



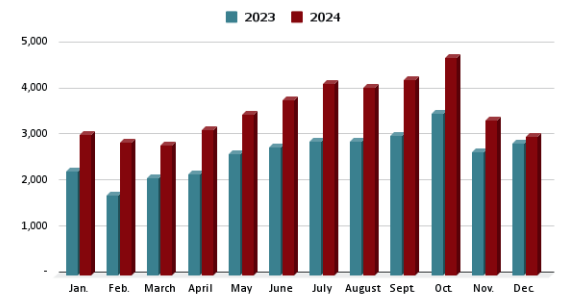
Growth, Transformation, and Hope

Dear Friends and Supporters,

*This past year has been one of growth, transformation, and hope for the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry. **In 2024, we served 42,920 meals, a 35% increase over 2023.***

Despite this rising demand, we finished the year \$600 in the black thanks to sound stewardship, your contributions, and the tireless efforts of our volunteers. This is a true testimony to the commitment and generosity of our community.

Meals Served in 2023 & 2024



Meals served by month in 2023 vs. 2024: a 35% increase!



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

IN 2025, WE WILL CELEBRATE 25 YEARS SINCE THE FRANCISCAN CENTER FIRST OPENED ITS DOORS. FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, THIS CENTER HAS BEEN A PLACE OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO REFLECTING ON OUR SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR.

Levo International: Fighting Food Insecurity with Hydroponics

This year, we continued our partnership with Levo International, supporting their urban farm expansion. Volunteers worked across three sites, playing a vital role in relocating the farm from Bloomfield to Homestead Avenue and beginning the transformation of a blighted plot of land into a thriving urban farm. In this new year, we will continue this work, turning what was once an eyesore in Hartford into a space of growth, renewal, and nourishment for the community.

Volunteers of all ages work together to fight food insecurity in the Hartford area. To the right, members of our Family and Teen Focus 4:12 Faith Formation programs work with Levo, and adult volunteers built the first greenhouse on the new site.



Increasing Sustainability at our Doorstep: Access to Clean Water

We also deepened our focus on sustainability and care for creation. After eliminating single-use plastic water bottles, we began distributing stainless steel reusable water bottles to our guests. We are also exploring the installation of a permanent water bottle filling station to ensure permanent access to clean water, especially during the summer heat.

Wellness Center: Wellness, Education, and Serving Community Needs

Additionally, our 20-year partnership with the University of Saint Joseph now includes physician assistant students who, alongside nursing students, provide care and wellness checks for our guests, broadening the health services available. This collaboration demonstrates the powerful intersection of education and service in meeting community needs.



Food Security: Sandwiches, Hot Meals, House of Bread

We are proud to share that our efforts in food security were recognized at a national level. See the video from our national province that highlights this vital work by scanning the QR code.

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance: Advocating for Change, Together

In 2024, we welcomed hundreds of our neighbors from other faith communities as we hosted a Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance multi-faith community meeting in March, as well as GHIAA's delegates assembly in June. These events helped determine the coalition's agenda for 2025, which includes affordable housing and equitable fiscal policy in our state.



Father Mike at the State Capitol with clergy members of GHIAA member interfaith congregations.



Housing Insecurity: Partnering with Local Organizations

We sent teams to work with Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, and St. Francis Builds to help alleviate housing insecurity both near and far. Here in Hartford, our people worked to create five affordable homes. In Oaxaca Mexico, we built three schools, for a total of seven in the last 18 months.

Our team at a Habitat for Humanity Build in Hartford, March 2024.

Clare Gallery

The Clare Gallery, celebrating its 21st year, sponsored four exhibitions that consider the Franciscan value of Care for Creation by focusing on artists' work that has environmental and sustainable connections. The fall exhibition inspired a collaboration with Faith Formation. (See more at spsact.org/clare2)



Clare Gallery hosted a workshop with our youth who created their own art that was displayed in the gallery.

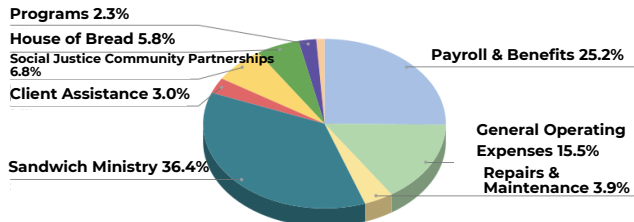
Open Hearts and Family & Friends of LGBTQ+

Our LGBTQ+ ministry, Open Hearts and the Family & Friends of LGBTQ+, offer opportunities for building community, for nurturing faith, and for mutual support for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

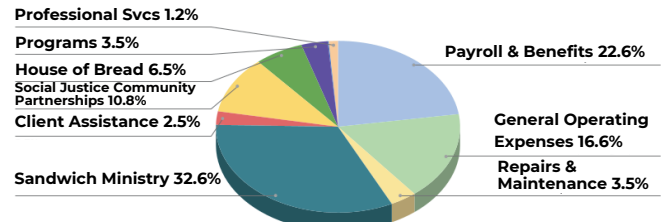


Supporting our Mission

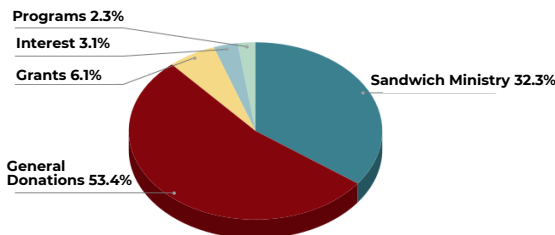
2024 Actual Expenses



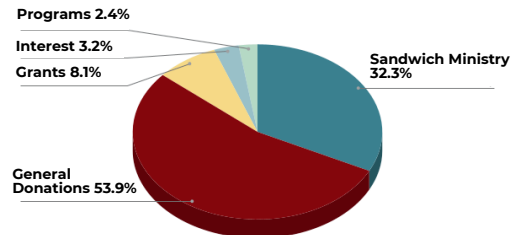
2025 Budgeted Expenses



2024 Actual Income



2025 Budgeted Income



Over 85% of our income is from donations to the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry, and targeted donations to the Sandwich Ministry, to meet the needs of those who come to our door, and to aid our community partners in their similar work. We thank you for generously supporting these needs in 2024. **The increasing need, and the ever-increasing prices for food and other necessities is a challenge that we are called to meet, together. Let us continue our mission in 2025 to help those in need and the marginalized in Hartford and the surrounding communities.**

In Gratitude

None of this would be possible without you. The volunteers, donors, and supporters who share their time, talents, and resources are the hands and Franciscan hearts of our center. Thank you for walking with us as we serve, grow, and bring hope to those in need.

Peace and all good,

Mike ofm

To support our mission, scan the code or go to bit.ly/give-to-franciscan-center to donate

