



We're Jumping In (Again)

NETWorks is taking a giant step forward. It's so big they are calling it "The Big Leap!" and Shallowford is a part of the story.

"Since March 2020, food insecurity and financial need in our area has continued at a significant level. You have provided 250,000 pounds of food per year and hundreds of thousands of dollars to your neighbors facing hardship. It's truly amazing. Because of your support, we are taking the next step for NETWorks."

-David Fisher, Executive Director of NETWorks

NETWorks will soon move from its current location to a larger space with a loading dock, storage space, and more offices. The changes will allow for more food and improve access times for neighbors, as well as increase work helping neighbors escape poverty permanently.

"The new space will house a grocery store-style pantry, where visitors can shop for themselves. With a new walk-in cooler/freezer, we will be able to increase the quantity of fresh foods. It's another way to respect the dignity of each person coming to shop with NETWorks!" says Fisher.

Why Shallowford & NETworks? NETWorks was established by several churches, including Shallowford, in 2004 to help meet food and financial needs in the greater Northlake/Embry Hills/Tucker Area. In 2021, NETWorks provided 19,941 total "assists" including \$178,815 in emergency financial assistance to prevent eviction, keep utilities on, or help a family experiencing homelessness access shelter through a short-term motel stay. The organization distributed 242,004 pounds of food – providing at least 201,670 meals in our community. Think about those numbers. *Two-hundred thousand meals.* Now imagine those meals were not available, and the individuals, adults and children are hungry.

Hunger. Food insecurity. This is the story for one in every eight Georgians. They look just like you. Thirty percent of them are children. NETWorks' clients are too often faced with incredibly tough choices. Food or rent? Gas to get to work or keep the electricity and water on? Put a meal on the table or fill a prescription? These are choices no one should have to make.

Shallowford volunteers help staff the pantry, interact with neighbors needing food, interview individuals seeking financial assistance – these are ways you can help that go beyond the pocketbook. **Shallowford has committed \$35,000 from the "Mission Forward Fund" toward NETWorks' Big Leap campaign.** This fund was established as a part of the capital campaign to remodel the Shallowford sanctuary, and interest from the fund can be used for mission partners for one-time specific grants. In addition, Shallowford contributed \$15,000 from our mission budget to on-going operations of NETWorks.

Get Involved: NETWorks is always in need of volunteers. Contact member and NETWorks liaison, Nancy Phillimore at nphillimore@comcast.net.



David Fisher (far right) educated Shallowford members and staff, and friends of NETWorks during a tour of the newly purchased (not yet renovated) facility.

networkscoop.org/thebigleap