

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

16 September 2023

We served 285 people this week, another record-breaker.

CHILD POVERTY

New York Times - [Poverty Rate Soared in 2022 as Aid Ended and Prices Rose](#)

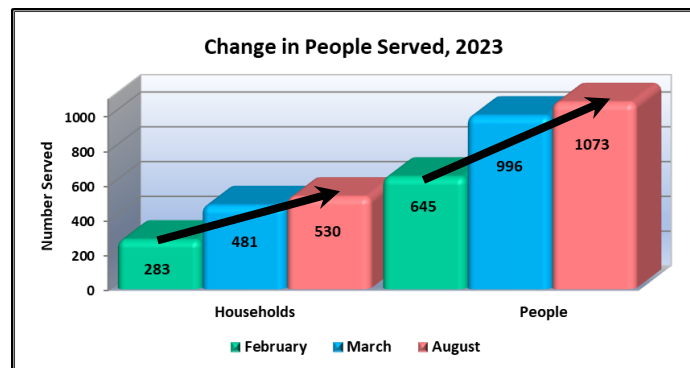
The increase in poverty reversed two years of large declines. The poverty rate rose to 12.4 percent in 2022 from 7.8 percent in 2021, the largest one-year jump on record, the Census Bureau said Tuesday. Poverty among children more than doubled, to 12.4 percent, from a record low of 5.2 percent the year before. Those figures are according to the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which factors in the impact of government assistance and geographical differences in the cost of living.

The increases followed two years of historically large declines in poverty, driven primarily by safety net programs that were created or expanded during the pandemic.

“People are working hard,” said Margaret O’Conor, who runs Common Pantry, a small food bank in Chicago. “They’re just not making ends meet, the cost of living is too much.” Rent in particular has soaked up a lot of people’s extra earnings.

Common Pantry, like many food banks, had demand explode during the pandemic and then recede in 2021, when people received stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits and the child tax credit, among other assistance. Then, as those programs lapsed, demand began to climb again.

Woodstock Pantry has experienced significant increases in demand since February, the month before SNAP benefits were cut. We have experienced an 87% increase in households and a 66% increase in people who access the pantry.



VACATION

I’m going on vacation, starting tomorrow and returning September 25th. Chris Gustafson and Robert Drummy will cover my duties. You all are experts, and the shift leads are ready to support you. Have fun and thanks for all that you do!

DUJEA, INC. T-SHIRTS DONATED

One for every pantry volunteer! Be sure to get yours from the Outreach Room!

PANTRY BUILD

As part of our [Lowes Hometown Grant](#), Lowes is sending volunteers to the pantry for the Lowes’ Red Vest Day! On September 26, they will landscape the hill on Knight Street

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

16 September 2023

(opposite the pantry). This is our first volunteer project related to the pantry build. More are coming as we move forward with the pantry build! Many thanks to Lowes!

SIGN UP FOR SEPTEMBER SHIFTS

Please help Chris and Robert by making sure all our shifts are full next week! Remember to sign up for the weekend by Thursday so we can plan. And if you can't come, please contact me right away so I can get others to fill your position.

[WP Sign Up Sheet September](#)

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

As K-12 and universities gear up, we are welcoming back our young adults! We are excited to see you all again and soooo appreciate your help!

CROSSTRAIN TO BE A WOODSTOCK HOT MEALS VOLUNTEER

Crosstrain as pantry and hot meals volunteer. It gives you options about how you want to contribute, and it gives us more flexibility to keep our programs running!

COVID & CARING FOR EACH OTHER

COVID is surging. Please remember that we all have different susceptibility and risk associated with COVID. Practice an abundance of caution. Thank you!

Celebrate...

It Takes a Community, And We Are It!