



St. Augustine  
**Wellston Center**

*Serving the wellston community since 1993*

January Updates for the Wellston Center Supporters



## New Year, New Resolution

While you might have made a goal this year to get more organized or take up a new hobby, the Wellston Center is taking initiative to focus on **reducing food waste**. Currently, our food pantry utilizes a "pre-packing" method. Clients are given boxes of food assembled by volunteers based on their family size. To work toward our resolution of reducing food waste both in our organization and in the community, this year will focus on shifting toward a "client-choice" model. Stay tuned to see how we'll have the clients become more participatory in selecting the food that they want!



TOTAL # OF FAMILIES HELPED  
136

TOTAL # OF CLIENTS HELPED  
348

TOTAL # OF PEOPLE HELPED  
NOT IN OUR SERVICE AREA\*  
62

TOTAL # OF NEW CLIENTS  
4

TOTAL UTILITY ASSISTANCE  
GRANTED  
\$8,825.00

\*We will continue to help those not in our service area as long as we still have food.





## JANUARY FEATURES

### The Annual Christmas Club

Our Christmas Club was held on December 10, 2021 and December 11, 2021. This program is an opportunity for invited clients to shop from new products to decide what they need to truly make their holiday season magical, making it a unique experience from the typical "adopt-a-family" programs. The products range from toys to jewelry, from bedding to home appliances. This past Christmas Club helped **over 240 families** enjoy a holiday season with presents under their tree and even fresh turkeys for their holiday feasts. The feedback from the clients was all positive, with over 150 thank you notes detailing how they could not have had a holiday without us. This program could not have been possible without all of you helping us to provide a Christmas miracle for many!

- We received a donation of over **1,500 cereal boxes** for our food pantry from Mr. Kevin Cleary!
- The Bi-State Metro held a **food drive** for our current pantry needs.
- WUSTL approved us for **Social Work Interns** beginning in the New Year.
- Our food pantry was featured in the St. Louis American Newspaper for helping to fight off COVID-related hunger.
- WUSTL Facilities Group donated a truck full of **nonperishables** to our food pantry.
- Holy Cross Academy donated **personal care items and Christmas Club items** for the 2022 holiday season!





## Staying Warm This Winter

*By Haley Calabro, Director*

Many people find themselves homebound due to the pandemic, and with cold temperatures, heaters will be needed around the clock. This is bad news for low-income families. Increased need will coincide with increased home heating prices. The disadvantaged low-income families typically spend a larger percentage of their income on home energy than higher-income families, and often find their utility bills unaffordable and unmanageable. They increasingly fall behind on their payments and place themselves at risk for

shutoffs. This causes families to pull back on basic necessities, like food and medicine. **Could you choose between heat and hunger?** Just over the past two weeks during our food pantry days, every other family in line gripped their Spire or Ameren bill in hand, hoping for some sort of relief to hold them over until the next month. We saw bills as high as \$900 and as low as \$50, still unable to pay the full amount to keep their heat on. Fortunately, programs like LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and the Wellston Center's own utility assistance program can help families make it through another cold winter. When available, we also have space heaters for families wanting



to use less energy than their HVAC systems. While you might not ever meet our clients, it is important to recognize that your donations, prayers, and advocacy for our work help thousands of families survive each winter with hope for the next.



## 2021 Year-End Tax Letters

If you are part of our wonderful donor family, please note that we have mailed your tax letters on **January 29, 2022**. We are pleased to have included a summary your 2021 contributions to our organization. If you have any questions about your statement or need to

update your contact information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your generosity helps us change the lives of thousands of people who need our help. Thank you for another successful year in aiding our mission to end food insecurity in North County.