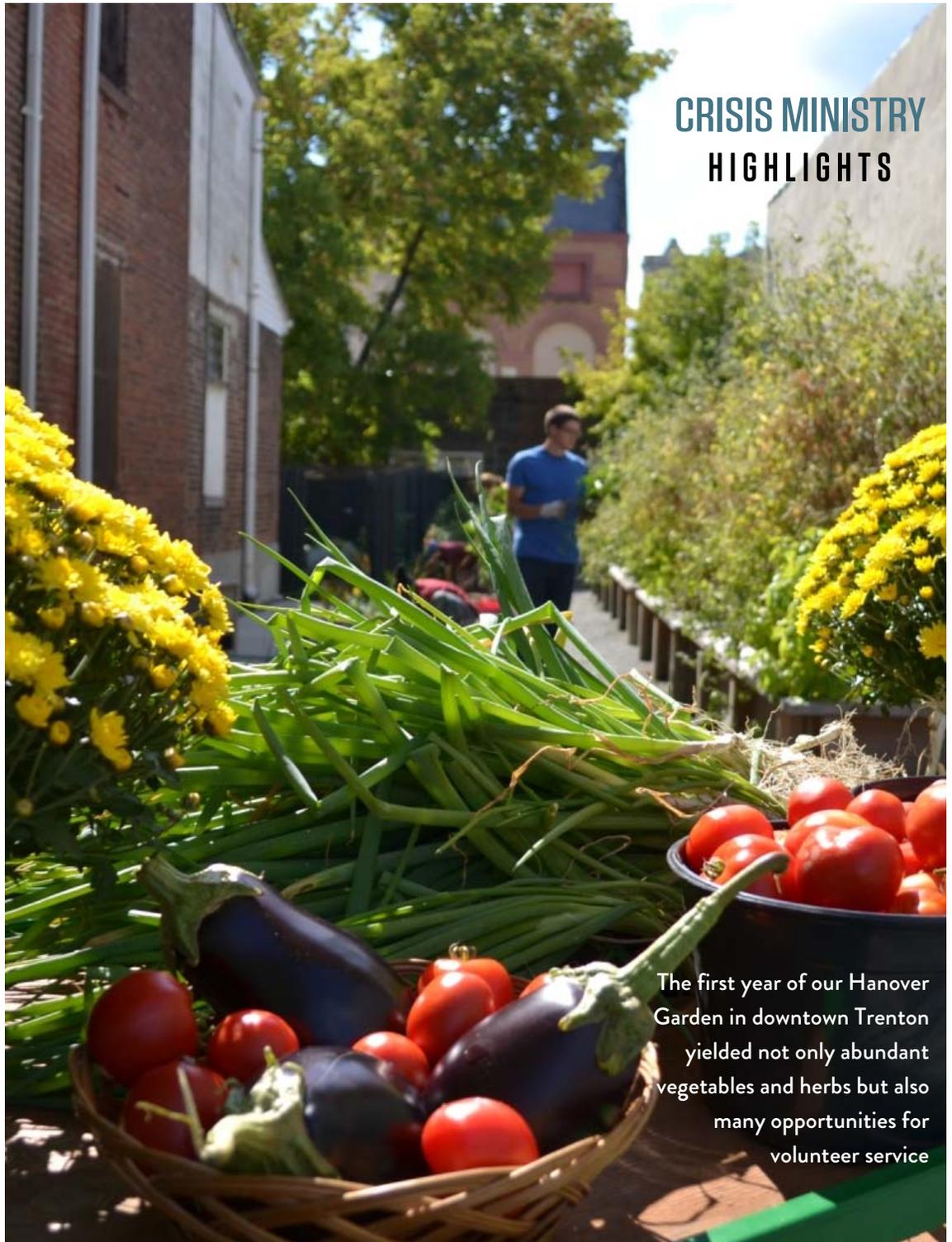




Ensuring basic needs,  
Cultivating long-term stability



# CRISIS MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The first year of our Hanover Garden in downtown Trenton yielded not only abundant vegetables and herbs but also many opportunities for volunteer service

## HUNGER PREVENTION & NUTRITION EDUCATION

- People from 4,040 Mercer County households visited our pantries for access to healthy foods for their families. Some of the food came from our own garden.
- Nearly 200 senior households in Trenton and Princeton benefited from our Home Food Delivery program, delivered by volunteers.

## HOUSING STABILITY & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- 923 people threatened with eviction or foreclosure from their homes were able to avoid the devastating effects of homelessness.
- 324 people were able to move into decent apartments through our rapid re-housing/security deposit assistance.
- 330 people who faced loss of water, heat, or electricity in their homes avoided shut-off of these vital utilities.
- 17 families and individuals made real progress toward long-term stability through our Housing Stability Case Management services.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT READINESS

- 65 adults gained on-the-job experience and benefited from job search support — and many are now working again as a result.
- 43 people improved their job and earning potential through the License to Succeed driver's license restoration and assistance program.

## A LOOK BACK

2013 was momentous for the Crisis Ministry. We returned to our beautifully renovated space in downtown Trenton, funded by the

**“Our investments in staffing and infrastructure significantly expanded our direct service to the community.”**

First Presbyterian Church of Trenton and complete with commercial grade refrigeration to increase our capacity to offer fresh foods. Our pantry in South Trenton served over 500 families per month. Our clients were also very grateful for the expanded space in Princeton at Nassau Presbyterian Church, a renovation funded by the congregation. **Hanover Garden**, pictured on the front, produced tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and other produce for our clients. We are grateful to the Bonner Foundation and collaborators from Isles, Inc., Urban Mission Cabinet and many more who brought the garden to life.

Our investments in staffing and infrastructure significantly expanded our service to the community. 2013 finished with growth of 23% in food pantry visits since 2010, due to both persistent need and expansion to the Chambersburg neighborhood. We added a program in the area of housing stability, based off the success of a pilot started in 2012. This program serves households who are experiencing an imminent threat of homelessness and face more challenging barriers to stability. Our case manager helps families to achieve stability over a period of several months up to a year, as necessary.

We expanded workforce development, finding new opportunities for skill development and employment for program members in the areas of health care, retail, and restaurant services, the growing industries in our local community that match many of our trainees’ experience.

We also increased our level of service restoring driver’s licenses for persons seeking employment. Often fines from simple parking violations or other minor infractions cannot be paid by our low-income neighbors and result in suspension of driving privileges, which significantly inhibits opportunity to gain employment. (Read about the job and family success of former License to Succeed client Calvin Brown on our website’s **Client Stories** page.)

In 2013, we drew on the tremendous financial contributions from our community in 2011 to support the expansion of our services. Over the next 18 months, our significant areas of focus will be to grow income to match the new level of service that we provide to the community and expand recognition of this service to attract greater resources. We are grateful to the strong organizational leadership of the past thirty years that has supported the growth we have experienced and allows us to thrive as providers and partners to our neighbors in need.



**CAROLYN BIONDI**  
Executive Director

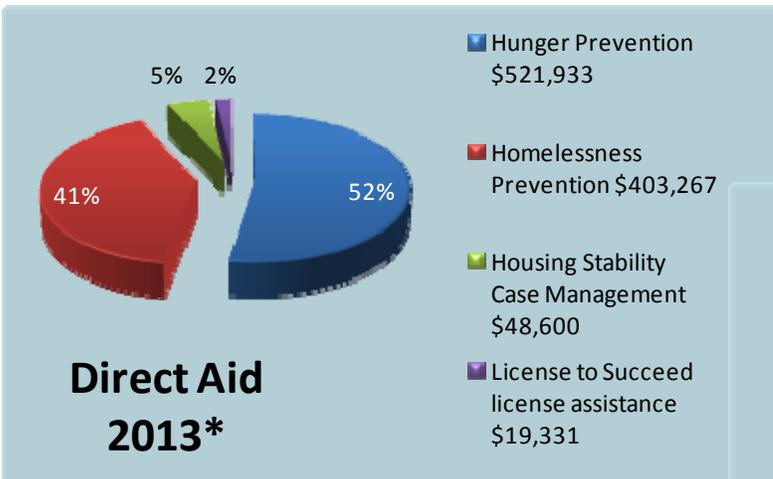


**FRED VAN SICKLE**  
President and Chair

**Many thanks for your support. It is so important.**

**Carolyn Biondi**, Executive Director  
**Fred Van Sickle**, President and Chair

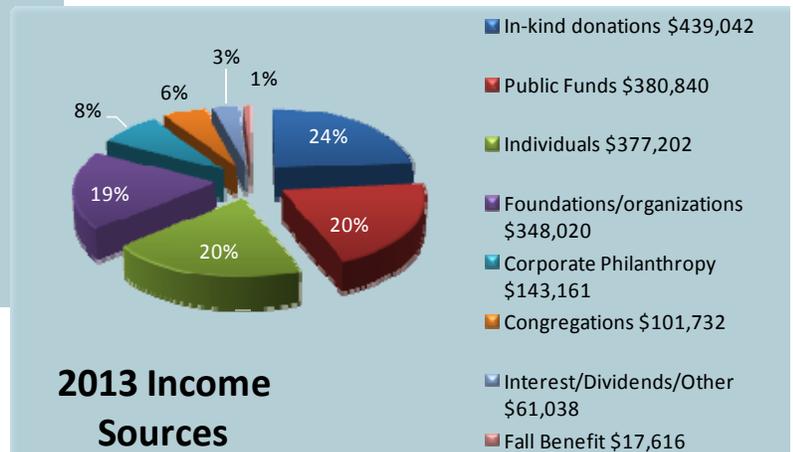
**P.S.** To look at upcoming plans for the Crisis Ministry, go to the **About Us** page at [www.thecrisisministry.org](http://www.thecrisisministry.org), for the Strategic Plan 2014-16 Executive Summary. Please let us know what you think.



\* This total includes aid provided through both in-kind donations valued at \$439,042 and through budget allocations of \$82,891.

### COMPANIES THAT MATCHED EMPLOYEE DONATIONS:

Black Rock...Bristol-Myers Squibb...Chubb Insurance...General Electric Foundation...Educational Testing Service...Johnson & Johnson...NRG Energy...PNC Bank...Prudential...Robert Wood Johnson Foundation...Spalding, Barbara and Keith



### 2013 Income Sources

## Staff spotlight

### MELVIN HOPPS

"I have always liked helping people, adding to someone's life" says Crisis Ministry Greeter Melvin Hopps. "I was given a loving heart from my parents. My mom was always making a plate for someone. Giving someone a hand."

Once he began his work as a food



**"I have some life experience and I've been through some things, so I have an ear to offer."**

pantry Greeter, Mel soon recognized the importance of the job: "I meet and greet people, and treat everyone with respect. People respond to that. Usually I know people, and they are like family. I remember everyone's name and that means a lot."

**Mel takes pride in what he does: "I have seen so many good things happen here. It's a good way to spend my time, and it's a good feeling to make a difference in someone's life."**

Mel puts his talent for listening to good use as he creates a warm, hospitable atmosphere in the food pantry's waiting room. "You have to take time to listen, and you have to have an ear for it," he says. "I have some life experience and I've been through some things, so I have an ear to offer."



## Volunteer spotlight

### GRETCHEN JAECKEL

Gretchen Jaeckel arrives at the Crisis Ministry food pantry in Princeton's Nassau Presbyterian Church, ready to work. Sleeves rolled up, she unpacks boxes and breaks them down, stocks shelves, sorts through produce, separates the good fruit from the spoiled, and tidies up the store.

All of this before the doors even open

to visitors. This busy routine suits Gretchen. A wife and mother of two, she also fills her days working as a meeting planner, playing ice hockey, and strumming the mandolin in an all-girl Bluegrass band!

She always finds time, however, to serve the community. Gretchen has put in countless hours volunteering for Trinity Church's St. Nicholas Bazaar, rummage sales, and Prayer Shawl knitting committee, and, of course those Tuesday afternoons in the Princeton pantry.

**"It truly has become a part of my life," Gretchen says. Friends, family, and co-workers know that I am unavailable to them on Tuesdays because that is my Food Pantry Day."** She sees the difference her work makes in the lives of the people who visit when they need help. "I enjoy interacting with the clients and getting to know their families," she says.

Her friendly smile and calm manner can bring a shy child or a hesitant shopper out of his or her shell. "One of our clients even brings us homemade Tamales as a show of gratitude," Gretchen says. "But, I can't overlook how it saddens me to see the incredible need for the Crisis Ministry in a town like Princeton. Thank God for the Crisis Ministry! The patrons are truly grateful for being able to get assistance in making ends meet."

**(Read the above profiles of Mel and Gretchen in their entirety at [www.thecrisisministry.org](http://www.thecrisisministry.org))**

We thank the following foundations, organizations, businesses, and agencies for grants awarded in 2013

Accenture  
Battle Against Hunger  
Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation  
The Bunbury Company  
The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation  
City of Trenton Community Development Block Grant  
Church & Dwight Co.  
Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund  
Concordia Foundation  
David Mathey Foundation  
Delectabel Management, Inc.  
Dorothea Van Dyke McLane Foundation  
Ethospartners Healthcare  
Essig Enright Family Foundation  
Food for Thoughts Cards, LLC  
Highland-Mills Foundation  
J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust  
Janssen Pharmaceutical  
Lawrence Township Community Foundation  
Lawson Valentine Foundation  
Mary Owen Borden Memorial Foundation  
McCaffrey's Supermarkets  
Mercer County Health and Human Services  
Mercer County One-Stop Career Center  
Mercer Street Friends Food Bank  
Nassau Presbyterian Church  
New Jersey Manufacturers  
New Jersey Office of Faith-based Initiatives  
NRG Energy  
Novo Nordisk, Inc.  
PNC Bank Advisors  
Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville  
Princeton Area Community Foundation  
Princeton Fuel Oil Co.  
Princeton Post 76 American Legion  
Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust  
Rotary Club Of Princeton  
RSW Foundation  
Scheide Fund of New York Community Trust  
ShopRite  
State of New Jersey Social Services Block Grant  
Tenacre Foundation  
Theodore Cross Family Foundation  
Trinity Church  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton  
United Way of Greater Mercer County  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Whole Foods Market  
Yaverland Foundation  
2 anonymous foundations

## 2013 Gifts of Hope

**Remembered:** Elizabeth Annich...Don Blankenbush...Zach Dawson-Pitts...Barbara French...J. Marne Gleason...Michael Heubeck...Beatrice Horowitz...Lawrence Hugick...David Knights...Dorothy Lurenky...Ernesta Marchand...George Morren

**Honored:** Mindy Arnold...Gerry Boswell...Glenn Brewer...Hansen Chiang...Kuang Chiang...May Chiang...Nick d'Ambrosio...Aiden and Marlene Doyle...Carol Fagundus...Annie Farrell...Lib Flemer...Midge Flemming...Chris Freddo...Jamie Fuller...Sarah Gift...Karl Gossner...Carl Haag...Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jones...Jeanne and Richard Katen...Jay, Annie, Jack, and Lillian Kelsey...John Kelsey...John and Peg Kemmerer...Tina & Tony LaPlaca...Joan Lechner...TJ Lee...Susan Levy...Thomas Loester...Peter and Debra Loupos...Joan and Don Maier...James and Susan Manion...Samuel McKay...Edwin Metcalf...Rosanne Miller...Rosalind and Tom Muir...Mark Piech...Dorothy Plohn...Selina and Peter Ramadge...Joan Ricker...Rosh Hashanah...Kevin Sames...Thomas and William Shaw-Gardner...Yvonne Speed...Dian Stein...Virginia Stoops...Nancy Watkins...Marilyn Wilson



The Dawg Souljaz motorcycle club was one of nearly 100 groups that held food drives in 2013.



The Church & Dwight Employee Giving Fund, a longtime partner, provided Homelessness Prevention support.



A Community Open House celebrated our return to our downtown Trenton location.

In 2013, recreational and civic clubs, businesses, schools, congregations, and hundreds of caring and committed people of all ages partnered with the Crisis Ministry to help neighbors in need.



PNC Wealth Management supported the Crisis Ministry as part of holiday festivities.

## 2013-14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 The Rev. Dr. Dave Davis, *Ex-Officio*  
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**Seth Arber, Coordinator**  
**Cora Evans, AmeriCorps Assistant**  
**Anthony Guthrie, Transportation and Facilities**  
**Mel Hopps, Greeter**

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**Vanessa Lagares, Utilities Coordinator and Homelessness Prevention Case Manager**  
**Lisa Beamer, Homelessness Prevention Coordinator**  
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**Delia Bailey, Coordinator**  
**Dara Lewis, Coordinator, and License to Succeed Coordinator**

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### Administrative Staff

**Sarah Unger, Development and Communications Director**  
**Sun Hae Kim, Administrator**  
**Keating Johnson, Development and Communications Coordinator**

Visit [www.thecrisisministry.org](http://www.thecrisisministry.org) for additional ANNUAL REPORT information and to see all of the Crisis Ministry's community partners.

## PRINCETON LOCATION

- 61 Nassau Street  
Princeton, NJ 08542

## TRENTON LOCATIONS

- 123 East Hanover St.  
Trenton, NJ 08608
- 714-16 S. Clinton Ave.  
Trenton, NJ 08619

609-396-9355

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[info@thecrisisministry.org](mailto:info@thecrisisministry.org)



**Partnering with our community to achieve stability for our neighbors in need.**

The Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, was founded in 1980 by Trinity Church Princeton and Nassau Presbyterian Church.

The Crisis Ministry is a nonsectarian and nonproselytizing organization with no political mission. It serves all who are in need regardless of age, race, gender, religious status, sexual identity, ethnicity, or national origin.

