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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LOCAL NONPROFIT TO EXPAND LEGACY OF FEEDING MINISTRY INTO CLIENT-CHOICE GROCERY AND COMMUNITY KITCHEN**

*Inspiritus Provides 83K Meals in 2023 through Feeding Ministry and Healthy Gardens Program*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. — January 2024** – [Inspiritus](#), a local nonprofit empowering individuals to move from surviving to thriving, plans to expand its feeding ministry to low-income residents in North Nashville. Inspiritus served more than 83,000 meals in 2023 through monthly community meals, food distribution through a decades-long partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank and its Healthy Gardens program.

As cost of living expenses rise and the number of individuals and families facing food insecurity increases, Inspiritus plans to expand its services as well.

“It is my honor and privilege to be a part of serving the North Nashville community through the feeding ministry and several other programs,” said Janet Arning, Inspiritus Executive Director of Middle Tennessee Operations. “We are excited to see how the additions of a client-choice grocery store and community kitchen will continue to support the community that we serve.”

Inspiritus, currently based in a building that once housed St. Paul’s Lutheran Church will begin redevelopment of the current property, expanding its services when Inspiritus opens its Live-Thrive-Give campus to serve low-income senior adults in 2026.

“St. Paul’s Lutheran was already deeply involved in the community when I arrived in Salemtown 15 years ago,” said Freddie McConnell, Nashville Mayor. “I’m excited to see Inspiritus reimagining their campus in a way that will deepen that community commitment, including critically needed affordable housing.”

The feeding ministry operating from this property has been serving the North Nashville community for over three decades, meeting tangible needs such as food assistance as well as the relational needs of the community.

Born from the congregation of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in the late 1980s, and nurtured under the leadership of Rev. Dr. John Swyers, the ministry continues today under the leadership of Inspiritus.

"Our feeding ministry has always been about building community and serving our neighbors. Being a historically low-income part of town, the monthly breakfasts were a way we could learn from, grow with and help carry the emotional burdens of our neighbors," said Rev. Dr. John Swyers. "It's a blessing to see the community meals and food distribution not only continue, but expand!"

To learn more about Inspiritus's feeding ministry and the Live-Thrive-Give campus in North Nashville, visit <https://weinspirit.org/community-empowerment>.

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**About Inspiritus:** [Inspiritus](https://weinspirit.org), a faith-based non-profit organization, supports initiatives and programs throughout the southeast, specifically engaging with low-income individuals and families to teach and empower them to thrive and enrich their communities. Inspiritus serves communities in Tennessee through Disaster Relief, Refugee and Immigration Services and its [Middle Tennessee Empowerment Services](#) which include programs such as THRIVE Studios, Healthy Gardens, Building Healthy Families, and the Inspiritus Food Pantry run in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. For more information, contact <https://weinspirit.org>.