

# Feeding Community Fostering Connection

Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report

### **Our Vision**

A community without hunger

### **Our Mission**

West Suburban Community Pantry (WSCP) creates opportunities for our neighbors to thrive by providing nourishing food and access to supportive resources.



Nourish. Connect. Thrive.

#### **Board of Directors**

Mary Hutchinson Board Chair, Consultant

Ashkan Afshari Empowered IT Consulting

Raj Bhagat Discover

Sharon Brauer Community Advocate

Dani Brazee Molina Healthcare

Gabriel Chavez NorthStar Wealth Group

Matt Clark Helios Consulting

Kevin Delano Galen College of Nursing

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Amit Philip Treehouse Foods

Sherry Sabic GreenState Credit Union

Jeff Seitz Retired

Ripujit Singh TwoTwentyTwo

Greg Stientjes

Nicole Szydlowski RR Donnelley

\* Members during Fiscal Year 2024

#### Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of our work to build a brighter future for our neighbors in DuPage and Will counties. At the pantry, in addition to providing nutritious food, we strive to provide a community that can help people overcome challenges, feel less alone and ultimately thrive. Your partnership and support make our work possible.

During the last year, we are proud to have served more than 6,800 households — when factoring in the number of people in each household and repeat visits, that number reaches approximately 130,000 neighbors served. In all, we distributed more than 3.2 million pounds of food and personal care items to neighbors facing hunger.\* Wow!

Since 2020, we have seen a trend of more people seeking our help year over year — and this year that trend continued. **We served more people than we ever have in our history.** To provide for everyone who came to us for assistance, we established innovative new ways to rescue and redistribute groceries to people and partners — like creating a produce hub that shares excess produce with other area pantries.

We would like to thank Suzanne Armato for her leadership as Chief Executive Officer over the past two years. Her work pushed WSCP to find new ways of assisting even more families, especially through our support services. I, Maeven, was honored to join the team as Chief Executive Officer in October and aim to build on WSCP's more than 50-year history of serving our neighbors in partnership with our team, Board, volunteers, donors and community.

In this report, you will find highlights from a year of innovation, inspiration and impact. Thank you for your commitment to our mission. Together, we will realize our vision of a community without hunger.

Maeven Sipes Chief Executive Officer



Many Hutchinson

Mary Hutchinson Board Chair



\*Updated in May 2025 to reflect inventory audit adjustments

# Meeting the Moment

For more than 50 years, West Suburban Community Pantry has provided families, seniors, young adults, children and individuals with the nutrition they need to lead full lives. And last year was no expectation. With your help, we are meeting the moment, providing nourishing food and nourishing the human spirit.

# Our Impact in 2024



More than **6,800 households served** — when factoring in the number of people in each household and repeat visits, that number reaches approximately **130,000 individuals**.



We saw a **20% increase in neighbors** seeking our help as continued high costs stretch families' limited resources.



**3.2 million pounds of groceries** were distributed to the community, which is the equivalent of **2.6 million meals**. **That is a 15% increase in pounds compared to last year**.



**161,000 pounds of produce and other foods** were redistributed to local food pantries.



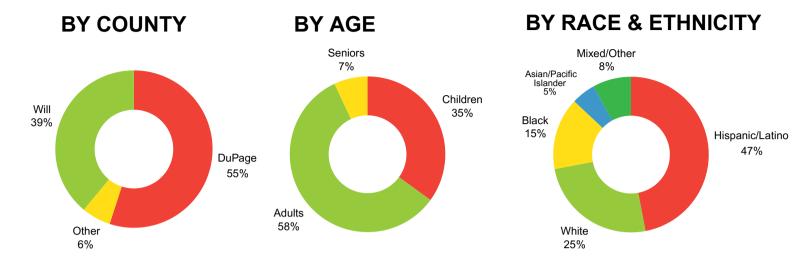
**3,000 people** received help on their path to stability through our **Support Services**.



Thanks to technology we were able to serve neighbors in **18 different languages** providing a more comfortable and welcoming experience.



# Who We Serve

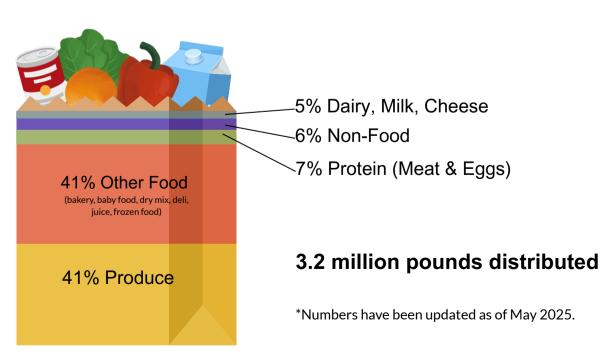


### **Food Sources**

**73%** Donated or provided by government programs

27% Purchased by WSCP

### **Grocery Mix**





# Nourish: Innovating to Feed More People

The core of our work is providing groceries to people in our community facing hunger. As more people come to us for help, we are working hard to find new ways to source and distribute more food. And we are making sure we are meeting the needs of the community we serve — whether that means sourcing more eggs or organic foods based on need, creating more Online Market pick-up locations, or working with other service organizations to provide nutritious meals and relieve the stress of food insecurity.

### New Produce Hub Provides Healthy Food to Pantry Partners

Supply chain disruptions and inflation meant that for a period of time WSCP struggled to source enough produce to meet the needs of our neighbors. In response, WSCP worked to form new partnerships with wholesale commercial produce companies. These partnerships proved tremendously successful and suddenly WSCP had the opposite challenge: the amount of produce we began receiving was more than we could use. WSCP innovated and launched the produce hub which redistributes fresh fruits and vegetables to other food pantries located throughout DuPage, Cook, Will, Lake and Kane counties. By reallocating produce received to other food pantries, families are provided with healthy foods at the local level.

Over the last year, WSCP has **shared produce with 17 neighboring food pantries and established partnerships with three produce wholesalers.** Through these relationships, built on collaboration and partnership, we are taking fresh, nutritious food that is highly requested from our neighbors and getting it to community agencies who can benefit from it — this is what you call a win, win, win.

# WSCP is Innovating to Nourish By:



Delivering groceries to **seven Online Market pick-up locations** to make food access easier



Partnering with DoorDash and Amazon Local Good to **deliver groceries directly to people** for whom transportation is a barrier



Providing **dietary menu shopping suggestions** for people who may be dealing with diet-related illnesses like diabetes and hypertension

## Making a Difference for Neighbors like Brenda

At 63 years old, Brenda is navigating life with resilience and grace. Recently retired after a 42year career as a Direct Support Professional for people with special needs, she moved back to Illinois from Indiana to begin a new chapter. Now, she is adjusting to her new life in a senior living community and is facing dual challenges: financial strain and limited mobility. Brenda learned about WSCP from neighbors in her senior living residence, and they showed her how to use the Online Market to get food delivered.

Brenda's social services career gave her insight into the importance of community support systems. "There's such a big need out there," she said. "The volunteers and donors who support the pantry are making a real difference — not just for me, but for so many people."



"It's so easy," she said. "You get choices — meat, produce, dry goods, even dog food for my little Shih Tzu-Maltese mix. It's truly a blessing." Inflation and the costs of moving have strained Brenda's budget. "I still have bills from Indiana and other expenses, but knowing I'll have food delivered to my door is a huge relief."



# **Connect:** New Partnerships for Better Nutrition

WSCP plays an important role in the network of food pantries and meal programs in the Chicagoland area. We are a leader in our community. Local schools, nonprofits and government partners know they can come to us for assistance and support. We are a part of a network of people and organizations working towards a stronger future in the western suburbs.

## WSCP and Endeavor Health Meet People Where They Are

WSCP partnered with Endeavor Health to launch a Food Order Kiosk at the Woodridge Endeavor Health Center & Walk-in Clinic. Endeavor Health patients and community residents place grocery orders online via an iPad through WSCP's Online Market. They can then choose whether they would like to pick up their order at WSCP in Woodridge or have it delivered to their home, all at no cost. The program recognizes food can be medicine — nutrition is essential to living a full, healthy life.

"The work that we are doing with West Suburban Community Pantry and other organizations for access to healthier foods has been a critical part of our journey to positively influence social determinants of health, those non-medical factors that impact the health of our community," said Joe Dant, System Chief Growth Officer, Endeavor Health.



# WSCP is Innovating to Connect By:



Collaborating with service organizations to connect people to supplemental services such as job assistance, financial literacy, mental health services, clothing and furniture resources and much more



Partnering with Myers Commons, a senior living facility, to deliver food to residents and provide cooking demonstrations, nutritional seminars and support services for things like Medicare/Medicaid benefits



# **Thrive:** Providing More than Food

When someone is experiencing food insecurity, often that means they are facing other challenges. Perhaps they are worried about paying next month's rent or not being able to afford school supplies for their children. Seeking food assistance can be a person's first step in asking for help. WSCP works to understand our neighbors so we can identify additional needs and find ways to address them. By connecting our neighbors with other community resources and providing supportive services, we are helping people build a path to stability.

### New Programs for Kids Helps Families Thrive

Last year, **35% of the people we served were children under the age of 18 as their families came to the pantry to shop for groceries.** WSCP is working to holistically support families and kids. We know that children who are struggling with hunger miss school more frequently and have trouble focusing during class. During the school year, WSCP provides tutoring for kids in grades K-12, SAT prep classes, as well as college prep and college admissions counseling. **We are proud that 23 students, who we worked with, began their freshman year in college this past fall.**  Over the summer, WSCP hosted a summer camp for kids, which included a five-week Junior Chef Cooking class taught by the University of Illinois Extension program. This course met an essential need for kids whose parents may work multiple jobs. Meal preparation and kitchen safety skills are important life skills. Each week the participating junior chefs received a bag of fresh produce that corresponded with the recipes they worked on that week.

The summer program also included a six-week art class culminating in a public exhibition at the Woodridge library. **WSCP believes all children deserve opportunities for creative expression and skill development.** 

# WSCP is Innovating to Thrive By:



Hosting Family Fun days at places like DuPage Children's Museum and Cosley Zoo



Hosting a WIC Mobile clinic for new mothers and children



Providing year-round fitness classes for seniors at Endeavor Health and Fitness and facilitating a diabetic support group



Helping complete applications for assistance including LIHEAP, SNAP, Section 8 housing, CHAD and other public services



# Thank You to Our Volunteers!

We truly couldn't do what we do without the dedicated, hardworking volunteers who power so much of our work. Thank you to the families, individuals, community groups, and companies who come to the Pantry and give their time and talent and do so with heart.



## Volunteers like Bette Ward Are the Heart of Our Community

Bette and her husband Tom supported the pantry financially for years and thought about volunteering but never got around to it. Finally, they made it happen, and Bette hasn't looked back. She has been a regular volunteer for two years working two shifts a week as a shopping assistant. She says the pantry is like being a part of a big family. Recently, she experienced some health challenges, and she was amazed at the care and concern she received from her fellow volunteers as well as the shoppers.



"The pantry is such a warm, good place to be. It's my happy place." - Bette Ward, WSCP Volunteer

Bette Ward (second from left) is joined by volunteers Sue Vanderwiel, Eileen Dillon and Yoko Bessho during a shift at the pantry.

# Volunteers with over 100 Hours

Ann Adkesson Mellody Anderson **Rick Anderson** Dan Arlt Teresa Armendariz Kevin Bartlett Tori Bates Yoko Bessho Fran Bridges Martin Bryant Suzan Campbell Jeffery Cape David Cappa Kathleen Carroll **Denese Casserly Kimberly Castner** Sampath Chandaka Nancy Chapdelaine Jill Clarke **Debbie Collins** John Corcoran Mike Crider Sue Dolezal Kris Donofrio Patty Duranty Robbins Kathleen Emmerson Tim Emmerson Fran Foley Monica Foley **Gary Francis** Kathleen Furgala Charito Garcia Nestor Garcia

Beth Glasser Donna Greco Piotr Hadowski Spencer Haligas Suzanne Hammer Kerri Hannen Hungwen Hardage Steve Haverkos Mary Hawkins Dan Haves Lorraine Head **Diane Hewitt** Margaret Hoh Ramona Hopkins Jeff Horvath Marvin Huizinga Sandra lannone Denise Ikoma Carol Jablonski **Ray**-Gilles Janssens Joe Jobst **Deandre Johnson** Paul Julien Donald Kinnunen Ron Kok-Alblas Laura Korst Craig Kraus Kathy Kull **Bill Lebensorger** Carolina Lechuga Larry Ledenbach Dennis Lisauskas Bill Lockett

Don Loresch John Majewski Gary Manchester Kay Manning Helga Mathews K. Thomas McClelland **Diane McKillip** Mick McKillip Cathy Mehl Karen Menconi Christine Miller Marjorie Mohrhusen Patricia Mugnaini Bill Murry Paul Nicholson Linda Noga Steve Novotny Walter Null Linda Pasieta Margi Patrick Jim Peters Kathy Peters Jan Peterson Gloria Pirkins Bronislaw Pluta Kevin Ranalli Robert Rhodes **Richard Rice** Jeff Robbins Mykel Roche **Robert Rogers** Joan Ruth Maria Sanchez

Jacob Scheltens Mark Servis Art Sheridan Jeanne Sheridan **Catherine Smith Terrie Smith** Andrew Snyder **Ezeal Staples** Wendy Stephen **Chuck Strohm** Fran Strohm **Diane Stutte** Oscar Suarez Barbara Tanner **Diane Thompson** Maria Townsend Robert Traub **Ned Vaitkevicius** Tracy Van Zandbergen Susan Vanderwiel Randy Wagner **Cheryl Walrath** Karl Walters Bette Ward Mike Watson **Cheryl Wegner** Ron Wegner Ryan Whitehouse Tom Wolsko Mike Wu Jacob Wych Lori Zaliauskas Cody Zoellick







# Thank You to Our Partners!

## Our Food and Grocery Rescue Partners

This past year, close to 350 grocery stores, corporations, community groups and individuals generously donated surplus food and supplies, held food drives, or generated awareness to ensure that our pantry's shelves were stocked and our coolers were filled in support of our neighbors.

This list represents food donors who donated more than 5,000 pounds or provided substantial sustained support.

## 2024 Food Donors

Aldi Amazon Fresh Atom Banana **Bimbo Bakery** Bolingbrook Garden Club Cargill Christ the Servant Church CIS (Comprehensive Inventory Solutions) Costco Fruitful Yield Darien Garfield Produce Hatch for Hunger Home Juice Imperfect Foods/Misfits Market Inside Out Club Jewel-Osco

Naperville Sunrise Rotary Northern Illinois Food Bank Operation Christmas Bolingbrook Pete's Market Produce Plus Inc. St. Elizabeth Seton Church St. Joan of Arc Church St. Scholastica Church Star Foods Strube Fruit and Vegetable SunTerra Chicago Target Trinity Lutheran Church Walmart Woodridge United Methodist Church

### **Food Donors**



Partners and supporters



Pounds donated

## **Financial Donors**



1.664

Donors





D

Donated \$1K+

Monthly Donors

### Thank you to Our Generous Donors!

Generous donors make our work possible — from individuals like Nick and Teresa Ryan to community foundations and corporate partners. With your financial support, we are able to direct resources where they are needed most, and every week provide nourishing food for our neighbors and yours.

Dedicated supporters of West Suburban Community Pantry **Nick and Teresa Ryan have significantly impacted local families facing food insecurity**. We are filled with gratitude for their generous contributions which have supported the pantry's reach, allowing us to serve more individuals and families in need. Through direct donations and community fundraising events, the Ryans have multiplied their impact.

Their ongoing commitment, including proceeds from their leadership in Water Street District's annual Long Table Dinner, has been crucial in strengthening our community's safety net, providing essential nutrition and hope to our most vulnerable neighbors.



## West Suburban Community Pantry Supporters 2023-2024\*

### \$50,000+

DuPage County Endeavor Health Ronald L. McDaniel Foundation S.L. Gimbel Foundation Bernard Stromberg Jr.+ Wheaton Franciscan Sisters Ministry Fund

### \$20,000 - \$49,999

Ann and Victor Pokorny Memorial Fund Campbell Soup Company Kathy and Joseph D'Amico Dan Gibbons Turkey Trot Foundation DuPage Foundation GreenState Credit Union Old National Bank Robert and Patricia Wheeler

### \$10,000 - \$19,999

Donna and Richard Bauer Dr. Scholl Foundation Enterprise Rent-A-Car Grace A. Bersted Foundation Randy and Cindy Hanson John and Nancy Hartung Michael and Mary Hutchinson Nick and Teresa Ryan Sommer Brothers Charitable Fund Tyson Foods

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

**CIBC Bank USA Clune Construction** Gretchen and Peter D'Amico Annie and Kevin Delano Duly Health and Care Sara Farrero Gator Chef Henry and Sandy Gentry Girgis & Ito Orthodontics Ed Henry Miki Hohnsen Home Run Inn Frozen Foods Corp. David and Kelly Jeschke Ron Kok-Albas and Kim Morton Donna Lewis

### \$5,000 - \$9,999 (continued)

Lisle Savings Bank Bethany and Adam Lusch Stephanie and Thomas Marsh Barbara and James Norem NorthStar Wealth Group Perma-Seal Basement Systems Miriam and Darren Qunell Rotary Club Naperville Sunrise Astrid and Patrick Stiff Chuck and Fran Strohm Steve and Gavle Szpvtek James and Andrea Thome Gregory and Lynn Wenzel Windy City Wire LLC Deborah and Kevin Wirth

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

Samuel and Suzanne Armato James Beatty and Colleen Loftus Tim Belgio Raj and Nisha Bhagat Sharon Brauer Chicago Trading Company Marvann Ciccarelli Jim Dite Robert Duermit F3 Naperville Foundation Irene Fox FT Cares Foundation Wendy and Rich Galgano James and Claudia Geocaris Giesecke+Devrient Dan Hughes GS Energy Jean Ives john greene Real Estate Michael and Laureen Kelly Margaret Kunkel Sarah and James Livingstone Matthew Lynch and Amanda Recupido Andrew and Leah Margulies **Marquette Companies** 

Gene and Suzanne Mraz Naperville Bank & Trust Naperville Noon Rotary Nicor Gas Preeti and Amit Philip Susann and Marco Rasch Skeleton Key Brewery St. Procopius Abbey Greg Stientjes and Terri Foley AJ and Sara Stolmeier Janet Ulmer Brian and Leslie Vanco Kristy Waterman Kathleen and Dennis Webb Webit Services. Inc. Windy City Women Woodridge United Methodist Church Cindy and Robert Wunderlich

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

Jay and Marita Albrecht Barbara Albrecht All Saints Anglican Episcopal Church Ally Bank Mellody Anderson George Antonopoulos Mark Arentsen Dan and Chris Arlt Chris and Beth Austin Nickolaos Bafaloukos Dan Barbour Amy and Loren Beadle Linda Bergstrom Robert Blanchard Michael Blank Barbara and Robert Bohaty Chris Bokhart Dani Brazee William and Mary Brennan Bruce and Margaret Brucki David Cappa and Karen Menconi Cargill Incorporated Catholic Order of Foresters Charity Golf International

Gabriel and Allison Chavez Jerry Christensen Church World Service Inc. John Claussen Amanda and Donald Cooling Eileen Corcoran Lynne Crabtree Angela and Kenneth Crews **CVS Health Foundation Daifuku Intralogistics** Darien Woman's Club David and Catherine Delanov Poonam and Parag Desai **Divine Savior Parish** John and Diana Doyle Denise and Thomas Duffy Dugan & Lopatka, CPAs, PC Dvorak Law Offices, LLC Patti Fellows Carol and James Ferrans Wendy and Joe Filip First Congregational Church Monica Foley and Bob Copeland **Angelique Fromer** Patricia Gabris and John Kennedy Thomas and Mara Gallagher Gin Lodge Summer Camp for Wayward Euchre Players Girl Scout Troop 51351 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Susan and John Greenwood Wendy and Jeff Gross Randall and Margaret Guse Christine Hannigan-Wiehn and John Wiehn Karla and Pete Harmon Lori Havens Lance Herning Anne and Michael Hillebrand Sarah Hughes Charles and Janet Ide Illinois American Water James and Sons Fine Jewelers Sharon Jepson Donna Jonauskas

### \$1,000 - \$2,499 (continued)

Jaffer Kapasi and UmmeKulsum Tayeb Jim Karon Lance Kasper Thomas and Mary Kaszuba Ramakrishna Katuri Thomas and Suzanne Kelliher **Brigid Kenney** Kirkland & Ellis LLP Lora and Tom Kmieciak Daniel Konieczny Anna Kucaj Lakeside Bank Jason Laning Larry Larson Rodney Lawrence Sharon Lindeman Macy's Patricia Maid and Jeffrey Keating Amanda Mares Sharon S. Marquez Linnea Matson and Jim Nelson Glenn Mazade Prashant Mehta Menasha Corporation Meson Sabika Eric Meyer Mirabella, Kincaid, Frederick & Mirabella, LLC Janet A. Mizia Sandra Modesitt Linda and Jeffrey Moe Bridget and Jason Moede Molina Healthcare Inc Susan Moll Jill Moran and John Eber

Mark Moss Mulder Woodridge Investment Group, Inc. **Diane Murray** Music & Potlucks Adam and Amy Narot National Italian Invitational Golf **Tournament for Charities** Meghan and Lewis Neill Gail Niermeyer Patrick O'Leary and Dianne O'Donnell James Pellegrino John and Pam Perry Andrea Petrancosta Andrew Pitakos Kathleen Ponton Aleksandra Pravdic Marcia Radia Kevin Read Mark Redini **Diane and Michael Richard** Sharon Roeseler Eva Rosa Rotary Club of Downers Grove Malou Roth Coni and Tom Ruggio Katy Rush Jill and Matthew Russell Gretchen Sauer Judith and Jonathan Schaefer James and Barbara Schaudt **Greg Schlender** Christen Schmeltz Jeff and Kathleen Seitz Wendv Serafin Sunil Shenoi Cara Shirk Jane Sibr

Elizabeth and Keith Sigale Silicon Valley Community Foundation Barbara Simak SixtyFour Wine Bar Kathy Slavden Eric and Ellen Smith Rosaura Soto Ashley South Brian and Heather Spang St. Elizabeth Seton Starbucks Foundation Julie Strong Mike and Nicole Szydlowski **Teledyne Storm Microwave** Dawn and Michael Tenuta William Tullis Anthony and Anne Urban **Michael Vickery** Walmart Bette and Thomas Ward Helen L. Wehn Jennifer Wilken Adam Wilson Clarence Winston Jr. Woodridge Rotary Club, Inc. Kevin Wright Tyler Zenger

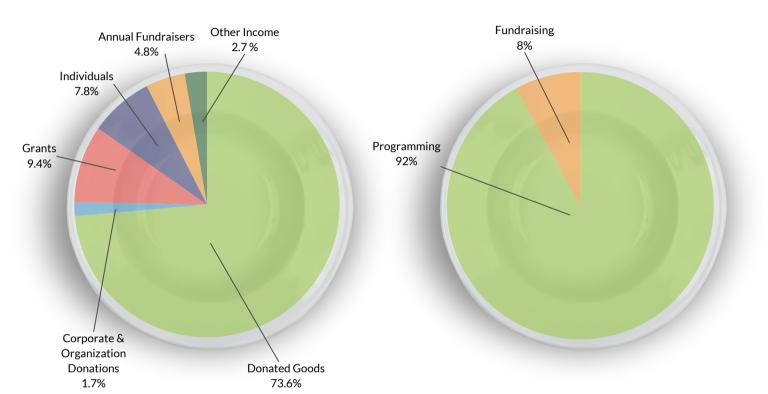
+ indicates deceased

\*We make every effort to follow our donor's preferences in this report. If you would prefer to have your name listed differently than it appears, please let us know. If an error has occurred, please accept our sincere apology and alert us by contacting Linda Crouchelli, Director of Development and Marketing, at <u>Icrouchelli@wscpantry.org</u> or 630-948-8143.

# **Finances**

### FY2024 Revenue

FY2024 Expenses



#### ASSETS:

A55E15.		LIABILITIES:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$343,702	Conditional promises to give	\$300,000
Certificates of deposit	\$673,614		
Property and equipment, net	\$958,000	NET ASSETS:	
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$1,975,323	Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions	\$1,519,223 \$156,100

TOTAL NET ASSETS: \$1,675,323

\$1,975,323 TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS:



6809 Hobson Valley Drive, Suite 118 Woodridge, Illinois 60517

For more information or to donate, visit wscpantry.org.



## **Shopping Hours**

Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM by appt. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM walk-in

Thursday: 8:00 AM -1:00 PM by appt. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM walk-in 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM by appt.

Saturday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM by appt. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM walk-in

### **Donation Hours**

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Saturday: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Platinum Transparency **2024** 





West Suburban Community Pantry is recognized as a taxexempt organization described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our federal tax identification number is 36-3857072.