



**EMERGENCY
EMPOWERMENT
EMPLOYMENT**



bridging the gap between crisis and stability since 1987

2022-2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



LISA TACKUS

BOARD CHAIR

As a business professional in our community, I was looking for an opportunity to serve locally and give back not only monetarily but also by offering time, knowledge, connections, perspective, and resources.

There are many nonprofit organizations that benefit from business and corporate partnerships and it was important for me to find a local charitable organization connection. I learned about ECHO through the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce quickly admired the work and recognized the need for support and partnership.

What compelled me most was learning that ECHO was a hand-up and not a handout to our neighbors. These words resonate with me when I advocate for ECHO and proudly share the progress and success that the employees and volunteers tirelessly provide every day.

A lot has occurred over the past few years in terms of growth with ECHO. The vision that I foresee for ECHO is continued growth into several other Tampa Bay areas that need ECHO's services the most. Our donors will grow and continue to support ECHO in ways we have yet to realize. ECHO will become the most recognized and sustainable model for helping neighbors gain employment, secure housing, and maintain self-sufficiency. Our business partnerships will be the key players in a successful capital campaign that will develop a regional resource center for our families. ECHO is bridging the gap between crisis and stability every day.



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ELEANOR SAUNDERS

Executive Director

It has been a year of tremendous growth.

The following report will reflect that, but I do not want you to miss the heart of the mission.

Neighbors serving neighbors.

That short phrase changes everything.

Working with, not for.

Creating the power of choice in our food and clothing rooms.

Coaching through the interview process, leveraging our social capital for the sake of the job seeker.

Looking at every single person who walks through our doors as one of us.

They are one of us.

ECHO is not simply a phenomenal charity to support, it is an equally phenomenal place to find and access support when you need it most. We truly are: all in this together.

VIEWS FROM THE FRONTLINES

Simply take a drive down Old 92, State Road 60, or 301, and it is painfully obvious that homelessness is on the rise.

In fact, the recent county-wide homeless count revealed that the number of homeless neighbors has risen 24% in the last year.

At our resource centers, we are on the frontlines of this monumental shift. Multiple requests for rental assistance, eviction mitigation, and affordable housing are received daily.

There are additional housing and shelter programs out there, but the system can be beyond difficult to navigate, making the work of ECHO more important than ever before.



homelessness
has risen by **24%**





WHY MOVE?

Five years ago, we launched our resource center in Riverview.

The original 1500 square foot space allowed us to provide food, clothing, and a with a robust wall of resources.

Two years ago, we thought we had hit the jackpot when a second building opened up next door, making way for an onsite advocate and job coach.

But, the demand continued to swell. In five short years, our Riverview Resource center grew from serving 70 families a month to 250 families a month!

Through a robust partnership with the Mosaic company and the generosity of hundreds of individual donors, we moved into an 8,000 square foot building.

Now, ECHO Riverview has the capacity to house two full time advocates, a job coaching team, food, clothing, workshops, community meetings, and satellite offices for partner organizations.

The demand necessitated the move, but the generosity of our community made it possible.





COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

From 1,548 backpacks distributed before the new school year, to 800 hot meals delivered to motel residents, to 441 families receiving gifts and food packages for ECHO loves extending our reach beyond the resource centers.

Beyond our three annual events: Backpack Hero, Thanksgiving Motels, and Gift of Hope, ECHO job coaches are on the road all year round!

Thanks to the generous support of United Way Suncoast, our mobile Back To Work team is connecting with job seekers at local coffee shops, fast food restaurants, and libraries.

1,548



children received backpacks filled with school supplies



800

Hot Thanksgiving Meals delivered

2,319

children received Christmas toys





EMERGENCY

63% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and senior citizens are the fastest-growing food insecure population in the United States.

Our neighbors, Bill and Nancy, are in their late 70's. They had never had to ask for help; however, with recent cost of living increases and an unexpected medical emergency, they found themselves unable to make ends meet.

Bill and Nancy thought they would get a prepackaged box of food. But they were surprised to be handed a shopping cart and the ability to pick out their own groceries. "Wow, this is so nice!"

Bill, a strong, self-sufficient, loving husband, was tearing up as we helped him load the car.

"This gives me room to breathe, knowing my wife will have the food she needs. Thank you." -Bill

FOOD INSECURITY



241,363

meals provided



CLOTHING



EMERGENCY

Did you know that ECHO stands out as one of the exceptional organizations in the Tampa Bay area, offering neighbors the opportunity to access clothing—precisely seven outfits per family member? Jennifer's story is one of many we hear at ECHO.

"My little girl thinks we are rich and wants to shop!" Jennifer said.

When mom found out she could shop for much-needed summer outfits with her daughter in our clothing room, you could see relief wash over her.

Jennifer looked at her daughter and said, "we can go shopping now!"

That day, mom got to say yes to things when her daughter asked for something. It had been a very long time since Jennifer was able to say YES, Because of YOU, she could.

\$2,027,672

families provided
with clothing
valued at





EMPOWERMENT

ADVOCACY

Through collaboration, determination, and a shared vision, we have been able to stabilize families, offering them a chance to regain their footing and rebuild their lives.



1,576 households served



92.3% of families regained stability with the help of ECHO.



\$97,305 was distributed for homeless prevention

A mother of 7, overwhelmed by financial strain and on the brink of sleeping in her car, found her way to ECHO. Through the combined efforts of our dedicated team, she needed not only secured a home and a job, but, also discovered the tools to navigate her future financial demands. Today, she stands as a beacon of resilience, a testament to the impact of our collective work.



OPPORTUNITY CENTER

TWO LOCATIONS



The Back-To-Work program at our Brandon and Riverview Resource Centers have made significant strides, increasing its business partner/job database from 289 to 463 local businesses. Through 1006 individual interactions involving 413 unique participants, the program has offered invaluable assistance. This support includes helping 366 participants improve their resumes, enhance interview skills, and refine job search strategies. Notably, 134 individuals, among those who provided feedback, secured employment, and five internships were successfully completed. This achievement was made possible through a Bank of America grant and your support.

EMPLOYMENT

Bank of America.



MOBILE OUTREACH

Last year, our new mobile Back-To-Work initiative expanded our community engagement, reaching 145 neighbors. Of these, 45 utilized our back-to-work services, with 22 successfully finding employment.

John, a program participant, recently visited us to celebrate his 1st work anniversary. He's content with his job, bought a car, and is working towards buying a home. Our mobile Back to Work is funded by a grant from United Way Suncoast.



171 neighbors hired

WORKSHOPS



443

neighbors attended workshops

- Financial Literacy
- Couponing
- Interviewing
- Sewing
- Food Prep on a Budget
- Strength Assessment and so much more!

ECHO

T H R I F T



ECHO Thrift Stores collect and distribute over **\$2,000,000** of free clothing annually! Free clothing is distributed via the Resource Centers, while the excess is sold. This past fiscal year, the stores paid for 24.35% of all direct service programming!

Two locations:

424 W. Brandon Blvd, Brandon 33511
815 W. Bloomingdale Ave. Brandon 33511
OPEN: 10 am - 6 pm | Tuesday - Saturday



ECHO Thrift
financed **24.35%** of
our program
support

TRANSPARENCY



ECHO is committed to giving the public online access to our financials (Form 990, Audited Financials, and Annual Report). Also available on our website are the following: Whistle Blower Protection Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Donor Policy, Donor Bill of Rights, and Client Privacy Policy. Being transparent and fiscally responsible is important to ECHO. We are proud to have received the highest rating of approval from Charity Navigator and Guidestar.



SERVE. GIVE. PLAN.

How you can help!

Demand for help is on the rise. ECHO has broken records recently with the amount of neighbors in need of assistance.

YOU can be a part of ECHO's grassroots effort to serve the hungry and the vulnerable in our community by volunteering or hosting a drive.



312,000

pounds of food donated



20,951

volunteer hours

provided a cost savings

of **\$627,477**

serve



corporate opportunities



Local businesses large or small, can benefit from donating to ECHO.

Corporate giving enhances a company's reputation, fosters community engagement, boosts employee morale, and creates a positive societal impact.

legacy of gifts, stocks & bonds



When you choose to make a planned gift, you're investing in the long-term sustainability of ECHO. Your support will enable us to continue our vital work and expand our impact in the years to come. Additionally, planned giving offers potential tax benefits and allows you to leave a meaningful mark on causes you hold dear.

We gifts of stocks and bonds. Want to learn more? Contact: Myriam 813.685.0935 ext. 8008 or myriam@echofl.org

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Hillsborough County Florida

Mosaic

Bank of America

Children's Board of Hillsborough County

Christ Center Fellowship Church

Novartis Foundation

Charitable Trust Foundation, Inc

Keller Williams Realty South Shore

Suncoast Credit Union

Publix Super Markets Charities

Rotary Club of Brandon

Brandon Legal Group

The Crossing Church

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation

Battelle

Walmart Foundation

Digital Harvest

Image 360

TNT Termite & Pest Control

Cornerstone Coaching

Hoppen Home System

Gideon & Greco Plumbing Co. Inc

Our Rebuilder Members

(individuals giving \$1000 or more annually)

Community Donors & Volunteers.

CONTACT US

BRANDON

507 N. Parsons Ave., Brandon, FL 33510

813.685.0935

Monday - Friday | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday evenings | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

RIVERVIEW

1509 Riverview Dr. Riverview, FL 33578

813-540-9880

Monday - Friday | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

ECHO THRIFT STORES

424 W. Brandon Blvd, Brandon, FL 33511

815 W Bloomingdale Ave. Brandon, FL 33511

Tuesday - Saturday | 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

DONATION DROP-OFF

Tuesday - Saturday | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



@echobrandon | @echothrift.fl

echofl.org