

**2021: A Breakthrough Year**

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**Mercy  
Chefs**  
*Feeding Body and Soul*

MercyChefs.com

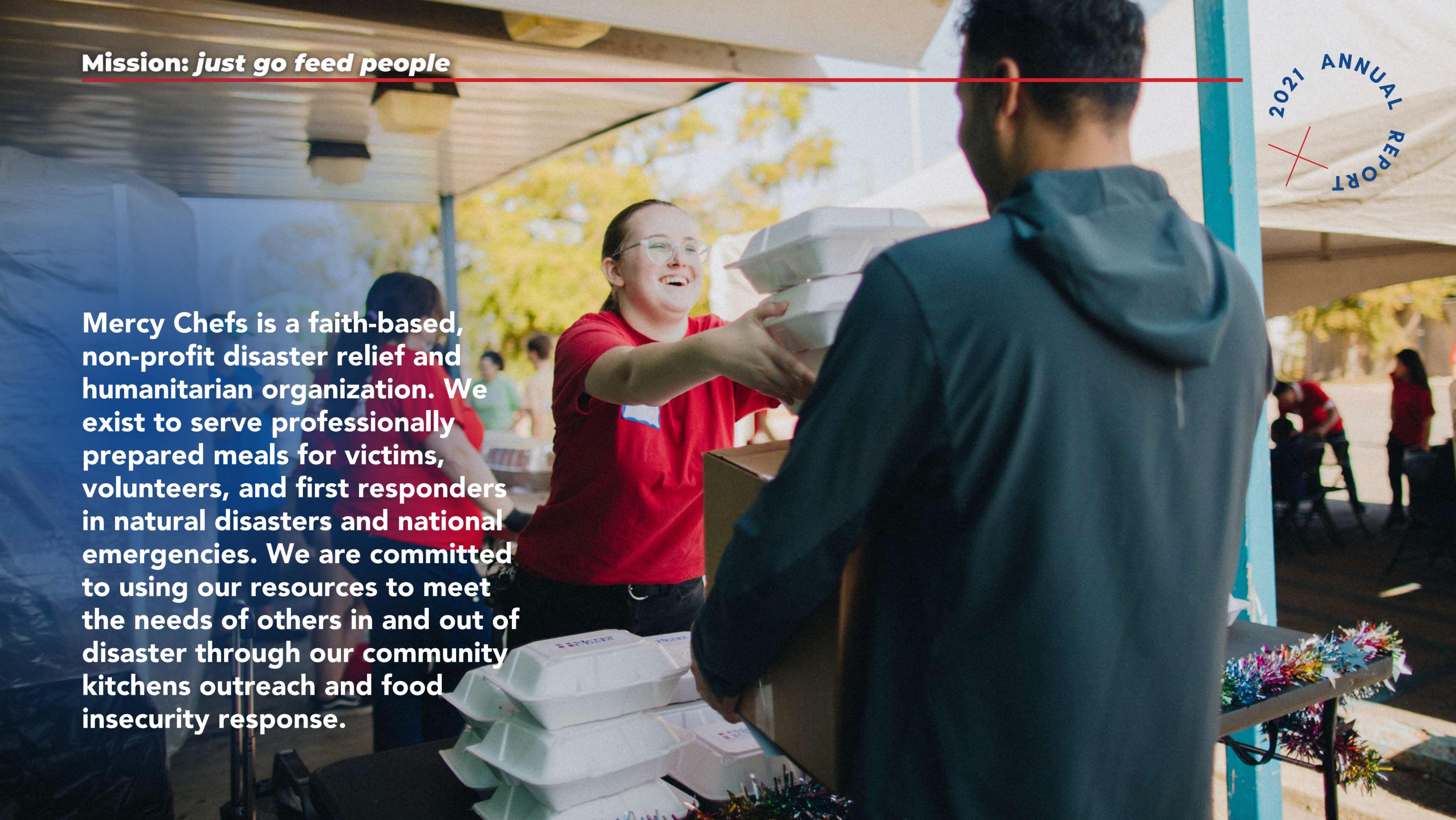
MercyChefs.com

**Mission: *just go feed people***

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**Mercy Chefs is a faith-based, non-profit disaster relief and humanitarian organization. We exist to serve professionally prepared meals for victims, volunteers, and first responders in natural disasters and national emergencies. We are committed to using our resources to meet the needs of others in and out of disaster through our community kitchens outreach and food insecurity response.**



## 2021: What's a Deployment?

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Mercy Chefs brought relief to victims, volunteers, and first responders across 13 deployments in 2021. We responded to two tornadoes in Alabama, three floods, and a winter storm that shut down the state of Texas in February. We continued our outreach in Honduras after two back-to-back hurricanes devastated the country in Fall 2020. We responded to the border crisis in McAllen, TX and served there through the summer while deploying a team to feed search and rescue crews responding to the Surfside Condominium Collapse in July. Our team deployed our new, West Coast mobile kitchen, for the first time, in response to the Dixie Fire in Susanville, CA. We travelled back to Louisiana for the fifth time in two years to respond to Hurricane Ida. While we were there, our chef team served the most hot meals in a single day in Mercy Chefs history topping the previous record of 18,000 meals with 21,403 meals! In the middle of our holiday outreach during the month of December, one of the largest tornadoes on record devastated small towns across Western Kentucky. We were there serving meals within 24 hours of the strike and we continued serving throughout the holidays.

# 13 deployments

Mercy Chefs volunteers are the backbone of what we do. It takes a community coming together to provide the most relief and support in the aftermath of disaster. Neighbors helping neighbors is what makes the difference. In 2021, our 4,841 volunteers served a total of:

**26,750**  
*Volunteer Hours*

## 2021: Celebrating Fifteen Years

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In June 2021, Mercy Chefs celebrated our **15th anniversary** since our founding in 2006. As we look back on the last 15 years, we have experienced more growth than we could have ever dreamed of. **We stand in awe** of all that the Lord has done through our ministry, thanks to the faithful support of our Mercy Chefs family. **None of this** would have been possible without your trust and commitment to our mission to

*"just go feed people."*



**2021: Fifteen Years & Fifteen Million Meals Since Founding**

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In 2021, Mercy Chefs served a record-breaking

**8,647,148**

meals through hot, chef-prepared meals in disaster zones, microwavable family-style meals, and complete grocery boxes.

# nashville, tn

Mercy Chefs celebrated the opening of our fourth community kitchen with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 11, 2021. Mercy Chefs was founded as a disaster relief organization, but over the years, we realized that in between disasters, there were still hungry families that needed our help right in our backyards. The meals we serve are so much more than a nutritionally balanced meal — they bring HOPE.

The Mercy Chefs Nashville Community Kitchen has been operational since March 2021 and has served over 15,000 hot, chef-prepared meals in that time. This kitchen is located in Christ Church Nashville, and we are honored to partner with this powerful church community.

We hope to create a measure of stability for families who do not know where their next meal will come from. In Nashville, our partners estimate that 1 in 3 children live in poverty. At Mercy Chefs we believe a hungry child is everyone's responsibility, and we know that this is exactly why we're here. In 2019, Mercy Chefs launched its first permanent Community Kitchen at Mercy Chefs' headquarters in Portsmouth, Virginia. This kitchen is the model for our community kitchen program that has since been replicated in three cities: Panama City, FL, McAllen, TX, and now in Nashville, TN.

Each week, we partner with local organizations, like Project Connect, to maximize our efforts and to serve Nashville and the food-insecure population in the surrounding areas with the ultimate goal of strengthening the community itself. In our community kitchen outreach, our focus is not solely placed on our immediate impact but on long-term recovery and enrichment, as well.

We're honored to have the opportunity to serve in this community. We desire to serve meals that not only provide balanced nutrition but also provide hope.



## 2021: Financials

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**In 2021, we raised \$10.3M**

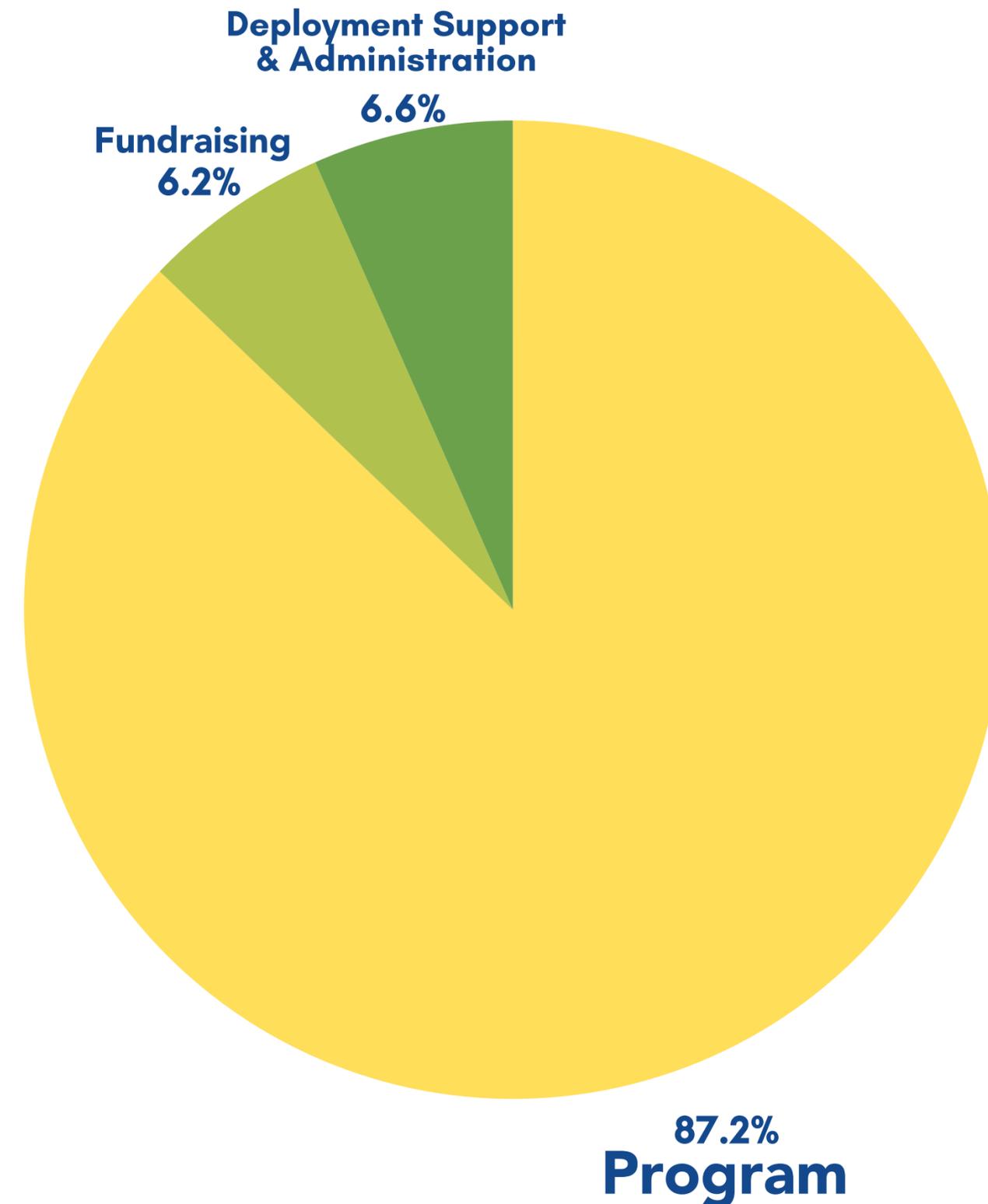
**total revenue: \$10,305,611**

**program expense: \$7,461,759**

**deployment support & administration: \$567,093**

**fundraising: \$532,821**

[Read our full financial report here](#)



## LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS

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When the pandemic exploded in March 2020, our entire nation was not only in a health crisis but also in the throes of practical need, as if a massive natural disaster had hit from coast to coast.

We've never seen anything like it: cars lining up for miles to receive food from Mercy Chefs; children smiling from ear to ear because we gave them a meal that included fresh fruit; elderly folks weeping as our teams delivered meals door-to-door in their neighborhoods. Our team worked day after day to feed Americans in need through our mobile resources, community facilities, and by partnering with the *USDA "Farmers to Families" program* to provide millions of meals in just over a year.

**Our challenge for 2021 and beyond:** the *Farmers to Families program* ended, but the urgent need we see in communities across the country is not going away. Those hardest hit are still struggling, and the kids are suffering the most. With the government program ending, we need to build **The Mercy Chefs Storehouse** to serve those who are hurting.

To build The Storehouse, we will have to break new ground. We'll need warehouse space in key areas across the country all requiring new equipment, refrigerated trucks, staffing, and immense resources to procure the food and supplies needed to feed millions of people. Our communities are in desperate need. These grocery boxes provide families with the means to prepare and eat nutritious meals together. They are your neighbors; they are your friends.

This is the next step for Mercy Chefs as we continue feeding body and soul across the nation. **The Mercy Chefs Storehouse** provides space to support local communities with necessities and creates opportunity to receive donated product like never before - bolstering our disaster response teams with deployment supplies on hand, ready to roll at a moment's notice. No longer will we have to ship in supplies from three-four states away in a disaster zone.



