



Impact Report 2021

SHIM Vision

An inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

SHIM Mission

SHIM mobilizes community resources and implements sustainable programs that compassionately help our neighbors meet basic needs, achieve self-sufficiency and build community.



Youth Mentoring high school girls

Introduction

In 2021, SHIM served more than 7,500 people in the South Hills community who were struggling to put food on their tables, pay rent and utilities, afford clothing and household items, find childcare and homework help for their children, and access COVID-19 vaccines and information. They experienced this while navigating, like all of us, the ever-changing world during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the generous financial and volunteer support of individuals, foundations, businesses, congregations, and partners, SHIM was in a strong position to meet the increased needs of our South Hills community.

We hoped that 2021 would be better than 2020, but you will see that SHIM continued to witness increased need from a community struggling with some of the same challenges as the year prior. Now... 2021 wasn't all bad! By March we were able to help people find and access vaccines by hosting clinics and targeted outreach. Our kids went back to in-person school, where they could thrive.

This report demonstrates the incredible and tangible impact generous neighbors like you have made. Thank you for being the answer for so many who struggled in 2021. You have made a significant difference in thousands of lives.

“At the end of the day clients are encouraged and empowered after connecting with SHIM. They get the answers to their questions. Clients often underestimate what they are capable of doing, but after connecting with SHIM, they feel confident taking the next step.”

— Michelle King, Service Coordination Director





SHIM continued to offer drive-up and walk-up pantries to protect the health and safety of our families, volunteers, and staff.



Meeting Basic Needs

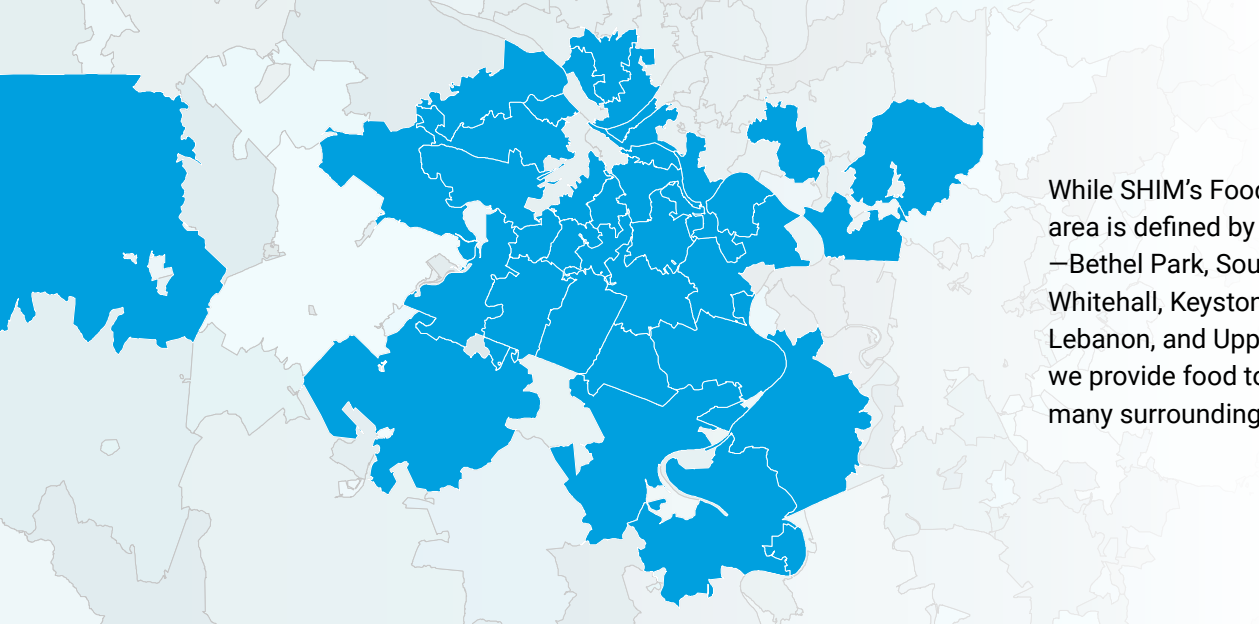
The lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the lives of people in the South Hills struggling to put food on their tables. At our three SHIM food pantries, we witnessed record numbers of people seeking food, personal care items, diapers, and baby formula. In January of 2021, our pantries benefited 2,600 people—still 1,000 more people than before the pandemic. As numbers started to drop through the summer, we hoped the community was beginning to recover. That wasn't the case.

More and more people visited the pantries in September and by November, we saw our highest number in SHIM's 54-year history—more than 2,900 people! It became clear that our work wasn't over.

While it is our goal to enroll people in our food pantry program, we also offer a no-questions-asked, one-time emergency food supply. SHIM views this as a monthly indicator of need.

In 2021 alone, more than 1,600 individuals benefited from SHIM's food pantries for the first time. Additionally, more than 1,300 people benefited from receiving clothes, shoes, and household items from SHIM's Community Closet.

As estimated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Economic Policy Institute, and United Way... a family of four with an income at the Federal Poverty Line of \$26,496 faces a **shortfall of over \$50,000** just to meet their family's basic needs in Allegheny County. — Economic Security in Allegheny County: 2021 Needs Assessment



While SHIM’s Food Pantry service area is defined by six school districts –Bethel Park, South Park, Baldwin-Whitehall, Keystone Oaks, Mt. Lebanon, and Upper St. Clair– we provide food to people from many surrounding areas.

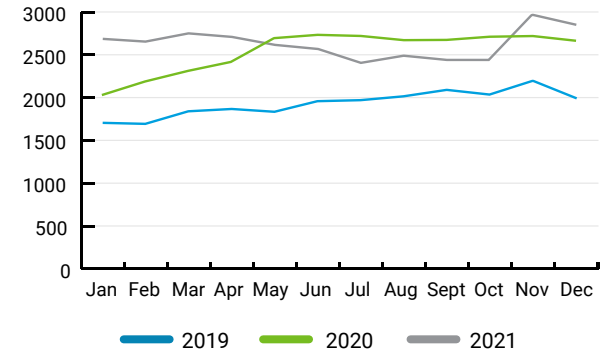


In 2021 SHIM distributed more than 678,000 pounds of food including 18,000 lbs. of fresh produce grown in SHIM’s 13 Community Gardens. Located in various South Hills congregations and businesses, our gardens are proudly run by community members wanting to get a little bit dirty and make a difference.

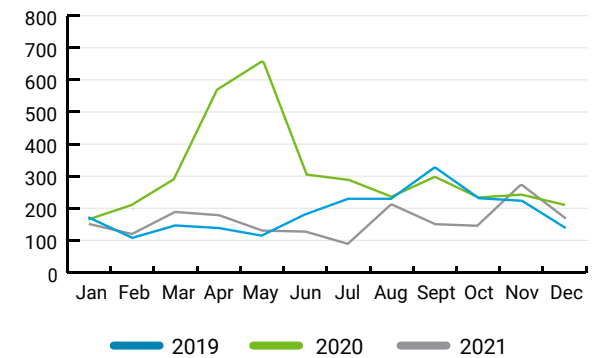


“Virtually everyone here has clients and those in need in their hearts, that’s why they’re here. Most all of them have always liked to be outside and liked to be in a garden. They don’t mind coming in and just being on their knees weeding.” — Karen Pritz, SHIM Garden Volunteer, St. Louise de Marillac

FOOD PANTRY RECIPIENTS



FIRST-TIME | EMERGENCY FOOD



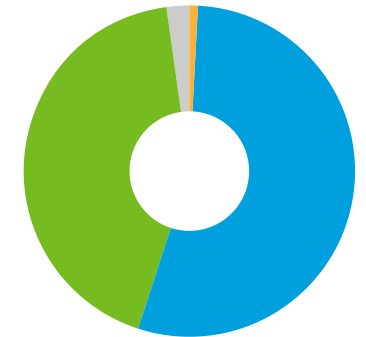


Molly Penderville, Senior Operations Coordinator

“Without SHIM, I honestly think I’d probably be one of those statistics who were essentially raised poor and stayed poor. SHIM helped me save money and be able to better budget the money I had to get me through the month.” — Kelda Gorman, SHIM Food Pantry client

For many, our food pantries are the first entry point for people seeking help. Pantry volunteers, staff, and service coordinators work holistically with clients to connect them to our Community Closet, youth programs, financial assistance, or the host of other resources at SHIM and other regional service providers. As people were experiencing the effects of inflation and rising food costs, our service coordinators worked with more than 1,300 individuals in 2021, connecting them with one-time emergency grants, rent relief, and utility assistance.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE NEEDS



- Utilities
- Housing
- Transportation
- Medical

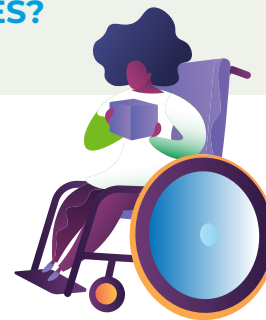
WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS WHO VISIT OUR FOOD PANTRIES?



50% are immigrants and refugees



35% are children*



7.5% are disabled



15% are seniors

* Out of the 850 children SHIM serves monthly through its three food pantries, almost half are under the age of six. As a result of the economic implications of COVID-19, Pennsylvania’s food insufficiency rate increased to 12.7% in December of 2020.



Youth Mentoring



Early Childhood Program



After School



Kritika in After School 2013



Kritika in 2021

Kritika is a senior in Baldwin Whitehall school district and currently in the top of her class. She's headed to Northwestern next year with the plan of studying pre-med.

100% of the students who attend Youth Mentoring graduate from high school and many go on to four-year colleges, community college, or trade schools.

"My attendance at SHIM has affected how I do at school. SHIM really instilled good habits for me as a student. Habits that I built of doing my homework and remaining on top of my grades came from having a support system to come to." — Kritika, SHIM Youth Mentoring student, Baldwin-Whitehall School District

Youth Programs

To support kids from birth to graduation SHIM offered home visits, an Early Childhood Program, After School Program, Youth Mentoring, and Summer Camp. The overall goal of SHIM's youth programs is to enable each child to reach their full potential and succeed in school and in life. SHIM's deep commitment to the refugee and immigrant community influences programming design and implementation. During the pandemic, SHIM continuously adapted to address the needs of 200 students, knowing that many families faced language and digital literacy barriers. In 2021, SHIM's Youth Programs enabled children and teens to navigate academic challenges, helped them with homework, and provided guidance.

"I truly felt the spirit of the South Hills community as a team of UPMC employees, SHIM Staff, and community volunteers worked together to help their neighbors get vaccinated."

— Courtney Macurak, Director of Programs





Lizzie Henninger, Benefits Navigator helping Client



The Khanal & Adhikari Family, Nurturing Parenting



DAD'S GROUP

Based on his upbringing in Nepal, Bhim believed that corporal punishment was the only way to get children to listen. He remembered regularly being hit with a stick in school. After being resettled in the South Hills, starting a family and becoming a father, Bhim was encouraged to join SHIM's Dad's Group. In the group, Bhim and other dads learn a variety of tools empowering them to be loving and caring fathers. Now, Bhim acts as an ambassador and teacher for his community.

Family Support

SHIM also provides essential resources and workshops for families including Nurturing Parenting classes, group counseling, enriching family activities, and Immigrant Services and Connections, a program partnership with Jewish Family and Community Services. Women gain additional support through the Smart Investments program—a financial hardship grant program—and Women's Groups. Men also participate in guided counseling groups through a Men's and Dad's Group. Additionally, bilingual staff provide walk-in support at SHIM's Family Center.

"We are grateful to offer this support to local families. Especially now when most people are spending more time at home than ever before," — Casey Rich, Director of SHIM's South Hills Family Center



"The self-sufficiency program has rescued me in more ways than one. It has allowed me to focus on my future with tons of support. SHIM has gotten me to a lot of places and has helped me so much in the last year." — Steps to Success Client



250+
VOLUNTEERS



TRAVELED
1,900
MILES



PROCESSED AND DISTRIBUTED
678,000
POUNDS OF FOOD



DEDICATED AN AVERAGE OF
1,533
HOURS PER MONTH

Who's doing the work?

A lot of people ask us, how does SHIM do all that it does? It takes a village—literally! SHIM staff members and volunteers are an integral part of the organization's success. Staff members are trained in mental health first aid, trauma-informed care, mentorship best practices and more to ensure compassionate and informed relationship building with clients.

SHIM has 19 full-time and 9 part-time staff members, 2 AmeriCorp members, and 1 National Health Corps member who passionately dedicate themselves to helping the community. Combine that with more than 250 active, energetic, and devoted volunteers donating more than 18,400 hours and you've got yourself an army of neighbors helping neighbors. Even a global pandemic can't stop them from driving more than 1,900 miles to pick up and deliver food, lifting, sorting, stocking, and distributing more than 678,000 lbs. of food, talking more than 4,800 hours with more than 80 isolated seniors, and spending more than 680 hours encouraging, mentoring, and helping students with homework.

"SHIM and its team members and volunteers do a terrific job servicing the critical needs of the South Hills community and we are proud to be supporters of this outstanding organization!" — Ray and Ruth Caudill, SHIM Donors

"You can do a lot of different types of volunteering, all volunteering is good. But when you're actually talking to the people that are benefiting from it, it's probably the most rewarding." — Andy Hays, SHIM volunteer



“The work of SHIM is more important today than ever as we see the ongoing impacts of COVID 19 on the most vulnerable in our community, as well as the impacts the pandemic as a whole has had on everyone in some way, shape or form.”

— Barbara and Bryan Rosenberger, Board Member and SHIM Donors

“We support many organizations in the Pittsburgh area but being able to help people in our own community is especially meaningful.”

— Dave and Mary Herrmann, SHIM Donors

“We’ve always looked for organizations that we can donate our time, effort, and resources to. We found SHIM through our church and decided to visit with our grandkids to show them the importance of giving.” –

Tom & Lynne VanHimbergen, SHIM Donors

Who’s supporting the work?

SHIM can only accomplish all of this through the support from generous individuals, foundations, businesses, and community groups.

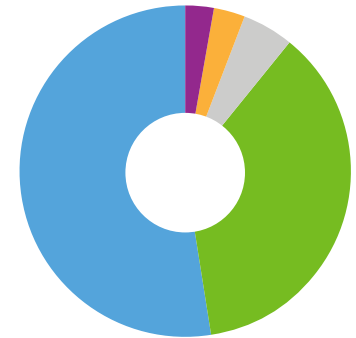
Through vital partnerships with local congregations, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Jewish Family and Community Services, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and many other dedicated community partners, SHIM served more than 7,500 individuals in 2021.

Thirty percent of the food and personal care items that SHIM distributes at monthly food distributions comes from congregations, community groups, sports teams, scout groups, and many others. In 2021, neighbors donated 135,597 pounds of food and personal care items. Food drives are a great way to involve kids in helping their communities, and some of SHIM’s largest food drives are organized by its youngest supporters. Local businesses also support SHIM by hosting donation drives, rallying their employees and customers to help build community. Additionally, the thousands of items available to neighbors utilizing SHIM’s Community Closet come from in-kind donations.

To learn more about SHIM’s finances, download the 990, and Financial Audit, please visit: shimcares.org/about/financials

“We are proud to support SHIM’s Youth Mentoring program and the nurturing, safe environment that it provides to students from refugee and immigrant families in the South Hills. By empowering today’s youth to achieve academic and personal success in school and beyond, the American Eagle Outfitters Foundation supports SHIM’s vision of creating an inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.” — American Eagle Outfitters Foundation

SOURCES OF SUPPORT



- Business/Corporate
- Foundation
- Individual
- Religious
- Community Groups, Schools, Non-Profits

Board List

SHIM's distinguished board of directors is comprised of leaders and professionals in the Pittsburgh area who dedicate their talents and expertise to serve the South Hills community. Their active commitment and contribution to our programs have strengthened outreach efforts and provided new opportunities for growth.

Tim Millett, Chair
PNC Bank

James Frantz
TEDCO Construction

Jason Savarese
Kopp Glass

Pace Markowitz, Vice Chair
NOVA Chemicals

Linda Jones
*United Way Southwestern
Pennsylvania*

Lejla Sehic
Broadridge Fi360

Mandy Thomas, Secretary
Rethink Organization, LLC

Alex Mezhinsky
Deloitte

Rev. Brian Snyder
*Bower Hill Community
Church*

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*Jewish Association on
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St. Clair Hospital

Robert Thumpston, Jr.
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Trina DeMarco
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group

Stacey Reibach
Leadership Pittsburgh

Dr. G. Alan Yeasted
St. Clair Hospital

Danielle Dietrich
*Strassburger, McKenna,
Gutnick & Gefsky*

Barbara Rosenberger
Event Planner/Consultant

Cynthia Donahoe
Recording Secretary





do more good

CAMPAIGN FOR SHIM

Beginning in October 2018, we set out to raise \$4 million to support critical investments in our vital programs, infrastructure, and staff to address the growing needs in our South Hills community. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and disrupted the entire world. At SHIM, we saw a 61-percent increase in people seeking food, clothing, financial assistance, and other services. Many turned to SHIM for help for the first time, but the South Hills community recognized that people were struggling and responded generously. By the end of the campaign on June 30, 2021, SHIM was able to raise \$6.8 million. We are grateful to our neighbors and their incredible investment and belief in our mission of compassionately helping neighbors meet basic needs, achieve self-sufficiency, and build community.

Thank you for helping us to Do More Good!



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