FOOD INSECURITY IN THE VALLEY AREA

PURPOSE

This document aims to addresses both the scope of and response to food insecurity in the Valley Area. The data represented includes five of the area Food Banks and two Little Free Pantries (Kathleen Samela, Salvation Army, Spooner House, St. Vincent DePaul, Seymour Oxford Food Bank, The Blessing Pantry, and The Little Free Pantry on Skokorat). While this data does not include every Valley food effort, it does offer valuable insight regarding food insecurity in our region.

CURRENT RESPONSE

The following data reflects the **monthly averages** from January 2023 to June 2023

- 82,723 meals
- 633 Families
- 880 adults
- 542 Children
- 322 seniors

TRENDS

The area pantries have reported appointment increases of up to 30 % from the same time last year. They also have noted reduced food availability as the additional state funding available during the COVID pandemic has ended. Other reported challenges include staffing, lack of healthy food options, limited food choices, and funding.

One out of every four families in the Valley is experiencing food insecurity
2022 Valley Community Index Report

Why Are Our Neighbors Hungry?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed - households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the area.

	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Ansonia	7,452	53%
Derby	5,011	51%
Oxford	4,510	23%
Seymour	6,239	39%
Shelton	16,351	37%

The data above is taken from the 2020 Connecticut ALICE Report. From 2018 to 2022 the ALICE Survival Budget increased from an hourly wage of $45.33 to $55.43.

FUTURE RESPONSE

While the addition of more Food Banks, Mobile Pantries, and Little Free Pantries can help to address the immediate critical need, these efforts alone will not be enough to keep up with the ALICE and poverty trends. As the number of individuals affected by poverty continues to climb, addressing the issue of food security will require greater communication, efficiency, organizing, and creativity by not only the food service providers, but also their surrounding communities.