

Annual Convention Report

The 132nd Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri



Highlights of Ministry

- Served 108,557 meals at Kansas City Community Kitchen (KCCK) and in partnership with four other nonprofits in the metro through the end of September. On track to serve more than 144,000 meals by year's end, an increase of nearly 70% over 2020.
- Eight Episcopal Churches partnered with NourishKC to distribute 10,400 BackSnacks to school-age youth in 14 local schools
- Rescued more than 134,000 pounds of local food through the end of September; expect 2021 total poundage to be nearly 300,000 pounds.
- Currently distributing rescued food to seven neighborhood pantries in metro KC.
- Remained open for to-go meal distribution during the pandemic.
- Graduated 12 students from the culinary training program during 2021.

How These Activities Furthered the Work of the Diocese and Strengthened Parishes and Congregations

- Collaborating with local parishes to address the gap of food access for children by working with 6 churches for the BackSnack program. (distributed 4,780 packs).
- Involving daily volunteers from local churches to conduct 2-4 hours of food prep, food processing, cleaning, and food distribution

2022 Plans for Ministry

NourishKC is undertaking an intensive visioning and strategic planning process in 2021. Plans are taking shape now; however, growth in 2022 likely will include an expansion of KCCK to function as a commissary kitchen for many nonprofits in Greater KC. This will allow NourishKC to expand its reach through partnerships with other organizations that would like to provide prepared meals in the neighborhoods they serve. This will be in addition to continuing to serve guests with the Dining with Dignity model at KCCK. The Food Rescue Program will continue to grow, adding additional sources of food and expanding the number of pantry partners to which it delivers. The Culinary Training Program will expand to graduate 30 students in 2022.

Measuring Success in 2021

NourishKC staff will continue to log meal counts, packs delivered and student attendance. Through volunteer surveys, meal counts, and graduation rates, staff and community partners will analyze data and make appropriate program adjustments. Staff also will track progress toward growth goals. The data will be presented to the Board of Directors monthly.

Impact on Diocesan Priorities:

#1 – Grow Congregations - we seek congregations growing in membership, more congregations being started, excellence in liturgies

We are affiliated with congregations throughout the metro area and continue to welcome small groups of volunteers to assist in the meal preparations and distribution efforts at the KCCK. When we reopen the dining room, we expect to welcome back larger groups from area parishes to prepare and serve meals.

#2 – Grow Personally - we seek Christian formation for all ages, especially children, youth, and young adults; we seek growth in knowledge of the faith and in spiritual depth; we seek growth in responsible stewardship; we seek excellence in liturgies

Our Dining with Dignity approach allows for growth in stewardship, as individuals volunteering at the kitchen have the immediate opportunity to make an impact on hunger in our community. Volunteers can sign up for weekly, monthly, or quarterly opportunities to assist in the preparation of 400 daily meals.

#3 – Grow in Community - we seek unity, cooperation, and mutual support congregation-to-congregation and in our connections beyond the diocese

NourishKC continues to cooperate with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, as the administrative offices remain vital to the future of our programming efforts. Our collaborations through BackSnack connects six congregations to address food insecurity of children throughout the metro area. The Food Rescue program promotes fresh produce access to supplement stable food products for three local pantries.

#4 – Grow in Compassion - we seek to do social outreach to aid the children of God. Addressing food insecurity involves a wide scope of services, ensuring that all ages have access to healthy and fresh meals. During the pandemic we have witnessed an increase in the number of families seeking meals at the KCCK. The number of meals served has grown from approximately 2,500 per week in January to nearly 4,000 meals per week in September.

#5 – Grow Leaders - we seek leadership development for lay and clergy alike

The number of volunteers committed to the efforts of feeding individuals at the KCCK remains evident through the decades of hours from various groups. The restrictions of the pandemic have impacted volunteer opportunities in 2021. However, we expect that groups from parishes throughout the diocese will return in 2022 to help serve the growing number of individuals seeking food assistance.