

# Thriving Through Change



the canby center  
el centro de canby



# Annual Report 2020

# Thriving Through Change



Ray Keen  
Executive Director

No one would willingly choose to be shrouded in the dark days of 2020. None of us would choose Covid-19 lockdowns, economic decay, racial violence, ravaging wildfires, and contested elections. Most of us would look for any other way through the last year than the way we travelled. Restrictions imposed to keep us safe have cost people their livelihood. Unemployment skyrocketed in the first wave of shutdowns and has plateaued to around double the number before Covid-19. Projections indicate that by January 2021 roughly 125,000 Oregonians will teeter on the edge of eviction with \$300 million in unpaid rent.

The Canby Center was made for years like 2020. Birthed by five churches amid the financial crisis

***“The Canby Center  
was made for  
years like 2020.”***

of 2008, a deepening well of compassion led people in the pews to stand up and take a cup of water to their thirsty neighbors. The focal point of our mission is God’s love. This love compels us to do the work even if it requires sacrifice;

we can’t imagine doing anything else. At The Canby Center we look for and move towards those most effected by challenges, walking with our neighbors through life’s pain.

This love expressed through His son Jesus Christ’s sacrifice is the model for the love and service we engage in at The Canby Center every day. This love for people is how we have thrived through the changes of 2020.

Our team of eight staff, over 400 volunteers, and more than 900 donors served and loved the people God brought to us. Through rooms overflowing with food, a growing base of volunteers and staff, and parking spaces filled with refrigerated containers, we were able to meet thousands of people in their moment of greatest need! Out of God’s love we were able to provide:

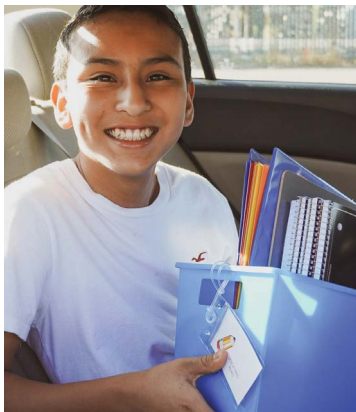
- 14,390 service touchpoints for youth and families in the Canby area,
- 888,960 lbs representing over \$1.4 million dollars worth of nutritious food distributed to hungry families (more than at any other time in our history!),
- 942 hours of one-on-one reading with emerging learners through Reading Mentors,
- quality clothing to 1,798 guests,
- and free meals available for pick-up four days a week, even during the wildfires.

Our mission, “In God’s love, we renew dignity and inspire learning for youth and families,” found new expression through the year. Forklifts, pallet jacks, refrigerated shipping containers, and assembly lines reinforced the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. The generosity of our donors helped us thrive through the changes of 2020. The year began with the fear of budget shortfalls but ended with roughly double the contributions from about double the number of donors!



Community partnerships also thrived this year. **The Rotary Club of Canby** and **Canby School District** connected with us to provide school supplies to 281 low-income students and 100 desks for students learning at home. Elisa, whose student received a desk, wrote this in response:

“Thank you for all you do for the community to help us, especially at this time, and please thank the people who gave us the desks!”



2021 is sure to have it's trials. We are projecting that the economic ripples from Covid-19, will be felt by the youth and families we serve far into 2022, if not beyond. Therefore we are preparing to serve additional people in increasing measure.

We are purchasing more refrigeration and storage space for food. We are expanding outreach efforts to let people know about the services we provide.

Already we've seen God's care for the future of young people in Canby. Thanks to a grant awarded by **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust** we plan to launch **Growing Together** in the Fall of 2021. This new program is designed to develop competency and character in academically challenged youth while fostering communication and resiliency within their families.

The Canby Center continues to be a hub of people caring for neighbors. Thank you for being a part of God's care for people!

## 2020 Services

Number of Cases		Value of Services
71	Dental/Vision	\$28,486
977	Educational	\$39,123
1,798	Clothing	\$134,768
148	Housing	\$179,791
11,396	Food	\$1,477,819
<b>14,390</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,859,987</b>

# Responding to Covid

The pandemic has shown us just how resilient we can be! Our staff and devoted volunteers were asked to pivot and restructure again and again in order to keep serving despite evolving obstacles that came our way.

The **Thriving Together** program shifted many times in the first weeks and months of Covid-19 shutdowns. Instead of inviting members to shop for groceries during Harvest Share, faithful volunteers worked throughout the week to assemble ready-packed food boxes available for pickup twice a week. Families in need of like-new, quality clothing and blankets were scheduled to shop by appointment only.



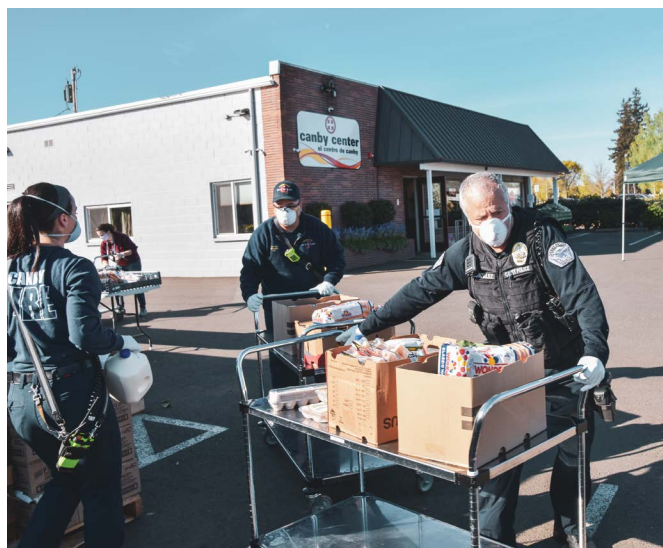
## Food Pantry Participants



We were serving an average of 60 families a week before Covid-19; our numbers skyrocketed to an average of 250 families a week!

Despite the uncertainties all around us, we were able to keep meeting real needs in our community, sometimes at a moment's notice. Our goal in everything was to keep volunteers and members safe while continuing to deliver the care and support needed like never before.

The weeks turned to months and economic uncertainties loomed ever larger as we welcomed new members to our programs with open arms. Having experienced layoffs or reduced hours, the most urgent need was putting food on the table for their families. Prior to Covid-19, we were distributing food to our members twice a month. In order to accommodate the number of new members and increased needs of all, our food distribution shifted to twice a week!





# Changing Daily Operations

The Canby Center's daily operations have shifted monthly (and at times weekly or daily!) as we found new and creative ways to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We switched from a hot lunch served daily to bagged lunches available for pick-up. Bulk food donations from **Dave's Killer Bread, Martinez Family Farms, Bob's Red Mill, Winco**, and others filled our storage to overflowing! Pallet after pallet stacked with fresh, nutritious food made it necessary for us to invest

**888,960 lbs. of food distributed.**

in refrigerated and dry storage containers. Watching our volunteers put food into the hands of the hungry brought me great joy!



Linda Rasor  
Senior Program Manager

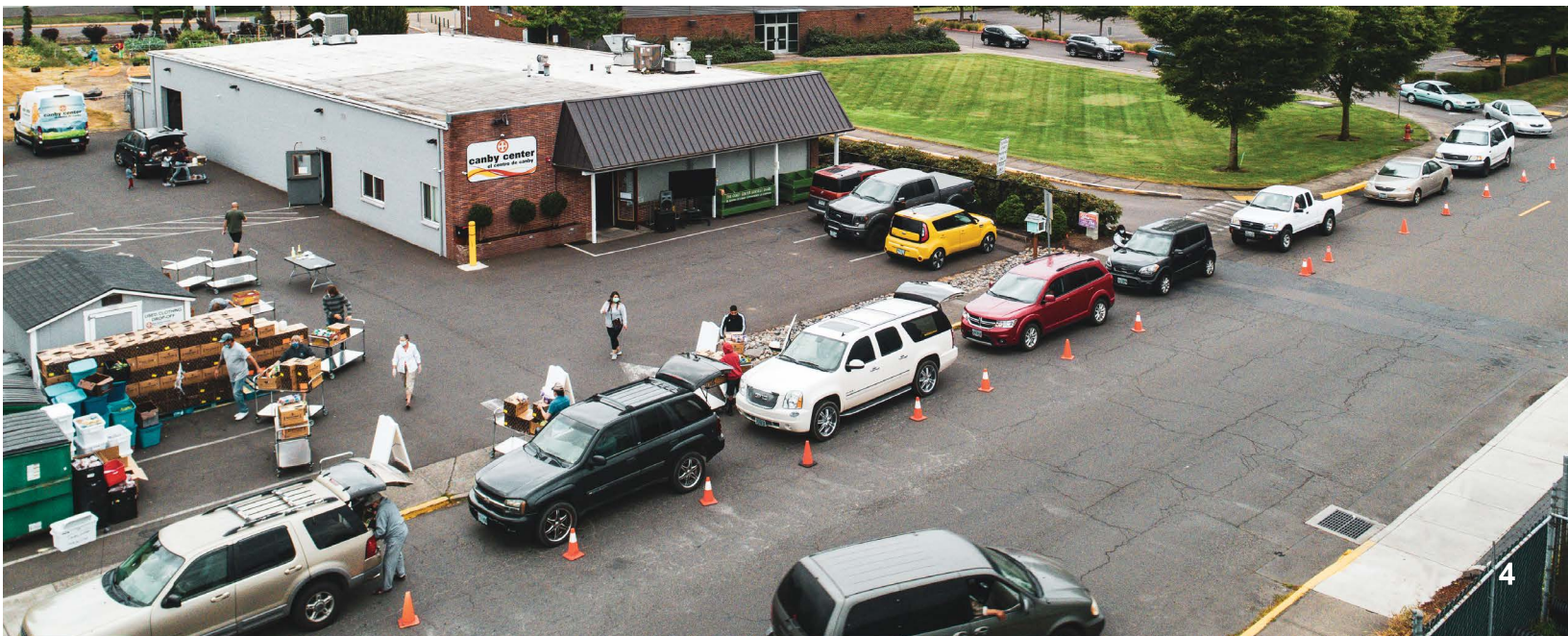
In early November we distributed funds from **The City of Canby** to families who had fallen behind on rent and utility payments due to Covid-19. "I have never had to ask for help like this," many would say, "but we have no other options." I assured them that they had come to the right place! I sat across from a single mom who was afraid for her children and where their next meal would come from.

I listened to her hopes and fears; we shared about our families and common experiences and trust began to shine through. For a beautiful moment her troubles were forgotten as her face glowed with joy on hearing these words: "We can help you with rent and back rent too!" It has been our privilege to witness time and time again the joy of lifting financial burdens! Families hit the hardest by Covid-19 came for help and left with peace for today and hope for a better future.

**\$179,791 given in rent and utilities assistance.**

Many of our regular guests were plunged into survival mode and new faces came through our doors. Greeted with a warm smile and, "How can we help you?" In addition to meeting real, physical needs, these neighbors found a listening ear, support through prayer, and encouragement to know they are not alone!

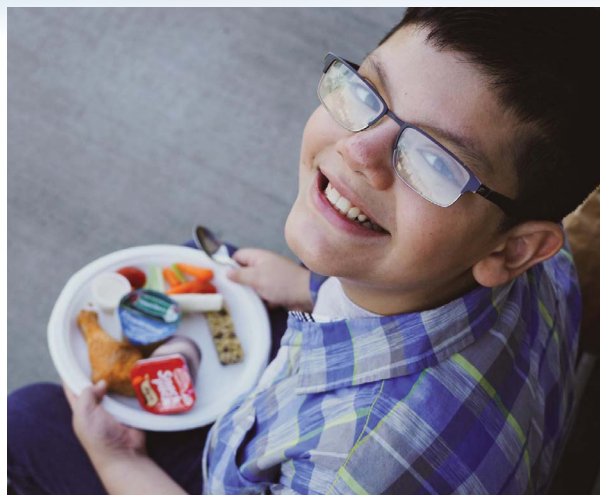
*Linda*





# Bringing Relief

For over ten years The Canby Center has brought relief to food-insecure students through **Backpack Buddies**, a weekly food distribution program for students who would otherwise go hungry over the weekends. We had to pause Backpack Buddies when Canby's schools moved to virtual classrooms in mid-March. Through the summer and fall we worked with the District to connect students with nutritional food. Pivoting from one challenge to the next, our volunteers have been able to safely pack and deliver food bags to Baker Prairie Middle School which were then distributed directly to students' homes by the **Canby School District**.



It was with a heavy heart that we paused our successful **Reading Mentors** program. Participating students gain invaluable reading and communication skills and mentors have the opportunity to make a life-long impact for good through genuine care in relationships. Once Canby schools can reopen safely, we plan to relaunch the Reading Mentors program.

A month into the school year it came to our attention that many Canby students were struggling to learn from home because of limited space and resources. The Canby Center partnered with the **Canby Rotary Club** to design, build, and distribute desks to 100 Canby students. Together, we inspired learning for those who needed a designated space at home to study through the pandemic and beyond!



Though we did not see the sun's rays for many days, love and provision broke through at The Canby Center during the wildfire emergency. Supported by churches, businesses and volunteers, we offered supplies and comfort to evacuees. People fled with only the clothes on their backs and sought help at The Canby Center. With only a few hours to prepare hundreds of lunches for hungry neighbors, we called on volunteers for help and were amazed by eager community members who filled every volunteer slot in record time! The Clackamas

County Fairground, its facilities transformed into a livestock and RV evacuation site, was filled to capacity. The Canby Center was ready to provide emergency boxes filled with nutritious food for anyone in need.

No one anticipated just how the wildfires would alter our lives. Blessed with the resources, connections, and volunteers to accomplish our mission, The Canby Center brought relief to fearful families.

# Serving Through Change

## **“Why do you volunteer at The Canby Center?”**

I've lived in Canby for decades, raising my family here. There is a genuine sense of community at The Canby Center that's hard to shake. Volunteering gives me a reason to get up and get going; my work there is the reason I am motivated to stay healthy and active. Connecting with others and using my skills to bless the community gives me a sense of belonging.

My beloved friend, Winona, connected me to the work The Canby Center is doing. Her enthusiasm sparked my curiosity. And let me tell you, the moment I walked through these doors I felt this was a place I wanted to be! Since that first day I've enjoyed making lunches and meeting new people. I've developed meaningful relationships with people who need a good meal and a friend who will listen. The Canby Center community of staff, volunteers, and members have become like a family to me. I love every minute of it. I am so grateful to my friend for connecting me and especially to Linda who supervises my work. Not only did Linda recognize my need for fellowship and friendship, but she trusts me to do this important task. I have found such great joy serving my community in this way - one lunch and one changed life at a time (mine included!).

Volunteering at The Canby Center completes who I am, so THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve!

*Jenny*



***“Volunteering at The Canby Center has brought renewed purpose to my life!”***



# Growing Through Change



Steve Nelson  
Development Manager

This year has been a story of amazing change and growth during an unforgettable time. In 2020 The Canby Center worked harder than ever, strengthened our support relationships in the community, served more local households than any previous year, and proved ourselves as a center for renewing dignity under any and all circumstances.

By mid-March it became clear that an ever-growing number of individuals and families would be looking to us for help. You can imagine our delight and deep gratitude when financial support given to The Canby Center bloomed to match our rising needs. Did you know that the dollar amount of donations we received each month from March through December were higher than any previous year? By the end of the year, we had received 562 first time gifts from generous people throughout the area. Monthly donors grew from 60 to 160 by the end of the year. This growth provided the sustainable revenue we needed in order to confidently plan for the future.

***“Bringing hope like never before!”***

In addition, widespread emergency response to the virus meant we were considered for and awarded grants from new trusts and foundations.

The Canby Center’s commitment to meet many of the basic needs of working poor and at-risk families was clear to these organizations and resources came our way. **Oregon Community Foundation** provided major support for our rent and utilities assistance needs. Grant awards from **Northwest Credit Services, DirectLink, Rotary Foundation, and The Roberts Foundation** brought increased opportunity to meet the growing needs. Program support from the **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Ford Family Foundation, Hoover Family Foundation, Juan Young Trust, Braemar Charitable Foundation, Autzen Foundation,** and others brought us sustaining resources to achieve our mission.



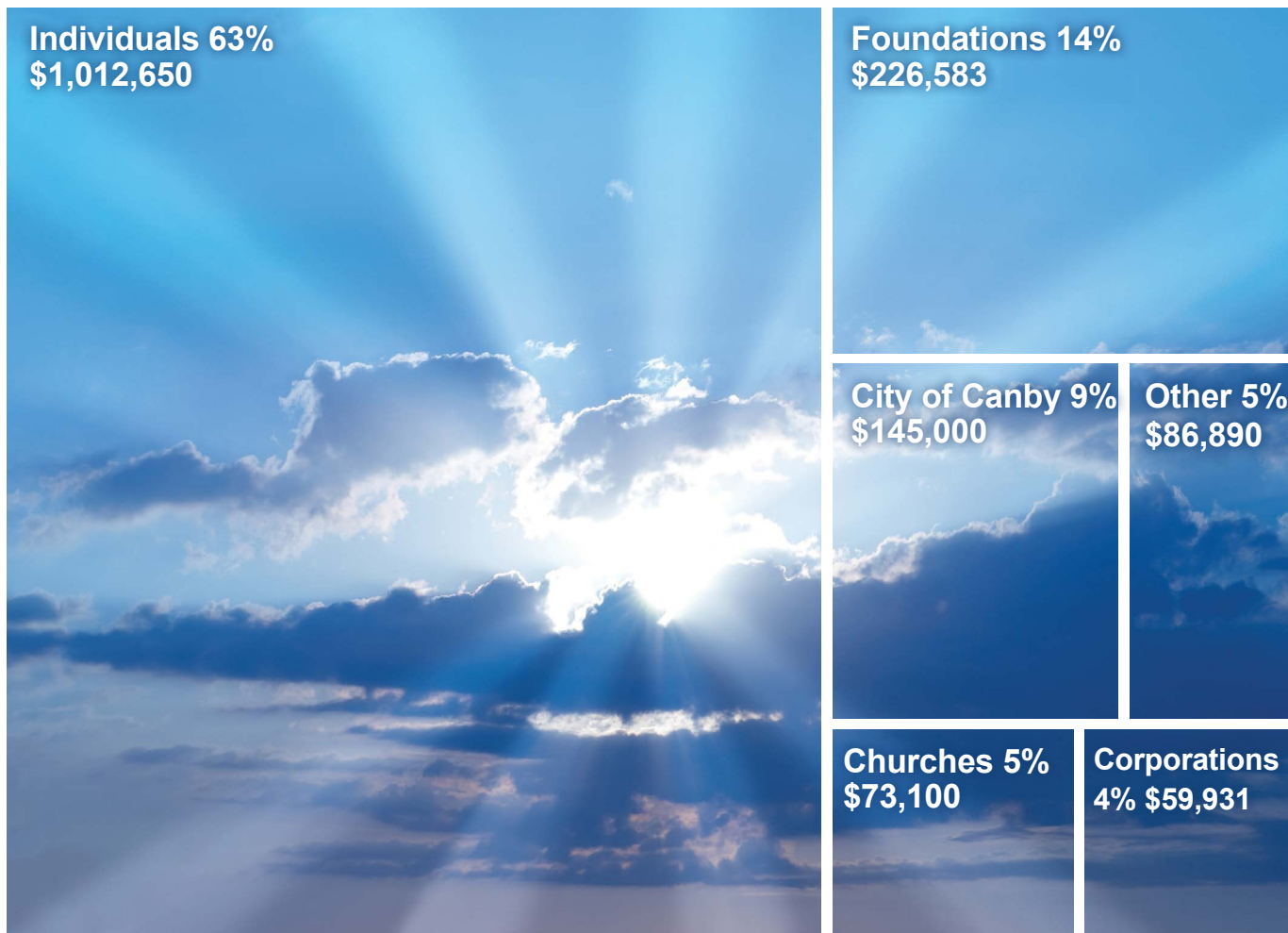
In a year like no other, The Canby Center brought hope like never before!

*Steve*



# 2020 Financials

## Revenue Resources



### REVENUE

2020

Individuals	\$	1,012,650	63%
Foundations	\$	226,583	14%
City of Canby	\$	145,000	9%
Other	\$	86,890	5%
Churches	\$	73,100	5%
Corporations	\$	59,931	4%
In-kind (non-cash)	\$	1,610,442	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,214,596</b>	

### EXPENSES

Program (Includes In-kind)	\$	2,203,374	89%
Administration	\$	67,550	3%
Fundraising	\$	202,428	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,473,352</b>	

NET Operating Income

**\$ 741,244**

# Growing The Team

One thing that distinguishes a good team from a great team is the ability to adapt to change. Laying down our expectations and plans is rarely easy but, if we've learned any timeless truths from the ups and downs of the past year it is this: the Lord knows our needs and has good plans. This was certainly true regarding staffing changes this year!

**Christina** joined our team in February to coordinate Thriving Together program expansion and improvements. Her enthusiasm and creativity have blessed many members and volunteers.

School closures in March brought our Reading Mentors program to an unexpected pause. Thanks to **Kathleen** and an incredible team of volunteers, students at Canby elementary schools were receiving weekly one-on-one reading support and quality time from a caring adult.

We were blessed to have **Nadine's** support in bookkeeping until her transition out in June, after which **Eva**, previously our Receptionist, joyfully stepped into the role of Bookkeeper.

Because of increased fundraising efforts, July brought the addition of **Macaela** as administrative assistant of Development.

The fall brought more changes as **Mimi** came aboard as the new Receptionist and we said farewell to hardworking **Axel**, our Facilities Associate now pursuing full time college studies. We are grateful for **Ivan** who has joined us to shoulder much of daily operations.

With eager and grateful hearts, we look forward to accomplishing the work put before us this year, together!

*Left to right: Ivan, Macaela, Steve, Mimi, Ray, Linda, Christina, and Eva.*





# *What Hasn't Changed*

**In a year marked by changes, some things remain the same at The Canby Center.**

**Our Mission:** When times are the hardest, our mission shines brightest. Renewing dignity for the most vulnerable has brought hope to thousands this year. Dignity can look like a new coat for winter or a free meal. Whether it's learning to work as part of a team, receiving instruction on basic life skills, or students getting help with schoolwork, we are making a difference by inspiring learning to all ages. God's love, as the source of all we do, reaches each person who comes to The Canby Center.

**Strong Leadership:** In 2020 we celebrated five years of excellent leadership from Ray Keen, our Executive Director. Under Ray's direction The Canby Center has experienced growth in revenue, facilities, programs, staffing, and impact in the community. Our board of directors, composed of key community leaders, has remained committed to meeting Canby's needs with solutions and resources that bring hope.

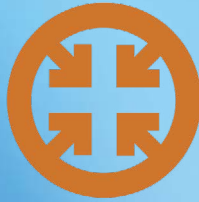
**Community Partnership:** We continued to partner with the **Canby School District, City of Canby, Canby Rotary, and Canby Kiwanis**, and local churches. It is through these diverse touch-points that The Canby Center continues to understand our community and its needs. We are, in every sense, a hub of activity and real hope for underserved and at-risk youth and families. Our vibrant relationships with community leaders, local businesses and organizations, as well as individuals enable us to give resources to our neighbors who need it most.



***“In God’s love, we renew  
dignity and inspire learning  
for youth and families.”***

CONTACT US

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# *You Can Help*

## *Volunteer*

Sort Clothing

Organize and Distribute Food

Become a Youth Mentor

## *Give*

Donate Online

Become a Monthly Donor

Include Us In Your Will

[www.thecanbycenter.org](http://www.thecanbycenter.org)