

Annual Report

2025

People Helping People (PHP) is a safe, welcoming and Christ-centered resource destination that shows the love of Christ to the Pullman community by meeting daily needs and equipping each person to meet their full God-given potential.



A Note from our Director



In this annual report, you will read about Pullman, a community loved by God and People Helping People (PHP)! As you read through it, look for the many different communities of people within PHP.

You will discover a community of children who feel welcomed and safe at the Linking Center; a community of adults who feel known and cared for through our food pantry, laundry and shower services; a worshipping community on a journey of discovering who Jesus is and his love for them through Bible studies and worship services; and a community of servant-hearted, Christ-centered and missional community of volunteers, staff, board members and supporters who put Jesus love into action.

There is yet one more community of people, less physically connected, but no less vital to living into God's call for Pullman. That's YOU, and the many others who faithfully bless PHP through prayer and giving, making this ministry possible.

I'm grateful to be part of the community who has been called to shine for Jesus in Pullman!

Jeff Kruithof

Executive Director

Community...

A group of people connected by shared interests, location, identity, or purpose, who form social bonds, feel a sense of belonging, and often provide mutual support and shared values.

What We Do

Pullman is a rural town in southwest Michigan. With nearly a third of residents living in poverty (Census Reporter, 2023) many of the Pullman residents we serve struggle with various addictions, unemployment, food insecurity and a lack of utilities like electricity or heat. To meet the needs of our community, we work with volunteers and donors to provide resources and create opportunities for residents to worship, live, work, learn, play and flourish.

Services Offered



Pantry & Family Resources



Youth Programming



Worship

Pantry & Family Resources

"The end of 2025 brought uncertainty and anxiety to many in our community. During a prolonged government shutdown, families who rely on monthly assistance faced unexpected challenges and gaps in support, such as the SNAP program. In the midst of that uncertainty, we saw God at work providing for His people as our pantry stepped in to help meet the need.

What stood out most was the incredible outpouring of generosity from strangers, volunteers, partners and donors. Because of their willingness to give, our shelves were filled with extra food and personal care items, and families received not only essential necessities but also peace of mind. The impact reached far beyond the pantry walls, reminding us that we are not alone in this work and showing the powerful difference faith, generosity, and neighbors caring for one another can make."



- Deanna Oonk, Pantry & Family Resource Manager

Pantry Stats

200 Families assisted with food and personal hygiene each month

132 Migrant families served through the food pantry

240 Families provided with diapers and baby items

\$17,879 in Meijer Simply Give food cards used for the food pantry

38 Families kept warm through our firewood ministry



Marisa's Story

Marisa is a single mother of two who works tirelessly to provide for her family, yet the burden of making ends meet never fully disappears. When she first came to the food pantry at People Helping People, asking for help was difficult, but her love for her children gave her the courage to take that step. What she found was more than food. She found open hearts and the reminder that she was not alone.

Through the pantry and family services at People Helping People, Marisa found nourishment, hope, and community. What began as receiving help has grown into meaningful relationships and a new purpose, now serving alongside those who once served her.

Youth Programming

Playing & Praying Together at the Linking Center

Our team serves Pullman children of all ages – preschool through senior year of high school. From after-school drop-in hours to partnerships with community agencies, to weekly Bible study nights, Pullman youth have the opportunity to engage with caring volunteers who provide a positive influence on their lives.

100

**Children come to PHP
everyday for After
School Programs**

32

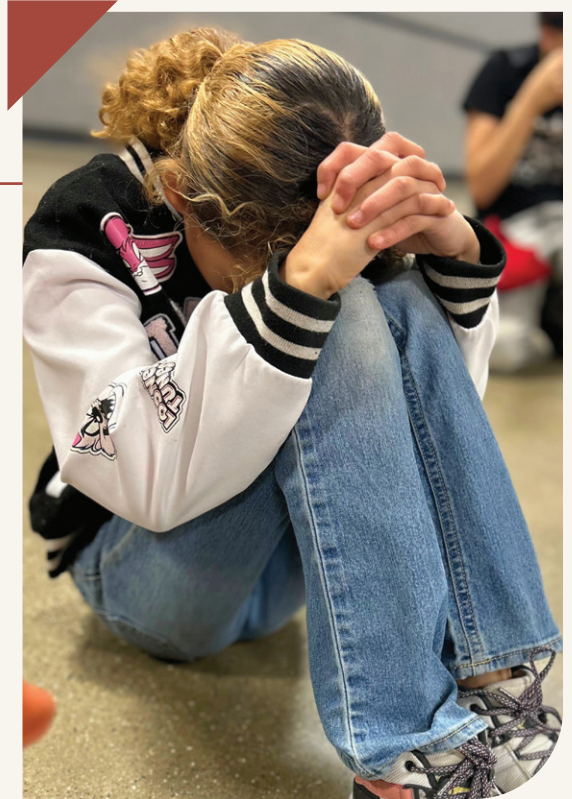
**Teenagers join too,
often volunteering
as Mentors**

120

**Children come
to PHP for our
Summer Program**

154

**Children supported with
Back-to-School supplies
& Backpacks**



Hear it from the Children!

What was your favorite field trip from the Summer Youth Program?



Jalexi - 1st Grade: "The aquatic center because I learned how to swim."



Colby - 1st Grade: "The zoo because I got to see the anteater."



Jr. - 3rd Grade: "The water park because I got to swim and go down fun slides."



Juliette - 4th Grade: "The water park because I got to wear my swimsuit to swim."



CJ - 4th Grade: "Camp Beechpoint because I got to go down the big slide."



Reagan - 5th Grade: "The water park because I got to swim."

The Gospel Project

"We've been teaching the kids about the life of Jesus and memorizing all the books of the Bible. It's so much fun sharing these stories because for many of them, everything is brand new and absolutely mind-blowing. It's incredibly exciting to witness the impact of stories that so many of us have grown up hearing and sometimes take for granted."



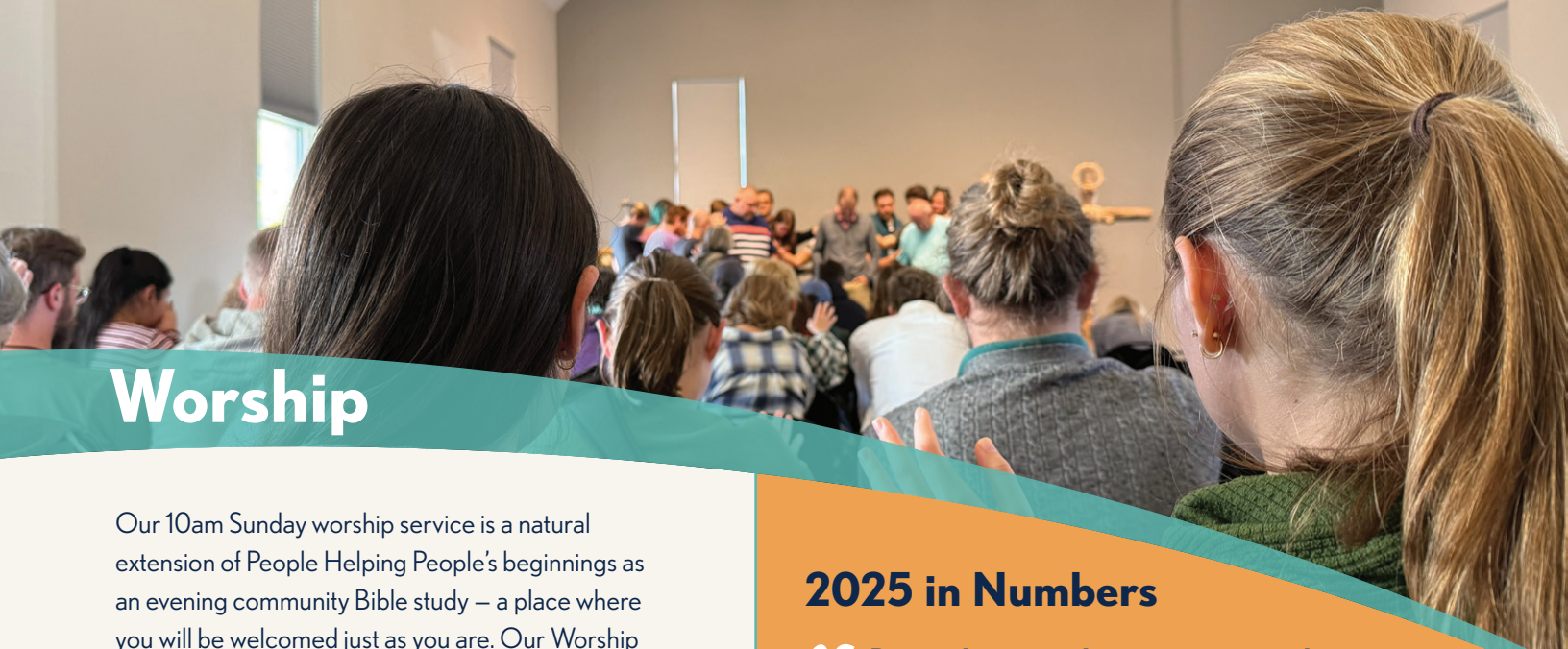
- Melinda Jones, Youth Program Manager

Creating a Community Destination

A partnership with Outdoor Discovery Center and many generous donors

This special space is a gift to the entire community, and we are so grateful for the way God orchestrated this incredible blessing. The Nature Playscape is open to the public.





Worship

Our 10am Sunday worship service is a natural extension of People Helping People's beginnings as an evening community Bible study – a place where you will be welcomed just as you are. Our Worship Center is also home to a Spanish speaking church, Iglesia Misionera, each Sunday afternoon.

2025 in Numbers

- 98** Pastoral visits with community members
- 10** Children in weekly Sunday school class with a high of 28 on a Sunday
- 22** Adults from the community attended Bible study

Our Neighbor, Mark

"Mark is a familiar face in Pullman, and I'd often see him walking his dog past the Linking Center. Over time, those passing waves became short conversations, and recently, Mark started joining us for Sunday worship. While he is still learning what this Jesus journey means, he knows this for sure – the worship center is a place where he feels welcomed and loved.

Mark often stops in for a cup of coffee and conversation, usually leaving with a new Bible story to think about. What has been especially meaningful is seeing how that welcome has shaped him. Mark now invites others he meets to stop by the worship center for coffee and conversation."



- Mike Jones, Community Pastor

Special Events

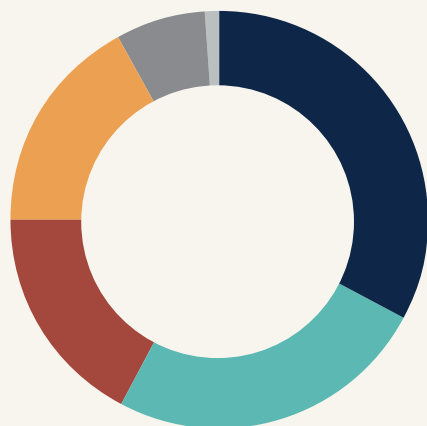
Thanksgiving Feast

Our Feast was a powerful picture of community in action. We served 350 meals, with 220 hot meals delivered directly to homes by our dedicated volunteers and local volunteer firefighters. Inside the Linking Center, we were able to sit down, share a meal, and enjoy meaningful community with 130 neighbors. It was more than food. It was connection, care, and gratitude shared around the table.



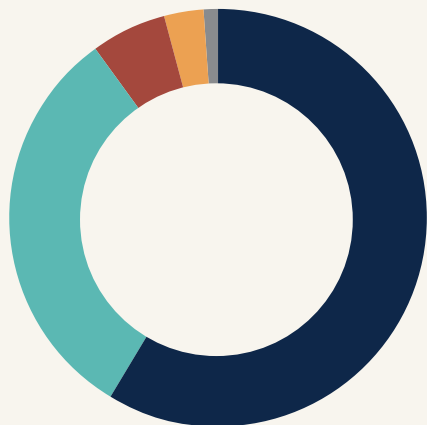
Finances

2025 Expenditures



- 33% Youth
 - 25% Pantry
 - 17% Worship
 - 17% Administration
 - 7% Fundraising
 - 1% Housing
- Total Expenditures \$999,713.82

2026 Revenue Goals



- 60% Individuals & Business
 - 32% Fundraising Events
 - 6% Churches
 - 3% Grants
 - 1% Miscellaneous
- Total Revenue \$1,112,300.00

Percentages may not add up due to rounding

Our Leadership Team

Jeff Kruithof
Executive Director

Mike Jones
Community Pastor

Melinda Jones
Youth Program Manager

Deanna Oonk
Pantry & Family Resource Manager

Randy Bakker
Manager of Facilities, Grounds, and Maintenance

Katelyn Scholten
Communications Manager

2026 Board of Directors

Daris DeGroot, President

Ken Draisma, Vice President

Brenda Molendyk, Treasurer

Lou Sternberg, Secretary

Hank Vugteveen

Lloyd Siebelink

Steve Nienhuis

Ken Vermuelen

Mike VanKampen

Mike De Weerd





How to Get Involved

How to Give

We rely on the generous support from our donors and volunteers to keep our programs running and to continue supporting our resilient community. There are many ways you can support our Christ-driven mission, including:



**Financial
Gifts**



**Donate Food
to Our Pantry**



Volunteer



**Pray & Worship
with Us**

15,379 hours

That's how much time our volunteers gave this year tutoring kids, stocking pantry shelves, leading worship, keeping our building running, and making this ministry possible. We can't do this without you.

Whether you have a few hours a month or a few hours a week, there's a place for you at People Helping People:



Youth



Pantry



Worship



Fundraising



Maintenance

Contact Us

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