

Opening the door to hope



Serving Our Neighbors in Need™

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW



OVERVIEW of the Year

Did you know that an open door signifies communication and access? It's a perfect symbol of MUST's commitment to meet people and serve them at their points of need. In 2015, taking care of 32,000 people a year was like taking care of an entire town, but two-thirds of this town were children... the most vulnerable affected by poverty.

MUST helps our neighbors in need through effective, empowering programs and the compassion of Christian love. Walk through our doors and see how lives are changed.

ACCESS to food

One of the most critical challenges for those in poverty is hunger. MUST provides many resources to ensure no one is hungry and needs are met.

- Three food pantries distribute groceries to 16,894 clients who received 334,436 lbs. of food.
- 80,833 meals were prepared and served in the Loaves and Fishes Community Kitchen.
- 303,245 sack lunches were prepared and delivered to children across eight counties during MUST's 20th season of Summer Lunch.
- 850 Thanksgiving boxes were distributed in Cherokee County.
- Daily breads and sweets are always available to those in need.



A photograph of two women standing in front of a window. The woman on the left is younger with long dark hair, wearing a black V-neck sweater. The woman on the right is older with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a colorful patterned sweater. They are both smiling.

ACCESS to housing

Stable housing is a significant goal for those experiencing poverty. MUST features an extensive housing program to meet a wide range of unique needs and provide life-changing hope.

- 67,416 safe nights of rest
- 829 served in Elizabeth Inn Shelter
- 286 served in diverse housing programs, including programs serving those who are permanently disabled, veterans, single mothers and people in need of brief housing support to assist in moving to independence
- Cold weather shelter

"After four years as a volunteer at MUST I can tell you that an ounce of effort at MUST goes farther in helping those in need than an ounce of effort at any other organization."

- John Longino

A photograph of a Black man in a white long-sleeved shirt standing in a kitchen. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. His hands are on a metal handle, possibly a door or a large appliance. The background shows kitchen cabinets and a window.

ACCESS to employment

Earning a livable wage is the answer to many of life's financial struggles. MUST's comprehensive employment program provides coaching and training to help more people move from instability to stability – empowering them to find meaningful employment and the dignity of providing for their families.

- 595 people found employment through MUST, amounting to \$9.3 million in earnings returned to the local economy
- Step Up Your Game, an innovative employment training program designed to teach necessary job search and interview skills to help people succeed.
- ServSafe certification provides access to careers in the food industry
- OSHA training and certification provides valuable skillsets in the areas of workplace safety, forklift operation, construction and warehousing

ACCESS to clothing



Clothing is a basic need, yet affordable clothing is a challenge for those in poverty. Appropriate interview attire, school clothes and shoes, warm winter and seasonal clothing, work boots and other clothing items are vital for success and personal dignity. Three clothes closets and a thrift store called MUST Marketplace are resources reaching thousands of people in search of clothing.

- 15,192 people came to MUST for clothes and 360,443 articles of clothing were distributed
- More than 3,800 children received new underwear, socks, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, school supplies, books and toys at the MUST Toy Shops in Cobb and Cherokee, thanks to the generosity of the community.

"I believe our natural, human, tendency is to be selfish. My service at MUST Ministries provides me an opportunity to stay grounded in humility and provide at least a small amount of hope to people who so desperately need our help." – **Barry Kubler**

ACCESS to compassion

The commitment and compassion of volunteers and staff form the heart of MUST Ministries. A volunteer-driven charity, individuals, churches, corporations, civic clubs, sports teams, scouts and others work together to serve others.

- MUST utilized the talents of 9,842 volunteers for a total of 165,184 hours last year.

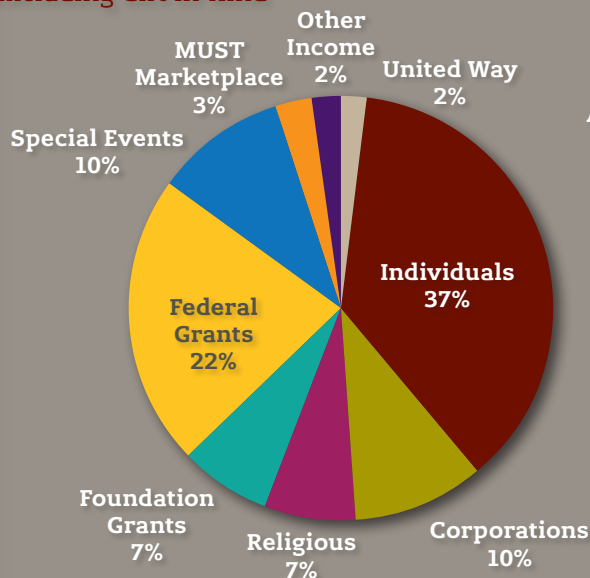
"Prompted by Deuteronomy 15:11 which states, "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.", I began to volunteer at MUST Ministries four years ago. I love the servant's heart of this organization and its desire to respond to the call of God in Deuteronomy. The dedication and compassion of those who work and serve at MUST is palpable. I leave each week grateful for the opportunity to play a small role in MUST's important mission to meet the needs of our community." – **Rion Flynn**

Treating those we serve with compassion and dignity is valued at MUST. Our programs are designed to offer hope in an environment of love and respect.



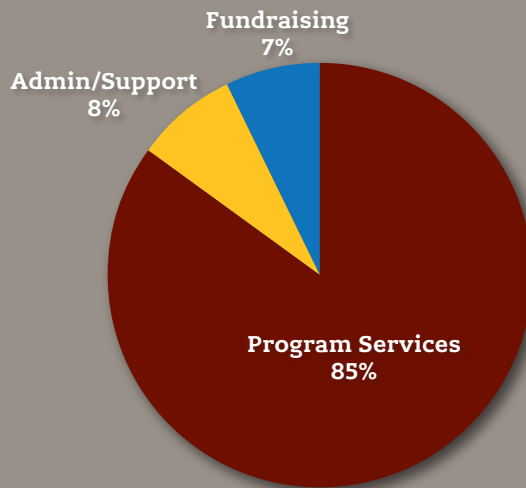
SOURCES OF INCOME

Excluding Gift-in-Kind



Contributions/Special Events	3,189,012
Gift-in-Kind	3,553,891
Federal/Foundation Grants	1,355,346
Other Revenue	245,536
Total Revenue	\$ 8,343,785

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES



Program Services	6,804,744
Admin/Support	628,911
Fundraising	556,589
Total Expense	\$ 7,990,244

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Governor Roy Barnes
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 Drew Shambarger
 Dan Styf
 Ryne Van Gorp
 Vaughn Williams
 Carol Wisdom
 Monte Wilson



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MUST Ministries is a faith-based 501(C) 3 organization serving 34,000 people in poverty each year. MUST provides food, housing, employment services and clothing to men, women and children.
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