



# Around the Neighborhood

*a quarterly newsletter by Neighborhood Ministries*

Welcome to the latest edition of *Around the Neighborhood*, here you'll find updates, highlights, and ways we're serving and growing together.

## Did you know?

- ➔ The BBB, federal budget bill, will likely cause **5 million people** nationwide to lose access to SNAP benefits. **SNAP provides 10 times more food** than all hunger relief organizations combined — so cuts will bring more people to our door.
- ➔ The City of Columbus' Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program, which **supported renters** during the COVID-19 pandemic, ends in September. Between September 2021 and June 2025, COMPASS was one of the 26 housing agencies in Columbus, that supported 33,000 households with Emergency Rental Assistance totaling \$96,060,558.38.

## About COMPASS

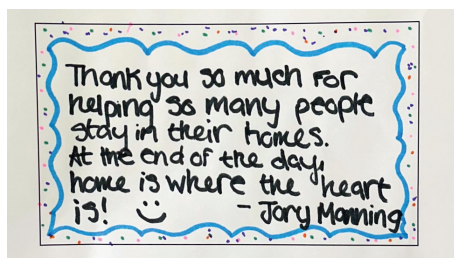
**The COMPASS housing stability initiative addresses urgent housing needs and helps prevent evictions.**

**326 households** received rent and utility help—thanks to COMPASS, Gifts of Kindness, and the City of Columbus Emergency Rental Assistance. Many participants reach out due to life-changing situations—like Ms. Cassandra and Mr. Hughes.

*"My husband had heart surgery and will be off work for the next 3 months as he recovers. Being self-employed in a struggling economy, it has become really difficult to make ends meet. I have overdue rent and other bills. I would really appreciate your help with paying this month's rent so we don't lose our home."* – Cassandra T.

*"I am on dialysis and struggle with mental health concerns. Due to this, I have fallen behind on my rent and about to be evicted. Please help!"* – Hughes C.

This year, kids at Justice Camp participated in housing advocacy activities. These are some of their words:





## About The Food Pantry

**The Pantry serves neighbors whose budgets can't stretch to cover both food and bills.**

In total, neighbors visited the Pantry **4,847 times** to receive milk, meat, eggs, fresh produce, canned goods, pet food, diapers, and feminine hygiene supplies — including 1,391 deliveries to seniors and families at Columbus Early Learning Centers.

*"Everything here is a blessing and I thank God you are here to support my family. I hope to go back to work soon so I do not have to rely on a pantry."* – Guillermina

*"I visited the Pantry today because my refrigerator is empty. I would like voters and lawmakers to know there are a lot of hungry people out there."* – Mary

We also welcomed a new partner: **Half Price Books!** They're donating books so every child or caregiver who visits the Pantry can now **choose three books** to take home and enjoy.



## More Highlights

Thanks to you, this year's Neighborhood Ministries Campaign—now in its 8th year—raised more than ever! **195 generous donors gave a total of \$416,765.**

During this year's campaign we also furthered our understanding of changes in the community with special emphasis on Food Insecurity and Housing Instability from speakers Michael Wilkos, Joree Novotny and Carlie Boos.

This quarter we continued our **partnership** with Ohio Art League with the third art exhibit in our series – *Mindful: The Art of Love & Loss*. This wonderful partnership will continue this Fall.

**Our Garden** is in full bloom thanks to our Volunteer Garden Coordinator, Leslie Meyers-Joseph. This quarter we harvested over 60 lbs of produce for our food pantry.

The BSPC Advocacy Committee initiated a **postcard campaign** to our State and Federal legislators and thanks to each of you we have submitted **129 postcards**, to date.

## Neighborhood Ministries

