



## Q: What is the need for a larger food pantry in Dublin?

**A:** Hunger continues to devastate our community, and in Dublin, it is much more prevalent than most realize. In Dublin, 4,700 households live on less than \$35,000 annually, and in some of our Dublin City Schools, there are as many as 70% of students on free & reduced lunches. Due to the uncertain economic climate and effects of the pandemic, since 2019, the Dublin Food Pantry has seen a 92% increase in community members served; In the first six months of 2022 alone, we saw an additional 30% increase in individuals and families served.

## Q: Who comes to the Dublin Food Pantry?

**A:** The Dublin Food Pantry serves community members living in the City of Dublin and Dublin City School District. The Pantry works daily to serve our neighbors in need, serving an average of 2,500 individuals, or 600 households each month. In 2021, 37% of our local population served were children, with 15% of our local population served were seniors ages 60+.

Nearly 70% of our shoppers are the working poor, struggling to make ends meet and make difficult choices daily; Food or rent? Food or utilities? Food or gas? Food or medical care? These questions haunt our community members constantly.

Many households experiencing food insecurity are not able to qualify for federal nutrition programs, so they must visit local food pantries like ours to get the help they deserve.

## Q: How do tax dollars support the Dublin Food Pantry?

**A:** While tax dollars do not support the annual food pantry operating budget, the City of Dublin has already contributed \$300,000 to the **Everyone Eats Here** campaign, with an additional \$75,000 pledged to go towards ongoing operating funds for the next three years. This contribution truly showcases the City's passion and belief in the project to meet the needs of our community members.



**Q:** What does the current pantry look like?

**A:** The Dublin Food Pantry has been housed inside the Dublin Community Church in historic Dublin since 1976, thanks to their generosity with space and belief in the pantry. Over the years, we have met our community's increasing needs by continuously expanding our physical space within the church. The pantry occupies the church nursery, their youth room, as well as the church's Goodwill Room, and this space is also used for other activities and programs outside of pantry hours.

We have utilized and exhausted all the space available to us, and we are now in need of a larger home to serve Dublin's growing needs. We can no longer fulfill our mission to the best of our ability in our current location due to a lack of space, storage, and accessibility. A permanent home for the pantry is imperative to be able to serve all of our neighbors in need.

**Q:** How does the pantry keep track of shoppers? Is there a limit on how often families and individuals can come?

**A:** The Dublin Food Pantry is a member agency of the Mid-Ohio Food Collective and utilizes a system called PantryTrak to track shoppers. This data is then shared with Mid-Ohio Food Collective. As a member agency, we embrace the operational best practices determined by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and Mid-Ohio Food Collective. We are appreciative of their leadership and guidance in determining the most efficient and effective ways to serve our neighbors in need.

Shoppers are able to come once a month for meat, boxed food staples, and personal care items. We also encourage families and individuals to come weekly for fresh produce, bread, pastries, eggs, and milk.

**Q:** How many repeat shoppers does the Dublin Food Pantry serve on average?

**A:** On average, the Dublin Food Pantry sees repeat shoppers 7x each year. We work diligently to make sure every person, senior, student, veteran, and family gets the food and resources they need to succeed - partnering with other incredible local nonprofits to help our neighbors in need, including One Dublin and Dublin Bridges.



**Q:** Who does the Pantry partner with in the community to maximize impact and outreach?

**A:** A connected community is a nourished community. That's why the Dublin Food Pantry partners with numerous organizations to provide our shoppers with holistic support because food insecurity isn't linear. Our partners include:

- Dublin Bridges
- One Dublin
- City of Dublin
- Lutheran Social Services
- Dublin City Schools
- CHOICES
- Stoneridge Court Senior Center
- Noor Islamic Cultural Center
- Dublin Chamber of Commerce
- Dublin Community Church
- St. John Lutheran Church
- St. Brigid of Kildare

**Q:** How much can SNAP support a family to decrease the frequency of visits at the pantry?

**A:** SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federal program that provides additional funds to low-income individuals and families to use at stores to purchase food. This program provides \$1.50 for each family member per meal.

Many families relying on SNAP to feed their children have turned to fast food restaurants in the past, but with inflation and our uncertain economic climate, even McDonalds predicts a 12-14% raise in prices. In the last year alone, grocery stores have raised prices nearly 9%. SNAP isn't enough to provide our seniors, veterans, students, and families with the nutritional food they need.

We know that hunger and health are deeply connected. Studies have shown that people who are food insecure are drastically affected by diet-sensitive chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The affects of our Dublin students not having enough healthy food can have serious implications for their health both physically and mentally, academic achievement, and future economic prosperity.



**Q:** Where is the new home of the Dublin Food Pantry? Why this location?

**A:** Located conveniently off of Sawmill Road, the new Dublin Food Pantry will be housed in a larger, more accessible facility at 6608 Dublin Center Drive. Our shoppers will have increased interior space, additional parking spaces, and direct access to other local nonprofits like Dublin Bridges, as the facility allows room for partner organizations to meet with individuals and families. The new building is surrounded by several COTA bus stops, making it accessible for Dublin residents and families.

**Q:** How can I support Everyone Eats Here campaign to help expand the transformational work of the Dublin Food Pantry?

**A:** As a community that cares deeply about the wellbeing of its neighbors, it's time for all of us to come to the table.

**DONATE:**



- Visit our campaign website to make a gift to the Dublin Food Pantry campaign, or contact Dinky Youngsteadt-Parrish at [dinky@dublinfoodpantry.org](mailto:dinky@dublinfoodpantry.org) for more information. We challenge you to make the Dublin Food Pantry campaign one of your strongest philanthropic priorities for 2022.

**VOLUNTEER:**



- Volunteers are the heart of our organization; we couldn't do it without you!
- To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the pantry, contact Jim Wilson at [jim@dublinfoodpantry.org](mailto:jim@dublinfoodpantry.org).

**ADVOCATE:**



- Help get the word out to your friends and family about the Pantry's campaign! Like, comment, and share our posts on social media and don't forget to follow our accounts!

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