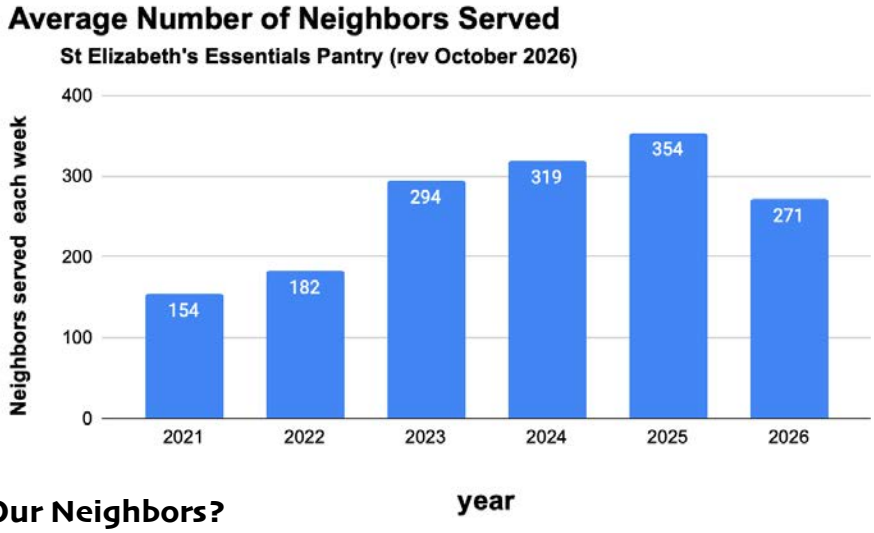
ESSENTIAL NEWS

We welcome the stranger and stand with those who live on the margins.

St Elizabeth's is a non-food Essentials Pantry. A ministry dedicated to the advancement of the principles of mercy and justice, to offer assistance to those in need and a commitment to end the circumstances which oppress and marginalize those who seek a helping hand.



Where Are Our Neighbors?

St E's numbers have been on a steady rise for several years until this year. The obvious change is the fact that ICE is aggressively arresting and detaining immigrants.

ILAP Policy Director Lisa Parisio spoke in August about federal data showing that ICE arrested 75 people in Maine in June, the highest monthly total since the January enforcement surge. Lisa said arrests are increasingly happening close to home, with many people reporting they were leaving for work or a necessary medical appointment when ICE arrested them. Many of them, she said, are asylum seekers who entered the country on a visa. Since May, 8% of those arrested by ICE in Maine had a criminal conviction, while 74% had no criminal record at all. The rest had pending charges but no convictions.

Advocates say the numbers alone don't tell the full story. "Behind every data point is a person, a family, and a community living with fear and uncertainty," said Mufalo Chitam, executive director of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, "These numbers show the scale of ICE enforcement, but they cannot capture the tears shed by families torn apart, or the pain community members share with us every day."

ICE Hotline (207) 544-9989

Coat & Boot Donations Welcome

Our team is busy getting ready for our coat and boot days at St E's!

If you would like to donate winter coats boots, hats and/or gloves, you can drop them off at St E's any Tuesday morning or ask any St E's Board Member for more information.

Thank you!





John Leddy has been volunteering with St Es since 2018 and retired this summer as our Job Specialist. I was able to catch up and ask John a few questions before he left…

Thank you John for all you have done! We have all enjoyed chatting with you on Tuesday mornings, you have helped so many neighbors and it has been joyful to see the relationships that you have built!

How would you describe the work that you do?
I spend time supporting our new neighbors to prepare resumes and going to potential job sites - contacting H/R folks and/or the Personnel offices. I help and support neighbors find jobs.

Did you always do this or did you start out volunteering in other ways?
I always did this - I was an Employment Specialist with a local non profit Agency whose purpose was to develop employment opportunities for people with mental Illness.

What led you to create this volunteer position?
I simply saw a need. The rate of new Mainers arriving in Portland, Maine was astounding at the time. A JOB is still the best social welfare program known to humankind !

How do you feel this volunteer position helps the neighbors who come to St E's?
Simply on the self esteem scale , it has got to be near the top. Have you ever been unemployed? I have, and it don't feel good. What more can one say ?

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