



# 2018-19 Annual Report



**care for real**  
FOOD • CLOTHING • SUPPORT





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# Leadership Letter

Dear Friends,

Each year, we are pleased report to you about our accomplishments and the challenges we face. As the safety net for our neighbors on the North Side, we have an obligation to be good fiscal stewards and aggressive advocates for our clients and our community.

This past year was one of both accomplishments and challenges. We served 55,941 clients and distributed more food than ever to clients – 583 tons or enough to make 1,039,947 meals. We distributed 291,077 articles of clothing and 11 tons of pet food. We helped people with their job searches and ensured that the children in our client families had school supplies, books, and holiday gifts.

When the government shut down, we suspended our boundary restrictions and opened our doors to all who needed food to get by, whether they were regular clients or not. While this stretched our resources, and especially our staff, we feel it is our obligation to help people who are facing tough times – whatever the reason.

And we finally began a long-awaited and much-needed renovation to increase waiting room capacity and overall operational efficiency. This is being financed through a number of generous grants and bequests.

But there were challenges as well. Overall donations were down even as the number of clients served remained steady and general operating expenses – utilities, insurance, etc. – increased.

We remain in a positive financial position because of our reserves; however, we have been unable to increase salaries or expand our programming. Our staff is stretched, and we need to look for additional ways to economize.

Yet we are confident about the future. Our remodeled facility will create a better environment for both clients and staff. We are developing new, long-term partnerships that will shore up our limited resources. And we have the support of a community that cares. One that understands that 20 percent of our neighbors are food insecure and agrees this is not acceptable. One that knows it's important for people to have warm clothes and for children to have books, school supplies and holiday gifts. One that comes out in force to volunteer to ensure Care for Real runs smoothly and that clients are treated with respect.

We are grateful to all of you for your support and for enabling us to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of our neighbors by providing them with food, clothing and support.

Warmest regards,



**Nancy Meyerson**  
Chair



**Lyle Allen**  
Executive Director

# Our Numbers

Care for Real's mission is to provide food, clothing, and support to those in need in our community. We judge our success by the number of people we help, the services we provide and the support we receive. We are proud of we accomplished this year.



**1,166,000**

million pounds of food  
distributed

**300+** clients helped  
through the Employment  
Resource Center



**304,843**

articles of clothing  
and household  
goods provided



**1,000+**

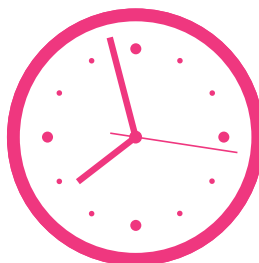
children  
received holiday  
toys and books

**500+**

community events



**11** tons of pet food and  
supplies given out



**53,098**

volunteer hours donated  
to Care for Real



# Every Dollar Counts

Your gift, no matter how large or how small, has a tremendous impact. This year the \$489,740 in cash donations we received, coupled with the more than \$6 million in in-kind food donations, enabled us to provide enough food for our clients to make more than one million meals.

We take pride in stretching our resources to provide the best to our clients while keeping our administrative costs low. More than 97% of every dollar received goes directly to client services. As a result, we have been granted Platinum Status by GuideStar, one of the major charity rating organizations.

**\$5 = 21 meals**

**\$10 = 42 meals**

**\$25 = 105 meals**

**\$100 = 413 meals**

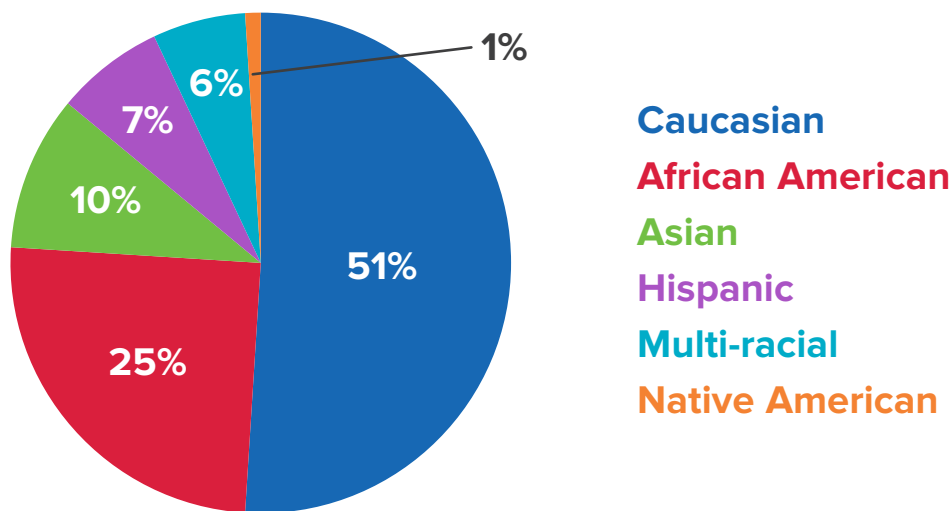
**\$260 = food for a year!**



# Who We Are

Our clients are as diverse as our community.

- 39% seniors
- 20% have children under the age of 18
- 80% of adults ages 18 – 64 are working



But they all have one thing in common. They need our help to have the food and clothing they need for healthy lives.

# Community Involvement

Care for Real is fortunate to be supported by a strong, generous community. Through food and clothing drives, special events, giving circles, volunteering, and sponsoring fundraising events of all types, our neighbors came together to help those in need. To the right are just a few of the highlights.

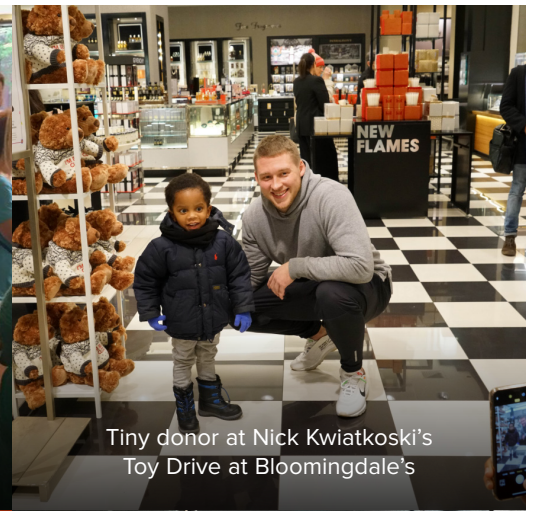




Edgewater Chamber of Commerce  
2018 Edgefest Pet Parade contestant



Grand opening of Galley 1070



Tiny donor at Nick Kwiatkoski's  
Toy Drive at Bloomingdale's



Andersonville Chamber of Commerce  
Midsommarfest beer tent volunteers



WGN TV's Sean Lewis emcees  
A Tail to Remember fundraiser



Chicago Bear Toy Drive distribution day



Uptown United Argyle Night Market  
with Care for Real board members



Bodi Shak One Year Anniversary  
and supporter of local nonprofits



Paws of Summer fundraiser with  
Uncommon Ground & Edgewater Dog Park



Bark Bark Club and Jameson Loves Danger  
fill the car with food for the Pet Pantry



Sacred Heart Academy students make  
Valentines for our client



A young volunteer helping with  
Pack the Car's Toy Drive



# Food Distribution

“I am a senior and spend my days worrying about how to make ends meet. Even with Social Security assistance, I have a very hard time keeping up with basic needs. I’m grateful that Care for Real is there to lend me a hand and, especially, provide fresh fruits and vegetables that allow me access to healthier food options. Thank you for all you do – you are such a blessing.”

– Stanley G.



Providing healthy, nutritious food is our priority.

Clients who live within our boundaries, as determined by the Greater Chicago Food Depository, can come once a month for shelf-stable items such as rice, beans, nut butters, canned fruits and vegetables, dairy, eggs and meat. But what sets Care for Real apart is what we call the “daily table,” fresh fruits, vegetables and baked goods that we pick up from wholesalers and retailers every day. Clients can come up to four times a week for these highly nutritional and highly desirable foods.





# The Closet Store

“Not only did Care for Real help me find employment, they continued to assist me by providing professional clothing so I could begin working immediately. When I needed a boost to my confidence, they were there for me.”

– Ruby K.



We call it “The Closet,” but at Care for Real, it’s so much more. In addition to seasonally-appropriate, gently used clothing, The Closet also stocks diapers, body wash, shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and more. These essentials for healthy living cannot be bought using SNAP (formerly known as food stamp) benefits.

Our clothing comes from manufacturers who have overstock or those, like Bombas Socks, that donate new items based on sales; retailers

like Bloomingdales; clothing drives from organizations like Sacred Heart Schools and the Lakewood-Balmoral Residents Council and hundreds of individuals.

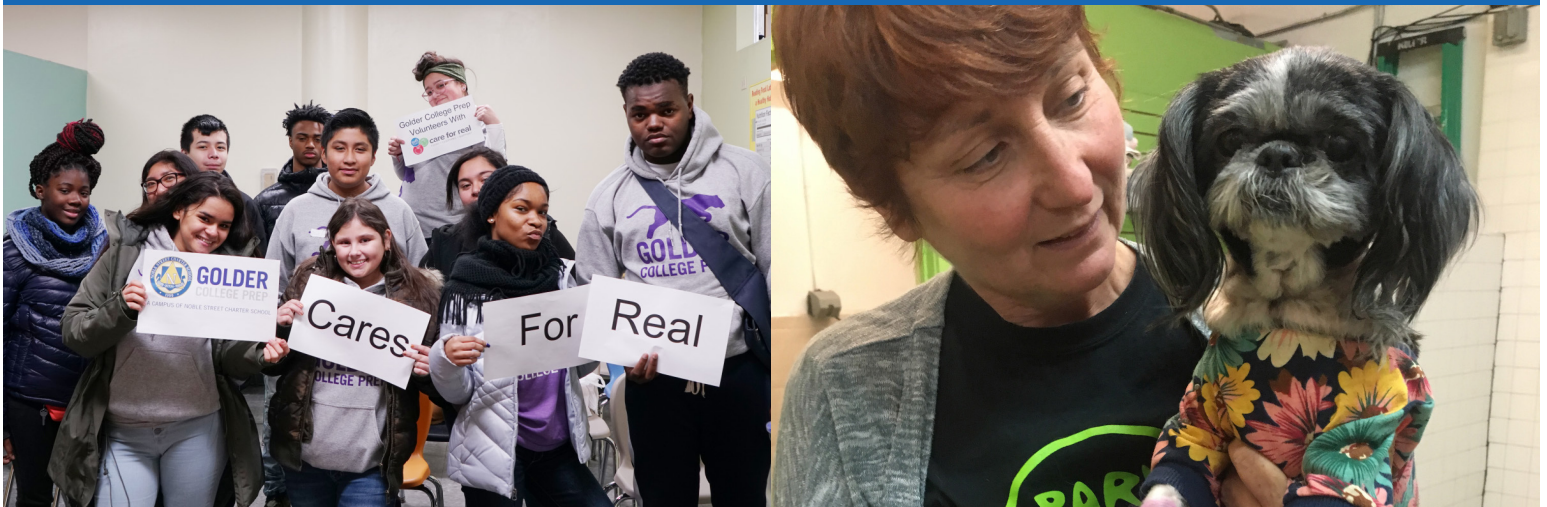
Personal care items are also donated, and we are grateful to all who allow us to provide for those in need.

This year, the value of these donations totaled more than \$2,010,106.

# Support Services

“I’m scared. I don’t know when I’m going to get paid, and I barely have enough money to feed my family. We have a pet, Toby, that is beloved part of our home, and I thought we might have to give him up to a shelter. Because of Care for Real’s Pet Pantry, we are able to keep our furry friend and family together.”

— Sheila J.  
a furloughed government worker



When the government shut out workers last year, Care for Real stepped in to help. Sheila is just one example of the many ways we support our clients. We know that food and clothing are not enough. We work to provide the “extras” that improve quality of life.

## The Pet Pantry

Too often, people have to choose between feeding their families and feeding their pets. Many go hungry while others are forced to give up their animal companions. The Care for Real Pet Pantry removes the need to make that difficult decision by providing high-quality pet food and gently used supplies donated by local retailers, veterinarians, pet food distributors and individuals. As always, a special thanks to Patti Colandrea and Bark Bark Club for their unwavering support.

## Referral Services

Each quarter, clients are interviewed to assess their current situation and provide help where needed. We maintain a database of support agencies to enable us to refer clients to appropriate resources whenever possible.

## Special Drives

We make a concerted effort to have food and other items to mark holidays and meet particular needs. This year we conducted special drives for school supplies, Eid, Thanksgiving, holiday toys and personal care items.

## Job Support

Our Employment Resource Center assists unemployed and under-employed clients with resume writing, online job applications, interviewing schools, and support services.



# Volunteers

Volunteers are truly the heart of Care for Real. Last year more than 700 people donated 53,098 hours registering people, stocking shelves and distributing food, sorting clothes, helping at events and much more. According to data provided by Independent Sector, coalition of not-for-profit organizations, the value of this volunteer time is \$1,310,000 or more than our entire cash budget!

Truly, without our volunteers, we couldn't function.

## Volunteers With Over 100 Hours:

Kelly Baas	Robert Dixon	Sue Magdziara	Mike Sirvinskaskas
Kandy Bach	Maxwell J Duran	Kim Mendiola	Sue Sirvinskaskas
Shirley Benton	Christina Erwin	Muharema Menkovic	Dorjee Shoenstang
Irene Bemudez	Charles Farrell	Ruby Menkovic	Devon Thomas
Alice Blout	Amy Ferrell	Hannah Michels	Paula Vogelsang
Larry Boechlke	Maggie Flynn	Tim Miller	Bahrija Vojnikovic
Carla Boklage	Lindsey Garrett	Edward O'Connell	Julie Volkava
Eric Boklage	Julia Gorman	Tim O'Malley	Feng Wang
Julie Bonk	Lizzie Grogan	Karen Okleshen	Daniel Yang
Sarah Bornstein	Kent Haag	Kathy Pozniak	Maggie Yousef
Duncan Carmicael	Bo Halterman	Donna Quathamier	Jim Zangs
Ann Casey	Al Haske	Sarah Rabbit	Karan Zutshi
Jerry Cernak	Greg Hamill	Dave Rasmussen	Tim Zystra
Marian Claffey	Bob Henning	Maria Ronnett	
Carter Cleland	Sue Henning	John Rosen	
Scott Collier	Kim Houston	Rebecca Rossof	
Patti Colandrea	Jim Jaworski	Paul Rupp	
Henry Cooper	Hettie Jones	Erica Salutz	
Rafael Cordon	Katherine Kailing	Joe Sanders	
Rita Crimmins	Sophy Kellogg	Suzanne Schaeffer	
Jim Daly	Baha Kharoofa	Alisa Sheth	
Courtney Davis	Bob Kitsos	Adam Sirvinskaskas	
Patty Dixon	Evan Larson	Julia Sirvinskaskas	

# In-kind Partners

More than 96% of the food and 100% of the clothing, pet food, school supplies and holiday toys that we distribute each year are donated to us by our generous in-kind partners. These businesses and organizations enable us to provide our clients with fresh fruits and vegetables; meat, poultry, and seafood; bread and other baked goods, and special treats. In 2018, this amounted to more than 583 tons of food.

We are most grateful to the following:

ALDI Foods	Frances Francis	Patagonia
Bark Bark Club	Greater Chicago Food Depository	Pet Food Experts
Bomba Socks	Jewel Food Stores	Toys Et Cetera
City Fresh Produce	Lost Larson Bakery	Trader Joe's
Colectivo Coffee	Mariano's	Urban Pooch
Crossroads Trading Company	Metropolis Coffee Company	Whole Foods
Edge of Sweetness	Omar Medical Supplies	
Fortune Fish & Gourmet		

# Legacy Society

Care for Real is honored to recognize members of the Legacy Society, individuals who generously included Care for Real in their estate plans. We remember them with gratitude for their generosity and support of those in need in our community.

Julie Codlin

Rosemarie Craig

Thomas Kmiecik

**If you would like more information on becoming a member of the Legacy Society, please contact Lyle Allen, [lyle@careforreal.org](mailto:lyle@careforreal.org).**



# Donors

Every five dollars donated to Care for Real enables us to provide enough food for a person to make 21 meals – a week's worth of food. We gratefully acknowledge the following donations that were made between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019.

## **\$10,000 and Over**

Anonymous  
Dr. Nessim Cicurel  
Meredith George  
Matt & Annie Harris  
R. Matthew Simon

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Julie Codlin  
Noah Craft  
Richard Czuba  
Ari Halper  
Judy Louthan  
Allan & Eleanor Odden

## **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Kyle Babcock  
Harold & Paula Baron  
Dan Gaughan  
Ted & Kathleen Halloran  
William & Shari Massey  
Nancy Meyerson  
Jeremy Sartori

## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Dorian Bezanis & Deborah  
Hirsch Bezanis  
Jonathan Blake  
Frank Bornhofen  
Jennifer Breuer &  
Andy Goldberg  
Eric Burgess  
Marci Butler  
Michael & Kimberly Cavitt  
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Christie Carmody  
Ellen Carson  
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Mary Grover &  
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Steven Casey  
Mary Ann Clark

# Donors continued

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# Donors continued

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The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
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 Philoptochos Society  
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 Church  
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 Summerdale Community  
 Church  
 Unity In Chicago  
 Unity Lutheran Church  
 University Bible Fellowship  
 Chicago  
 Urban Village Church

# Tribute Gifts

A contribution to Care for Real is a distinctive way to pay tribute to the memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The following people were honored with gifts made between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019.

**In honor of Jamie Allen**

Ted Lowitz

**In honor of Lyle Allen**

Barbara Netter

**In honor of Sonja Allen**

Linda & Newton Aldridge

**In honor of Jeremy Baker**

Sandra Baker

**In honor of Bark Bark Club**

Nancy Katz

**In honor of the  
Barford-Shapiro Family**

Sean Masterson

**In memory of  
Mary Anne Barry**

Anne Barry Curley &

David Curley

Michele Beaulieux

Carolyn Brecklin &

Andy Brecklin

Elizabeth Duffrin

Paul Kehoe &

Margaret Kehoe

Donald Kehoe

Lynn Payer

Paula Schmtiz &

Tommy Prendergast

**In honor of**

**Mary Jane Barry**

Timothy Broderick &

Kathy Broderick

**In honor of the  
Brennan Family**

Paul Waterhouse

**In honor of**

**Sarah Bornstein**

Mary Anne Joyce

**In memory of**

**Narda Calcagno**

Michael Calcagno &

Paul Mittleman

**In honor of**

**Joan & Michael Callahan**

Andrew Klevorn

**In honor of Jerry Case**

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John Chipman

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Diane Sakai-Furuta

**In honor of**

**Lindsay Frounfelkner**

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**Nancy Garrett**

Sharon Palmowski

**In honor of**

**Chuck & Karen Grant**

Harris & Mary McKee

**In honor of Garry Grasiniski**

Anita Ripepi

**In honor of Aileen**

**Heidkamp & Dan Mahoney**

Megan Bourne

Joan D'Elia

Matthew D'Elia

Sarah Heidkamp

Margaret Lepore

William Mahoney

Sally McCarthy

Dawn Marie McCarthy

Jeanne McCurry

Sarah Montgomery &

Luis Montgomery

David Noskin

Sonya Seifert & Amor Kohli

Steven Shuder

Kerry Smith

**In honor of Kristine Henki**

Alix Lopez

**In honor of Jed & Billy**

Amy Camp & Joe Camp

**In honor of Jim & Anne**

Gerard O'Neil

**In memory of**

**Fr. William Johnson**

The Episcopal Church of

the Atonement

**In memory of Josie**

Sue & Bob Henning

Nancy Meyerson

**In memory of**

**John Moody Kahoun**

Kathleen M Kahoun

**In honor of Daniel Kamper**

Aileen Heidkamp

Patricia Riley

**In honor of Mary Gray Kaye**

Jaime Kaye MD

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James Getty &

Mary Kraeger Getty

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**In honor of  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Melman**  
 Edward O'Connell &  
 Rebecca O'Connell

**In honor of  
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**In honor of  
 Emmeline Monson**  
 Lauren & Benna Crawford

**In honor of  
 Matthew Mullen**  
 Steven Pryor &  
 Gregg Rojewski

**In honor of Sharon Myaard**  
 Fabian Perez

**In memory of  
 Nazi Holocaust Victims**  
 Mitchell Heller

**In honor of  
 Ed & Rebecca O'Connell**  
 Donald Sprague &  
 Ray Grant

**In honor of  
 Karen & Jerry Olson**  
 Gregory Olson &  
 Dara Crowfoot

**In memory of Ila Onofrio**  
 Susan & Michael Srivinskaskas

**In honor of  
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**In honor of Dalia Schwarz**  
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 James Zabel &  
 Nellina Zabel

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 Elizabeth Stake

**In honor of Rachel Weeks  
 & Christopher Kabana**  
 Eric Davis  
 Mary Hudson Kelley  
 Rachel Weeks

**In honor of David &  
 Jacqueline Wood**  
 Emily Mitchell &  
 John Mitchell

## In Memoriam

Care for Real lost a great supporter with the passing of Father William Johnson, pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement. Father Johnson was one of the founders of Care for Real and worked tirelessly on behalf of our entire community, serving all people with passion, dedication, and commitment.

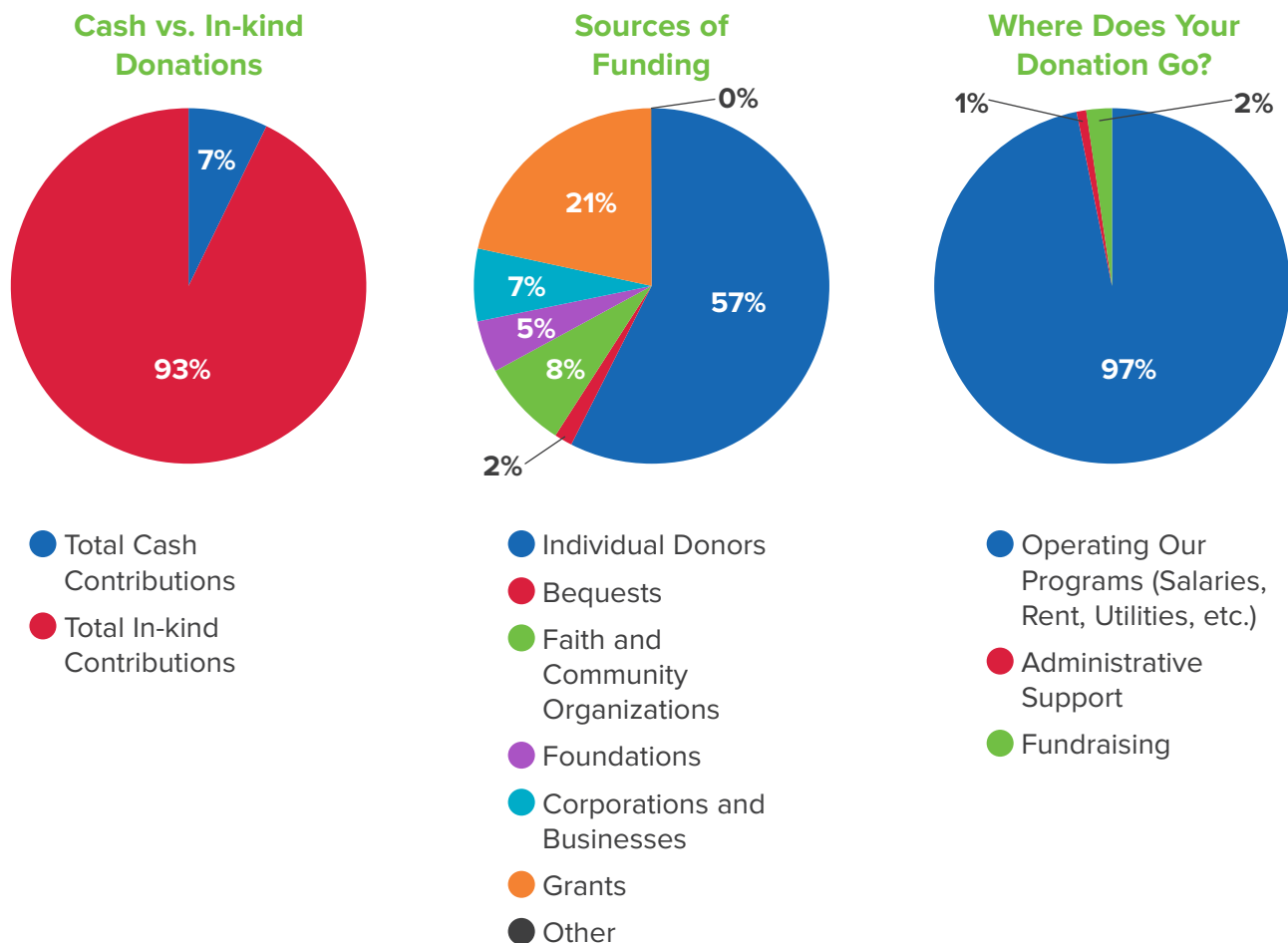


# Financials

## A Note From Our Treasurer

As you will see below, 93% of our contributions are in-kind donations, food, clothing, personal care and household items that are immediately distributed to clients. Cash donations, which enable us to pay rent, utilities and salaries; buy food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and run Care for Real, are only 7% of our revenue.

The financials do not include the value of volunteer hours which is estimated at \$1,310,000 this year.



## FY 2019      April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019

Public Support and Revenue	2019	2018
In-kind Contributions	6,289,703	5,943,254
Individual Donors	281,414	265,172
Bequests	8,011	114,436
Faith and Community Organizations	39,024	41,294
Foundations	23,157	28,059
Corporations and Businesses	32,302	27,666
Grants	105,505	139,716
Other	327	583
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,779,443</b>	<b>6,560,180</b>

Operating Expenses	2019	2018
Program Costs	6,592,917	6,238,256
Administrative	59,047	118,493
Fundraising	158,960	120,334
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,810,924</b>	<b>6,477,083</b>

<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(31,481)</b>	<b>83,097</b>
--------------------	-----------------	---------------

Assets	2019	2018
Cash & Cash Equivalents	701,445	736,822
Inventories	36,014	33,334
Prepaid Operating Expenses & Deposits	9,030	5,167
Total Current Assets	746,489	775,323
Net Property & Equipment <sup>1</sup>	57,088	62,334
Security Deposits	—	—
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>803,577</b>	<b>837,658</b>

Liabilities	2019	2018
Accounts Payable	10,825	5,851
Payroll Liabilities	10,275	6,537
Long Term Liabilities	—	—
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>21,100</b>	<b>12,388</b>

<b>Total Net Assets <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>782,478</b>	<b>825,270</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>803,577</b>	<b>837,658</b>

<sup>1</sup> Net property & equipment includes accumulated depreciation.

<sup>2</sup> Total net assets includes unrestricted and restricted funds.

## Board of Directors

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Steven Pryor  
*Secretary*

Jerry Case  
*Treasurer*

Kim Mendiola  
Nina Newhouser  
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Dzana Huseni  
*Director of Operations*

Nichelle Winters  
*Director of Development*

Richard Boyte  
*Development Associate*

Karen Feiler  
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## Care for Real

5339 N. Sheridan Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60640  
773-769-6182

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[www.careforreal.org](http://www.careforreal.org)

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