three times a week. She is a big part of our family and we are losing her in 2023. Her husband is retiring from and they are moving to the southern part of the state to be closer to family. She will be missed tremendously.

Favorite part of volunteering?

“Come in here, ya know, do what I can do to do my part in helping the community. I don’t know. I like the people I work with, I like the people who come into the pantry. I like to think I’m doing a good thing. I just like coming in here, the whole thing.”

“Over the years I’ve come to know more and more people and I enjoy seeing them. I feel like part of a team.”

“I like the idea that when I come in here I know people’s names and they know my name. It’s a nice feeling. I’m a behind the scenes person but I’m active in working with the people who come in.”

“Sara and I are a good team. Right, Sara?”

