



festa™

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



On our 14th birthday, March 3, 2021, SON Ministries changed our name to Festa to grow!

We chose a name that sounds like how our programs feel: like a party, with friendly faces and warm hospitality. While Festa is not an acronym, it makes it easy to share what we do and how we do it: **f**eed, **e**ducate, **s**erve, **t**rain and **a**ccredit.

We are investigating creating an accreditation program for communities that go through our

training that would help them run great programs to lift children and their families out of poverty, and the accreditation would help them raise resources to pay for it.

This rebrand will help us grow to bring our life changing, flagship programs like 3-Generation Family ESL and Free Summer Lunch Camps beyond a one-city ministry to become regional and national ministries, allowing us to serve more children, families, and communities.

Why now?

Physical and emotional hunger have reached record levels. People are divided, isolated and fearful. New Americans continue to pour into the United States. Central Ohio is currently home to 155,800 immigrants and refugees, and it doesn't end there.

- 10% of the population in Columbus, Ohio is foreign born – 275% increase over the last 30 years.
- 1 in 10 working-age adults in the USA have limited English proficiency; these adults earn 22-40% less than their English proficient peers.
- 166,880 individuals in Central Ohio are currently facing poverty; 19% (32,340) are immigrants.
- Due to urban gentrification and displacement there are more families living in poverty in suburban communities than urban communities since 2005.

Resettlement organizations step in for the first 90 days;

Festa steps in to support families for the next decade!

Each of these statistics represent real human beings who desperately need a supportive, encouraging community. New Americans especially need the education found at our one-of-a-kind 3-Generation Family ESL program. Each year this program fills up on the very first night with 400-580 people then we start a waiting list. Therefore, we need to continue to grow by scaling, replicating and teaching communities to run this same program across the country. Neighboring communities are asking and we want to say yes!

The best part of this year for me as founder was watching campers who started with us as far back as 2008 grow into amazing young adults. My own daughter even joined our Central Staff and I've been blessed to work with her every single day! Other grown campers worked or volunteered for us this summer while pursuing college degrees, joining the military and entering the work world. I am eternally blessed to be in relationship with them after 10+ years and so very proud to see them thriving!

The time is NOW – to bring communities together, to serve our neighbors. Join us as we grow during this extraordinary time in history!

Kim Emch

Founder and Executive Director

OUR MISSION

is ending poverty through life-changing relationships with neighbors and God.

OUR VALUES

- › **PEOPLE** are our priority – **RELATIONSHIPS** are our goal.
- › We see each person **CREATED** in **GOD's** own image; each has a purpose and a voice.
- › We build up **COMMUNITY** one respectful, empowering relationship at a time.
- › We bring **HOPE** to children and families in need by connecting them to people, resources and a hand up.
- › We nurture **DREAMS** to alleviate poverty.
- › Through **PARTNERSHIPS**, we strive together for the **BEST** for our community.
- › We are **INSPIRED** by the unexpected...join us!

F

Feed



E

Educate



S

Serve



T

Train



A

Accredit





2021 Year

1,501 

children served

6% more than previous year

46

zip 
codes



949

families served

30% more than previous year

62 

countries
of origin

17,593

meals served



SINCE 2007

163,555

meals served

Year in Review



603

total unique
volunteers



festaTM



11,011

total
volunteer
hours

117

times
connecting
families
to resources



PROGRAM PARTICIPANT STORY



In 2008, I was just finishing second grade. Without much to do during the summer due to having two working parents, my mother signed me up for the “Free Summer Lunch Program” organized by SON Ministries (now known as Festa). My younger sister and I have always been best friends, so we were ready to face a new environment side by side. To our surprise, **everyone welcomed us with open arms and open hearts**, and the rest was history.

We continued our time at camp year after year, gaining many life-long friendships and experiences. During my senior year of high school, I helped found Festa's Youth Board and became the president! **I learned so much about working with my community** in the most helpful ways possible, and these lessons have followed me through to my senior year of college.

This past year, my relationship with the Free Summer Lunch Program came full circle; I was hired to lead one of the summer camp sites! This role was exciting, meaningful, and most of all fun. **I finally got to be the one accepting children from all walks of life with open arms and an open heart.** I gained so many friendships with my staff and all of the children, especially our teen interns or ‘orange shirts’ as we affectionately call them. Going into this new school year, I decided to join the Youth Board again, this time as an adult leader and advisor. I am currently studying and plan to become a doctor in the future, but my time with Festa will never be over.

– Lara

VOLUNTEER STORY



My involvement with Festa began when I volunteered for the week at the Good Tidings Christmas Store in 2017 with a friend's invitation to come volunteer. She knew I had experience doing mission work and being immersed in the Latin community of El Salvador. One night I was asked to translate for a family that had just moved here from South America and didn't have winter coats, and I helped them communicate their needs and invited them to the ESL program that was starting in a few weeks. I decided right then to volunteer at that program, too.

*At the ESL program, they asked how I felt about working with preschool children. I felt like that was perfect for me because **I think the younger children are just amazing**; they're fun to work with and learn from. Everyone was shocked - I was the first male volunteer to go willingly to the preschool room! For me it was a joy to be there.*

The next year I learned about a dessert restaurant run completely by the children called Sweet Treats. My cousin enjoys baking and cooking, and with help from his mother and some of our other friends who also like baking, we took on the Sweet Treats kitchen. It was so much fun! We decided to incorporate an international dessert each week, so we asked a different child each week to bring us a special family recipe and the children voted on which one we wanted to make together. Everyone was able to try different desserts from all different cultures. It was just a really good, fun, rewarding experience and really special to be a part of.

*After these past almost two years with everything shut down and so many plans changing, I am thankful to be back with Festa. **I realized how much I need it; my spirit and my soul need it.** I looked up the volunteer registration and planned to pick right back up where I left off, volunteering at the ESL program and doing Sweet Treats, but then found out that Festa was hiring people to run the program this school year. I was hired to work in the preschool room and I'm excited for a great school year!*

- Jason

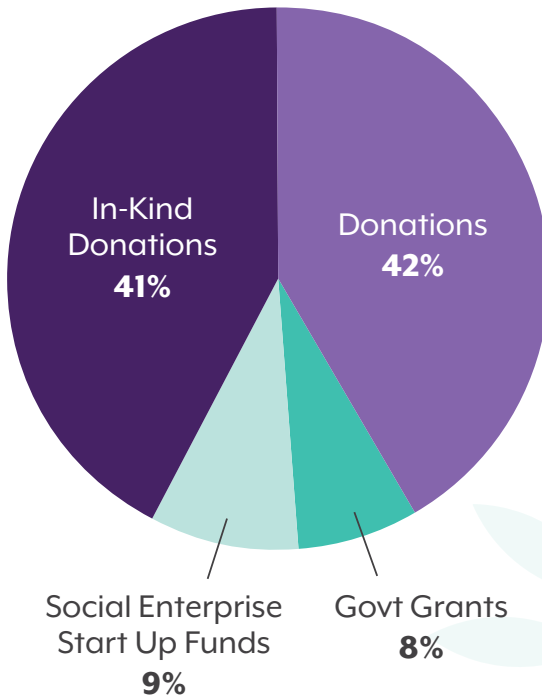


2021 Financials

TOTAL INCOME

Donations	\$527,188.62
Government Grants	\$97,186.81
Social Enterprise Start Up Funds	\$113,500.00
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Total Cash Contributions	\$737,875.43
In-Kind Donations*	\$526,560.04
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Total Income	\$1,264,435.47

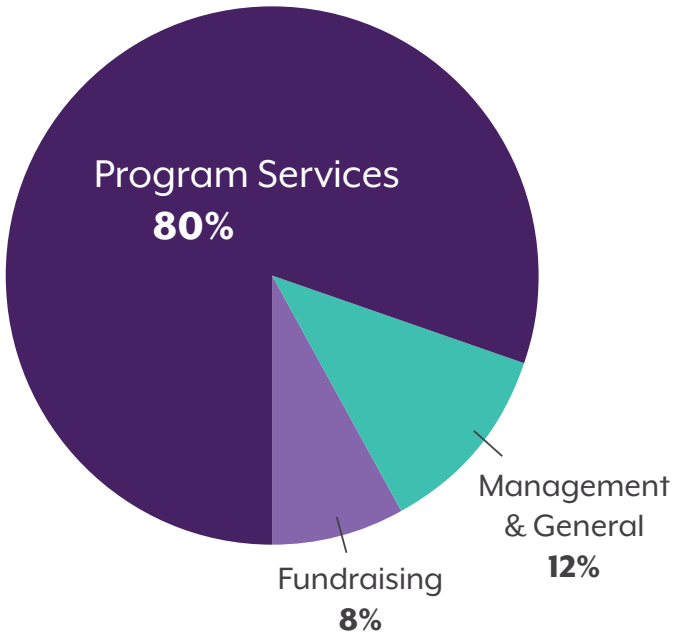
Revenue Total \$1,264,435



TOTAL EXPENSES

Program Services*	\$1,059,747.09
Management & General	\$157,517.81
Fundraising	\$102,777.34
Total Expenses	\$1,320,042.24

Expense Total \$1,320,042



**Includes \$220,085.95 of donated volunteer service hours.*



Ways to Engage

JAN - APR

- **3-Generation Family ESL Program**
TUES + THURS EVENINGS

AUG - SEPT

- **Community Garden**
- **Office Administrative Assistance**

MAY

- **Community Garden**
- **Office Administrative Assistance**

OCTOBER

- **3-Generation Family ESL Program**
TUES + THURS EVENINGS

JUNE - JULY

- **Free Summer Lunch Camp**
WEEKDAYS
- **Community Garden**

NOV - DEC

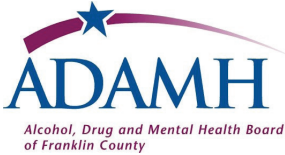
- **3-Generation Family ESL Program**
TUES + THURS EVENINGS
- **Good Tidings Christmas Store**
DONATING + STORE VOLUNTEER

EVERGREEN

- **Donate Wish List Food Items and Supplies**
- **Translating Written + Verbal Communications**
- **Helping at the Office**

THANK YOU

to our committed community partners!



BMW Financial Services



SIEMER FAMILY FOUNDATION

For a comprehensive list of over 100 partners, visit wearefesta.org/partners



festa™

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