

RED HOOK RESPONDS



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

www.redhookresponds.org
P.O. Box 624, Red Hook, NY 12571
845-640-4788

The mission of Red Hook Responds is to work together to help our communities by organizing volunteers and supporting resources to those in need.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 was an exciting year for Red Hook Responds — it brought new staff, community collaborations, and programming. Red Hook Responds’ achievements in 2023 reflect both an ongoing commitment to leveraging volunteer resources to support our neighbors in need and the sustained demand for the services we offer to the communities of **Red Hook** and **Rhinebeck**.



Bianca Verrilli

Red Hook Responds is an organization where community comes together in many ways to support each other. Through collaboration, innovation, and dedication, we worked to address crucial issues such as food security, inclusion, and sustainability.

As Red Hook Responds enters its fifth year, I hope you will join us in celebrating the impact of our collective efforts in forging a brighter, more resilient future for all our community members.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jude Alexis
Daniel Budd- Founder
Stephen Cohen
Marina Donahue
Amy Hass

John Horiszny- President
Laura Ramsey- Treasurer
Jacqui Rose- Secretary
Nevill Smythe

NEW IN 2023

NEW STAFF



Red Hook Responds had significant staffing changes in 2023, which saw the transition from full-time Interim Executive Director, Nevill Smythe, to two new part-time staff, Executive Director, Bianca Verrilli and Volunteer Coordinator, Madison Curry.

Additionally, volunteer chef Leslie Pulver, joined the team as Executive Chef, ensuring RHR meals meet high standards. This new staffing structure is more sustainable and better meets our long-term needs.

NEW BACKPACK PROGRAM

In the fall of 2023, Red Hook Responds assumed the management of the BackPack Program of Red Hook High School and Linden Avenue Middle School. This program was previously under the administration of the community group, Red Hook Harvest.



**Regional
Food Bank**
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

This program of the Regional Food Bank of Eastern NY is funded by the Ascienzo Family Foundation and Red Hook Rotary.

and aims to alleviate child hunger by providing nutritious meals to students during weekends and school breaks.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

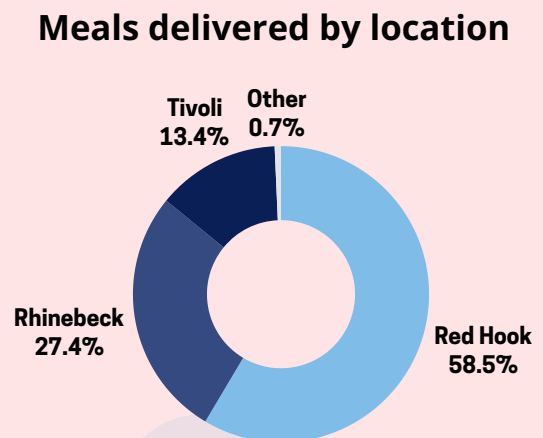
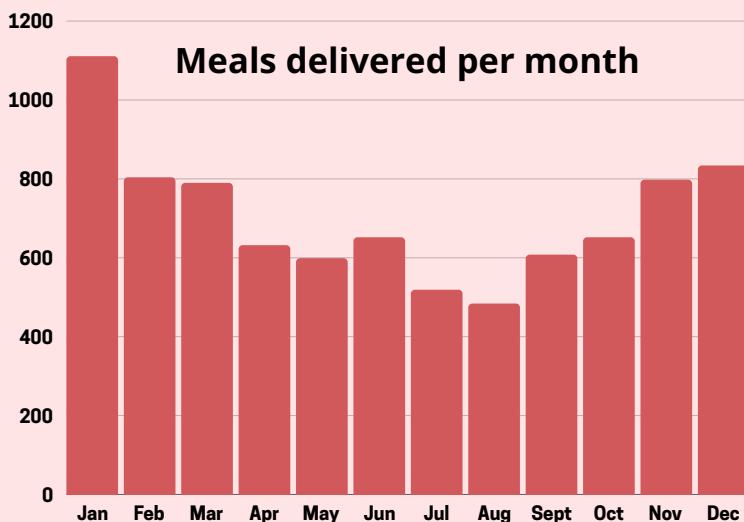
In 2023, the Red Hook Community Center and Red Hook Responds commissioned Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress to conduct a needs assessment for the communities of Red Hook and Rhinebeck. **The assessment** identifies key community needs and provides recommendations for addressing those needs.

OUR PROGRAMS

DINNER DELIVERY



Through our Dinner Delivery program Red Hook Responds delivers chef-made meals to households in the Red Hook and Rhinebeck school districts, providing dinners 7 days a week. This is our most requested program, with an average of **700** dinners served per month and a total of **8,483** meals delivered in 2023.



“I love you all for that you do. Your volunteer work is amazing, and you are such a blessing to the community. I don’t have the words to describe the feeling of happiness that I’m going to have a Christmas dinner.”

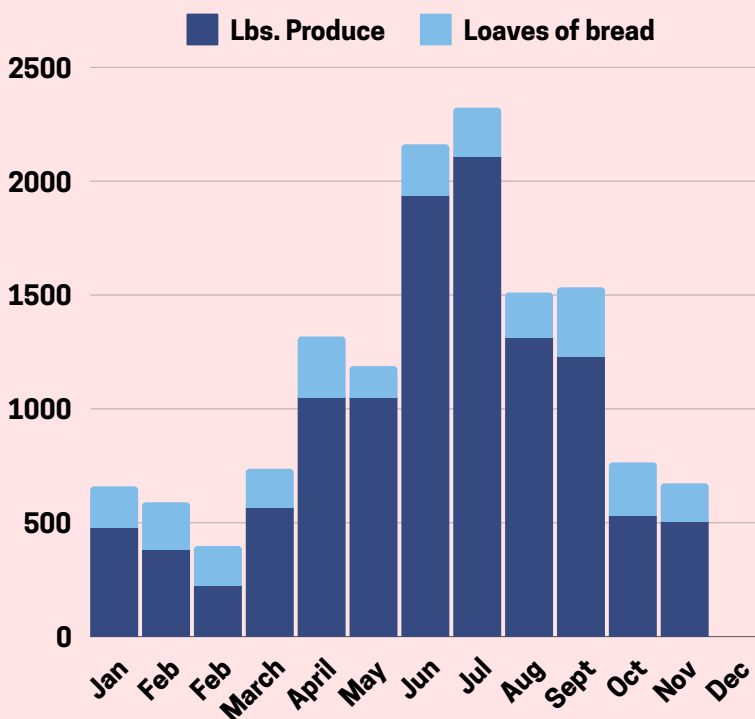
— RHR HELP REQUESTER

The Dinner Delivery program provides vital support to individuals and families facing food insecurity. There are no eligibility requirements for this service and a majority of dinner requesters are senior citizens.

OUR PROGRAMS

LOCAL FOOD EXCHANGE

The Local Food Exchange is a micro-food bank through which Red Hook Responds receives donations of perishable and non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. These donations are then distributed to local food pantries. Red Hook Responds leverages our refrigerated, frozen, and dry goods storage spaces to store these items until they are ready for use by the food pantries.



In 2023 the Local Food Exchange received **over 11,300 pounds** of produce from **Migliorelli Farm** and **Four Corners Community Farm** and nearly **2,500 loaves** of bread from **Bread Alone Bakery**.

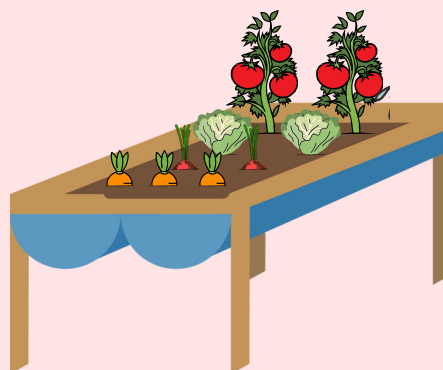


The Local Food Exchange decreases food waste, simplifies coordination between product donors and recipient organizations, and ensures that donated products are distributed where they are most needed, while bringing healthy, local foods to our community.

OUR PROGRAMS

VEGGIE TABLES

Each spring, Red Hook Responds in partnership with **Bard College Farm**, distributes raised garden beds with soil and seedlings to participant homes. These garden beds serve as a source of fresh vegetables over the course of the growing season and allow participants who would otherwise not be able to enjoy the activity of gardening to have the opportunity to care for their own garden while enjoying the fruits (and veggies) of their labor.



RED HOOK BACKPACK PROGRAM

Through the BackPack program, Red Hook Responds delivers food pantry boxes to the households of participating students of Red Hook High School and Linden Avenue Middle School on a monthly basis.



Although free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs provide significant nutritional benefits to students during the school day, some children do not have access to regular meals when school is not in session, and these BackPack Program deliveries provide access to healthy foods outside of school.

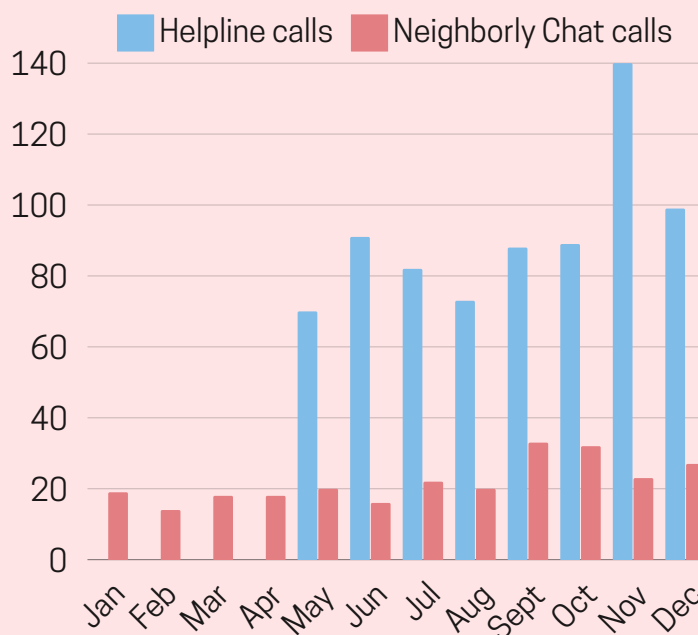
OUR PROGRAMS

HELPLINE

Our Helpline is staffed by a volunteer operator between 9am and 4pm every day. Helpline operators assist callers in signing up for Red Hook Responds services and, where additional assistance is needed, the operators direct callers to other resources.

In a digital world, the Helpline complements the Red Hook Responds website, making it easy for community members without access to a computer or reliable internet connection to request our services or ask for help.

In 2023 the Helpline received an average of **84 calls per month**.



NEIGHBORLY CHATS

Through the Neighborly Chats program, a Red Hook Responds volunteer calls the participant via phone for a friendly chat. Program participants largely live alone and experience social isolation and therefore appreciate connection and friendly conversation with a volunteer on a weekly basis.

In 2023, our volunteers made an average of **22 Neighborly Chat calls per month**, totaling **262 calls for the year**. Neighborly Chats are available to anyone in the the community who requests one.

OUR PROGRAMS

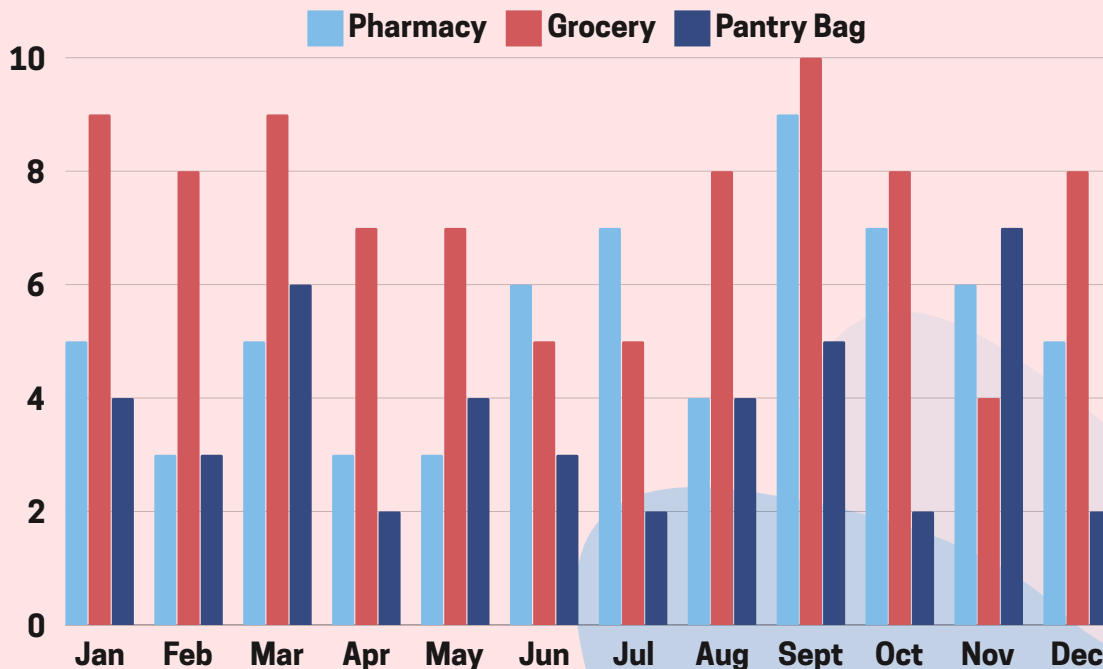
FOOD PANTRY BAG, PHARMACY & GROCERY DELIVERY

In partnership with the Red Hook branch of the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County, we deliver food pantry bags to residents who request one.



Through our Grocery and Pharmacy Delivery programs, our volunteers pick up grocery and pharmacy orders and deliver them to requesters' homes.

In 2023 RHR volunteers delivered a total of **88 grocery, 63 pharmacy, and 44 food pantry bag deliveries.**



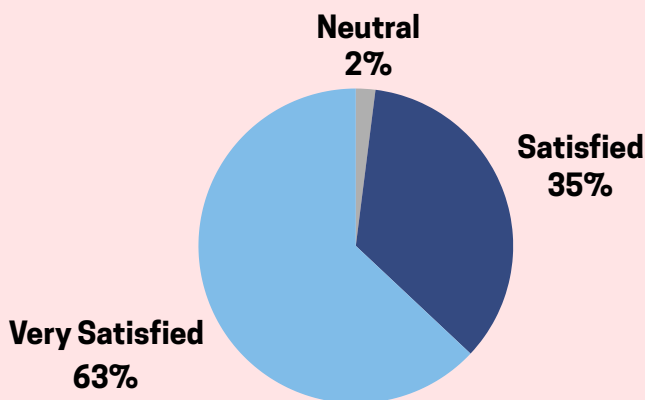
These programs are frequently used by members of our community who are without transportation, are unable to drive, and who do not have a family member or caretaker to support them with these activities.

OUR VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are the heart and soul of Red Hook Responds. Without volunteers RHR’s programs would not be possible. In 2023, we were fortunate to have an average of **49 active volunteers per month** who contributed a total of **5,026.5 hours of service** – an average of **418 volunteer hours per month!**

Our volunteers help in many ways, and they report high levels of satisfaction with their volunteer experiences. In 2023 we streamlined the volunteer onboarding experience and improved volunteer resources.

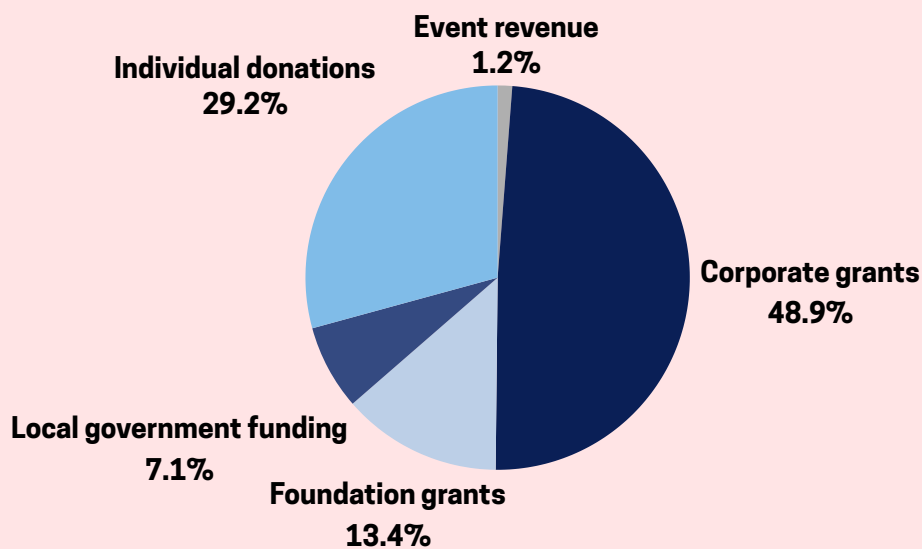


“RHR has been a wonderful way to help out our neighbors in need, and at the same time become more connected to our community.”
— RHR VOLUNTEER

OUR FINANCES

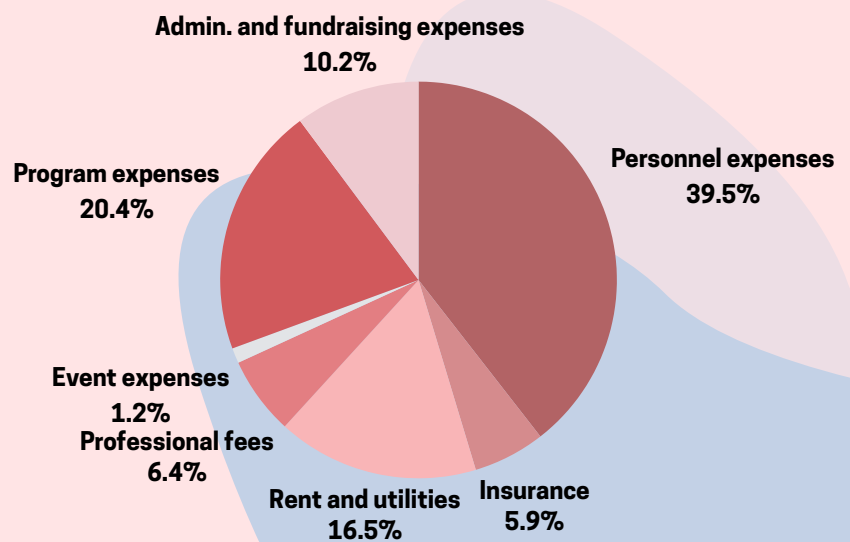
INCOME

Red Hook Responds relies on the generous support of individual, corporate, government, and private foundation donors to sustain our programs and operations. These contributions enabled us to continue to serve our neighbors in need in 2023. We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors for their support and belief in our mission.



EXPENSES

Red Hook Responds is a lean organization that relies heavily on volunteer support and in-kind donations. We strive to maximize our ability to execute meaningful programming through thoughtful spending.





2023

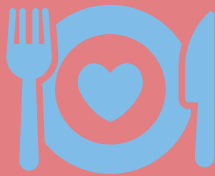
**262 Neighborly
Chats conducted**



**49 Active
Volunteers per
month**



**11,381 lbs. of
food distributed**



**8,483 Meals
delivered**

**1,000+
Helpline calls**



**5,027
volunteer hrs.**



Without the support of our community, the work of Red Hook Responds supporting those in need in Red Hook and Rhinebeck would not be possible. We are deeply grateful for all of our supporters.

Volunteer



Request Help



Donate





YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

DONATE TODAY!



**www.redhookresponds.org
P.O. Box 624, Red Hook, NY 12571
845-640-4788**