



how change happens



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

www.smallthingsphilly.org

WHO WE ARE

Small Things is a hunger relief organization that distributes food to local community partners and provides direct service programs to people facing food insecurity and poverty in the Philadelphia region.

OUR MISSION

Small Things works with local partners and community leaders to alleviate poverty by improving food security and collaborating to address other community needs.

OUR VALUES

COLLABORATION | We believe that partnership is critical to alleviating poverty, which is why we strive to build real, lasting relationships by collaborating with our partner organizations to meet the needs of their communities.

DIGNITY | We believe that every individual we support deserves to be treated with respect, empathy, and love, regardless of their situation.

INTEGRITY | We believe in having integrity in all of our actions and in all of our partnerships.

IMPACT | In everything we do, we want to ensure that our efforts have a positive impact in our community.

COMPASSION | We believe in moving toward people, not away, regardless of circumstances. Compassion is at the forefront of decision-making.

SMALL THINGS BOARD



Pastor Michel
Faulkner



Rev. Vito
Baldini



Joan Boyce



Rev. Bonnie
Camarda



Rev. Adan
Mainera



Andrew Kim



Pastor Mark
Novales



Ben
Ruegsegger



Ricardo
Maldonado



Sarah (Snider)
Migali



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2023, our vision became a reality: we opened two Small Things Markets as part of our plan to offer direct services to people in need! The markets provide local residents with access to fresh fruit, vegetables, dry goods, meat, and dairy. The markets can also serve as social service connection points for the community as we expand our services in 2024.

Overall, 2023 was a year of growth and adjustment. We faced increased food costs, cuts in government SNAP benefits, and partners with greater needs than ever before. Even with the difficulties of sourcing food, Small Things stayed committed. We experienced decreases in available food, but we gained traction in distributing more rescued food than ever before – 1,402,625 pounds!

Rescued food comes from grocery store overflow or products nearing expiration. While this allows us to reduce food waste and get it to those in need, it also stretched us. Even “free” food isn’t free as we must send our truck on additional daily routes. The food brought back further strains our warehouse staff, which has to sort the food. As a result of this, we had to increase our transportation staff and warehouse hours.

We also experienced the challenge of managing three neighborhood locations. Our Roxborough warehouse is open 6 days a week. The Small Things Market in Fairhill serves the community for 3 days but is staffed for 5 days. The Small Things Market at Emmanuel is open 1 day a week but staffed for 2 days. As we open additional markets, we need to be prepared with the resources necessary for growth.

In 2024, we will develop more partnerships to support our regional food distribution and direct service programs. We are looking to partner with foundations, corporations, and donors to make our 10-year vision of 10 Small Things Markets a reality.

I am excited to continue to lead our amazing 16-member team and our 10-member board of directors – as well as our many volunteers, donors, churches, and partners. Together, we will do Small Things with great love to make a big difference!

Sincerely,

Rev. Vito Baldini

Executive Director, Small Things, Inc.



OUR PROGRAMS

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Distributing food will always be Small Things' bread and butter. It's how we got started and it remains the foundation of our daily work. In 2023, we distributed **3.2 million pounds** of food to our **50+ partners**, as well as our two markets.



1,311

Small Things significantly expanded our trucks' time on the road, with **1,311 food pickups** and **174 deliveries**. Doing so many pickups is a part of the Rescued Foods program that allows us to provide more food in a more sustainable way!

Small Things distributed over **3.2 million pounds** of food in 2023, including 1.4 million pounds of rescued food. We distributed almost **62,000 pounds** of food every week.



3.2 M

HEALTHY KIDS SNACK PACKS



**35,000
PACKS**

Our Healthy Kids Snack Program provides healthy snacks to kids in low-income areas. Preschoolers to high schoolers have received some of the **35,000 snack kits we researched, assembled, and distributed** to partners who specifically work with kids.

Working with a nutritionist from Campbell Soup, as well as partnering with Aetna Better Health Kids and W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, we have identified culturally appropriate snacks that are a total of 200 calories or less and represent at least two food groups. The snacks – such as whole grain tortilla chips and salsa – are packaged in an earth-friendly paper bag that is provided to kids in low-income areas. We also include nutrition education materials that adults can use to explain healthy eating to the kids.

EMMANUEL – MEALS FOR THE UNHOUSED AND FOOD INSECURE

Small Things organizes a weekly hot meal for people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in Center City. Hosted by Resurrection Church, Small Things works with three churches to prepare and serve the Saturday hot lunch. We provide the food and the staff to oversee the meals. Resurrection Church, Freedom Church, and First Baptist Church of Philadelphia take turns planning the menu and directing volunteers in the kitchen and the dining room.



3,600
MEALS
SERVED

About **100 diners attend each meal**. Over half of the diners also visit the Small Things Market at Emmanuel – a smaller free grocery store where they shop for fresh produce, dry goods, and beverages. Those who are food insecure can find the makings of a meal to take back home, while those experiencing homelessness can take fresh fruit, meals in a pop-top can, protein bars, and beverages.

FORKLIFT TRAINING

Once every other month, Small Things offers forklift classroom safety training from our forklift-training certified warehouse manager. After testing, they receive hands-on practice in the warehouse. At the end of the training, those who demonstrate successful skills receive a certificate they can present to an employer.

14
PROGRAM
GRADUATES



VOLUNTEERS

None of the work we do would be possible without the help of **over 3,000 volunteers** who help sort, distribute, and share our food.



SMALL THINGS MARKET



950

Since opening in November, The Small Things Market has served **over 950 people** and provided **32,000 pounds of food**.

SMALL THINGS MARKET



Small Things' first fully operational free grocery store was a welcomed addition to the Fairhill neighborhood when it opened in November 2023. Since opening, some 966 residents have shopped at the renovated building at 3510 A Street.

There are various reasons why people shop at Small Things Market. Some do so because their SNAP benefits are insufficient, while others face transportation challenges that prevent them from accessing markets outside their neighborhood. Most shoppers leave the market with around 30 pounds of produce, dry goods, meat, and dairy.

“ Our community needs this. I'm so grateful that you decided to do this here. ”

Shoppers can visit once a week. Each guest gets an allocation of 20 points to use to shop for groceries. Products range from one point, for bread or canned goods, to three points, for something like a pack of boneless pork chops. All produce – frozen and fresh – carries no points! We want to encourage healthy eating, and some people certainly fill up their carts with apples, cabbage, potatoes, and tomatoes!

We have three staff members dedicated to the Market, two of whom speak fluent Spanish. Volunteers are always needed to help shoppers navigate the Market, especially those who speak some Spanish. To volunteer, please log onto smallthingsphilly.org/volunteer and look for the Small Things Market.





Our thanks go out to grantmakers, The Zallie Community Foundation and Kensington Community Resilience Fund. We'd also like to thank regional businesses, Elisha Roofing and Migali Refrigeration, which donated their services, as well as JBM Painting, Rusty Leaf Electric, McShane Construction, and Jarman Sales & Service, which helped to get the building ready for shoppers. New French drains were dug to eliminate water problems, all new electric was run, five commercial fridges/freezers were donated, and fresh floors and paint were installed. The result is a bright, welcoming space that adds to the dignity of those shopping for food.

The market is open three days a week:

- 11 am to 3 pm Wednesday
- 9 am to noon Friday
- 10 am to 1 pm Saturday

SMALL THINGS & SUSTAINABILITY: RETAIL RESCUE

The food we give to our 50+ local pantries comes from far and wide.

Philabundance is one of our biggest suppliers, usually delivering around 24,000 pounds of dry goods and produce weekly. But many retailers work with us to “rescue” their food and give it out to those in need before it goes out of date.

Every week, Small Things drivers pick up excess food from the Amazon warehouse in Center City, as well as Target, Sprouts, and two different Giant markets. On top of this, Small Things partners with Sharing Excess to pick up about 15,000 pounds of produce each week.

**Small Things rescued 1.4 million pounds of food in 2023,
all of which goes back to our partners and markets.**

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Small Things' total income in 2023 was \$968,648. Funding sources include grants, individuals, businesses, churches, and family foundations. Total expenses were \$920,219; and the net operating income (excluding food costs) was \$48,430.

Small Things received \$5,217,398 worth of food donations and distributed \$5,599,274 of food in 2023. The difference between food donated and food distributed was primarily due to the availability of shelf-stable food. Due to rising food costs and the government shutting down COVID-19 food relief programs, Small Things had to supplement our stores of food by increasing the amount of food we rescued.

The balance sheet, as of December 31, 2023, showed \$1,147,442 in total assets, of which \$460,305 were current and included food inventory.

Fixed assets accounted for \$289,485, which includes trailers, furniture, and equipment. Current liabilities of \$68,061 consist of accounts payable and payroll liabilities. The organization does not carry debt or any other long-term liabilities.

Small Things' 2024 operating budget is projected to be \$965,000. We will continue to work on sourcing more food for our partnership network. We look to expand services at our direct service markets and continue to support our healthy kids snacks packs and job training programs. Together, all these programs work toward our goal of poverty alleviation. We will also focus on building the operational systems to move us into our 10-year plan of opening 10 Small Things Markets. In order to do all this, we will need to increase our support from foundations, individuals, and corporations.

NETWORK PARTNERS 2023

Aetna Inc.
Allen Distribution
AllianceBerstein
Amazon
BlackRock Inc.
Bridge Community Church
Calvary Christian Academy
Campbell's Soup Co.
Citylight Church
City Reach
Clemens Food Group
Connelly Foundation
Convergent Security
Convoy of Hope
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Dead King Bread
Dionis Goat Milk Skincare
Giant Food Stores
Einstein Health Network
Epic Church
First Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
Foundation for Health Equity
Friends Select School
Happen Ventures
Harvest Rock Church
Heart of Worship Restoration Center
HP Hood Dairies

Iglesia Pentecostal Church
Jefferson Health
Kellanova (Women of Kelloggs)
Kingsway Learning Center
Kraft Heinz
KRMA (Karma Bakery)
La Salle High School
Leo & Peggy Pierce Foundation
Liberti Church Mainline
Liberti Church Northeast
Liberti Church River Wards
Liberti Communion Network
Liberty Coca Cola
Martin Saints Classical High School
MedTrak
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia Inc.
Metro Church in Philadelphia
Mid-Atlantic Food Trade Organization (MAFTO)
Mission Philadelphia
New Covenant Church of Philadelphia
Niagara Water
Patricia Kind Family Foundation
ECO
Penn Interactive
Pepsico

Philabundance
Philadelphia Foundation
Philadelphia Classical School
Pohlig Construction
Portescap
Resurrection Church of Philadelphia
Revzilla
Share Food Program
Sharing Excess
Sheppard Redistribution
Southern Land Company
Sprouts
St. Joseph's University
The Agnes Irwin School
The Philly Project
The Scattergood Foundation
Bethesda Project
The Zallie Community Foundation
Top Hat Espresso
Trader Joe's
University of Pennsylvania
Utz Quality Food
Vanguard
Vault Communications
Victory Church Audubon
W.W. Smith Charitable Trust
Watershed Church
William Penn Charter School
WSFS Cares Foundation

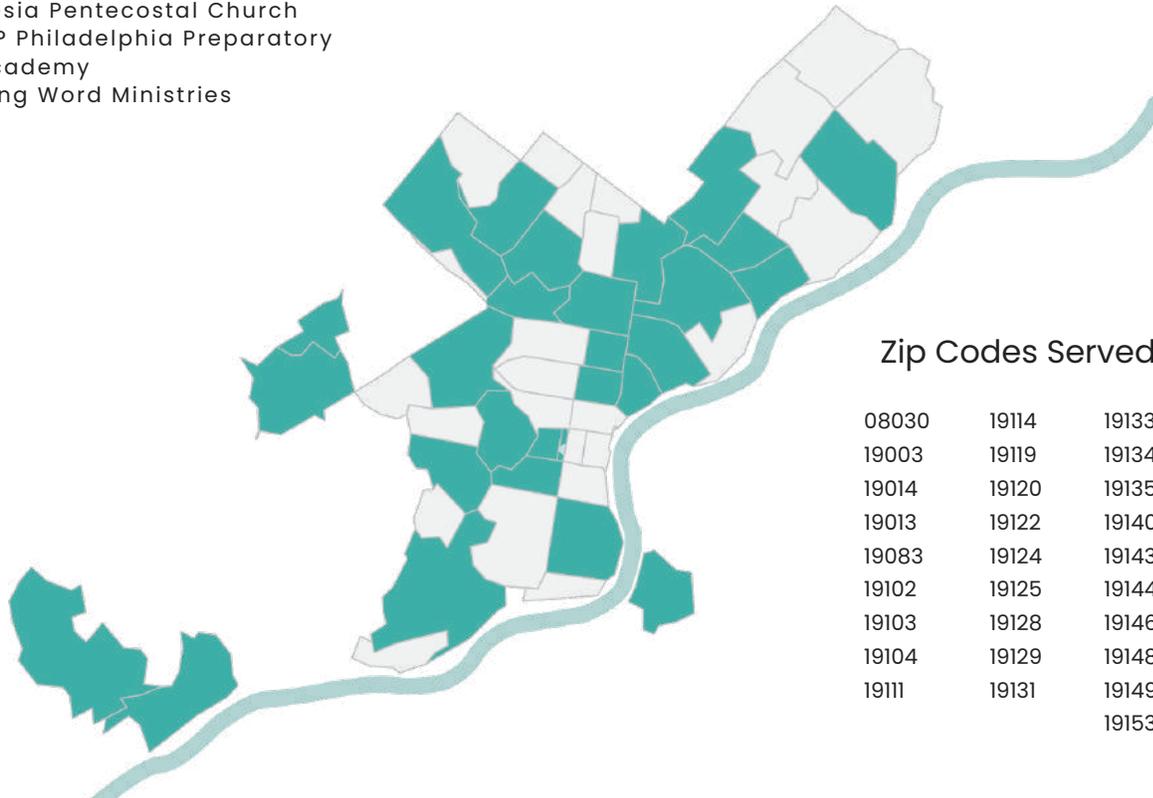
DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

Small Things serves individuals and works with partners in Philadelphia County, Delaware County, and Montgomery County. Our goal is to continually move toward being a presence in areas that experience food insecurity where our presence can support the community.

8th St. Community Church/Hope
Prison Ministries
AHARI
By Grace Alone
CDA Ministry
Concilio
Crossroads Community
Center
Delco Food Project
Epiphany Gloucester
Esperanza
Feed Philly Now
Firm Hope Baptist Church
Good Samaritan
Grace & Peace
Grands Stepping Up
Greenhouse Project
Heart of Worship Restoration
Center
House of Prayer
ICPIC New Africa Center
Iglesia Pentecostal Church
KIPP Philadelphia Preparatory
Academy
Living Word Ministries

Mercy Neighborhood
Ministries
Metro Church
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
New Covenant Church
New Covenant Church
Cheltenham
New Start
New Tabernacle Baptist
Church
NKCDC
North Light Community
Center
OCCDA
One Hope Community Church
Ordinaire Heroes
Philadelphia Prevention
Partnership
Philly Auto and Parole
Prodigy Prep

Roxborough Presbyterian
Church
Salvation Army Phila/Central
Sharon Baptist Church
Snyder Avenue Church
South Philadelphia
Community Fridge
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
St. Paul AME Church
Sunday Love Project
The Amoveo Group
The Everywhere Project
True Vine Worship Center
Victory Church Audubon
Victory Outreach
West Kensington Ministry



Zip Codes Served

08030	19114	19133
19003	19119	19134
19014	19120	19135
19013	19122	19140
19083	19124	19143
19102	19125	19144
19103	19128	19146
19104	19129	19148
19111	19131	19149
		19153

SMALL THINGS TEAM



Reverend Vito Baldini



Barb Delp



John Casey



Nick Barbella



Corey Jay "CJ" Cutner



Lauren Faux



Jack Kennedy



Matthew Cyphert



Chris McDougall



Angel Natal



Sean Wiggins



Tony Tucker



Robert Ramos



Carlos Betancourt Jr.



Nilda Pimentel

SMALL THINGS THROUGH THE YEARS

2010

Starting Small

Members of Liberti East come together to deliver 100 meals to neighbors in need and start the annual tradition of Easter Outreach.

2012

New Partners

Easter Outreach partners with Philabundance to source food for distribution and with Water is Basic to provide water and famine relief to families in Sudan.

2019

New Milestones

Over 75 community partners and 2,000 volunteers help distribute 10,000 Easter dinners in Philadelphia and help to fund water provision and famine relief in South Sudan.

2021

Settling In

We distributed 8.2 million pounds of food, or 133,000 meals per week, to families in need.

2023

New Programs

We opened two Small Things Market locations, one in Center City and one in the Fairhill neighborhood of Philadelphia, where community members can shop for free nutritious food of their choice. We hired additional staff to begin providing direct services at our two markets.

2011

Slowly Growing

Liberti Fairmount and Liberty Center City join the effort and distribute over 1,000 meals in Greater Philadelphia.

2013 – 2018

Steady Growth

Easter Outreach continues to expand with new community partners, serving more meals, and engaging more volunteers.

2020

COVID Hits

At the onset of COVID-19, the organization shifts its practices and makes the transition from Easter Outreach to Small Things, Inc.

By fall, we provided one million meals and decided to form a new nonprofit. In December, we started operating out of our own warehouse on Domino Lane.

2022

Planning for the Future

With staffing and operations stabilized, we refined our partner lists, assumed responsibility for Emmanuel to include indoor sit-down service, and started planning for additional future programs.

2024

Going Forward

Our focus for this year is to refine our Small Things Market operation so that we can provide Philadelphia with a dignifying, replicable choice pantry model. We will be looking for strategic partners for future market locations where people face food insecurity.

