

Emmaus House

Annual Report

2024/2025





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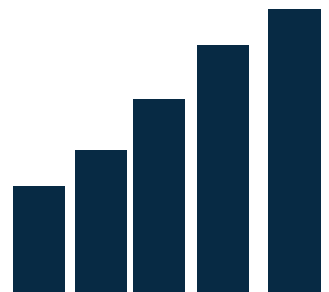
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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2024, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the remarkable community that surrounds Emmaus House. Last year we witnessed both unprecedented challenges and extraordinary resilience. Rising costs of food and basic necessities have placed a significant strain on our operations, while the growing demand for our services has tested our capacity in ways we could not have imagined. Yet, through it all, your unwavering support has allowed us to continue being a beacon of hope for so many in Savannah.

Last year we served 525 unduplicated individuals, providing meals, showers, laundry services, clothing, and dignity to those who walked through our doors. On average, we served 130 individuals each day, offering not only sustenance but also a sense of community and belonging. The numbers in this report tell a powerful story of impact, but behind every statistic is a person—someone who found relief, comfort, and care at Emmaus House during their most difficult moments.

One of the highlights of 2024 has been our deepening partnerships within the community. The **Music With a Mission** concert series hosted by First Presbyterian Church, **Sips at The Station** hosted by Savannah Marketing, **The Joy of Christmas** Concert held by Christ Church Episcopal, **Kendra Scott Gives Back** events and our 14th Annual **Empty Bowl Fundraiser** are just a few examples of how collaboration can amplify our efforts. These initiatives not only raised essential funds but also brought awareness to the pressing issues of poverty and homelessness in our city. Additionally, we were honored to welcome new volunteers and corporate partners whose generosity underscores the importance of engaging the business community in our mission.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work of our staff, board members and volunteers. Their dedication and compassion are the heartbeat of Emmaus House. From preparing meals to managing services with kindness and professionalism, their efforts ensure that every person who comes to us (both clients and volunteers) feels seen and valued. Last year alone, volunteers contributed an average of 176 hours each month—a testament to the power of collective action.

Your generosity and belief in our mission fuel everything we do. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate Savannah—one meal, one shower, and one act of kindness at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Ariana Berksteiner
Executive Director

Mission and Services



Services

Operating Hours: Monday-Friday 6am-1pm

Hot Meal:

Monday-Friday 8:30am

Laundry Drop off/ Showers:

Monday- Friday 6:30-8:30am

Clothing Closet:

Every Wednesday at 10:00am

Mission

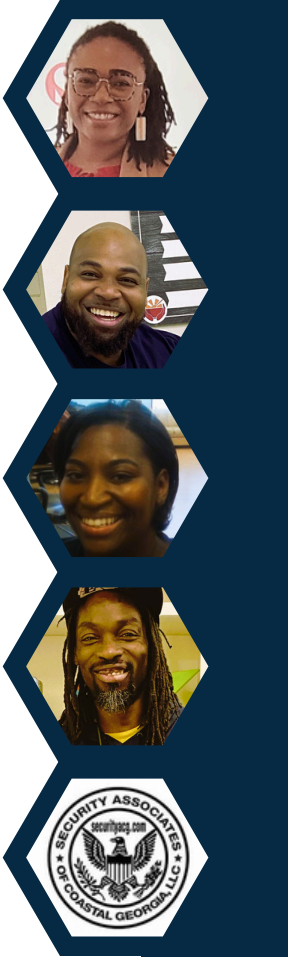
To provide hearty meals and basic services for the hungry and anyone in need.

Vision

A community where the needs of those suffering the most are met with respect and grace.



Meet Our Team



ARIANA BERKSTEINER

Executive Director of Emmaus House, leads with passion and vision to address homelessness and poverty in Savannah. She oversees programs, fosters community partnerships, and amplifies Emmaus House's impact through advocacy and innovation.

JARVIS JOHNSON

Director of Operations at Emmaus House, ensures smooth daily operations and supports the team, including volunteer coordination and assisting in the kitchen. His hands-on leadership helps Emmaus House meet Savannah's growing community needs.

DARCELLE CARR

Executive Chef at Emmaus House, brings over a decade of culinary expertise to provide nutritious meals for the community. Her leadership ensures high-quality food service while fostering a welcoming kitchen environment.

ANTWAN PARRISH

Clinic Director at Emmaus House, oversees vital laundry and hot shower services for individuals in need. With a compassionate and client-centered approach, he creates a safe, welcoming space where everyone feels respected and supported.

SECURITY ASSOCIATES OF COASTAL GEORGIA

Provides dedicated daily security services to Emmaus House, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for clients, staff, and volunteers. Their professionalism supports the organization's mission to serve the community with dignity and care.



Meet Our 2024-2025 Board of Directors



STEVE EDWARDS

Board President



LEIGH ACEVEDO

Board Vice-President
Governance Committee Chair



SUZANNE KIRK

Board Secretary
Fundraising Committee Chair



MACLAIN CALDWELL

Board Treasurer
Finance Committee Chair



JORDAN CHASE

Immediate Past-
President



HELEN BURNS

Board Member



WASHINGTON DENDER

Board Member



TERRY NEWTON

Board Member



DR. DEIDRE GRIM

Board Member



GINA WILLIS

Board Member



RACHELLE GREGORY

Board Member



DAVID WANTLAND

Board Member



SOMI BENSON-JAJA

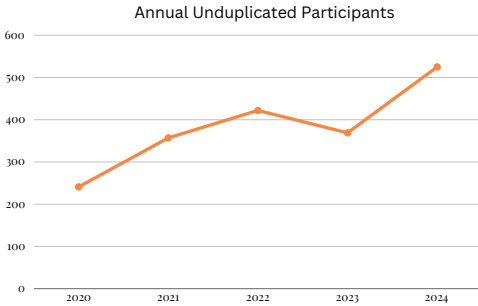
Board Member
Nominating Committee Chair

Statistics and Demographics

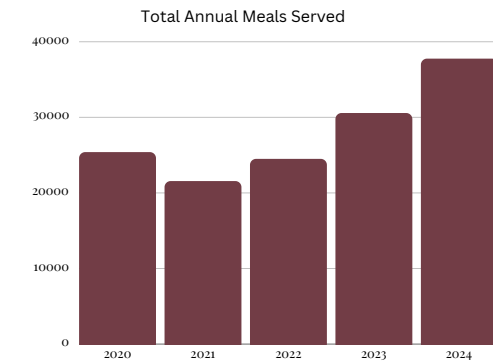


Total unduplicated clients: 525

An unduplicated client is someone counted only once during the calendar year, no matter how many times they access services. It helps track the number of unique people served.

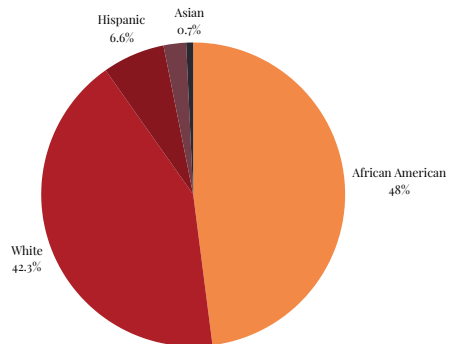
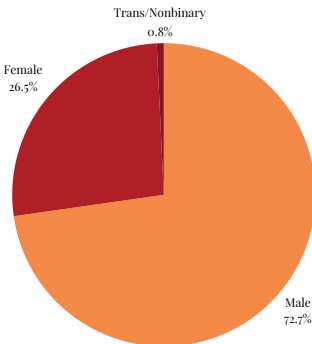


Emmaus House has experienced exponential growth in participation, reflecting the growing need for vital services in our community. With hundreds more individuals relying on us for meals, showers, and support, our program has become a lifeline for those facing homelessness and food insecurity. This surge underscores the critical importance of our work.



Almost half of Emmaus House clients are African American men, many of whom face systemic barriers like unemployment, lack of affordable housing, and limited access to healthcare. While we serve a diverse community, this group represents the largest portion of those seeking services.

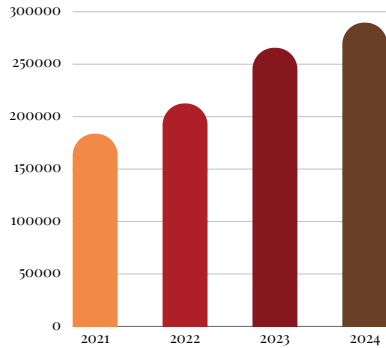
As the need continues to grow, so does our impact, making Emmaus House an indispensable resource for Savannah's most vulnerable populations.



Financial Report



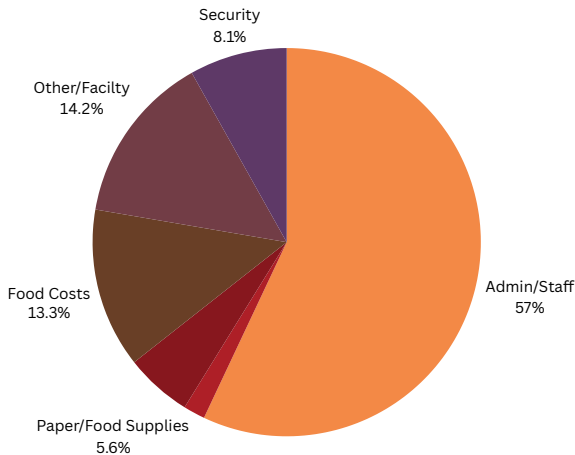
Expenses by Year



	2023	2024
Revenue	\$248,567	\$275,330
Expenses	\$265,692	\$289,671
*Deficit	-\$16,017	-\$14,341

Major Annual Expenses

	2023	2024
Food Costs	\$35,094	\$38,553
Paper/Food Supplies	\$19,029	\$16,132
Clothing Closet	\$2,951	\$5,234
Admin/Staff	\$132,896	\$165,135
Security	\$22,647	\$23,567
Other/Facility	\$53,075	\$41,050



Emmaus House is facing a financial challenge as our current revenue is not keeping pace with our growing expenses, driven by rising food costs and the increasing demand for our services. To meet this challenge while maintaining the highest quality of care, we have expanded our staffing to ensure we can efficiently and effectively serve our community.

We deeply value our staff and recognize the importance of ensuring they earn a livable wage. We cannot, in good conscience, have team members who are as in need as the clients we serve. Investing in our staff is essential to sustaining our mission.

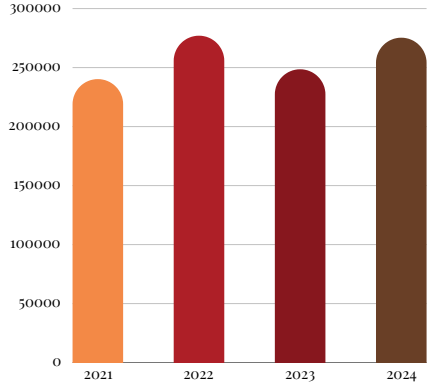
*To confront this deficit, we are taking necessary steps, including hiring a grant writer to seek new funding opportunities and secure long-term sustainability. These efforts, along with the support of **donors like you**, will help ensure Emmaus House remains a vital lifeline for those who rely on us.

Financial Report

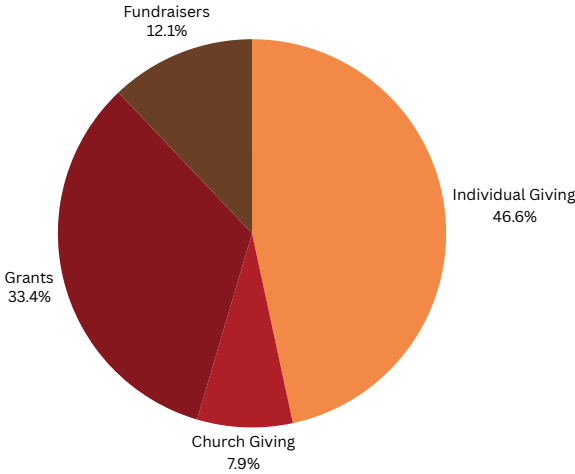


	2023	2024
Revenue	\$248,567	\$275,330
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Deficit	-\$16,017	-\$14,341

Revenue by Year



Major Funding Sources



The accompanying pie chart provides a clear overview of where our income originates, highlighting the diverse support that sustains Emmaus House's work. Our funding comes from the United Ministries of local congregations supporting our efforts, individual gifts and the steadfast contributions of our Dignity Champions, proceeds from the Empty Bowl Fundraiser, and vital grants. Each of these sources plays a critical role in ensuring we can meet the growing needs of our community.

GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Mary Allen Lindsey Branen Foundation **\$10,000**
- United Way of the Coastal Empire **\$35,000**
- Stewart Huston Charitable Trust **\$22,500**
- Gulfstream Aerospace **\$6,745**
- Louisa Porter Aid Foundation **\$2,000**
- Downtown Neighborhood Association **\$1,000**

CHURCHES

- Christ Church Episcopal In-kind rent and utilities **\$14,000+**
- The Catholic Foundation of South GA **\$8,000**
- Skidaway Community Church **\$3,300**
- Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church **\$3,000**
- First Baptist Church of Savannah **\$1,500**
- Isle of Hope United Methodist Church **\$2,500**

COOPERATIVE DONORS

- Innomed Solutions **\$12,000**

EMPTY BOWL FUNDRAISER

- Sponsorship **\$54,088**
- Tickets/Other **\$8,662**

THIRD-PARTY EVENTS:

- Misc **\$1,494**
- Joy of Christmas **\$1,670**

INDIVIDUALS/BUSINESSES

- \$104,350**

14th Annual Empty Bowl Fundraiser



Empty Bowl is Emmaus House's signature annual event, bringing the community together to fight hunger and homelessness. Beginning in the spring, the campaign culminates in a heartwarming event on the first Sunday in November, where attendees enjoy delicious soups, receive a handcrafted bowl as a keepsake, and celebrate the power of giving.

Last year, the Empty Bowl fundraiser raised an incredible **\$63,000**, helping us continue to provide meals, resources, and critical support to those in need. The event is a testament to the generosity and compassion of our supporters, and we are deeply grateful for the sponsors listed below as well as everyone who participated and contributed to its success.



Thank You Empty Bowl Sponsors!

Alice & Steve Edwards
Ann Miller
Barbara Powers
Becky Cheatham
Belzer PC
Brenda Kenworthy
Carter & Steve Eagle
Carver State Bank
Catham Orthopedic
Chatham County Republican Party
Chuck & Holly Barton
Coastal Consultant Management Co.
Coastal Sash and Door
Colliers International
David & Judith Walz
Deanie & Joey Strength
Employee Development Strategies
First Baptist Church of Savannah
First Presbyterian Church
Friendship Coffee Company
Gary & Pamela Mehes
Georgetown Family Dental
Green Truck Pub
Helen & Robert Burns
Hunter Maclean

Innomed, Inc.
Jane Elwell
Janet Stone
Jim & Erin Waterman
John & Ann Tatum
John and Carolyn Neely
John Lutz
Julia Mikell
Kelly Jones
Kim Bockius-Suwyn & Dan Suwyn
LewBridge Charitable Trust
Life Worthy Blessings
Liz and Simon Macfadyen
Margaret H Lee
Margaret Miller
Marie Dent
Mark & Daphne Murphy
Melanie Smith
Mickey & Kristin Ott
Mimi Jones
Paul & Katie Balthrop
Peter Meldrim Wright
Priscilla W. Carrington
Proclinical Research Consultancy

Quick Cash Pawn
Rena Patton
Rev. Jamie Maury & Dan Snyder
Richard Allenby Beattie
Robert & Shirley James
Rountree Brady Insurance
Rouse + Copeland LLC
Rubnitz Thompson Ziblut, LLC
Saint Peters Episcopal Church
Sara & Peter Woodfield
Savannah Perio & Implants
Shannon & Dale Willhite
Skidaway Community Church
Stephen Hooten
The Reverend Beverly Braine
The Reverend Cathy Zappa
The Wade Family
Tom Taylor
Truist Bank
Verdant World Travels
W. Bradford Ingalls Charitable Foundation
Washington Dender
Wayne & Janet Kuhn
West Construction
WW Drayage

2024 Patrons & Dignity Champions



Many generous supporters gave independently in 2024, helping sustain our mission. In an effort to show our deep appreciation, we are introducing patron giving tiers to recognize those who make a lasting impact. Below, we honor these donors at each level –thank you for your generosity!

Donors with an asterisk (*) are **Dignity Champions**, our dedicated monthly supporters whose ongoing contributions provide stability and nourishment to those in need.



Kitchen (€5,000+)

*James Anderson
Catholic Foundation of Southeast Georgia
Christ Church Episcopal
Forsyth Farmers Market
JC Lewis Foundation
Kinder Morgan
Margaret A Keener



Table (\$1,000-\$4,999)

*David Mueller
*Marybeth & Patrick Connolly
*Pastor Jamie Maury
*Shannon Willhite
Alan Usher
Amanda Montford
Downtown Neighborhood
Association
InterPark
Isle Of Hope UMC
Karan Edgemon
Katie Wehrle

Lee Sucharda
Lizette Smith
Morgan Stanley
Mr. Steve and Montie Acuff
oan Chalikian
Savannah Clay Community
Sid Harris
Skidaway Island
Presbyterian
Thomas Allen Hailey



Pantry (\$500-\$999)

**Carolyn M Hannaford
*Charlie Frew-Miller
*Gary & Pamela Mehes
*Grace Phillips
*Grace Phillips
*Nonnie Balcer
*Robert & Selma Bernard

*Susan Heun
*Tiffany Stewart
James Murphy
Jane F Espy
Judy Naylor-Johnson
KAM Building Services
Kendra Scott Jewelry

Lynn Porter
Melissa Squires
Robin Byerly
Suzanne Shelledy
Theo Sassos
Tom & Betsy Hollis



Cupboard (\$100-\$499)

*Ann Fenstermacher
*Debra Hughes
*Doyle W Foxx
*Felicity Turner
*Jenni Halpin
*Susan Davenport
Alexis Chesney
All Saints Episcopal
Amy Haenel
Argie Mandakas
Arlene Bridges Samuels
Audrey OBrien
Blue Voyage Productions

Carole & Edwin Chase
Carolyn Templeton
Cecelia Chilton
Christopher Veilleux
Comer V. Meadows
Craig A Simpson
Dallas Lewis
Daniel Berlage
Diane Mathews
DM Cushing
George Catrambone
Erica Scales
Felicia Burch

James C Claude
Jane Pearson
Jessica Hege
Jil Hardy
Joy Blaylock
Kathi McCullough - Shepherd
Kelli Cooper
Kimberley Jo Alexander
Kristin Brassell
Lisa Barnes
Lores West
Lorrie J Turner
Margaret Anne Roberts-Pearson

Margaret G. Livingston
Marissa Arber
Michael Eckmann
Mr. and Mrs. Barrett G. Benton
Nadine Neville-Turpin
Nancy Smith
Peter Trussell
Robynn Reilly
Ruth Lynah Whitlow
Shirley A Wright
Sobremesa
St. John's Church Savannah
Standard Concrete Products
Thomas A. Hetherington MD
Tracy DuBois
Tracy Woolf Schroeder
Trudi Hull
Wymberley Garden Club



EMMAUS HOUSE

Volunteers

IN ACTION



Our volunteers are the heart of Emmaus House, making it possible for us to serve thousands of meals, provide essential services, and offer dignity to those in need. Your time, dedication, and compassion create a welcoming space where our guests feel seen, valued, and supported. Every meal served, every smile shared, and every helping hand makes a lasting impact on our community. We simply couldn't do this work without you—thank you for being an essential part of our mission!





Letter from the Board Chairman

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Over forty years ago, a group of Savannah churches founded the organization that you know as Emmaus House with a goal of feeding our most vulnerable members. Since then, we have served thousands of Savannah's citizens who might otherwise have gone hungry.

Last year, Emmaus House served 525 different individuals, providing meals, showers, laundry services, clothing, and dignity to those who walked through our doors. On average, we served 130 individuals each day, offering not only sustenance but also a sense of community and belonging. The rising cost of food continues to strain household budgets, making it increasingly difficult for families to afford nutritious meals. These rising costs disproportionately impact low-income households, exacerbating food insecurity. Emmaus House has become a lifeline for those facing homelessness and food insecurity by offering not just sustenance but hope and dignity to those we serve.

Of course, Emmaus House has also suffered from rising costs, and we struggle to find the resources to serve our clients. In addition, the realities of downtown Savannah real estate have made it clear that we must prepare for a future move—one that will require even greater support from our community. This transition will be critical in ensuring we can continue our mission and expand our impact for years to come.

We're so grateful for your support, which is the only way we can continue to fulfill the mission we embarked on those 40 years ago. As we look ahead to this next chapter, we need your help more than ever to sustain and grow our work.

With gratitude and hope,
Stephen Edwards
Board Chair, Emmaus House

Get Involved



emmaushousesavannah@gmail.com



www.linktr.ee/emmaushouse