

# January 2025 Newsletter



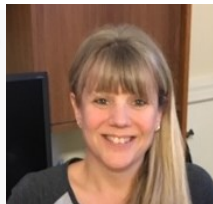
Catholic Parish Outreach  
Food Pantry  
A Program of Catholic Charities

Providing Help – Creating Hope – Serving All

## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

### Note From the Director

Kelly



Here we are starting a New Year, my sixteenth at CPO (two years as a volunteer/fourteen years as a staff member). It is amazing to me that so many things change and evolve, but so many things remain the same. Human nature is so cyclical that it should not surprise me anymore, but it still does. With all the innovations and technology that people from the past could never even have dreamed of having, and we depend on so much now, yet we still have not figured out a way to make food and housing affordable for all!

They are such basic needs and as advanced as we believe ourselves to be, this situation should not even exist, but it still persists! Not too surprising I guess, since it was an issue long before Jesus came to save us and he warned us that it would always be among us. *"The poor you will always have with you"* (Mk 14:7),

We do not have all the answers to alleviate these problems, but if we work together (donors, volunteers, staff and food partners), we can provide good nutritional food to our neighbors and allow them to know that they are not alone and that we stand with them! This is the most important work I have ever partaken in and I consider it my vocation in life. Thank you for being a part of the CPO Family helping to "Nourish our Neighbors"!

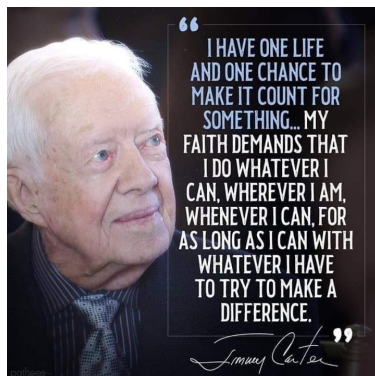
Thank you, Happy New Year and God Bless!

Kelly



LIFE'S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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Hours of Operation:  
Mon/Wed/Thurs/Friday & Saturday  
9 am—12pm

**We are now open ALL Saturdays**  
**for CPO food distribution**  
**CPO is open from 9 am—12pm**

### Looking to volunteer:

We are now using **Point** software for people to volunteer at CPO.

To sign up go to: [dash.pointapp.org](https://dash.pointapp.org)

Create username and password

Choose **Catholic Charities Raleigh** for the organization

If you need help in signing up contact our Volunteer Coordinator Darcy Hull (call or text) 919-847-1466 or email her at [CPOvol.Coordinator@cccharitiesdor.org](mailto:CPOvol.Coordinator@cccharitiesdor.org)

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**UPCOMING  
CONFERENCE**



### Nourish Our Future: United for Our Future

January 25, 2025 9am-2pm



Join North Carolina members of Bread for the World, nonprofit partners, and other allies across the state as we gather, learn, and take action to end hunger.

The convention will hold at the Highland United Methodist Church [1901 Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1901+Ridge+Rd,+Raleigh,+NC+27607)

[Register Today!](#)

[go.bread.org/page/74936/survey/](https://go.bread.org/page/74936/survey/)

### Join us for the Nourish Our Future campaign launch!



Online and in-person

Register below for the launch on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025** at 8:00 p.m. ET.

*It's here.*

The child-focused advocacy campaign we've been building together for the past year, with input from more than 1,400 Bread for the World members, partners, policy experts, and people directly impacted by hunger.

Join us online as we launch this campaign together, to make a historic impact against child hunger and malnutrition, both in the U.S. and around the world. Come and learn about the issues and the legislative priorities we will pursue over the next two years, why they matter for children, and what you can do to make a difference. Take your place in this campaign, and help us pursue a world without hunger.

*It's time to Nourish Our Future.*

[Register Today!](#)

[go.bread.org/page/73502/survey/](https://go.bread.org/page/73502/survey/)

	Dec-23	Dec-24	% Inc
Families	2,006	2,557	27%
People	7,855	10,200	30%

	1H FY2024	1H FY2025	% Inc
Families	12,497	15,731	26%
People	48,560	61,874	27%

*Our numbers continue to rise. We are on a scary trajectory to finish our FY25 in 6 months at 25%+ over the FY24 numbers. That is astounding since we ended FY 2024 at almost 40% over FY 2023 numbers. At this point we do not know how high is high!*



### Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids®



Distribution in 49 States & 10 Canadian Provinces



1,500 Councils Participate in Annual Distributions



Approx. 200,000 Coats Distributed Annually

*No child should be without a coat in the winter and no parent should have to decide between a coat for their child or putting food on the table. Since the Coats for Kids initiative launched in 2009, Knights of Columbus have distributed over 1 million coats.*

**A huge thank you to all of the local Knights of Columbus Councils that have been participating in this national Knights of Columbus initiative. Many of the pre-school age children that we serve at CPO have benefited from this amazing program!**



*In December of 2024 CPO distributed over **525** new coats donated by the Knights of Columbus to pre-school aged children to keep them warm this winter!*

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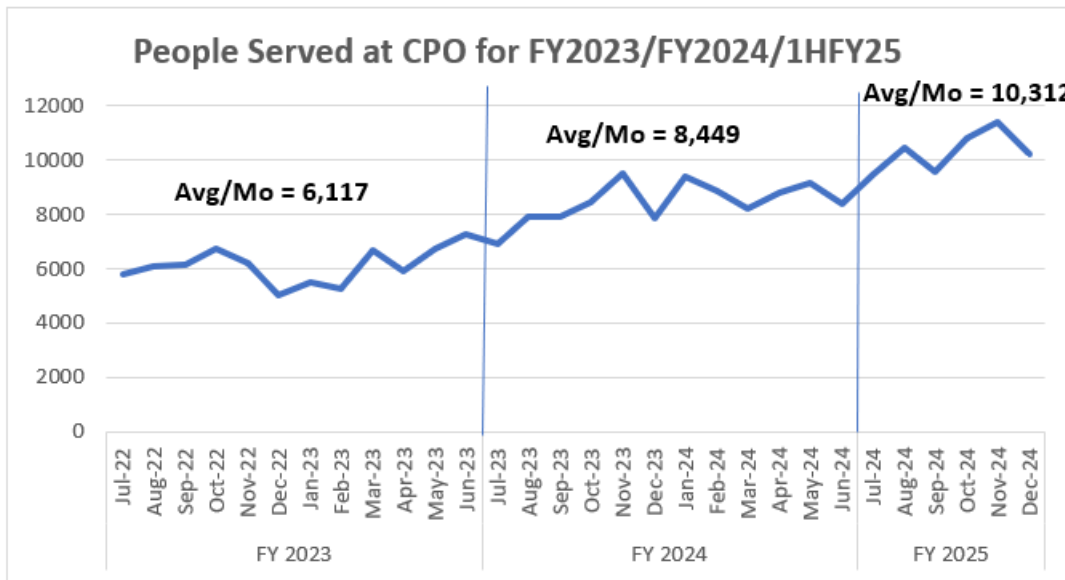
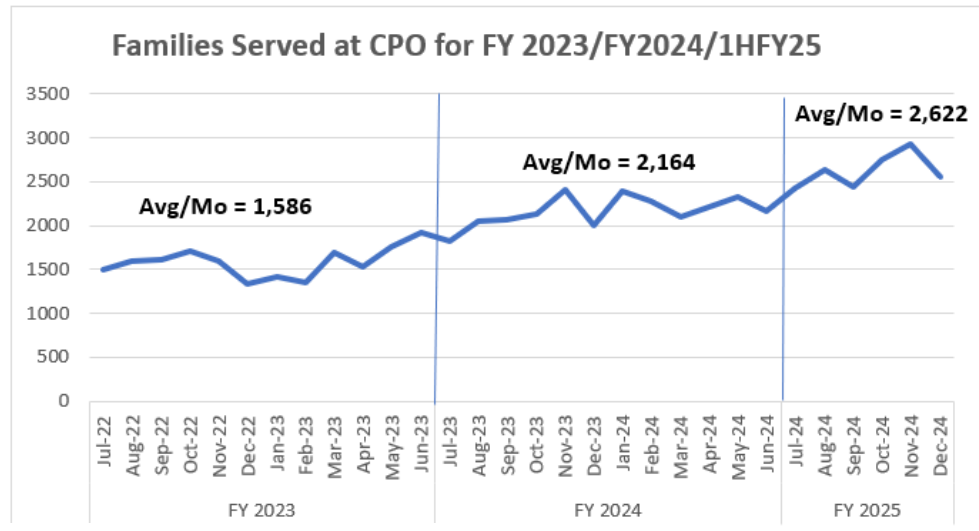


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*Snapshot of  
Food  
Insecurity  
Growth  
Locally and  
Nationally:*

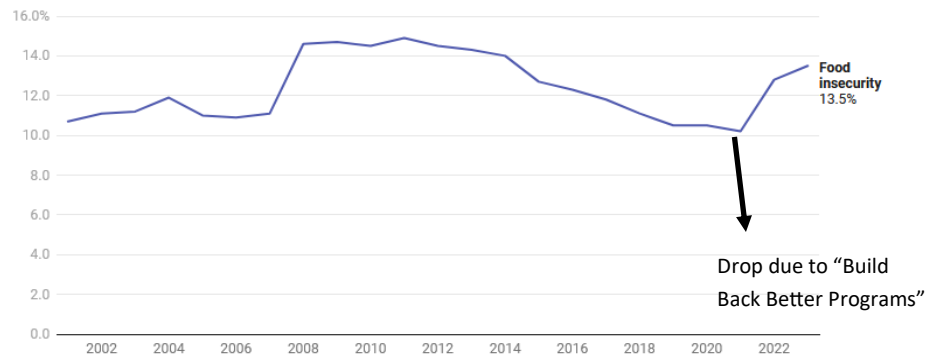


*The numbers  
show NO  
signs of  
coming down*

*Signs show  
steady and  
unending  
growth of  
need....*

### US food insecurity has grown since the COVID-19 pandemic

The food insecurity rate declined to 10.2% in 2021 from nearly 15% in 2011, as the government ramped up safety net spending to cushion economic blows from the COVID-19 pandemic. The rate increased in 2022 and again 2023, when it rose to 13.5% after a rollback in benefit spending.



People experiencing food insecurity have to at least occasionally reduce their portions or skip meals because they can't afford enough nutritious food.

Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: USDA Economic Research Service • Get the data • Embed • Download image • Created with Datawrapper