



IMPACT REPORT

March 2025 - February 2026



Venture
Compassionate
Ministries

Loving Our Neighbors

“LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.”

— 1 JOHN 3:18



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Dear Friends, Partners, Volunteers, and Supporters,

As I reflect on the work of Venture Compassionate Ministries over the past year, from March 2025 through February 2026, I am filled with deep gratitude and a renewed sense of calling. This year has been one marked by both great need and even greater generosity. Because of you, our volunteers, community members, partners, and funders, we have been able to faithfully live out our work of loving our neighbors in meaningful and tangible ways.

One moment this year stands out as a powerful reflection of everything we strive to be.

On a September morning, several members of our team joined a coalition of organizations at a local farm to glean fresh produce for our pantry and others across the region. Standing in those fields, surrounded by an incredible abundance of vegetables, more colors and variety than I had ever seen, I was struck by the beauty of God's provision. One of our team members described it as the Garden of Eden, and in many ways, it felt like it.

As we harvested peppers, tomatoes, kale, and more, I found myself quietly praying for the families who would soon receive this food. This is what our work is about, not simply distributing food, but ensuring that our neighbors have access to nourishing, healthy options. We believe deeply that healthy food is a human right, and that dignity matters in every interaction.

In that same moment, I was reminded of the story of Ruth.

In Scripture, gleaning was not an afterthought. It was a built in expression of justice and compassion. Farmers were instructed to leave the edges of their fields unharvested so that the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the foreigner could gather what they needed. It was a system rooted in dignity, opportunity, and shared responsibility. And in the story of Boaz, we see that true generosity goes even further, creating space not just for survival, but for flourishing.

That biblical vision continues to shape our work today.

Over the past year, Venture Compassionate Ministries has sought to leave room in many ways, not only through our food pantry, but through outreach efforts, and support groups that walk alongside individuals and families in every season of life. We have worked to create spaces where people can receive nourishment, find encouragement, and experience community, spaces where individuals are not only supported, but valued, seen, and loved.

Whether through the distribution of nutritious food, gathering for prayer, offering support and connection, the training and equipping of volunteers, or the expansion of our ministry team, this has been a year of growth and deepened impact. Every box of food, every quilt made or hat knitted, every conversation shared reflects a collective commitment to care for our neighbors with compassion and respect.

And none of this happens alone.

It happens because volunteers show up faithfully, week after week.
It happens because community partners walk alongside us.
It happens because donors and funders believe in this work and invest in it.
It happens because people like you choose to step into the fields.

The story of Ruth reminds us that there is still work to be done and that there is still abundance to be shared. The need in our community remains real. But so does the opportunity.

As we look ahead, I invite you to continue this journey with us. Consider where you might leave room in your own life through your time, your resources, or your presence. Together, we can ensure that no one in our community goes without the care they need, whether through food, community, encouragement, or prayer, reflecting the abundant provision of God.

Thank you for being part of this work. Thank you for believing in the power of compassion, dignity, and community.

I look forward to all that we will continue to accomplish together.

With gratitude,



David R. Riddell, MBA
Director





175,294 Pounds of food distributed

67% Dry 18% Refrigerated 15% Frozen

8,608 Individuals Served

2,697 Households Served

Operations

Volunteers

Total # of Foodlink truck deliveries

27

Total # of operating days

92

276 hours that the food pantry was open to the public

Total # of volunteers

106

Food pantry, truck deliveries, special events

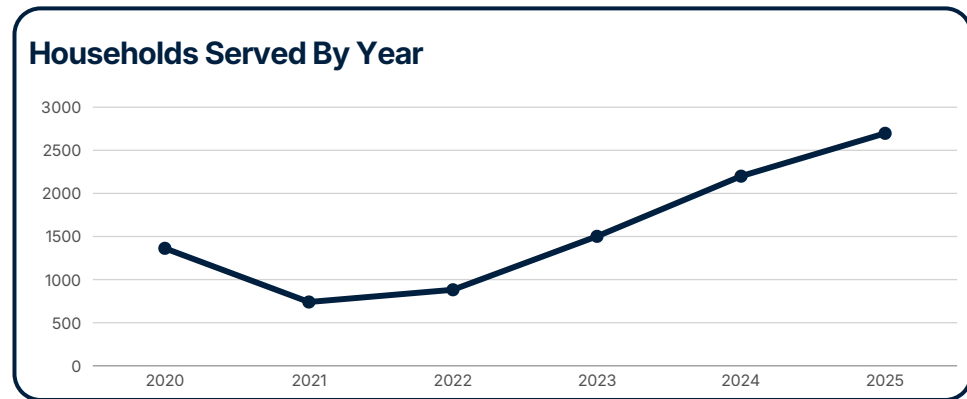
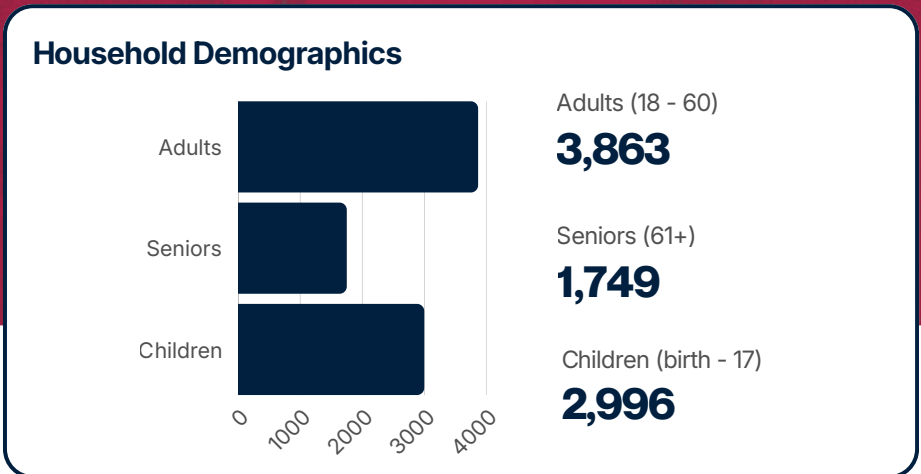
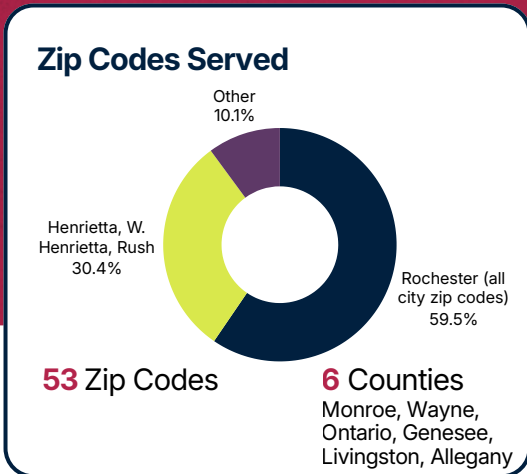
Total # of volunteer hours

5,102

Estimated Value of Volunteer Labor: \$162,243

Oldest Volunteer: **87 years**

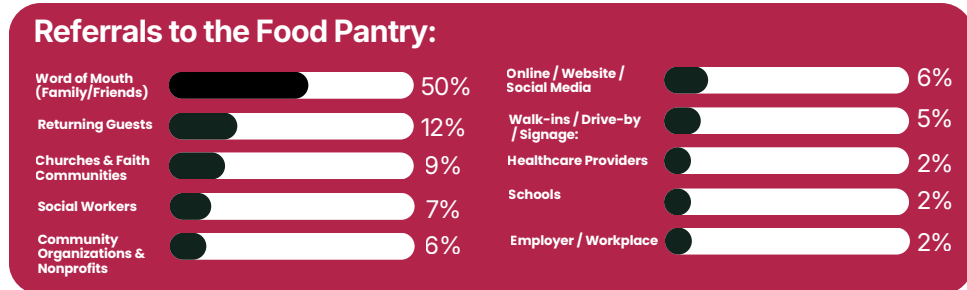
Youngest Volunteer: **5 years**



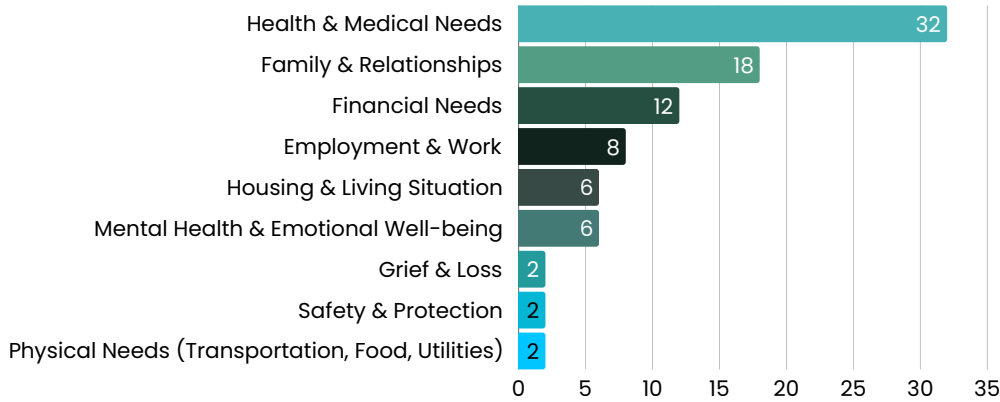
Total Grants Received:

\$70,297

- United Way of Greater Rochester & the Finger Lakes - \$35,000
- Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield - \$5,000
- M & T Charitable Foundation - \$10,000
- Foodlink - Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) through NYS Dept of Health -
 - \$3,935 - Equipment Grant
 - \$16,362- Food Line of Credit Grants



Prayer Requests - 1,309 prayer requests received %



Bibles Distributed: 238

In-Kind donations of food, hygiene, supplies, and labor received from:

- Calvary Community Church of the Nazarene
- Community members
- Wegmans
- Panera Bread
- Aldi
- RHAFT - Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal
- Daniel E. Phillips, DDS
- Scouting America Seneca Waterways Council
 - Venturing Crew 7 (Henrietta)
 - Scout Troup 2020 (Penfield)
- Garlic on Glenwood Community Garden
- Thomas's English Muffins - Henrietta, NY
- Bejo Farms - Geneva, NY
- Whittier Fruit Farm - Rochester, NY
- China Garden - West Henrietta, NY

Total Food Product Value:

\$284,754

Fresh Produce Distributed

19,842 lbs

Total Meals Provided This Year

60,256

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Hosted a Dedication & Open House on March 29, 2025, to officially launch the new guest-choice Food Pantry space and welcome the broader community.
- Officially named the food pantry ministry "*Twelve Loaves Food Pantry*," reflecting our work of provision, compassion, and community care.
- Implemented and trained volunteers on PantrySoft, a new technology platform that reduces paper usage, captures household data more effectively, and enhances inventory management through barcoding.
- Designed and launched a comprehensive Volunteer Orientation Program, now required for all new volunteers prior to serving.
- Convened the annual Volunteer Summit on February 7, 2026, strengthening engagement, training, and community among volunteers.
- Expanded operational capacity by hiring the organization's first two grant-funded part-time staff members on February 1, 2026: Anne-Claire Markle (Database & Inventory Coordinator) and Craig Proctor (Operations Coordinator).
- Achieved a Platinum Star Rating from Foodlink in February 2026, reflecting 100% compliance and excellence in food safety, sanitation, and the consistent implementation of required processes and procedures.



SUPPORT GROUPS



DIVORCE RECOVERY

COORDINATOR: BILL MCGOUGH

OFFERING A SUPPORTIVE AND COMPASSIONATE ENVIRONMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION.



"For me, being part of Divorce Recovery has been a powerful reminder that I'm not alone on this journey. Like many people going through separation or divorce, I was carrying a lot - grief, questions, and a deep sense that something in my life had fundamentally changed. For years, my identity had been wrapped up in being part of a "we" - a husband, a partner, a family unit. And suddenly I was trying to figure out who I was again as just one person."

EMBRACE GRACE & EMBRACE LIFE



COORDINATOR: LYNN YOUNGMAN

EQUIPPING MOMS TO FLOURISH IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND NOT ONLY SURVIVE IN LIFE BUT THRIVE!

SESSION 1 - SPRING 2025

EMBRACE LIFE



"I am so deeply grateful for everything you have done for me and my children. During one of the most difficult seasons of my life, when I was going through so much, Embrace Life gave me hope when I needed it most. You didn't just offer support—you helped save my life. Because of your care and compassion, I feel truly loved, seen, and strengthened. Thank you for being there for us."

SESSION 2 - FALL 2025

EMBRACE LIFE



OUTREACH PROGRAMS

QUILTING MINISTRY

COORDINATOR: DEBORAH DINNEEN

THE QUILTING MINISTRY EXISTS TO EXPRESS CARE AND COMPASSION IN MEANINGFUL, TANGIBLE WAYS, SHARING LOVE WITH INDIVIDUALS THROUGH THE THOUGHTFUL CREATION AND GIFTING OF HANDMADE QUILTS AND HATS.

114

QUILTS FOR HIGHLAND HOSPITAL SPECIAL CARE NURSERY

235

HATS FOR HIGHLAND HOSPITAL SPECIAL CARE NURSERY

6

LAP QUILTS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER PLUTA CANCER CENTER

85

PRAYER QUILTS DONATED TO UR THOMPSON CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

7



QUILTERS



OUTREACH PROJECTS

KIDS' WINTER COAT & BABY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION (NOVEMBER 2025)



378 COATS COLLECTED



326 COATS DISTRIBUTED



31 VOLUNTEERS
142 VOLUNTEER HOURS



Venture
Compassionate
Ministries

Board of Directors

David Riddell, Chair
Michelle Ober, Vice Chair
Matthew DeAmaral, Treasurer
Amber Quinn, Secretary
Lynn Youngman
Rev. Dustin Metcalf

*Interested in serving on the board?
Please reach out to David or Michelle
for more information!*

Proud to be a
COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER



United Way
of Greater Rochester
and the Finger Lakes
Serving Genesee, Livingston,
Monroe, Ontario, Wayne,
and Wyoming Counties

VENTURE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES DONOR #
3417

THE DONOR DESIGNATION PROGRAM IS A SERVICE THAT UNITED WAY OF GREATER ROCHESTER AND THE FINGER LAKES PROVIDES TO THE SIX-COUNTY GREATER ROCHESTER REGION.

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO

DONORCHOICE@UNITEDWAYROCFLX.ORG OR
PHONE (585) 242-6534

Note: The Venture Compassionate Ministries, Inc. fiscal year reflected in this report spans March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026.

I have never felt as welcomed as I did that Saturday morning in August, 2025. I was told about Venture Compassionate Ministries through Catholic Charities. I was embarrassed to get help, but I was now responsible for my 5 year old granddaughter, so it really was not about me, not anymore. We were received with open hands and hearts. Smiles and help from beginning to end. It was such a positive and uplifting experience, especially when my granddaughter was allowed to "help" with the front doors and greeting people. I am not only thankful, but sincerely grateful for all of the volunteers that make this food pantry possible. It is because of all of you that my granddaughter and I will have healthy, delicious food for the next few weeks. Thank you all and may God bless you every day.

They are such a blessing have helped me and my family out in prayers and food they are so thankful for them all.

In reflecting on my time in the Divorce Recovery group, I can honestly say it's been a lifesaver during a season when I may have otherwise drowned in my despair, hopelessness, and loneliness. When I joined the group, I was a wreck: broken, defeated, and feeling like a complete failure. But this group has brought so much encouragement and hope into my life. The group is not just another every-other-week meeting to attend; it has become like a family to me where both during and outside of our group meeting times, I've been able to connect and build relationships that are genuine, supportive, and loving. I've been continually reminded that I'm not alone and that others truly understand and believe in me; this has been such a powerful source of encouragement during an otherwise devastating season of my life.

I lost my adult daughter 4 years ago and now have 5 grandchildren that I am blessed are together and I raise them alone. I have always been strong and do not like to ask for help. I'd prefer to help others even if I didn't have a lot I work full-time and I was embarrassed to come and ask for help for my grandchildren. When I first came, I even ran into a few volunteers that I knew and again and felt embarrassed I have to say that all the volunteers have been nothing but kind and caring and nonjudgmental. And because of this, I don't feel embarrassed any longer and have never felt judged. When I come I do need to help at times and the help that I receive from you all is an enormous help for the grandchildren. Thank you for your smiles and your conversation at times. You all are certainly a gift from God.

There is a comfort that comes from knowing that others have walked where you're walking, have felt the emotions that threaten to overwhelm you, have hurt the way you're hurting, and yet have come through it and are walking on the other side of it. I joined the Divorce Recovery group at Calvary Community at my counselor's urging several years ago during the most painful, unexpected time of my life, and having people who understood what I was going through was a balm to my soul!

The Twelve Loaves Food Pantry at Venture Compassionate Ministries has truly been a blessing for my family. The volunteers are always ready and willing to help with a smile on their faces, and they take the time to listen to our stories. They are even ready to pray with us in a moment of need, which has brought great comfort. Not only has this support lifted our spirits, but it has also been a tremendous help in providing healthy and nutritious food for our home especially for my aging father, who is now in in-home hospice care. During this season of caring for my father, the food pantry has lightened our load by making sure food is one less thing to worry about. It has given us peace of mind and a sense of community during a very challenging time. I want the volunteers to know that their kindness and dedication truly make a difference.

My experience with Embrace Grace was amazing. We appreciate the program so much, they provided so much help and I know it was the Grace of God.



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