



Community Impact

Why Our Work Matters

Our mission is to empower North Columbia residents with the knowledge, resources, and support they need to improve their health, stability, and overall well-being. While our services are available to the broader community, we focus on residents in ZIP code 29203 of Columbia South Carolina. Residents in this area face significant economic, health, and food-access challenges. For example, according to U.S. Census Reporter:

- **26.1% of residents live below the poverty line**—more than 1.5 times the rate for the Columbia, S.C. metro area (14.5%) and nearly double the rate for South Carolina (14.1%).
- 43% of children under 18 and 16% of adults age 65 and older live below the poverty level.

An investigation series by The State Newspaper showed that:

- Many families in the area live in a food desert-making it difficult to access affordable, nutritious food.
- Diabetes-related lower limb amputation rates are among the highest in the nation. The rate of these amputations is 9.96 per 10,000 residents-1.8 times higher than the overall South Carolina average.
- For some students in this area, school is the most reliable source of nutritious meals. When school is out, these children may face a greater risk of hunger.
- Families with limited incomes often must make difficult choices. Choices include adjusting eating habits, delaying personal hygiene needs, or postponing health care to afford other essentials. These pressures affect the well-being of the entire family.

Our vision is to help create a thriving 29203 community where residents have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to live healthy, stable, and fulfilling lives. We provide food assistance, youth and young adult development, senior wellness, education, and cultural enrichment to support residents of all ages as they move toward greater stability and well-being.

Current Impact

- **Food security:** We provide weekend food support for 25 to 30 food-insecure students during the school year and help stock a food pantry at a local high school. This support provides approximately 5,250 meals each year. Over time, we have donated nearly 300,000 meals to food-insecure residents.



Left Photo: Members of the original volunteer team for the Sacks of Love Program.

Right Photo: “Golden Eagles” from Second Calvary Baptist Church prepare “Sacks of Love” for distribution to schools, helping provide weekend food support for food-insecure students.



Board member presenting a donation check to Keenan High School officials in support of the school's food pantry.

- **Senior wellness:** We host senior activities at least three times a year, which offer social connection plus support mental and physical well-being. Program activities include speakers, health screenings, exercise, and games.
- **Community partnerships:** We collaborate with other organizations to respond to community needs. Examples include helping a teenager participate in a European tour and partnering with another nonprofit to host a Men's Health Initiative.
- **Youth and young adult development:** We provide financial literacy and life skills education, including an annual summer camp for teenagers and a recent Passive Wealth Seminar for young adults. Approximately 25 people participated in each event.

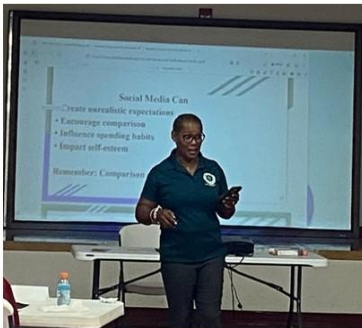
Students talking to representatives from South Carolina State University, Midlands Technical College and the University of South Carolina during the Financial Literacy and Life Skills Summer Camp.



Past Impact Highlights

- Donated personal hygiene items to local schools.
- Donated 100 coats to John P. Thomas Elementary School.
- Participated in the Real Men Read Program at John P. Thomas Elementary School.
- Hosted a Men's Health Initiative featuring topics such as healthy eating, exercise, heart health, and mental health.
- Cosponsored a trip for 30 students to tour Washington, D.C., including the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- Provided opportunities for over 1,000 community members to attend cultural events, participate in golf tournaments, and enjoy other activities at no cost.
- Distributed approximately 1,000 personal hygiene kits and socks to people experiencing homelessness in downtown Columbia.
- Sponsored a Midlands Repertory Theater Summer Camp, serving 60 to 90 students annually.

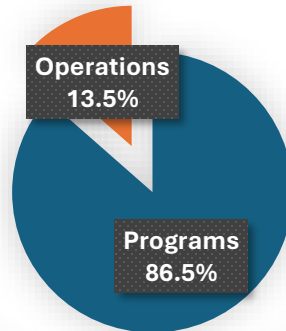
- Awarded stipends to five students, enabling them to develop their artistic talents through six weeks of free music and voice lessons with professional musicians.
- Helped 153 people from 49 families purchase food, pay rent, or cover utilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Provided 10 young people with the opportunity to receive free swimming lessons.



The photos above highlight years of service and support for community residents.

The chart below shows how contributions efficiently support programs and essential operations that advance our mission and serve the 29203 community.

Where Our Money Goes 2025



We remain committed to strengthening families, supporting residents, expanding opportunities, and helping build a healthier, more resilient 29203 community. With continued partnership and support, we can expand food access, promote wellness, invest in youth and young adults, and help more neighbors move toward stability and opportunity.