

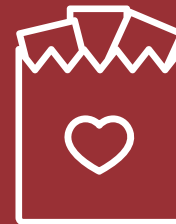


**Reach Out Lakota**



Photo by David Ciole on Unplash

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





# LETTER FROM THE CEO

SCOTT D STEPHENS, LISW-S  
CEO/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I continue to  
be amazed  
by and feel  
**blessed to be  
a part of this  
wonderful  
organization."**



## **Hello Friends of Reach Out Lakota:**

Another year has come and gone, and our pantry continues to serve those in this community who are struggling. We didn't know that the pandemic would continue to impact everyone's lives for another year, but it did. Just like in 2020 when the community stepped forward to help, this year too was a year of great support and encouragement. I continue to be amazed by and feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization. There are so many volunteers who give their time and love to serve and help us continue to provide wonderful service. With over 10,000 volunteer hours you can see that this pantry operates with lots of volunteer time.

As you review the statistics from this year, picture a family struggling paycheck to paycheck then getting a ton of beautiful clothing and a car full of food and even a birthday cake. See that smile on their faces and hear that gratitude they express as they say, "thank you so much for all you did for us."

The Northern Cincinnati Foundation (formerly the Community Foundation of West Chester / Liberty Township) has been a supporter of the pantry since their beginning and we were grateful that they donated \$200,000 to an endowment fund at the Foundation to help jump start a sustainability fund. As the fund grows, it will ensure that going into the future there will always be financial support for the pantry.

We continued to see new families this year who had never had to ask for help from any organization before. Being a part of helping get things back in order for them is an honor. The care that I see our staff and volunteers provide to our clients is a testament to their desire to not only help feed and provide basic needs, but to treat everyone as a person who has dignity and worth.

The support we receive from individuals, schools, churches and companies in the form of food drives, personal care drives and financial donations is inspiring.

**Blessings,**

# ABOUT US

**Our mission** at Reach Out Lakota is to give a helping hand up to those living in West Chester/ Liberty Township by putting help and hope into the hands of our community.



*"Reach Out Lakota strives to generate strength and resiliency in our community by connecting donations to our pantry with families in need. It serves as a bridge through which food and clothing get to those who need it most."*

*- Sue Cheney, Board President*



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Sue Cheney**  
President

**Tiffany Stofel**  
Vice President

**Jennifer Patsy**  
Secretary

**Jennifer Burke**  
Treasurer

**Artemio Castro**

**Tim Harmon**

**Ann Jelinek**

**Sharon McGuire**  
Co-Founder

**Rev. Tyler Pettigrew**

## STAFF LIST

**Scott Stephens**  
CEO

**Alyson Montgomery**  
Client Intake Specialist

**Carrie Brownfield**  
Accountant

## KEY VOLUNTEERS

**Tim Harmon**  
Food Pantry Coordinator

**Sheryl Oprisch**  
Clothing Pantry Coordinator

**Sue Cheney**  
Special Programs Coordinator

**Andrea Subler**  
Special Programs Coordinator



# SERVICES OFFERED

## Our current support programs provide families with:

- A two week supply of healthy food options, four times a year
- A generous amount of clothing, monthly
- Fresh produce, monthly
- Personal care items, four times a year
- Small household goods
- Infant care products
- Refurbished computers

## Additional special programs include:

- School supplies
- Thanksgiving meal kits
- Holiday toys and food kits

## In 2021, due to COVID-19, we:

- Provided food boxes for when kids were home from school during spring break
- Provided additional food boxes at our Back to School program for some extra food before school started



We were  
named **Best  
Philanthropic  
Organization**

for the 5th year in a row  
by readers of the  
West Chester + Liberty  
Lifestyle Magazine.

# CLIENT STORY



Photo by Nick Fewings on Unsplash

“It was no mistake when I walked in here today.”

Joan said when she woke up she just didn't know what to do and was feeling broken down because of the struggles in her life. She cried but still got up, got dressed and drove to our pantry. As she pulled in to the parking lot she proceeded to say, “**God places us where we are meant to be.**”

Joan was having a rough time – she had lost her job, her parents had fallen and she had stepped up to take care of them. Because of these things, she felt like she hadn't had time to breathe. When she came to Reach Out Lakota, we took the extra time needed to listen, to be with her and to provide her with some immediate help.

She said, “It was no mistake when I walked in here today” and told Alyson, our intake specialist, that the staff and volunteers were all so friendly. When she apologized for coming in late and causing everyone stay past closing time, Alyson reassured her that we didn't mind, that we would do what we could for her.

Joan was beyond grateful for all we gave her that day as well as for the resources and referrals we were able to provide for additional help. But she was most grateful for the time we took to simply listen and talk with her.





# A SPECIAL THANKS

## SURPRISE DONATION

I met David and Anne Hoehn in mid-December. As I showed them the pantry and discussed ways Reach Out Lakota helps the community, they talked about how they too wanted to make a big impact on our community and those we serve.

After asking about our needs, David and Anne surprised me with

**a donation of \$50,000!**

I was blown away by their generosity - what a tremendous gift. A portion of their donation will be used to replace our roof in the Spring of 2022. **We are so thankful for their selfless gift.**



**A special thank you to our community partner, Walmart on Cincinnati-Dayton Rd.**

Twice a week our volunteers pick up fruit, vegetables and meat for our families. We get about 5,000 lbs of food from Walmart each month. Because of their generosity, our families are receiving more fresh foods and quality meats.

In the spring we were approached by a family who wanted to make a donation to the pantry and we discussed how they could help maximize their gift. We decided to run a matching gift campaign. The family would match the first \$5,000 in donations that came in by April 15th.

We once again had an overwhelming support from the community and **we raised \$18,820!**



# A LASTING DIFFERENCE



Thank you to the  
Northern Cincinnati Foundation  
for their **generous donation of  
\$200,000 to the Endowment  
Fund for Reach Out Lakota.**

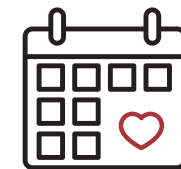
These funds will grow and provide long-term sustainability for our organization. We are so thankful to the Foundation - and to all those who have contributed to this fund - for their commitment to Reach Out Lakota.

If you would like to contribute to the Endowment Fund, please contact the Northern Cincinnati Foundation to learn how your gift can ensure the future success of the pantry.

We appreciate all those who donate financially to Reach Out Lakota. The generosity of you and others makes our pantry possible.

**In 2021 we saw a slight increase in the number of people who made a regular monthly donation to Reach Out Lakota.**

While we see greater overall contributions at the end of each year, recurring donations are very important in helping us to cover pantry expenses all 12 months. We are grateful to those who make the choice to



set up recurring donations in support of our cause.



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Over **700 individuals**  
**and 100+ groups** held  
collections or made donations  
to the pantry in 2021.

And those are only the ones  
we were aware of to thank!

Some donors drop off monthly and others come anonymously. Cars drive up multiple times a day, every day, to drop off items in the food and clothing sheds at the back of the pantry. Even when it is snowing, someone typically arrives to make a donation. Although we don't have a count on just how many individuals drop off donations in our sheds, the number must be in the thousands. This year alone we gave out over 57,000 articles of clothing, and our shelves are not empty, so we certainly received thousands more items than that.

**Thank you to all who make those donations.**



The West  
Chester  
and Liberty  
Township  
community  
is amazing  
in their  
support.





# THANK YOU

## Groups/Churches/Businesses that held a collection for Reach Out Lakota in 2021

A Child's Hope	Cornerstone Fitness	God's Words Ministry	Mother Teresa Catholic	SDA Studios
Abundant Grace Church	Cort Furniture Rentals	Graydon	Elementary School	Shawnee Early Childhood
Access Corp	CR Brands Inc	Health for the Homeless	MVAH Partners	Shepherd Color Company
Amex Health	Crossroads Church Mason	Home 2 Suites by Hilton	New Life Chapel	Sibcy Cline West Chester
Anthem House Church	CTI Restaurants Inc.	Hopewell 7 & 8th graders	On The Expressway	St John Church
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals	Dixon Bayco	Hopewell Junior School	Paul Davis Emergency Services	St Xavier High School
Barnes Aerospace	Dr. Patrick Flannery Family	Jacobs Covid Vaccine Project	Perfection Gymnastics School	Star One
Birthday Fairies	Dentistry	Jacob's Engineering Group	Pet Smart – West Chester	The Church of Jesus Christ of
Boy Scouts Troop 509	Edward Jones – Gage	Jewels for Joy	Pilot Chemical	Latter-Day Saints – Liberty Twp
Bridge Logistics	Hemmelgarn	Kingsgate Logistics	Pinot's Palette West Chester	The Home Depot
Buckner Martial Arts	Endeavor Elementary	Knights of Columbus	Pole/Zero Corp	The Shepherd Color Company
Cassinelli Shanker & Baker	Extermital	Council 13608	Primrose School of West Chester	The Shoe Project
Orthodontics	EyeMed	Knights of Columbus – St Max	Princess Gentle Paws	ThreeBond International
Chesterwood Village	Faith Alliance Feed Neighbors	Kroger – Springboro	Providence Manor subdivision	Two Men & a Truck
Retirement Center	in Need Drive	Lakota East Band Boosters	Queen City Mustangers	UC Health
Christ the King Lutheran Church	Four Bridges Country Club	Lakota Family YMCA	RiskSource Clark-Theders	Union Elementary School
Cincinnati United Girls Academy	Four Bridges Women's Group	Lakota Schools – Stuff the Bus	Rooted Grounds Coffee Co.	Walmart West Chester
Clarke Contractors	GFWC Southwest Ohio Valley	Liberty Early Childhood School	Rotary Club of West	West Chester Presbyterian
COIT Cleaning	Women's Club	Liberty Township Fire	Chester/Liberty	Church
Cornerstone Church	Girl Scout Troop 4187	Department	Royal Redeemer Lutheran	West Chester Veterinary Care
		Liberty Veterinarian Hospital	Church	Windsor Estates
		Lithko	Ruoff Mortgage	Woodland Elementary School
		Meijer	Sabel Systems	Wyandot Early Childhood School
		MidPointe Library System	Sai Baba Temple of Greater	Wynds of Liberty subdivision
		Midwest Container	Cincinnati	
		MLK day Walk	Savoy at the Streets of	
			West Chester	

*While we did our best to include all groups or companies that sponsored a drive for our organization this year, please accept our apologies if we missed you.*



# 2021 EVENTS

The 2021 **Corporate Food Fight** was a huge success. This food drive competition is held annually in June to replenish our shelves for the summer months.

This year, we had 24 participating companies who collected almost **6,000 pounds of food and \$13,612 in donations.**



The 2021 Grand Champion (for both money and pounds of food donated) was **Jacobs** and in Second Place was **ThreeBond**.

The First Place winner for pounds of food donated was **Pilot Chemical** and in Second Place was **RiskSource**.

We appreciate all who participated and helped fill our shelves.



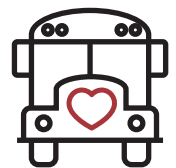
The Lakota Schools annual **Stuff the Bus** collection was just as big as last year. **In 2021, another 15,000 lbs of food was collected for the pantry.**

Donated items filled two storage containers and, with the help of New Life Chapel volunteers and our regular volunteers, both pods were emptied in less than 2 hours!

Our annual fundraiser, **Play It Forward**, returned to an “in-person” at Topgolf in 2021. It was a great night of fun, food, prizes and we raised **\$30,000** for the pantry.



## Thank You!



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Tim Harmon  
Food Pantry Coordinator

If you have ever made a donation to Reach Out Lakota and brought it inside the pantry, there is a good chance you have met **Tim Harmon who has volunteered at Reach Out Lakota for 22 years.**

As Food Pantry Coordinator, Tim volunteers his time every Monday night as well as Wednesday and Friday mornings. One of his primary duties is maintaining the inventory of canned and boxed food. He can usually be found sorting items that have been dropped off and then recording the food in our inventory - which he refers to as the "third rail" of the pantry. He follows a first-in, first-out principal and his system of recording, storing and retrieving food items has been used successfully for years to ensure donated food items don't expire. Along with tracking donations and inventory, Tim makes trips to stores when additional supplies are needed. He also makes all new volunteers feel welcome and teaches them the ropes. When he isn't at the pantry he can be found playing tennis or sipping a fine bourbon.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**

My favorite part is the people I work with.

**What is the most unusual item you've seen donated?**

The oddest donation was a crossbow that was left in the food shed. Maybe the donor thought someone might want to hunt for their food!

**What is your most memorable moment at Reach Out Lakota?**

Years ago we chose a client to receive a monthly donation of loose change from a kindergarten class. We didn't see that client for a year but, when she finally came back, she explained that the little bit of cash was all her family needed to be independent.

**How long have you volunteered?**

I started in 2000. I had recently retired and was co-leading a group at my church. A member of that group told me that her daughter volunteered at Reach Out Lakota and help was needed on Wednesday mornings. My initial commitment was 2 hours a week - now I am at the pantry every day it is open plus I help at special events.

Reach Out Lakota volunteers gave  
**10,250 hours of service** in 2021!



# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## 2021 IMPACT

**482  
students**

received school supplies



**234  
families**

received Thanksgiving food  
(10,000 meals)



**222  
families**

received holiday food  
(1,050  
individuals)



**716  
children**

received holiday gifts



We are grateful to **Meijer** and their **Simply Give** campaigns.

We receive thousands of dollars worth of food each year through this campaign.





# 2021 FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES

**72%**

Food & Clothing

**\$905,000**

**12%**

Employee Related

**7%**

Program

**2%**  
Other

**2%**  
Office Equipment

**5%**  
Building Occupancy

## INCOME

**58%**

Food & Clothing

**\$1,131,000**

**3%**

Special Events

**2%**

Earned Revenues

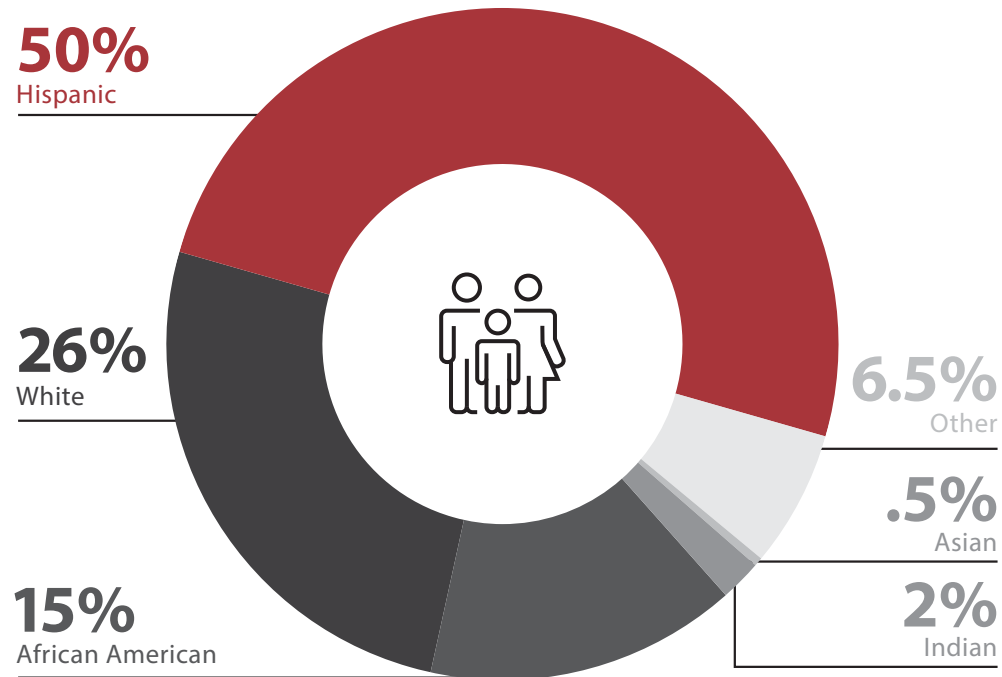
**37%**

Contributed Support

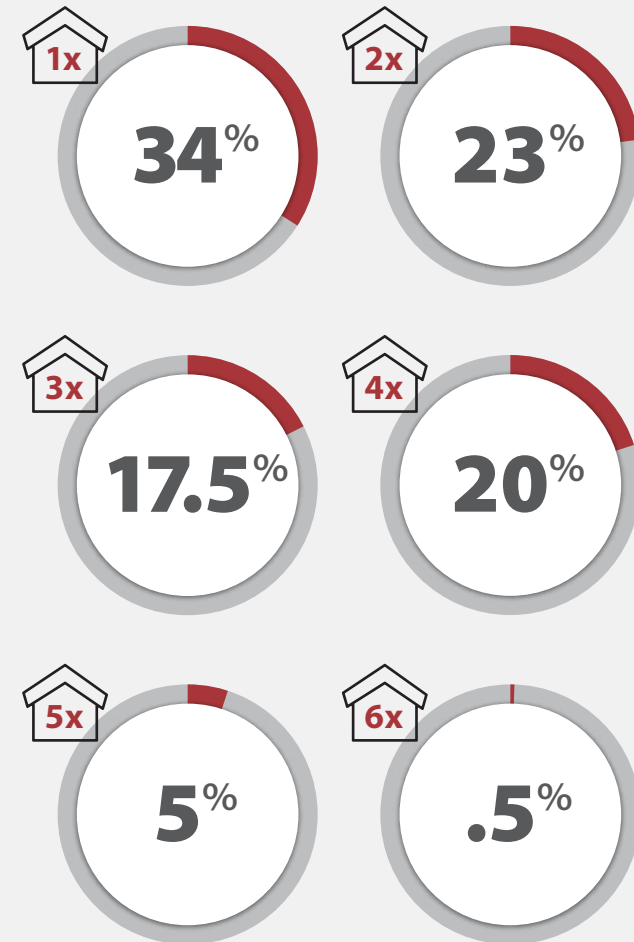


# 2021 CLIENT STATISTICS

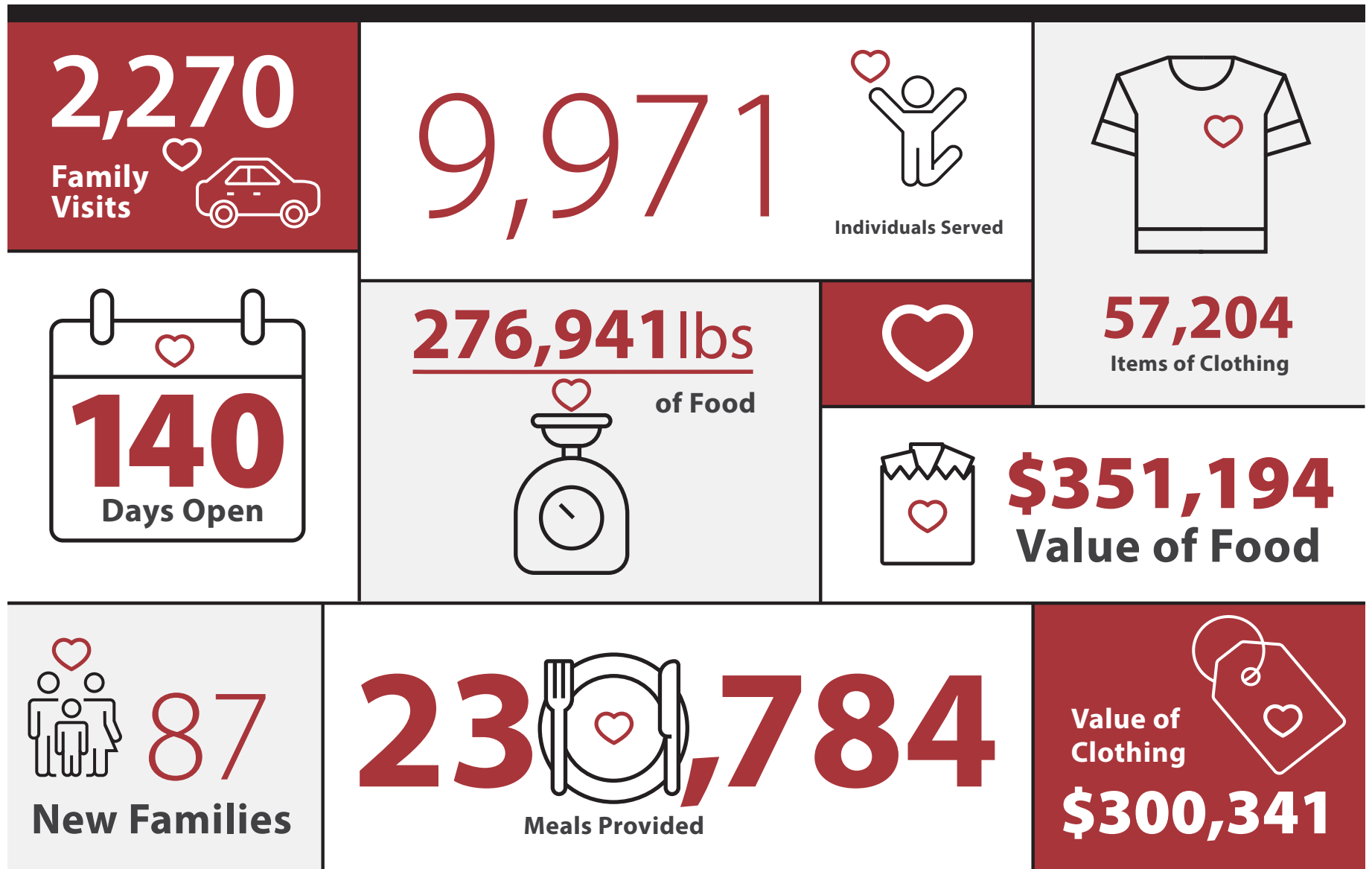
## RACE



## VISITS



# 2021 AT A GLANCE





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**Reach Out Lakota**

info@reachoutlakota.org | www.reachoutlakota.org | 6561 Station Road, West Chester, OH 45071 | 513.779.7515



Follow Us:

