

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Higher Hopes!





HIGHER HOPES! **MISSION**

Higher Hopes! is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation which serves food insecure families in Metro Detroit with children enrolled in Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Programs (Early Head Start, Head Start, and Great Start Readiness). Established in 2014, the goal of Higher Hopes! is to inspire independence, relieve food anxiety, and encourage family meals together by providing a bounty of food in nutritious, multiple-meal food kits throughout the year.

2025

IN REVIEW

In 2025, Higher Hopes! stepped up in a big way as we saw more and more of our Head Start families struggling to make ends meet, facing impossible choices between food, housing, and basic necessities. But because of your support, we didn't just maintain our impact – we grew it. Our holiday programs continued to be cornerstones of hope with our Labor Day BBQ and “1,000 Turkeys, 10,000 Smiles” Thanksgiving event bringing stability and relief to Detroit families during critical times of the year. At the same time, our Weekend PowerPack program truly took off, becoming a lifeline for children who might otherwise go hungry when school is not in session. This year has shown us that the need is real and growing – but so is our community's ability to respond with compassion and action. Thank you for being a part of our community and showing what it truly means to be a Higher Hopes! Hero!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Birndorf

Miranda Crammer

David Lubin

Lisa Applebaum

Mark Lichterman

Dana Loewenstein

Karen Rubenfire

LABOR DAY & THANKSGIVING

Labor Day BBQ Overview

The Higher Hopes! Labor Day BBQ once again brought the community together to close out the summer on a high note, providing 1,000 Head Start families with everything they needed to enjoy a festive end-of-season cookout at home. In its 5th year, distributions occurred at three Head Start sites around Detroit. Each family received BBQ essentials and fresh food items, helping to relieve financial pressure while creating an opportunity for celebration over the holiday weekend.



Special thanks to Gleaners Food Bank, SEEL LLC, and Michigan Humane for their support with our events!



"1,000 Turkey, 10,000" Smiles Overview

Our "1,000 Turkeys, 10,000 Smiles" Thanksgiving event marked its 12th year of bringing comfort and joy to families across Detroit, and this year's effort was more meaningful than ever. In addition to providing a full Thanksgiving meal kits (with everything from the turkey to dessert), Head Start families also received \$50 Meijer gift cards, high-efficiency lightbulbs to help lower utility costs, and pet food generously provided by Michigan Humane. Higher Hopes! also extended support to the people who care for underprivileged children every day by distributing 200 gift cards to Head Start staff facing their own hardships. This large-scale effort was powered by the dedication of more than 200 volunteers, whose time and heart made it possible to deliver not just meals, but relief, dignity, and thousands of smiles.

WEEKEND POWERPACKS

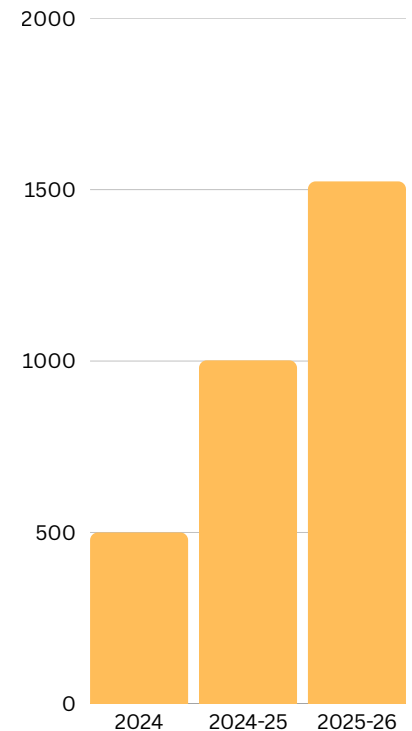
Overview

The Weekend PowerPack program continues to be a powerful source of support for Head Start children facing food insecurity. At the beginning of 2025 this program served 1,002 students across 4 Head Starts, but for the 2025-26 school year the program has expanded to reach 1,524 students across 6 Head Starts around the city. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, as students are excited to receive their PowerPacks, parents share how the extra food eases stressors at home, and the Head Start staff consistently express gratitude for a program that helps their families stay nourished and ready to learn.

Reported benefits:

- Higher attendance on distribution days than on other school days
- Fewer behavioral challenges
- Better attentiveness and focus
- Less food disparity

Program Growth



"The parents are always very thankful and appreciate the sentiment that we care about their child even after they are leaving our facility. They are always happy to make their child happy, and the children are very excited when getting their weekend snack kit."

~Taylor White, United Children and Family Head Start

"The parents have stated that the children feel special because of the PowerPacks."

~Stephanie Kendrick, Focus: HOPE

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAMS

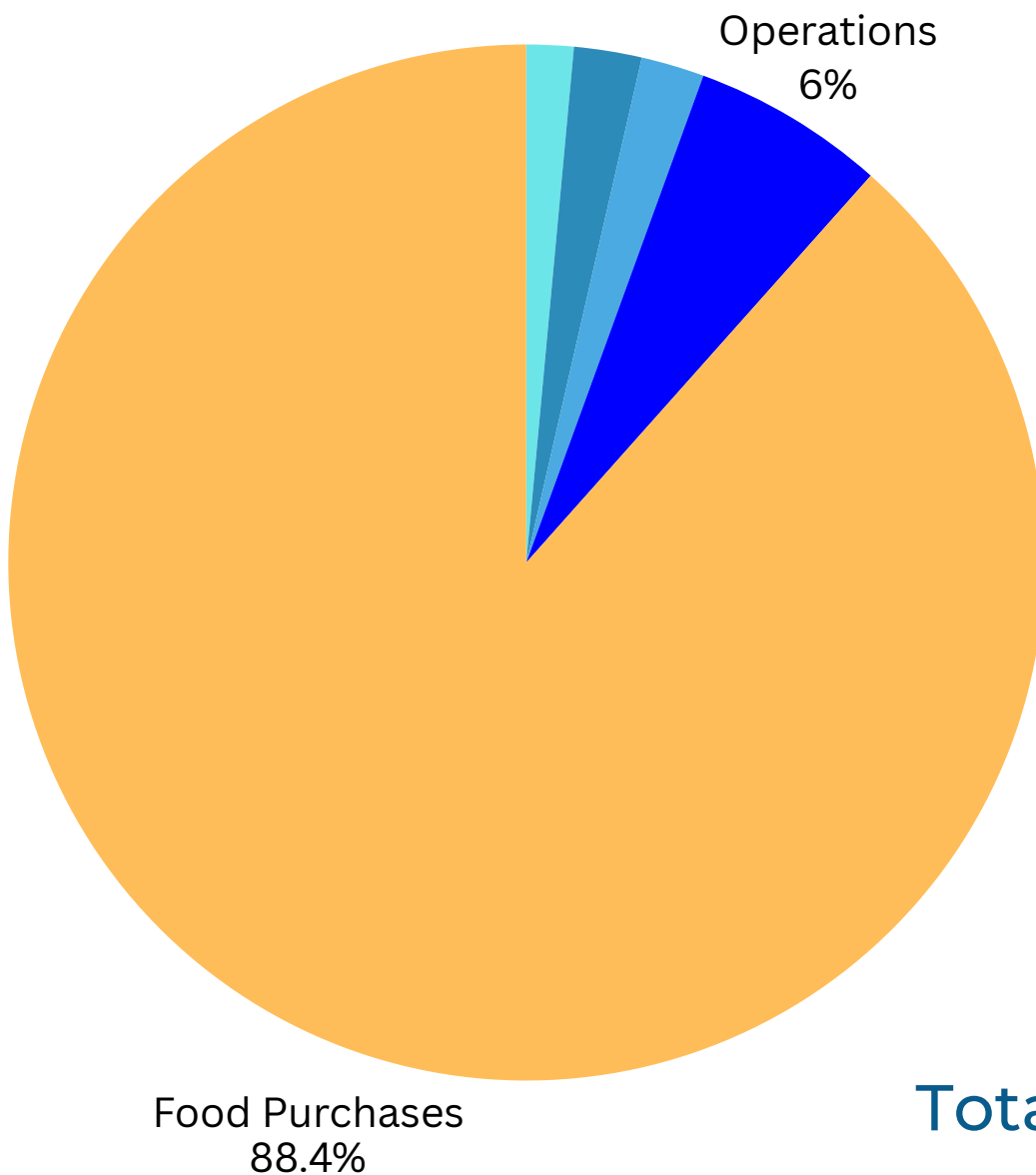
Overview

Beyond our work in metro Detroit, Higher Hopes! extends its impact across Michigan by supplementing summer feeding programs. Partnering with the Food Bank Council of Michigan, we help supply fresh produce to all seven food banks in the state, helping to bridge the gap when school meals are not available. In 2025, we distributed 100,800 2 oz packages of fresh apple slices, helping to give children and families across Michigan greater access to healthy, ready-to-eat food during the summer months.



According to Feeding America, 1,544,250 people in Michigan are facing hunger - and of them 402,680 are children.

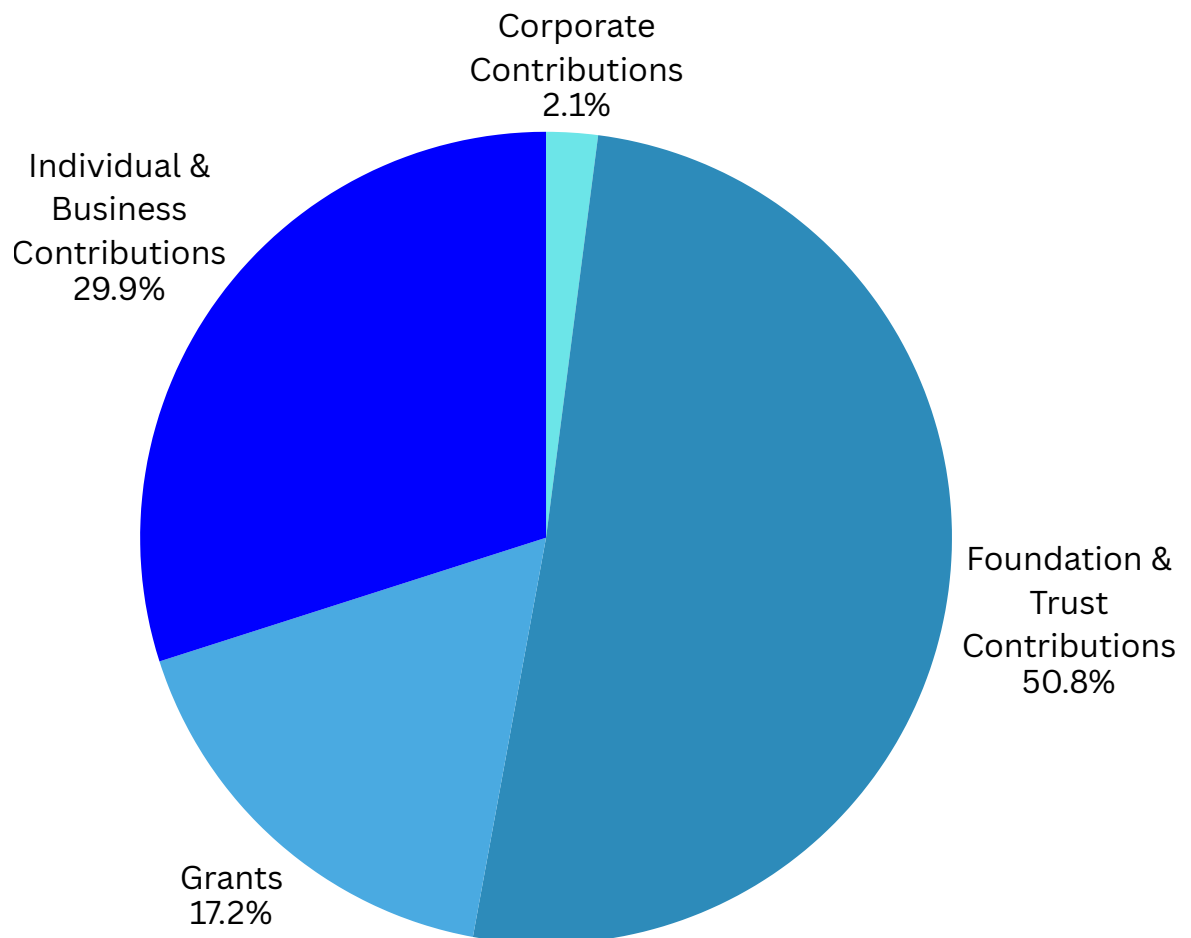
TOTAL EXPENSES



Total: \$165,402.70

TOTAL INCOME

- Corporate Contributions
- Foundation & Trust Contributions
- Grants
- Individual & Business Contributions



Total: \$420,724.94

Thanks to a generous gift from the D. Dan & Betty Kahn Foundation, Higher Hopes! is well set up to keep expanding our efforts and reach more people through our programs.

THANK YOU

We are endlessly grateful to the incredible volunteers and devoted Head Start staff who make this work possible. Your compassion, patience, and willingness to step in wherever needed are what turn our meal kits into comfort, stability, and care for the children and families we serve. Whether you're packing, distributing, or supporting students in the classroom, you're the steady, caring presence behind every meal and every smile. Higher Hopes! simply could not do this without you - you are the heart of it all.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS!

Super-duper hero (\$25,000+).

Carls Foundation
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
D. Dan & Betty Kahn Foundation
Todd Denenberg & Renee Connelly
JK Farber Family Foundation

Superhero (\$10,000-\$24,999).

Anonymus
Applebaum Family Foundation
Mitchell & Michele Bleznak
Craig & Randy Rubin
The Thomas Foundation

Champion (\$5,000-\$9,999).

Andrea & Lawrence Wolfe Fam Foundation
Chelsea Milling Company
Cooper Street Cookies
Eagles for Children
Friedman Family Philanthropic Fund
Amy & Eric Grosinger
Mark Kahn
Lormax Stern Development Co
Michigan Potatoes
Barbara & Steven Tronstein

Guardian (\$1,000-\$4,999).

Devin Benner
Terrie & Richard Birndorf
Holly & William Birndorf
C Sills Fund
Judith & Walter Coleman
Miranda & Scott Crammer
Faith & James Knight Foundation
Farm Bureau Insurance Agent Charitable Fund
Fifth Third Bank
George & Sherri Glassman
Russell & Rhoda Horton
Tony & Karen Levin

James & Sigal Levine

Sandy Levine

The Libman Company

Dana & Richard Loewenstein

David & Stephanie Lubin

Miriam & Daniel Medow

Mid-American Real Estate

MJS Packaging

Susan Morse

Ron Muawad

Neal & Esther Zalenko Philanthropic Fund

Kathleen & Martin Perpich

Podolsky Family Fund

Reyes Coca Cola

Rocket Mortgage

Robin & Michael Rosen

Royal Container

Schanes Philanthropic Fund

Kristin Schleicher

Sigmund & Sophie Rohlik Foundation

Kelly & Jeff Wartell

Steven & Sharyl Woronoff

Protector (\$250-\$999).

Daniel & Barbara Abramson

American Landscape

Kevin & Greta Archuleta

Becki Balok

Mark Billes

Bonnie Brenner

Kimberly & Graham Britain

Kathi & Rick Cohen

Cathy Dawkins

Lorraine Fisher

Game & Company LLC

Richard & Jody Grossman

Patricia Grossman

Janis & Jason Horton

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS!

Protector (\$250-\$999)_(cont.)

Sara Keidan
Steve Kirsch
Candace & Eric Law
Mark & Susan Lichterman
Carol Lowen
Robert McQuillan
Lynn Medow
Michael & Linda Ragins
Melvyn Rubenfire
Dennis & Susan Sulisz
Jack Uhazie
Jerry & Liz Walters
Lora Weingarden

Hero (up to \$250)

Thomas & Nancy Aronson
AT & T Buddies
Joanne Bellet
Laurence & Paula Berger
Jessica Birndorf
Susan Birndorf
Roselyn Blanck
Beth & Avi Brandvain
Diane Braykovich
Nanette & Bruce Carnick
Carol Castor-Feldman
Lauren & Adam Cohen
Bernard Cohen
Zachary & Sanju Collins
Judy & Gene Devore
Jonathan & Julie Dorfman
Jodi & Drew Dunskey
Allen & Nanci Einstein
Janis Eisman
Judith & Irwin Elson
Hildy Franzblau
Galilee Chapter JWI

Beth Gans
Robin Goeddeke
Tamara & Bruce Gorosh
Samantha Grosinger
Pamela Haron
Kathleen Harpole
Linda & Mike Houbba
Gilda Jabobs
Sue Kalisky
Scott & Cindy Kallgren
Carol & Dennis Kasle
Ronna Katzman
Ann Kelly
Harriet & Larry Kepes
Jacqueline Krause
Mary Kreiser
Mary Kubitskey
David & Kate Kurzmann
Anna & Yale Levin
Alice Liberson
Judy & Michael Lipson
Donna & Michael Maddin
Andrew Martin
Michael McKay
Paula Mezza
Kim & Daniele Michellini
Marla & Andrew Moiseev
Michelle & George Molnar
Celia & John Muir
Mark Nelson
Barbara Nickel
Ruthanne & Arvin Pearlman
Jerry & Julie Pelton
Robert Pliskow
Neela Podolsky
Julie Primak
Cathy & Doug Pumfrey
Natalie Qandah Korn

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS!

Hero (up to \$250) (cont.)

Regenold Liv Trust
Patty Rose
Sharon Dion & Matthew Rose
Harvey & Lynn Rubin
Marcia Salzberg
Bluma Schechter
Daniel Schottenfels
Missy & Richard Small
Barry & Hilary Spolan
Marc Sussman
Jennifer Thurswell
Yolanda Tisdale
Ruth Tobias
Brette Vikser
Maxine & Herbert Weinberg
Jodi & Ronald Weiss
Karen Williams
Crystal Williams
David Wolfe
Karen & Jeff Wyns
Molly Wyns

Dedications

Amelia Bigelman
Ed Geren
Ruth Tobias
Sophia Masliansky
Stella Steinbach
Albert Vor Keller
Arnold Coleman
Dr. Edward Bartholomew
Ellas Kalo
Elliott Baum
Irv Hershman
Jane Gittleman
Jim Dailey
Judith Stein-Michnoff
Rob Kessler
Robert Niskar





Contact Us

248-360-9300

www.higherhopesdetroit.org

volunteer@higherhopesdetroit.org

[@higherhopesdetroit](https://twitter.com/higherhopesdetroit)

8898 Commerce Rd 5C Commerce, MI 48382