

TOPSS 2024

A New Beginning



TOPSS Background



- **TOPSS Mission:** to alleviate hunger and support the nutrition-related well-being of those in need in the Talawanda School District
- Provide food needs through a variety of services – curbside, delivery, pickup, in-person shopping
- Guests can shop once a week and choose items according to their needs and preferences.
- TOPSS also provides nutrition support to the community through nutrition education programs and food items that meet special dietary needs.

FRC Background



- **FRC Mission:** to create a safe and healthy community by advocating for those in need and connecting them to resources and services
- Homeless services – temporary sheltering, referrals, finding housing
- Homeless Prevention – emergency assistance with rent, utilities, supportive services like assistance for prescriptions, gas vouchers, Id's and birth certificates.
- Benefits Applications – food stamps, Medicaid, energy assistance, etc

FRC Organized Cold Shelter Programs

From 2019 to 2021, the FRC offered organized sheltering programs

- During winter, the FRC had a six-room block at the Butler Inn from November 1st to February 28th.

2020 Shelter Stats

- Operated at 106% capacity
 - November 63%
 - December 116%
 - January 99%
 - February 138%
 - March 117%
- The largest age group was 40 to 59
- Longest stay 100 nights, shortest 1 night, average 26.7 nights
- 78.5% Caucasian, 19.5% African American, 2% Latino
- We were able to house around 13 families/single persons

2022

- There was no official shelter program; however, 11 individuals and families were still temporarily sheltered.



Transitional Housing

- The FRC managed transitional housing for three years
- This consisted of two housing units and two large families



FRC Housing Related Services

Eviction Prevention & New Housing

- FRC and church coalition
 - Over \$1000 in rent & utility assistance per year per household.
- Warren /Butler County Metro Housing – Region 14 Partnership
- HCRP
 - Over 53 individuals & families in TSD since 2019
- Bridges Program
 - 2 families served

Permanent Supportive Housing

- YWCA-Goodman Place
 - 3 individual women served

Residential mental health

- CDP

Shelter Plus Care program voucher

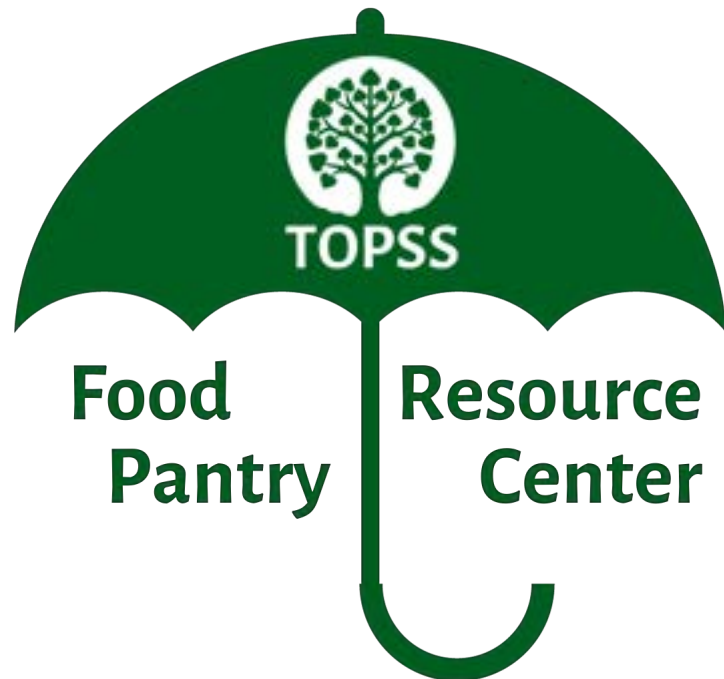
- 3 individuals/families served
- Working with other shelter programs
 - PATH
 - Family Promise
 - Serve City



FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTER

Stronger together

As of April 1, 2024, we are one organization!



Our Combined Board

Suzy Hummel, Board Chair

T.J. Meloy, Vice Chair

Kristi Princell, Treasurer

Tyler Wash, Secretary

Diana Byrd, Former TOPSS Pantry Board Chair

Nathan Simmons, Former FRC Board Chair

Board Members at Large:

Brenda Allen

Sue Cameron

Stephanie Jones

Kate Kovalanka

Jeremy Levine

Mark Macechko

Susan Marcum

Chrissy Rolfes

Linda Simmons

TOPSS Staff

Sherry Martin, Executive Director

Nicola Rodrigues, Director of Social Services

Grace Flannery, Social Services Intern

Maggie Lubbers, Pantry Intern

Abby Berhalter, Pantry Intern

Sydney Shelly, Pantry Intern

Virginia Willard, Pantry Intern

Liz Schroeder, Pantry Intern

Brian Joyce, Treasured Volunteer Staff



TOPSS Cold Shelter Program 2024

- TOPSS received \$15,000 from the City of Oxford to offer emergency cold sheltering in local hotels for cold nights between Jan 5th and Feb. 29th.
- On Feb. 29th, we still had \$8,000 left and the city allowed us to extend sheltering.
- During the extension, a few households we already served were evicted, and the \$8,000 went quickly. Kiwanis gave us another \$4,000 to help pay for hotel expenses. The last family left the hotels on Tuesday, May 14th.

- 25 people sheltered in 12 rooms.
- 7 Single Adults
- 1 Couple
- 4 single parents
- 12 children



Sheltering Considerations

- We cannot force housing on those who do not desire it.
- The people we work with are not ignorant; they have a different intelligence and skill set than us.
- From our standpoint, many of the people who desire to regain housing succeed; it just takes longer than we'd like. Affordable housing is short, and waitlists are long.



Sheltering Considerations Continued

People bring their baggage from homelessness to shelters with them.

- Lack of income or sufficient income to cover housing costs.
- Varying degrees of mental health issues. All of which can make sheltering challenging.
- Struggles with substance use
- History of eviction, violent criminal records, registered sex offenders, etc.
- Refusal to be separated from pets





Our Vision

Become the community hub making it easier for our neighbors in need to access many of the local social service organizations by creating a campus of services.

Combined Mission: TOPSS connects individuals and families in the Talawanda School District to the most essential resources and supports them toward self-sustenance and overall well-being.

What's next in 2024?



Align our organizations



Create committees



Complete the design process for our building and begin the engineering stage



Identify additional “wrap around” services



Evaluate the organization

What's next in 2025 and Beyond?

- Wrap up construction on the new building.
- Continuing “wrap around” services.
- Provide even better customer service and hospitality to create an exceptional experience for our clients.
- Increase our presence in the community



Our Vision for the new building

- Showers
- Laundry
- Computer stations
- A campus that includes
 - A place to eat hot meals
 - Phone charging stations
 - Tornado Shelter
 - Resources from partner agencies



A few of our current community partners

- Butler County
- Butler County United Way
- Butler Metropolitan Housing
- City of Oxford
- Coalition for Healthy Community
- Hope Cooperative
- Kiwanis Club of Oxford
- Lions Club of Oxford
- McCullough-Hyde Foundation
- Miami University
- OASH

- Oxford Church Coalition
- Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice (OCPJ)
- Oxford Community Foundation
- Oxford Masons
- Oxford Seniors
- People United for Self Help (PUSH)
- SELF
- Talawanda School District
- Thread Up Oxford
- Warren Metropolitan Housing

What can you do for TOPSS?

Pantry

- Send us your used grocery bags
- Send us food & hygiene items

Housing

- If you rent property, keep your rent affordable and rent without discrimination.
- If you know landlords, talk to them and advocate for affordable rent. Encourage them to rent without discrimination.
- Advocate for affordable housing at the city, county, state, and federal levels.

TOPSS

- Send us your used shoes for our annual fundraiser
- Financially support TOPSS programs and operations.
- Continue to advocate at all levels for the disadvantaged in our community and for those who do professional work for them.

Where else can you fit in story of TOPSS?

Volunteer!

- Become a TOPSS Committee member
- Help us distribute food during curbside shopping
- Deliver food boxes
- Assist with picking up food rescue from local stores
- Come over and clean or organize
- Help us stock shelves
- Help us unload delivery trucks
- Help with data entry
- Represent TOPSS at an event
- And more!



Questions?

