



It started as a simple Lenten dream of a way to make our community a better place for our neighbors. What began with a Saturday evening meal for eleven guests at First Baptist Church in Essex in 1989 has evolved into today's Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries' eight meal sites, five food pantries, and our newly established Backpack Support Program which served a combined 1.3 million meals in 2022.

Each week at each of our thirteen faith-based host sites, many gracious volunteers help to receive donated and purchased foods which are sorted, stored, prepared, and packaged to be shared with our neighbors. During the growing season, fresh produce is grown, harvested, and delivered to our sites from local farm stands and community gardens. Meals and groceries are provided free of charge and without judgement. Every day at our sites, all are welcomed and met with dignity and respect.

As the pandemic increased the need for available and dependable food sources and changed many aspects of our daily lives, SSKP's efforts increased as well. Though the method of delivery needed to adapt to the quickly changing landscape and evolve to meet the growing needs of our community, our mission to provide food and fellowship to all has remained steadfast. While our mission is clear, it would not be possible without the support of our faith communities, our community partners, our volunteers, and our guests. We are grateful for our supporters and for the opportunities to work together as we share food with all our neighbors who are in need.