

CELEBRATING 2 YEARS OF KEYSTONE'S COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER!



Strengthening the capacity of individuals and families to improve their quality of life.



It's been two years since our Community Food Center opened its doors on January 3, 2024! In 2025 alone, we partnered with **25 corporate groups** who generously gave their time at **15 Free Farmers Markets**, helping distribute over **180,000 pounds of food to over 20,000 neighbors** across three sites in Ramsey County. Each day the Community Food Center is open, Keystone spends roughly **\$1,500** to stock our market and Foodmobiles with essentials like eggs, meat, dairy, and grocery staples, ensuring families in need have access to nutritious food.

HUNGER FACTS

- 1 in 5 people in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood experience food insecurity
- Grocery prices in Minnesota have risen 28% since 2019¹
- Meals on Wheels demand surged 75% in 2025

¹ Hunger Solutions
<https://gmcc.org/hunger-facts/>



KEYSTONE'S FOOD PROGRAMS:

- Food Center:**
90 households in 2 hours, twice a day, five days a week
- Home Delivery:**
150 households served each month
- Foodmobile:**
3 Buses - 32 site partners, 34 community stops every month serving 21,000+ neighbors each year!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



This year marks two incredible years since our Community Food Center first opened its doors. In that time, thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the commitment of our community partners, we have served tens of thousands of neighbors with food, support, and hope.

Keystone Community Services continues to adapt to the growing needs of our neighbors. The government shutdown in November paused SNAP benefits and caused other disruptions, creating uncertainty for households that rely on this support. Operation Metro Surge in January left many participants feeling unsafe leaving their homes.

In response to these and other rising challenges, we expanded food purchasing, updated distribution models, strengthened home delivery, and increased culturally specific food options, all to ensure that access to food remains safe, dignified, and welcoming for everyone.

Every day, we see the power of community in action, from volunteers like Jim, who bring connection along with every meal, to neighbors like Lucia, whose life was touched by the services we provide. These stories remind us why Keystone exists, to ensure that every person in our community has the resources and care they need to thrive.

As we celebrate this milestone, I invite you to continue this journey with us through volunteering, donating, or simply sharing our story. Together we are building a stronger, more caring community where no one is forgotten.

Adero Riser Cobb
Keystone President & CEO



You Are The Key

A Keystone Newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

WEST 7TH COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE 2026

Beginning February through Late 2026

MARCH IS MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MONTH
45th Annual March Campaign

Make an impact March 1 - April 6

STAMP OUT HUNGER 2026 FOOD DRIVE

Letter Carriers' Food Drive May 9

EVENTS LATER THIS YEAR

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY SINGERS IN CONCERT

Spring Concert 2026

May 21, 2026

FREE FARMERS MARKET Drive-Through Events

Beginning June 2026

Beginning June 2026



Meals On Wheels by the Numbers

Meals delivered: **35,880**
 Clients served: **236**
 Volunteers: **100+**
 Volunteer hours: **3453**



For over 50 years Meals on Wheels has helped seniors in the Twin Cities stay safely in their homes. Keystone is proud to partner with this vital program because keeping neighbors nourished and independent is at the heart of our work. Did you know? The program is open to people of all ages, not just adults over 65!

Express Bike Shop Partnership Sew Bueno Company

Express Bike Shop, Keystone's social enterprise, trains local teens while selling bikes and accessories. This year, we partnered with Sew Bueno Company, a St. Paul woman-owned small business to offer unique handmade bike bags, giving teens hands on work experience and supporting local artisans.



Improving Our Foodmobiles to Better Serve the Community



Our newest Foodmobile, Leo, now features a new awning, made possible in part by a generous financial contribution from a Keystone volunteer. This addition helps protect both staff and participants from the elements during distributions.

Chameleon Concessions generously removed inoperable and obstructive lifts from all 3 Foodmobiles at no cost. This upgrade enhances safety by clearing an emergency exit, allows the buses to be stocked more efficiently, and boosts fuel efficiency by removing hundreds of pounds of unnecessary weight.



These improvements help us serve the community more effectively, safely, and sustainably. We are deeply grateful to the partners and volunteers who make this possible, thank you!

A Weekly Commitment to Care Jims Dedication to Do Good

For the past three years, Jim Druck has been a dedicated Meals on Wheels volunteer, bringing more than just meals to neighbors across St. Paul. Each week, Jim delivers nourishment, connection, and kindness to older adults who rely on this essential service.



Delivering Meals on Wheels is the highlight of Jim's week. He enjoys driving, and volunteering gave him a simple way to give back. What keeps him coming back is the human connection. Each delivery is a reminder for him how meaningful a simple visit can be, for both the person receiving the meal and the volunteer.

Each route leaves Jim feeling grateful and grounded. He looks forward to seeing the same neighbors every week, exchanging smiles, brief conversations, and moments of connection that help reduce isolation and brighten the day.

In challenging times, when social support programs face uncertainty, Jim believes community involvement matters more than ever. Meals on Wheels depends on volunteers and donors to continue serving neighbors with dignity and care.

“ Each day that I deliver reminds me how lucky I have been in birth and in life. - Jim Druck, Meals on Wheels Volunteer

Jim's commitment is a powerful reminder that service can be simple, consistent, and deeply impactful. By showing up each week, he helps ensure that no one is forgotten and that compassion continues to travel every route.

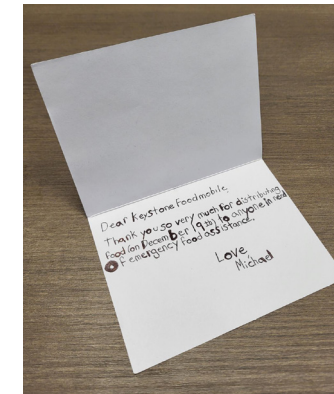
Foodmobiles In the Community Meeting Neighbors Where They Are

Keystone's Foodmobiles continue to bring fresh, healthy food directly into neighborhoods across Ramsey County, meeting people where they are and reducing barriers to access. These mobile food shelves travel to community centers, libraries, clinics, and housing sites, ensuring that neighbors facing food insecurity can receive support with dignity and ease.

Recently, our Foodmobile team received a handwritten note that perfectly captures why this work matters. The card read:

“Dear Keystone Foodmobile, Thank you so very much for distributing food to anyone in need of emergency food assistance. Love, Michael.”

Moments like this remind us that beyond the food we distribute, we are building connection, care, and hope within our community.



March Match Your Gift Doubled



From **March 1 - April 6, 2026**, your financial gifts will help unlock matching funds through the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, increasing the impact of every dollar raised while supporting neighbors with food assistance and additional services.



GIVE A GIFT
 Your gift allows us to purchase our most needed items in bulk at a lower cost.



HOST A FOOD DRIVE
 Hosting a food drive is a great way to help bring food to our community in need.



DONATE FOOD
 Food donations and personal care items are vital for our food shelves.

Community Partner Highlight Showing love for Keystone

Minnesota Roller Derby is a skater-owned, flat-track roller derby team in St. Paul, Minnesota. They believe in community and work to better ours through volunteering and donations which is why they hosted a food drive for Keystone!

This Valentines day the league decided to show their love by giving back as a team. Samantha Tronnier says that this act of kindness was in response to SNAP benefits being taken away and because of recent ICE activity in our communities.

“ Being able to be a positive presence in the community especially right now is very important to us as a whole. - Elspeth Holzedl, Maul Rats Blocker

We are so grateful for food drives like this that help get food into our community food center!



Surly Food & Funds Drive Surly Does It Again!

Mary Sellke and Surly Gives a Damn recently hosted a food drive for Keystone donating a total of 9,329 pounds of food and supplies. They really showed up! So much so that when they arrived one morning with a full box truck, one of our volunteers simply said, “Whoa.”



Turning The Lights Back on a Keystone Story

When the electricity in Lucia's home was cut off and she faced eviction, she was frantic.

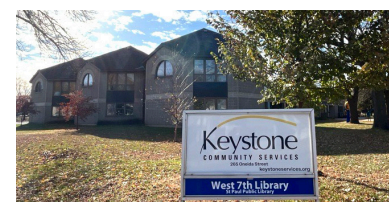
Lucia, a certified nursing assistant, had gotten behind on her bills due to a lengthy illness. Then she heard that Keystone might be able to help.



After recovering from her illness, Lucia went back to work and was struggling to catch up on her bills when the power was cut off. The Keystone Family Outreach staff member networked with area agencies to help Lucia pay down the electrical bill and stabilize her financial situation. Lucia also used the Keystone food center to help stretch her monthly budget. Of her experience with Keystone, Lucia said:

“ I found I was not alone and that there were people here who cared about me; it was such a relief. - Lucia Program Participant

West 7th Community Center Renovations are Underway



Renovations have started as part of our ongoing efforts to improve the safety, quality, and functionality of our spaces for staff, participants, and partners!