

Annual Report 2024



People
Helping
People



Who We Are

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.



Letter from the *Director*

To our faithful supporters,

The more we looked for Him, the more we saw Him, and the more opportunities we had to share what He was doing! In 2024, we placed a priority on looking for and sharing “God Stories” that we encounter in our daily work. Those sightings encouraged and motivated us, they strengthened our faith. They remind us that PHP is His ministry, which was so important as we walked together through another life-changing year in Pullman.

We shared these stories in staff meetings, board meetings on donor visits, through PHP newsletters and events, and anywhere someone would listen! Throughout 2024, the PHP team has grown in our ability to spot Him, we’ve grown in our boldness to share the stories. It’s a “muscle” we continue to strengthen and as we do, we find our faith growing, and a longing for what He will do next.

This annual report will highlight several of those God stories. My hope is that they inspire you, and encourage you to look for him in your day...He is there, on the move, can you spot him? Will you share it? If you do, it will be life giving! I’m personally grateful for each of you. God is hearing your prayers, using your service and donations to share His love to the Pullman community.

Thank you,

Jeff Kruthof

Executive Director
People Helping People of Pullman

What We're Doing

Pullman is a rural Michigan town about 15 miles northeast of South Haven. With the town’s poverty rate sitting at about **31.8%** (Census Reporter, 2022) many of the Pullman residents we serve struggle with various addictions, unemployment, food security 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.



**Worship
Opportunities**



**Pantry & Family
Resources**



**Youth
Programming**



**Volunteer
Opportunities**

Worship



"I did not invite Jesus along on my life journey until I was 33 years old. As Jesus and I grew closer, he began showing me a new purpose for my life. I never could have imagined being a pastor before Jesus entered my life. Today, I find so much joy sharing my journey and Jesus' story with the community in Pullman."

– Mike Jones, PHP Community Pastor

This year

our Sunday worship attendance averaged **35 adults** and **20 children** each week and our adult bible study averaged six weekly attendees. We are also overjoyed to share that we welcomed **4 new individuals** to the church through baptism in 2024!

Pantry & Family Resource



- 187** winter coats distributed to the community
- 668** families assisted with food and personal hygiene
- 20** families provided with baby/diaper support
- 178** families received gifts this Christmas season
- 158** seniors received Christmas meals
- 140** community members received Thanksgiving dinners

God Stories

Growth through Ministry

Jake grew up attending church, but as he grew into his teen years, his walk with God became less important and he eventually stopped attending church. As a young adult, he struggled with substance abuse, especially as he navigated a divorce. Years later, he married Claudia who was volunteering at the Linking Center. Jake eventually found support and community at PHP by attending a Bible study and weekly recovery program, which became a crucial part of his journey back to God. Jake has recommitted his life to Jesus and this past year shared his testimony with the congregation. Jake credits PHP as an instrumental part of his journey back to God—and we're grateful to be part of his testimony!

Meeting Physical and Spiritual Needs

"We are so blessed to have such kind, giving, good hearted people in our community... I can't tell you how good it feels to actually be able to pick out the stuff we could use, instead of taking what they put together. It makes us feel more "normal" if we are given the dignity to shop for ourselves... Everyone made us feel so welcome. A lady even took me back in the back room and prayed for me! You don't find that kind of love in every town. I can surely feel the love when I walk in the doors. Thank you!" – Pantry Family



"I am sensitive to the emotions and needs of the kids I work with. I build positive relationships with them, which allows them to trust me and appreciate that I'm more than just a 'teacher.' We can also form genuine friendships. This allows them to feel comfortable trusting the advice I give them."

- Charish Crawford,
Student Youth Coordinator

Linking Center Youth

Our youth programs provide Pullman-area children with a safe space to grow in their relationship with Christ and experience His love as they learn through educational activities and field trips. We welcome PreK-12th grade students in Fennville, Bloomingdale, Innocademy and South Haven schools to the Linking Center youth facility throughout the year.

For many of the youth, we help support basic needs, like a warm dinner and access to other daily necessities, so they are free to grow to meet their God-given potential.

- **Elementary After-School Program**
- **Middle & High School Programming**
- **Summer Programs**

Bible Study

Every Thursday night, over 65 elementary, middle, and high school students attend Bible Study at PHP's Linking Center. After a free community dinner, youth and adults participate in learning about the love of God through videos, worship and a short lesson.

Impact

- 90** children come to PHP for after-school programming **every day**
- 100** children come to PHP for summer programs **every day**
- 20** teenage students grew in their leadership skills by volunteering as mentors for the Summer Program
- 180** students supported with back-to-school supplies and clothing

God Story Hear From Our Kiddos



"My favorite thing to do at the Linking Center is learning how to play new games."

- JR, 2nd Grade



"I love the food at the Linking Center and that they let me go back for seconds!"

- Brian, 3rd Grade



"I love playing outside with my friends."

- Jalexi, Kindergarten



"Sometimes we get new basketballs at the Linking Center, that is the best!"

- Jaziah, 5th Grade



The Teams that Make it Happen

People Helping People relies on our generous network of volunteers to serve our community every year. In 2024, over **100 volunteers** contributed nearly **7,000 hours** to People Helping People's youth program and **3,100 hours** to the food pantry and family resource center, providing the equivalent service of over **\$200,000**, or the work of four and a half full-time employees.

Core Volunteer Teams



**Worship
& Ministry**



**Maintenance
& Facilities**



**Marketing
& Fundraising**



**Pantry & Family
Resources**



Youth

Leadership Team

Jeff Kruithof
Executive Director

Mike Jones
Community Pastor

Melinda Jones
Youth Program
Manager

Steve Machiele
Manager of Facilities,
Grounds, and
Maintenance

Deanna Oonk
Pantry Services &
Volunteer Manager

Board of Directors

We would like to extend a special "thank you" to our Board of Directors. We are so grateful for your leadership, volunteerism, service and love for the Pullman community!

Daris DeGroot
President

Brenda Molendyk
Treasurer

Steve Nienhuis
Lloyd Siebelink

Ken Draisma
Vice President

Lou Sternberg
Secretary

Ken VerMuellen
Hank Vugteveen

God Story

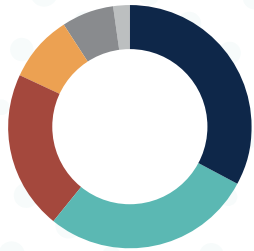
Experiencing the Presence of God

Bea* came to PHP in a desperate situation. She was struggling severely with her mental health, withdrawing deeper into substance abuse, feeling alone and searching for community. Slowly, she began investing time at PHP as a volunteer, where she was referred for counseling. After several weeks of meetings, her depression lessened, and she began to rely on substances less. She became more joyful and engaged and started attending worship services. Today, Bea has a newfound sense of purpose and believes her decision to volunteer with PHP may have saved her life.

*Name changed for privacy.

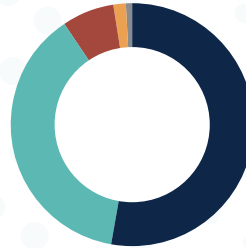
2024 By the Numbers

2024 Operational Costs: \$887,481



- Youth: 33%
- Pantry: 28%
- Worship: 21%
- Administration: 9%
- Fundraising: 7%
- Housing: 2%

2025 Revenue Goals: \$927,700



- Individuals & Business: \$490,200
- Fundraising Events: \$350,000
- Churches: \$65,000
- Grants: \$17,000
- Miscellaneous: \$5,500

21,000

Meals served in 2024

477 Local Families

Served through food pantry

191 Migrant Families

Served through food pantry

90 Youth

Served through youth ministry daily

12 Community Employees

Living in the Pullman/Fenville area



God Story New Service Garage

The 15-acre PHP campus has seen several facility additions over the past six years. In 2017 there was one ministry building and a pole barn. By 2023 we added a youth facility (Linking Center), Worship Center, Pantry & Family Resource facility and three rental homes. With these additions and the equipment to maintain everything, in 2024 a builder (with the help of many in the skilled trades field) felt led to build PHP a new garage to do ministry in while caring for the campus.

We look forward to teaching young people some basic maintenance and life skills in this great space!

Give to
*People Helping
People Today*



Support People Helping People

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:



**Give a
Financial Gift**



**Donate to Our
Food Pantry**



**Volunteer
With Us**



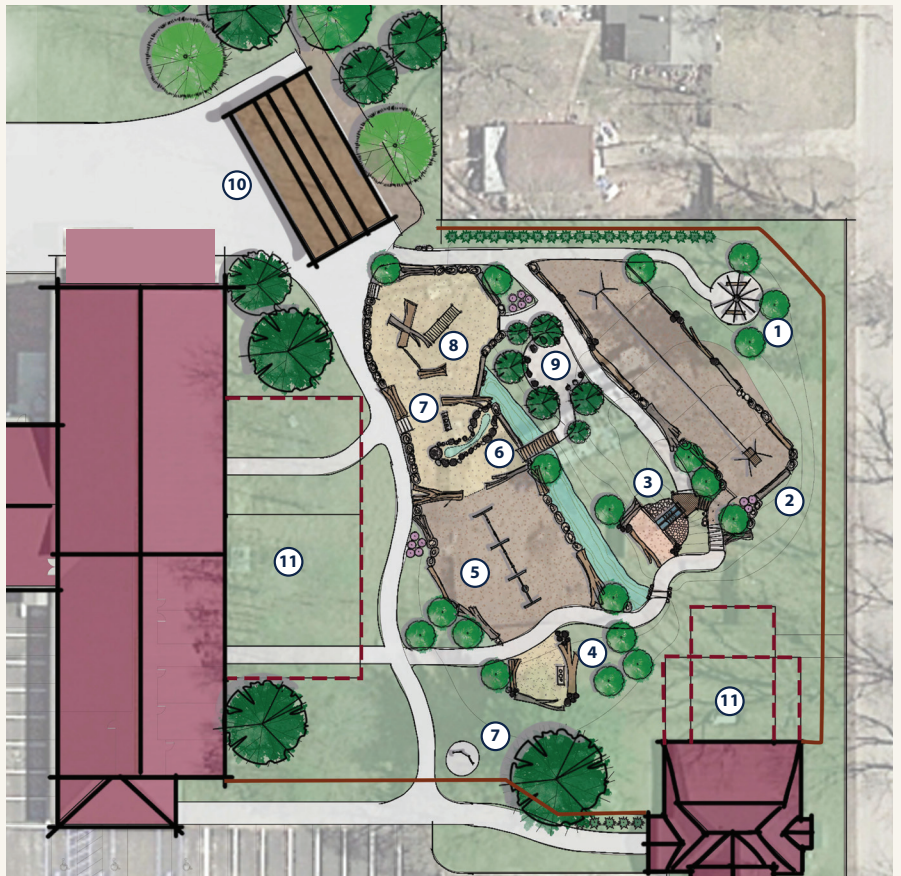
**Worship
With Us**

2025 Sneak Peek

We're excited to share plans for a new Outdoor Discovery Center Playground, coming later this year! Our vision for the Nature Playscape is to create an inviting community destination that inspires adventure, creativity and curiosity for the children of Pullman.

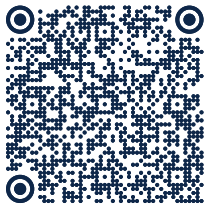
Outdoor Learning Environment

- ① Play Fort
- ② Zipline
- ③ Double Embankment Slide
- ④ Preschool Play Area
- ⑤ Solo & Group Swing
- ⑥ Flowing Water Play
- ⑦ Mud Kitchen
- ⑧ Log & Rope Climber with Horizontal Ladder
- ⑨ Stone Circle
- ⑩ Pavilion
- ⑪ Potential Future Expansion



A photograph of four children sitting at a wooden table, engaged in a craft activity. They are using markers and glue to decorate circular pieces of paper. The table is covered with various colored markers, glue sticks, and finished or in-progress projects. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. A large red semi-transparent shape is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially obscuring the children.

Support
*People Helping
People Today*



Contact Us

Physical Address

People Helping People
943 56th St
Pullman, MI 49450

Mailing Address

PO Box 248
Pullman, MI 49450



(269) 236-2001



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