

# DUNEDIN CARES COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

**Feed the Need**



[www.DunedinCares.org](http://www.DunedinCares.org)



**Dunedin Cares**  
COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

## Our History

Dunedin Cares Community Food Pantry's remarkable journey commenced in 2015 under the visionary leadership of Ed Hughes, a distinguished businessman and beloved figure within the Dunedin community. Mr. Hughes, deeply attuned to the pressing need for food within our community, embarked on a mission that would forever change the landscape of community support in Dunedin. In the beginning, the pantry was housed in a closet in the Faith Lutheran Church equipped with basic shelving.

Fast forward to 2024, and the transformation of Dunedin Cares Community Food Pantry is nothing short of extraordinary. Today, our pantry stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of community resilience. Our current location, situated at the rear of the Faith Lutheran property, is a double-wide trailer generously bestowed upon us by a benevolent patron of the community. This generous donation has provided us with a substantial 2,400 square feet of warehouse and shopping space, enabling us to expand our services exponentially.

Dunedin Cares takes great pride in its distinctive approach as a food choice pantry. In contrast to conventional food distribution models, we empower our guests to exercise agency in selecting the food items that best align with their dietary preferences and cultural needs.

Our client-choice model fosters dignity and self-determination among those we serve, setting us apart as a unique and progressive force in the realm of food assistance. For the majority of our existence, Dunedin Cares Community Food Pantry has been propelled forward by the sheer dedication of our volunteer staff, a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives. However, recognizing the evolving demands and increased reach of our pantry, we made the strategic decision in 2022 to augment our team. Presently, we are privileged to employ one full-time Executive Director and one part-time Pantry Operations Coordinator, further enhancing our capacity to serve the community with unwavering dedication.

The story of Dunedin Cares Community Food Pantry is one of humble beginnings, tireless dedication, and unyielding community support. With each passing year, our pantry continues to evolve, adapt, and expand its mission, ensuring that the Dunedin community's needs are met with compassion, choice, and commitment.



**Dunedin Cares**  
COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

## Our Mission

**Dunedin Cares is a client-choice food pantry that exists to eliminate food insecurity by providing food to those in need within our local community.**

## Client -Choice

**A client-choice food pantry enables our guests to choose their food as they would in a grocery store rather than receiving pre-packed bags of food. Dunedin Cares Community Food Pantry creates an atmosphere of respect which builds trust between the guests, staff and volunteers.**

## Who do we serve?

**We serve the residents of Dunedin, Clearwater and Palm Harbor. We strive to reach those in our local community that are food insecure - where children go to bed hungry at night, and the elderly are forced to choose between food and needed medications.**

**We do this in the following ways:**

- **Provide increased food assistance for adults and children**
- **Focus on children's palates and nutritious children's foods by distributing pre-packaged children's meals**
- **Stock the DHS Food Closet for food insecure teenagers**
- **Support seniors through our Neighborly partnership for dedicated senior shopping**
- **Focus on healthy essentials as a food "choice" pantry. Fresh produce is always available to guests**

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# OUR STAFF



**Kristina Garcia**  
Executive Director



**Ashley Greig**  
Pantry Operations  
Manager

**We have over 125  
Volunteers dedicated to  
our mission and in  
2025 they gave 15,101  
hours or  
\$505,766.17**



# Our Pantry Numbers

<b>Total Households</b>	<b>14,885</b>
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>29,793</b>
<b>Total Produce</b>	<b>88,017</b>
<b>*Total Pounds (this includes, produce, outreach, children's meals)</b>	<b>621,314</b>
<b>Total Pounds to outreach</b>	<b>26,848</b>
<b>Total Pounds per Household</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total of Bags to Shut-ins (Neighborly)</b>	<b>497</b>
<b>Total of pounds to DHS</b>	<b>1371</b>
<b>Total of Neighborly Visits (In Pantry)</b>	<b>322</b>

# Community Engagement



# Pantry Food Distribution

Our pantry is open for shopping

**Monday 5:30 - 7:30PM**

**Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9:30-12PM**

We have volunteers who shop with our guests to help them make food selections. Every guest checks-in and provides us with proof of residence in Dunedin, Palm Harbor or Clearwater. All food is weighed before the guest leaves, and a valet assists them in loading the food into their car. Our Senior Shopping (Neighborly) is two times per month. The Neighborly bus brings our senior population to shop during specific shopping days.

Each shift takes a minimum of 16 volunteers.



# The Pop-up Pantry Our Community Outreach at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday of  
each month to supply food,  
personal items, produce and  
seasonal items to our  
surrounding community.

We provide food for  
approximately 56 people each  
month and distribute 550 lbs per  
month.



# PBJ & More Food Drive



## 2025 PBJ & More challenge

**Contest winners! This challenge allows us to help feed our people over the summer.**

**With school being out children often do not know where their next meal is coming from and they rely on the pantry for food.**

**This takes place every April-May and brings well over 7,200 lbs of food!**

## Dunedin VFW

We support our local VFW's Dunedin Blessing Box by bringing them over 200 lbs of food per month. This food has to be sustainable as the food goes in the box for the Veterans to collect as they are able. This serves over 67 vets per month, and assists in making sure our Veterans do not go hungry!



## DHS Food Closet “Falcon’s Nest”



Working with the counselors at Dunedin High School, we provide snacks, food, and hygiene products to students that are in need. In 2025 this totaled 1100 lbs.

This program is available to all students at Dunedin High School.

# Our Partners

**Thank you for the meat, produce, fruit and other items!**

Feeding Tampa Bay 62,197 lbs

St. Pete Free Clinic 77,075 lbs

Dunedin Fresh Market 5,608lbs

Nature's Food Patch 5,807lbs

Dollar General 2,745lbs

**Thank you for feeding the pets!**

Paws and Claws Animal Med Center 4,243 lbs

My Natural Pet 971lbs

Dunedin Pet Supply 1,143 lbs

# Our Churches



Church Experience

Church of the Good Shepherd

Dunedin Assembly of God

**Faith Lutheran Church**

First Presbyterian Church

Faith United Church of Christ

First United Methodist Church

Holy Apostles Church

St. Michaels Catholic Church

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Union Station 7th Day Baptist Church

Unity Community Church of Dunedin

**Our Churches are at the heart of our mission!  
They provide us with monthly donations of food & money  
that allow us to sustain our pantry. Without them we  
would not be able to survive.**

**\*Faith Lutheran Church give us our home.**

# General Contact Information

[www.DunedinCares.org](http://www.DunedinCares.org)

to donate

or mail your donation to

Dunedin Cares at

1630 Pinehurst Road

Dunedin, FL 34698

Phone: 727-410-8945

