Gleaners Annual Report

1. In the year of 2023 Gleaners has served 7,225 guests, an average of 30 meals a day. Many of our visitors attending our lunches are senior citizens.
2. In the course of the year, we have raised $57,890 in donations. $ 35,454 of that coming from our annual campaign letter.
3. Gleaners is fortunate to have the partnership with Canandaigua’s Wegmans and Tops Friendly Market. Through the course of the year from Wegmans we have received 13,456 pounds of food. Tops Friendly Market continues to be a strong supporter of our program as well. We still pick up every day from Tops. We are able to acquire food from every department. Gleaners has received almost 2,000lbs of food in only two months.
4. In September we held our first volunteer appreciation dinner post- pandemic. Our volunteers and their significant others had an opportunity to gather and mingle and celebrate the work they have all done to keep our program running smoothly and efficiently. In all there were 60 people and Dave’s catering gave us a wonderful meal! We ended the night with a huge sheet cake thanks to Wegmans!
5. Since March 2023, we have added 8 new volunteers to the program, each taking on different roles in the program.
6. The Thanksgiving meal this year was a big success! We fed 105 people. This meal would not have been as successful without those who put in the time to pull it together. Eight members from Pactiv joined Gleaners for the day taking on the task of setting up the dining room. Our volunteers prepared and plated the meal. We had 6 high schoolers from the Canandaigua Academy who served dessert. We asked local churches and the community for help gathering supplies for our donation boxes and items for the kitchen. St. John’s supplied Gleaners with 14 turkeys along with many non-perishable goods. The First Congregational Church along with community members also made it possible for our guests to have a full donation box. Forty- three families and individuals all received donation boxes with non-perishable goods and fresh items donated by Foodlink.
7. Christmas Dinner was our best attended meal of 2023. Our guests were able to have a rather traditional Christmas meal served with ham, mashed potatoes, and homemade desserts. We served 120 guests. The dining room was beautifully decorated thanks to our volunteers who spent the time making it feel more like the holidays, forty-three donation boxes went out again filled with similar items as Thanksgiving.
8. The Red Wagon Room has stayed filled for the majority of the year. In May we received a large shipment from the Canandaigua’s Post Office of non-perishable goods. Besides the community, churches along with local businesses have kept this room well stocked. Since we have fresh items coming during the week, on Friday we put out a variety of canned goods, pastas, and breakfast items to help our guests through the weekend. This room is also available daily for those who may walk in looking for more pantry items, or who are experiencing a food emergency.
9. Gleaners has had the opportunity to have large groups of volunteers from organizations come in this year. Businesses such as Novartis sent a group of 14 to spend the day with us. The First Congregational Churches Youth Group joined a crew in the kitchen and made delicious homemade pizzas. Pactiv has become a wonderful connection and friend to our program. Not only did they help us with our two holiday meals, they donated $2,500 to the program.
10. We now have transportation available every day for our guests to and from Gleaners. Thanks to AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps we have three dedicated drivers. Every day we are transporting 5 guests to our lunch program.
11. This year we made connections with The Salvation Army and continue our relationship with the Victor/Farmington Food Pantry. Once a week Victor/Farmington Food Pantry donates boxes of Starbucks pastries. A newly added item that VFFP has been bringing us is Starbucks breakfast sandwich. These go to our guests on Friday as they can stock up for the weekend. Salvation Army is a new partnership we have formed this year. Michael Jansen is a driver for Salvation Army, and he has made it his goal to ensure that all local Ontario food pantries, and soup kitchens work together. Michael will bring us items left from monthly pantry pop ups, or if Salvation Army receives a surplus of items. Richard and SeanMarie at Victor Farmington Food Pantry will also often send the industrial size items their pantry receives. Gleaners is one of the very few programs in Ontario County that serves meals in the quantity we do.
12. Without Foodlink we would not be able purchase many of the products used in the kitchen for our meals. Foodlink is used throughout the year to purchase proteins, dairy, and frozen vegetables. These products are purchased through the allocated grant money that Foodlink provides their members.
13. Our volunteers continue to work hard each week to create menus with variety. Since March we have been posting our menus each week on our social media platforms. The menus have been drawing new guests and are shared regularly across many local community pages.

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Hoffman

Kitchen Manager