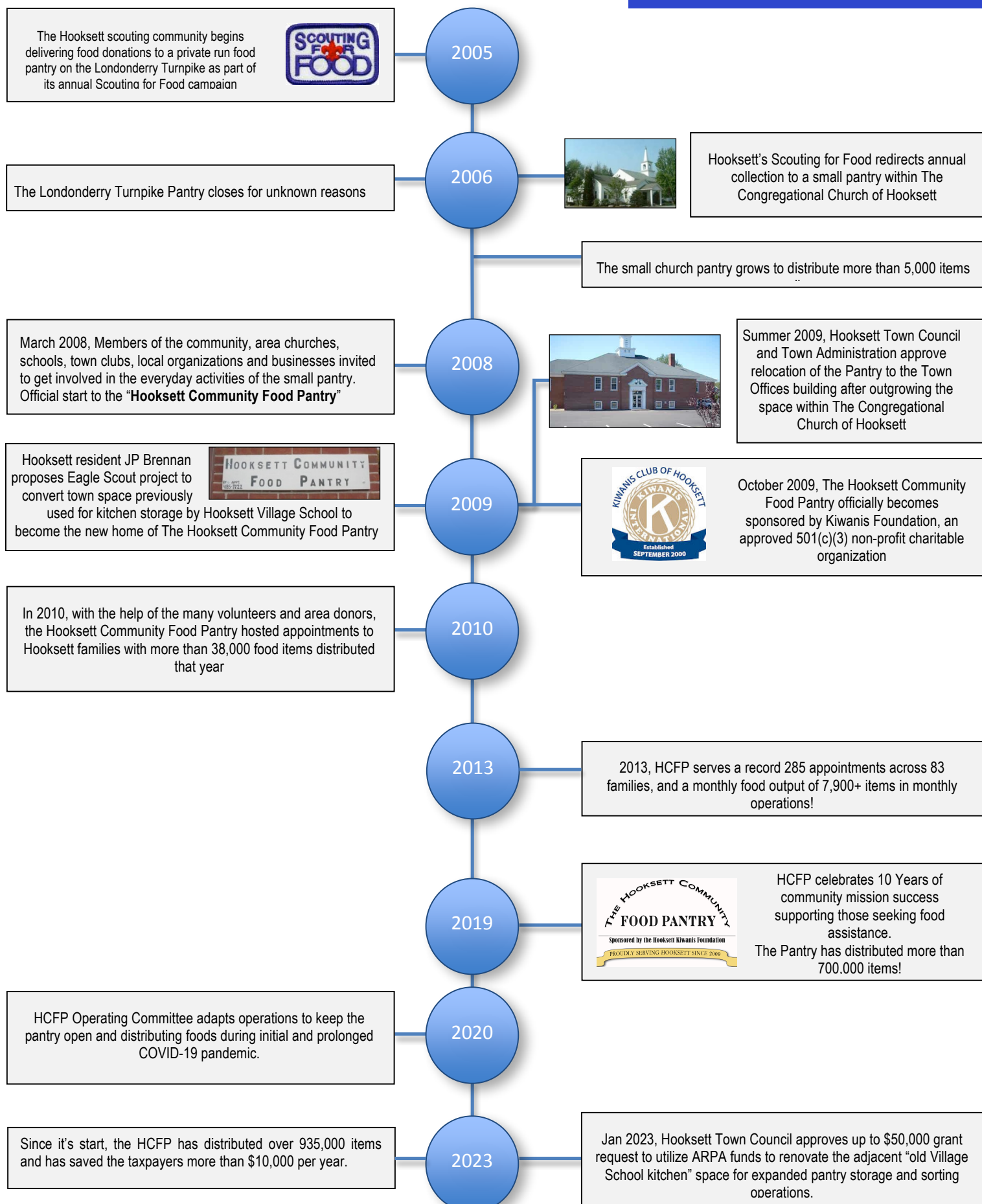


History of the HCFP



The Food Pantry in Hooksett originated as a project of the Congregational Church of Hooksett following closure of another area pantry in 2007. In March 2008, The Hooksett Community Food Pantry (HCFP) commenced with commitment of the Congregational Church and its parishioners, Holy Rosary Church and its parishioners, Hooksett Boy & Girl Scouts, and several community volunteers. Over that first year, clients using the services of the HCFP increased significantly which led to outgrowing of the available space.

Effective October 1, 2009, the Hooksett Kiwanis Foundation, took sponsorship of the HCFP as a long-term community service project. The HCFP was relocated from the Congregational Church basement to a dedicated space at the Hooksett Town Office building as part of an Eagle Scout project. The pantry continues to be organized and operated by community volunteers.

In 2010, the pantry provided more than 38,000 items to community members seeking food.

In 2013 the HCFP distributed more than 83,062 food items, an increase of 23% over the 2012 year prior. Across 2013 and 2014, HCFP set several record highs including hosting 285 appointments in a month, distributing food to 83 families, a monthly output of 7,900+ items, and more than 216 persons served including 83 children and 29 persons over 60.

In 2015, HCFP volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of their time sorting and distributing over 65,000 items to Hooksett families in need. The HCFP averages 200 appointments per month, serving an average of 74 families or 188 persons per month.

In 2019, HCFP celebrated 10 years and has distributed almost 700,000 food items!

In 2020, HCFP Operating Committee adapted processes and procedures to continue pantry operations and food distribution through the COVID-19 Pandemic. HCFP distributed over 76,000 food items to our Hooksett neighbors amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the modifications to our operating processes and continued dedication from our volunteers. We hosted an average of 150 socially distanced appointments each month by pre-packing items and placing them at our doorstep for curbside pickup.

In 2021, HCFP again distributed over 63,000 food items to our Hooksett neighbors amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We hosted an average of 126 appointments each month by still pre-packing items and placing them at our doorstep for curbside pickup. We provided food to an average of 84 individuals each month with approximately 20 being children. We additionally provided over 100 Hooksett families with food baskets in November and again in December.

In January 2023, Hooksett Town Council granted up to \$50,000 of ARPA funds to renovate the adjacent "old kitchen" space for expanded pantry storage and sorting operations.

Since it's start, the HCFP has distributed over 935,000 items and has saved the taxpayers more than \$10,000 per year.

The HCFP survives only on very generous donations of food and money from the community, and commodity foods from the USDA (every other month). We are open when Town Hall is open, and serve qualified clients by appointment. We have commercial grade freezers and refrigerators, and accept non-perishable/non-expired food items, fresh produce, dairy, meats, etc. We support Hooksett Family Services, the Holiday Food Basket program, Fun in the Sun summer program, and the Hooksett Salvation Army. The HCFP is always grateful for the generosity of the great Hooksett community.