



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Mission: Teen Kitchen Project Builds Healthy Communities Through Food



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Here we are three months into 2021. Now I am able to look back with some perspective at the roller coaster experience of 2020. I am proud and grateful to say that Teen Kitchen Project is still alive and vibrant today, and was able to respond to the innumerable challenges and weather the storm of COVID-19 due to **the love, commitment, and dedication of you, our donors, volunteers, clients, and community members. THANK YOU.**

As it was for our local Santa Cruz community, the U.S., and the world, 2020 was a year of unexpected challenges for Teen Kitchen Project. We had to close our doors to volunteers on March 8 as the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic became apparent. We discontinued our catering and classes programs so that our chefs from those programs could support the meals program to prepare meals. When everything else shut down the team at TKP pulled together and met the challenge. We expanded our meals program to include those who received In Home Health Support and added seniors through the Great Plates program. By May, Teen Kitchen Project had doubled our meal production. By June we were in a position to invite a small group of teens to rejoin the committed, stable group preparing and packaging the meals. In November and December, we started feeding many families in quarantine due to COVID-19, and by mid-December, 40% of our meals were helping support families in isolation due to a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

Throughout the challenges and significant growth, our Client Services team, led by our Client Services Manager and supported by our Director of Operations and Volunteer Coordinator, worked tirelessly to ensure new clients could receive meals as soon as possible. All our clients were at risk for complications due to COVID, and shopping presented a scary and uncertain risk. To provide clients more meals, we offered clients double bags to ensure they had food on hand to feel safe and cared for.

We could not have done these things without the support of our dedicated staff, board, and donors. Because of this support and the dedication, in 2020 we were able to serve 69,570 meals to 507 families, a 73% increase from 2019. Of all the uncertainties we faced in 2020, one thing we know for certain today is the Teen Kitchen Project is here to serve the community in times of crisis, and because of your generosity and the dedication of our staff and volunteers, we will continue our services for decades to come.

**Thank you for allowing us to be of service in building a healthier Santa Cruz County in 2020.**

In Health,



Angela Farley



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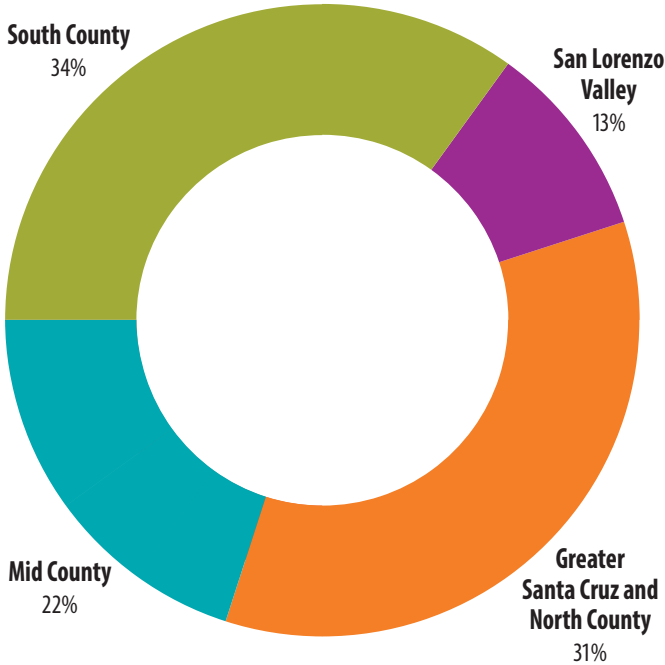
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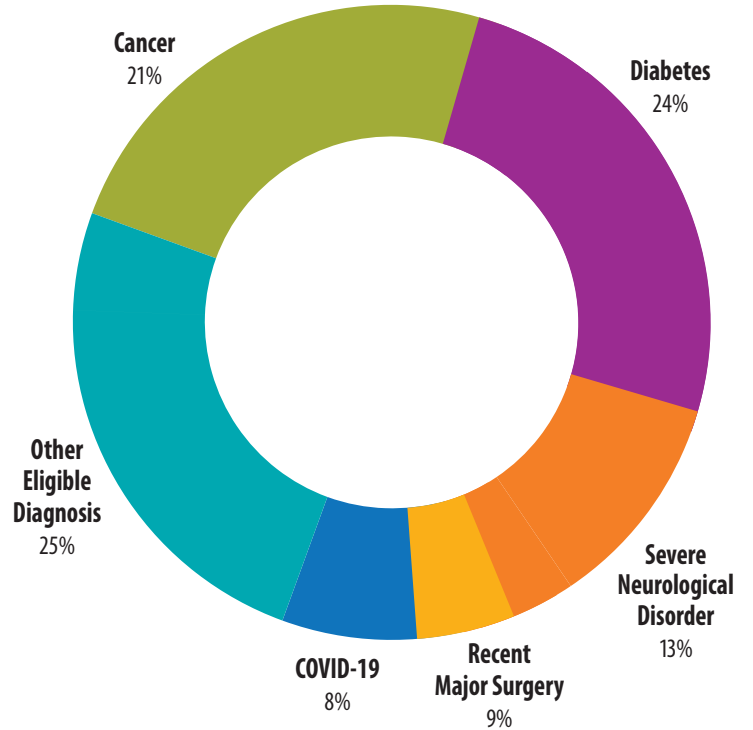
# OUR CLIENTS

**507 Clients** received **69,704** nourishing meals during 2020.

We deliver meals to clients across Santa Cruz County:



Clients learn about us from a nurse or social worker and have a variety of diagnoses:



# OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE!

Volunteers served **11,105 hours** in 2020 — Value of Teen Kitchen Project Volunteer's Service: **\$302,056\***

\* <https://independentsector.org/value-volunteer-time-methodology/>



## WE FOUND CREATIVE WAYS TO ENGAGE TEENS

Young people supported clients isolated by their illness and the pandemic in a few ways: decorating uplifting cards with positive and loving messages, arranging flowers, and making gift bags for the winter season.

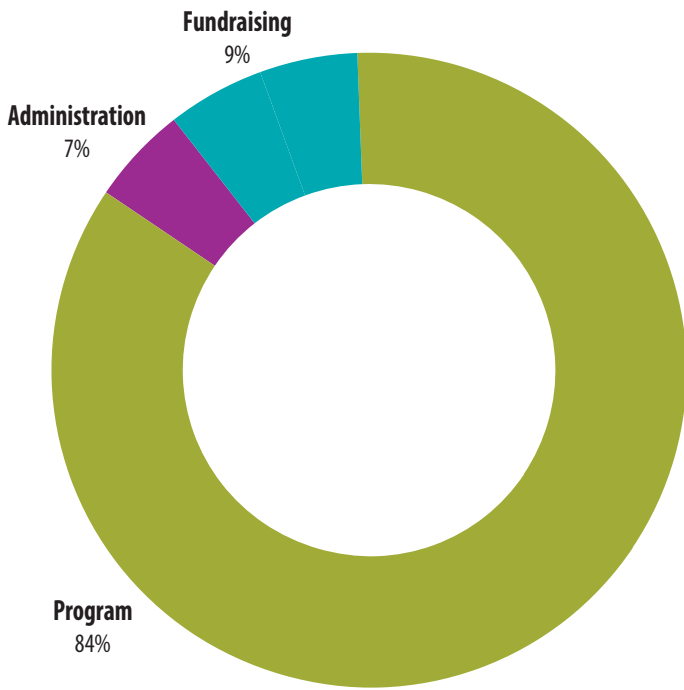


## CLIENTS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION

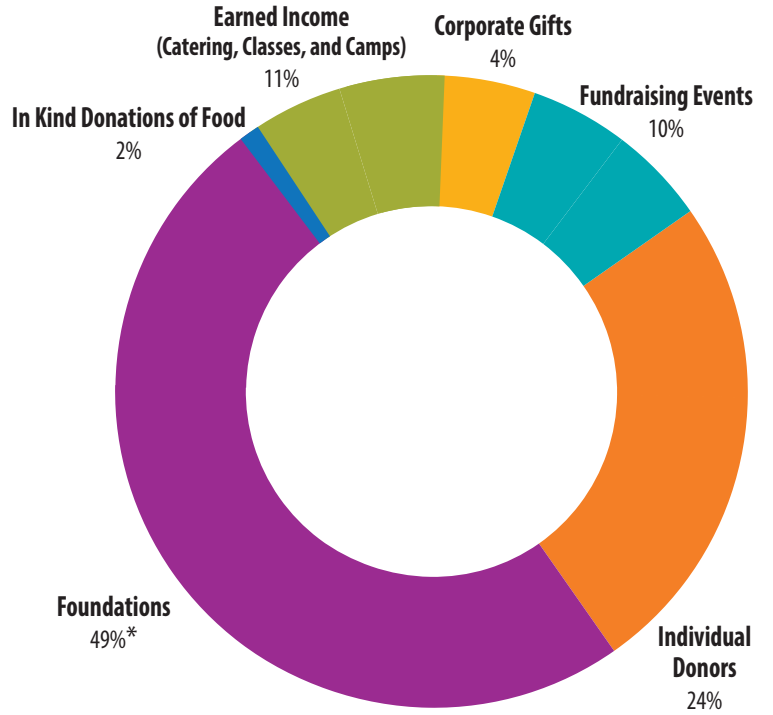
Clients felt supported during what may have been the worst time in their lives. Through the client cards and loving connection of the Delivery Angels each week, clients knew they weren't alone.



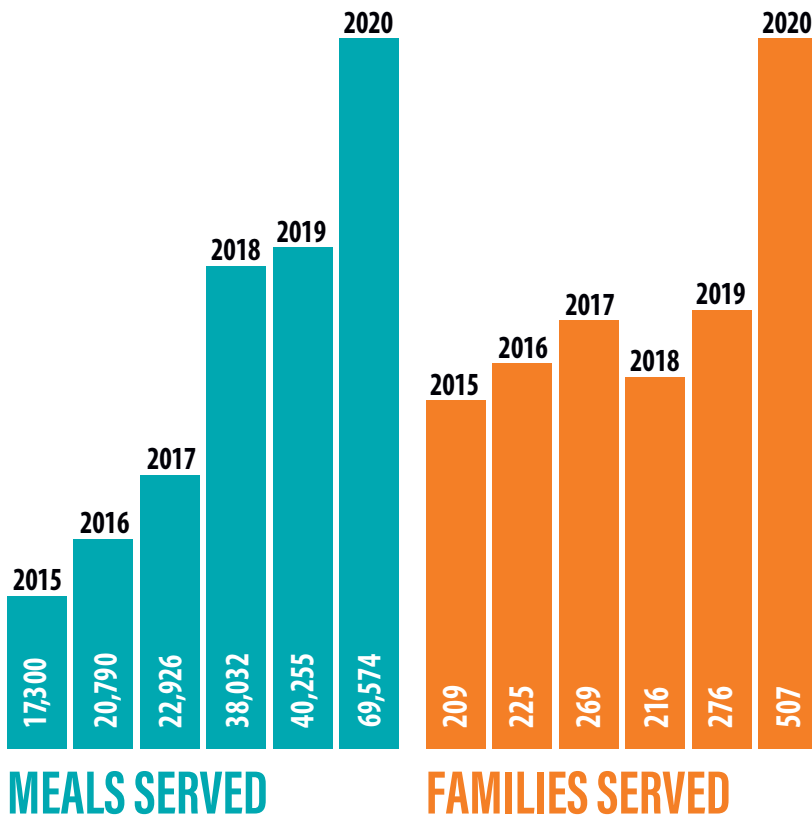
# WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



# WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



\*48% of our foundation funding was a grant for the Aptos build-out, which was returned to the foundation in the amount of \$252,137.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS — January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020:

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*We have made every effort to ensure this list is accurate for contributions made during the period of 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020. Please accept our deepest apology should you find an error or omission. To make a correction, please contact Angela Farley at: [angela@teenkitchenproject.org](mailto:angela@teenkitchenproject.org)*

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