NW COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRYNOTES

SUMMER | 2026



Judith Ingram
Founder and
Director, NWCF

A message from Judith Ingram, NWCF Founder and Director

One year after NW Community Food moved into our new home behind the UDC Law School, we are serving more neighbors than ever before. We have signed up 1,000 new guests to the pantry and now serve nearly 400 people each week.

We're grateful that our larger space enables us to nourish so many more people. However, growth also brings new challenges. To keep our shelves and freezers stocked, we need a steady source of funding.

As in any household, predictable income helps us plan ahead. Recurring monthly or quarterly donations allow us to budget with confidence, regularly purchase the basic items our guests require—such as toilet paper, toothpaste, and cleaning supplies—and respond quickly when unexpected needs arise. Recurring gifts provide a foundation for everything we do. They represent ongoing confidence in and support for our work. And they help ensure that our neighbors can count on us year-round.

In the past three years, NWCF's monthly donors have nearly quadrupled, from eight people in 2023 to 31 in 2026. In 2025, monthly donations comprised nearly one-third of funds raised from online giving. These donors are a

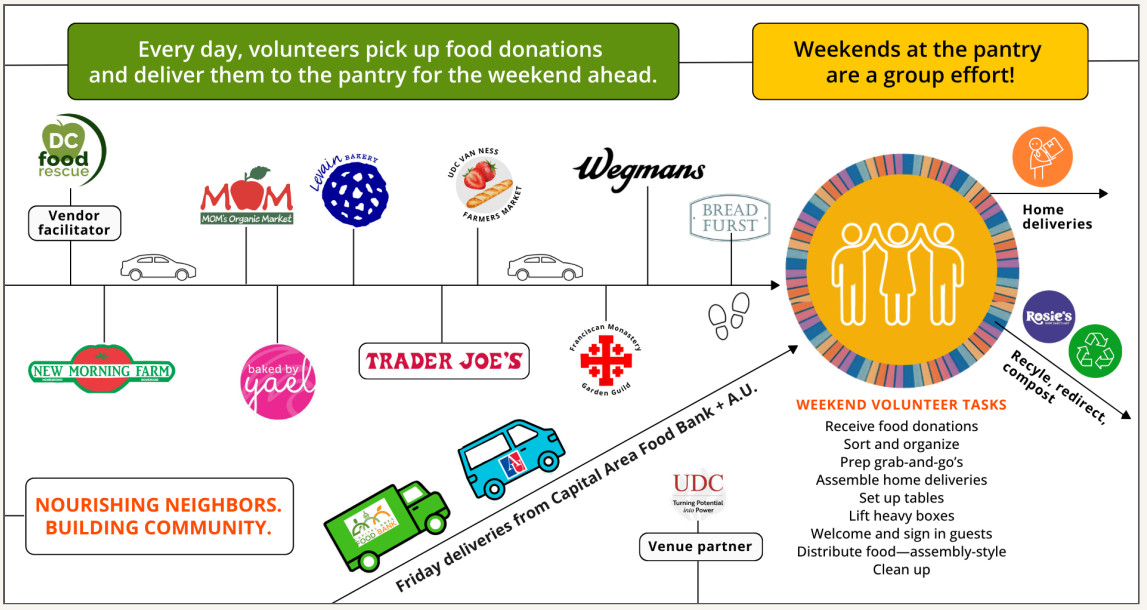
small but mighty force and critical to our mission.

Whether you donate once a year or once a month, we appreciate your generosity. Your commitment makes food security possible for hundreds of families every week. If you'd like to join the community of sustaining donors, please sign up here. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a lasting difference.

— Judy

PLEASE DONATE

From store to shelf to table



For many guests and volunteers, it's a mystery how NW Community Food manages to provide fresh produce, dairy products, protein, baked goods, household supplies, and pantry staples to nearly 400 households, week in, week out.

The answer is simple: an extraordinary network of partners, donors, and volunteers—and a lot of driving.

As soon as distribution ends on Sunday afternoon, the work of restocking begins. Starting Monday morning, our dedicated volunteers fan out across the region, collecting food and supplies that will soon make their way into our neighbors' homes.

Each week, thousands of pounds of food are donated, rescued *(thanks to our partnership with DC Food Rescue)*, purchased, or gleaned from local farms and farmers markets. Here's a peek behind the scenes:

MONDAY + TUESDAY

We pick up roughly 200 pounds of bread, protein, and dairy products from **MOM's Organic Market** to begin stocking the pantry for the weekend ahead. MOM's makes a sizable donation to NWCF every day.

WEDNESDAY + THURSDAY

At **Trader Joe's** in Friendship Heights, our volunteers collect 1,000-2,000 pounds of fresh produce, breads, prepared meals, eggs, chicken, and other items. We also scout deals and sales at local retailers to purchase cleaning and hygiene supplies.

FRIDAY

The **Capital Area Food Bank** delivers 2,000-3,000 pounds of food, including fresh produce, frozen chicken, and canned food. **American University** regularly delivers food donations.

SATURDAY + SUNDAY

Volunteers collect seasonal fruits and vegetables from local farmers markets, including **New Morning Farm** and the **UDC Farmers Market**. They also pick up fresh-baked goods from **Levain Bakery** and **Baked by Yael**, and receive donations of bread and pastries from **Bread Furst**.

A caravan of volunteers packs their cars with 1,000–2,000 pounds of weekly donations from **Wegmans** and brings them to the pantry. Volunteers then unpack boxes and organize the inventory. On Sunday morning, they arrange the items on outdoor tables so guests can “shop” efficiently. When we close our doors, the weekly rounds begin all over again.

By the time the pantry opens for distribution at 1 pm on Sunday, our guests see tables overflowing with field-fresh produce, meats, eggs, prepared foods, baked goods, canned foods, and household supplies. What they may not see is the remarkable community effort it takes to ensure that no neighbor goes hungry.

** Food Rescue DC partners: Trader Joe's, UDC Farmers Market, Levain Bakery, Baked by Yael, and Wegmans.*

Happy birthday!

NWCF turned 5 last month! Thanks to everyone who helped us celebrate.







NWCF/Temple Sinai partner on deliveries

NWCF has just launched a new program in partnership with Temple Sinai and Food Justice DMV to broaden our reach by delivering fresh produce, pantry staples, milk, and diapers to homebound families throughout Maryland and DC.

Interested in joining our team of delivery drivers?

LEARN MORE

Goodness by the pound



APRIL
MANGOS



MAY
APPLES



JUNE
CORN



"I see the direct impact the pantry makes every week from the smiles and thanks we get during distribution."

We love our volunteers

When she moved to DC from Illinois, Jaimie wanted to connect with her new community and now looks forward to her Sundays at NWCF, where she is a regular on the protein team.

A cancer researcher, Jaimie understands the link between food and health—as well as the precariousness of living paycheck to paycheck. While in college, she lost a full paycheck after having to miss work and then struggled to afford groceries. "I realized it does not take much for someone to experience food insecurity."

UDC is our lifeline: Thank you for your partnership

NWCF would not have made it to its fifth birthday without the generous support of the University of the District of Columbia. UDC has anchored NWCF's operations by providing us with rent-free space and supporting us in a variety of ways.

UDC President Maurice D. Edington says the relationship fits squarely into the school's mission: "Public service is central to who we are. A university should be an active partner in strengthening the community it serves." Edington is impressed with how the pantry has grown to meet changing community needs while remaining committed to serving people with dignity. Every time he visits, he's struck by how pantry volunteers know many of the guests by name, and how guests are always treated with respect and compassion.



"NWCF reflects the very best of this neighborhood and the many people who make the pantry possible. Their work reminds us that strengthening our city is a shared responsibility."

—Maurice D. Edington, PhD
President, UDC

Want to help? We'd love it!



DONATE

Your financial support keeps shelves stocked and our fridges full.



BRING FOOD

Drop off non-perishable items and household supplies on Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-3pm.



VOLUNTEER

Sign up to join our volunteer team—sorting food, greeting guests, or making home deliveries.

Unsubscribe

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