



2026 CROP Walk

"Stories of Change"

Our Partners Improving Lives Every Day

Around the block... Around the world... Let's improve more lives!

25% of funds raised by the Columbia CROP Walk fight hunger around Columbia through food pantry and meal programs. Read about the ways they are improving lives. Tell your friends and neighbors!

Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen

An evening meal is served **363 nights** during the year - the only nights they don't serve are the evenings of Thanksgiving and Christmas when other community organizations serve a meal.

"We serve an average of **150 meals each night** (compared to 130 last year) and we do this on a minimal budget due to the assistance of over 2 dozen volunteer groups who help provide and serve the evening meal. Some meals are also provided by the L&F pantry shelves and random volunteers. AND, food costs, are higher.

Last year CROP funds were used for expenses related to maintenance, such as repairs to 4 kitchen ovens and bi-monthly cleaning of the grease trap. These aren't glamorous or glitzy expenditures, but without working ovens and clog-free drains, we can't do what we need to do.

In July, 2026, we are excited to move to a permanent - and newly furnished - location in the Opportunity Campus complex. This kitchen and expanded dining area will allow us to better serve our growing population. However, for the first time in over 2 years, we will be paying rent, at the amount of \$1,000 each month.

Without CROP funds, it would be difficult to prepare and serve these essential meals... just think, if you multiply 363 days x (only) 120 meals per day... **THAT'S (at least) 43,560 MEALS PER YEAR.**"



Fifth Street Christian Community Food Programs

"The Feed the Community Program has been serving the community for 19 years. We have fed the hungry and those in need at a **community meal** on the 2nd Saturday of the month for many years, currently serving approximately **150 meals** each month.

Last year we added a distribution day in which we offered free clothing and household items to those in need. In 2026, we will do distributions twice, one already in April and the second in August.

This year we also started a senior meal program on Tuesday each week for elders in Paquin Tower and Oak Towers, including delivery. Thankfully, we are being able to upgrade our kitchen to be able to prepare these **40-50 meals every week.**

Throughout the year, we are serving 500 children and youth under 18 years, and over 4,500 adults.



Our goal this year: **Feed the 5,000!"**

See the other side of this sheet for stories from our **FOOD PANTRY PARTNERS!**

Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry

"In April 2026, we celebrated **25 years of having the Pantry open and operating** with a totally volunteer staff of coordinators and workers!

In 2025, the Pantry served nearly **700 children and 2,700 adults**. With the rise in food prices, it has been difficult for our patrons to purchase the necessary food needed, especially fresh fruit and vegetables.

The Pantry is open every 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 10-12. A family/individual can use the food pantry whenever it is open. There are times when we also open for a family in need, because they have reached out. We have delivered food to families who are not able to pick up items due to illness or no transportation.

CROP funds in the past year have purchased nutritious food items, expanded food access through community outreach, provided emergency food assistance, and engaged us in partnerships with local organizations. Also operational costs such as storage, transportation to pick up food from agencies like Natural Grocers, utility costs, and equipment like the tables for food storage.

Through these efforts, the Pantry helped reduce food insecurity, provided relief during times of hardship, and strengthened overall community well-being.

In our future is replacement of the floor where patrons visit the pantry; it has become warped and can create a hazardous situation. We will begin

trying to save for the repair, a big project and time-consuming task.



Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry

The Destiny Food Pantry, located in the far northeast corner of Columbia is scheduled to be open on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. thru 12 p.m. But, they are always open to individuals or families who find themselves in a crisis situation.

In 2025, they served approximately **600 youth and 2,500 adults** with far more than food and personal contact. In addition to food, they provided other essentials like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, diapers, blankets, and more.

"We've seen the needs get greater, more clients are served monthly and numbers of persons who are homeless continue to rise in the small surrounding area we serve.

The money we received from CROP helped a great deal. We wish you could see what we see when providing for our community due to rising costs on everything it takes to exist in today's world.

Food is necessary, but what good is food if a family has no where to cook it and then sit down and eat it? **We try to look at the whole package for a family's need**, to sustain the living needs in our community. We try to serve so the person receives dignity, i.e. inherent worth, the fundamental right to be treated as a valued individual regardless of one's background, status or abilities.

We thank CROP for helping us address the needs we encounter and are so very grateful for your continued support.



Columbia CROP Walk Webpage - Our local webpage for Columbia contacts, promotional resources, register your team, make donations, and more
www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo

Columbia CROP Facebook - Up-to-the-minute news and updates
<https://www.facebook.com/comocrop>

Church World Service resources, project information, Team formation
<https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/>



See the other side of this sheet for stories from our MEAL PREPARING PARTNERS!