

# EAST END COOPERATIVE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

2021 | SPRING ISSUE

EECM.ORG

## 2021 COMMUNITY GARDEN STARTS UP

In 2014, seventeen raised beds were built to create an on-site community garden. Over the years, EECM has worked with volunteer groups to plant, weed, and maintain the garden, which grows herbs and vegetables for use by both EECM Community Food Services and the community at large.

EECM staff and volunteers have started the process of replacing the raised beds that had deteriorated. All seventeen beds will be fixed or replaced, the soil turned over, and each made ready to be used in the 2021 growing season.

**Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to track the growth of the fruits, vegetables, and herbs in our raised beds.**



## AN UPDATE FROM OUR CEO

**East End Cooperative Ministry** like all nonprofits has experienced the tremendous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past 14 months. We have seen an increase in the demand for our services especially from members of the Pittsburgh community experiencing food insecurity. Thankfully, we have received support from foundations, corporations, organizations, and individual donors who have provided funding and food donations.

Our food pantry has seen a 4-5 times increase in the number served and our community lunch has seen a 2-3 times increase. It is essential for the livelihood of the organization, and the thousands of clients that depend on us, that we continue to provide the services for which we are known, and that we can continue to help lift struggling individuals, families, and children out of poverty and put them on a path toward self-sufficiency. EECM has demonstrated its resilience

and stepped up to the increased demand, but we could not have done so without individual donors.

We are not out of the woods yet, as it is widely felt that food insecurity will be a long-term effect of the pandemic, as recovery and economic stability is slow. Know that your support is greatly appreciated and as you can see from our expenses and revenue report in this newsletter, 90 cents from every \$1 donated goes directly to helping those in need.

- CAROLE BAILEY, PRESIDENT & CEO



# THE PULSE OF EECM

## OUR PULSE FELLOWS STEP UP DURING THE PANDEMIC

When an established and respected non-profit like East End Cooperative Ministry experiences upwards of three to five times the normal demand for food and other life-sustaining services caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be a frantic pace to sustain our mission.

Fortunately, we realized right away that we could depend on two new young PULSE Fellows to become an integral part of meeting the challenge. PULSE, which stands for Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience, "invite[s] talented university graduates to partner with... non-profits to develop the next generation of servant leaders in [Pittsburgh]."

In our overwhelmingly busy food pantry, PULSE fellow Makena Zimmerman's work ethic immediately impressed her supervisor. "I would feel fully comfortable leaving her alone for a week knowing the pantry would be in perfect condition. Her knowledge, accountability, and work ethic have been by far the best asset to EECM's Food Pantry," said Pantry Coordinator Evan Averborg-Johnson.

Makena was not the only one impressing EECM staff, volunteers, and clients. PULSE Fellow Anthony Jacob dove into assist all departments. Anthony's high-tech prowess proved invaluable as he helped rebuild the EECM website. He also became a daily asset to EECM Housing and Employment Services. H&ES staff say, "Anthony's pleasant demeanor and willingness to jump in where needed has been great, especially during the pandemic when we never knew what was going to happen next."

EECM is gratified that Makena and Anthony are enjoying the fast-paced work and tight deadlines during the pandemic. "I've gotten so much out of working at EECM," says Anthony Jacob. "Overall, it's been a great experience integrating my education within the non-profit sector."

Makena says, "... while I've learned so much about the operations of food distribution to the food-insecure, interacting with the clients and learning their names has been so important to me. They are important and it is nice to meet them and hear their perspective. They are great people."

Anthony agrees. "From the relationships I have developed to all I've experienced around the shelter and recovery house, I've learned so much about the vulnerabilities we all face as human beings. EECM is just so real."

It sure is real. EECM CEO Carole Bailey said, "... we at EECM will never forget just how real Makena Zimmerman and Anthony Jacob are in all that they have done at EECM. Makena and Anthony are the epitome of leadership, service, and experience."

In fact, we can describe having these highly talented PULSE Fellows who stepped up during the pandemic in three words: The Real Deal.



East End Cooperative Ministry

OPEN YOUR HEART



EECM.ORG/GIVE

# THANK YOU!

A big “thank-you” to all of the dedicated EECM supporters during our Open Your Heart campaign that took place on the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your efforts raised \$20,000 for EECM’s clients who are facing the impacts of poverty. These funds translate into 4,000 hot community lunches for those in need from the East End of Pittsburgh. We thank you for your continued support as we feed those who are experiencing food insecurity.

We also want to thank our amazing volunteers! They are the backbone of what we do here at EECM.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact us at: [volunteer@eecm.org](mailto:volunteer@eecm.org)

Do you have questions about major donations, corporate involvement, or individual giving? Contact EECM’s Development Department at: [development@eecm.org](mailto:development@eecm.org)

And donate at: [eecm.org/give](http://eecm.org/give)

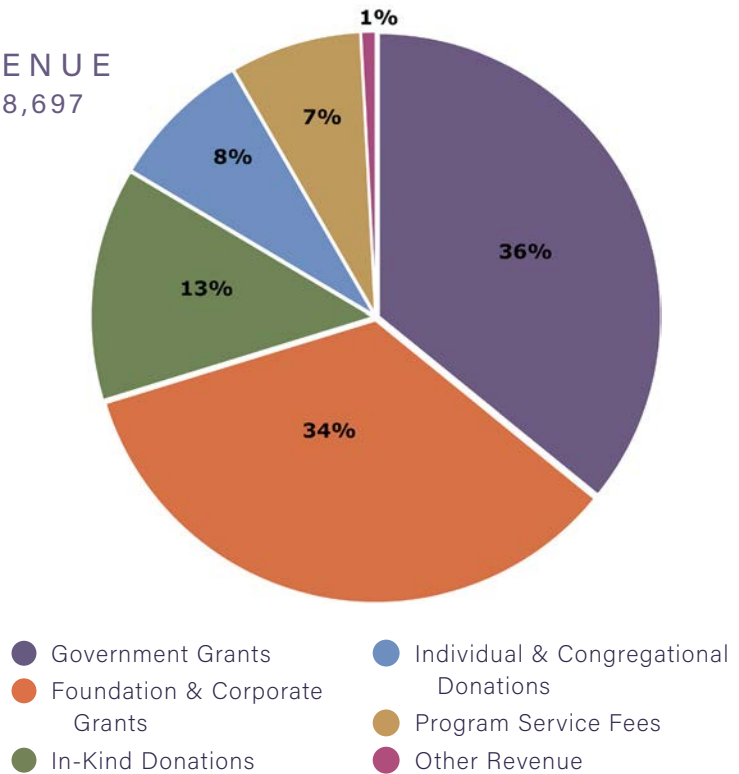
We invite you to visit our newly designed website ([eecm.org](http://eecm.org)) and our social media!



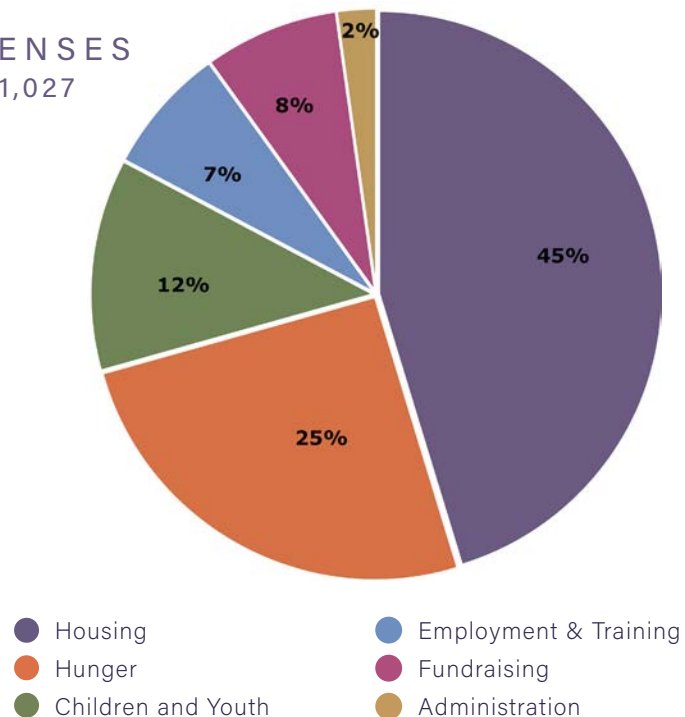
# FISCAL YEAR 2020

REVENUE & EXPENSES JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

REVENUE  
\$4,648,697



EXPENSES  
\$4,571,027



Only 10% of EECM’s total budget is spent on administrative and fundraising expenses, which means that revenue goes where it’s needed most – to delivering vital care to the men, women, and children who rely on us for opportunity, transformation, and hope.



EAST END  
COOPERATIVE  
MINISTRY

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## EECM WELCOMES NEW CHEF ANTHONY ARCA

Chef Arca has joined EECM as the Community Food Services Manager and comes to us with an extensive background in all things culinary. He has an Associate of Science in Culinary and Restaurant Management from the International Culinary Academy Le Cordon Bleu and is a member of the American Culinary Federation.

In addition to EECM's food programs, Chef Arca seasonally works as the Senior Operations Manager for Ridgewells Catering, which is most notably known for the U.S. Open golf tournament. Chef Arca has held high-level culinary positions for over 18 years across Pittsburgh: Compass USA Filk Dining, Springboard Kitchens to produce daily meals for food insecure populations, and Sodexo Campus Services which handles eateries at The University of Pittsburgh. **Welcome Chef Anthony Arca!**

