



2023 Impacts Statement

Mission:

Saline Area Social Service (SASS) provides food, emergency assistance, and support to those in need in the Saline community. We aim to build a stronger community of neighbors helping neighbors.

Purpose:

Nearly 100% community-funded, SASS is the only organization in Saline that provides comprehensive aid services, including food for up to 15 meals every week and emergency assistance, to community members in need.

The Neighbors We Serve:

During the 2023 calendar year, SASS served 626 people; 40% of SASS clients were children, 26% were seniors, and 20% have a disability. For approximately a quarter of registered SASS clients, English is not their first language. Our clients reside within the boundaries of the Saline Area School District or have children attending Saline Area Schools and fall within 185% of the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Our Impact:

Decreased food & household goods insecurity:

- Distributed food 4,021 times, equaling 150,363 meals.
- Delivered groceries to homebound seniors and families 901 times.
- Provided 178 people with assistance for 815 prescription co-pays.
- Provided back-to-school items for 115 students and provided 75 students with new shoes.
- Provided 65 children with winter boots and snowpants.
- Helped 2 families avoid eviction, 2 families avoid utility shutoff, and 1 family with temporary housing.
- Helped 2 individuals with car repairs so they can maintain employment or go to doctor appointments.
- Provided 9 individuals and families with gas cards for work and medical appointments.

Increased the quality of life for those that SASS serves through strategic partnerships:

- Provided 67 referrals to partner aid organizations for additional assistance or services.
- Sponsored 7 students in enrichment activities, such as art, music, drama, and sports.
- Continued funding weekly mental health assistance for up to 5 at-risk students every trimester, expanding aid to students at the middle school and alternative high school.

Engaged the community:

- Received 198,018 pounds of food donations, valued at \$298,539.
- Received 8,510 hours of volunteer and in-kind services, valued at \$270,618.
- Received \$95,713 in food and supplies for special programs, such as holiday aid, back-to-school, and winter gear.

Our 2023 financial overview:

For every \$1 in cash expenditures in 2023, there was \$1.17 in food, volunteer and donated services raised to support programs and our organization.

Our 2024 goals:

- Continue to provide food, emergency aid, and support for those in need in the Saline community.
- Provide mentorship and support to help the parents of the families we serve increase earning capacity and overcome generational cycles of poverty.
- Advocate for students and do all we can to ensure the children we serve graduate from high school and enroll in trade school or college.
- Work to overcome language barriers to better serve our clients that do not speak English.