



Program:

02/11/2026 8:44 AM

Application #: 361125

Application / Project Name:

Feeding the 901 - 361125

Application Party ID:

361051

Organization ID#:

299917

Please complete the fields below for your organization. If your program is sponsored by a fiscal agent, please complete the information for the sponsor organization.

Organization Legal Name:

Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry

LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org Profile URL:

<https://roundtable.livegivemidsouth.org/organizations/tr4yvGiMcu4KmKYSS>

Organization Address:

6025 Stage Road, Ste. 42-393, Memphis, TN 38134

Organization Phone Number:

(901)417-7842

If your program is sponsored by a fiscal agent, please list the name of your program.

Grant Contact Name:

Denette, Andrea

Grant Contact Title:

Grant Admin

Grant Contact Email:

andrea@sunshineanddaisy.org



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901-417-7842

As stated in the application guidelines, an eligibility requirement for this application is a LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org profile in progress. To meet eligibility, the applying organization needs to submit a new LIVEGIVEmidsouth.org profile to be published OR submit updates to an existing profile for review by February 6, 2026.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

As stated in the application guidelines, a representative from each organization chosen as a grant finalist must participate in the presentation for the GiVE 365 Finals event in April.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

In order to keep GiVE 365 members informed of the grant's progress, grantees are required to provide brief updates that can be shared with members two times in the twelve-month grant period. If awarded this grant, you will be asked to provide updates that might be shared with GiVE 365 members through some or all of the following methods: social media, e-newsletters, photos/videos, site visits, and other donor education opportunities.

I understand this requirement.

Yes

How will GiVE 365 funds be used?

Expand or sustain an existing program

Grant Amount Requesting:

\$12,000.00



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Please provide a brief 2-3 sentence summary of your project or program for use in communications with GiVE 365 members and for The Finals event program, should your application be chosen. (The description may be edited by staff.)

Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry delivers nutritious food directly to Memphis neighbors who face barriers to traditional food access, including transportation challenges, food deserts, and housing instability. Through mobile grocery distributions, emergency food boxes, and ready-to-eat meals for unhoused individuals, Sunshine and Daisy turns local support into immediate, dignified impact.

Please explain the ways your organization helps build food access and community connection through homegrown solutions.

Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry builds food access and community connection through homegrown solutions rooted in listening, trust, and local collaboration. Our work began through direct, person-to-person outreach in Memphis neighborhoods and continues to be shaped by what neighbors tell us they need, rather than by one-size-fits-all models.

By operating a mobile food pantry rooted in the Nutbush community, Sunshine and Daisy removes common barriers to food access, including transportation challenges, limited grocery options, and mobility constraints. Our approach brings food directly into neighborhoods where access is limited, allowing families, seniors, and unhoused neighbors to receive support in familiar, trusted spaces. Emergency Food Boxes delivered directly to households in crisis and Walk Away Food Boxes for unhoused neighbors reflect our commitment to meeting people where they are, both physically and emotionally.

Community connection is central to how we work. Sunshine and Daisy partners with local churches, nonprofits, schools, and volunteers who are already embedded in the communities we serve. These relationships guide outreach, inform food selection, and strengthen trust, ensuring that services remain culturally responsive and respectful. We prioritize staple foods that reflect community preferences and provide additional support such as hygiene items, diapers, and pet food when possible.

GiVE 365's emphasis on local impact and collaboration aligns closely with Sunshine and Daisy's model. We leverage donated food, rescued food, and volunteer time to stretch resources while maintaining consistency and reliability. Our small, volunteer-led structure allows us to respond quickly, adapt responsibly, and ensure that community support translates into immediate, tangible impact.



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Through neighborhood-based service, strong partnerships, and a commitment to dignity, Sunshine and Daisy demonstrates how locally driven solutions can strengthen food access while building meaningful, lasting connections within the Memphis community.

How will the grant funds be used?

Portable Refrigeration for Mobile Pantry Bus

Grant funds will support the purchase of portable refrigeration units designed to safely fit and operate on the Sunshine and Daisy mobile pantry bus. This equipment will allow the organization to store and distribute fresh and frozen items such as produce, dairy, and frozen meals. Adding refrigeration improves food quality and nutrition while increasing flexibility for both mobile pantry distributions and emergency food response.

Emergency Food Boxes

Funds will be used to support Emergency Food Boxes delivered to households experiencing displacement or urgent food insecurity. Each box costs approximately \$50 and provides 3-4 meals of shelf-stable food. Grant support will fund approximately 150 Emergency Food Boxes, contributing toward Sunshine and Daisy's annual goal of 520 Emergency Food Boxes while maintaining the program's once-every-six-months access guideline per household.

Walk Away Food Boxes for Unhoused Neighbors

Grant funds will support Walk Away Food Boxes distributed to unhoused neighbors. Each box costs approximately \$20 and contains ready-to-eat food that does not require cooking, refrigeration, or utensils. Funding will support approximately 175 Walk Away Food Boxes, helping Sunshine and Daisy move toward its annual goal of 520 Walk Away Food Boxes and consistent weekly distribution.

Explain how people from the communities you serve are involved in your organization's decision-making.

People from the communities served by Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry are actively involved in organizational decision-making through lived experience, ongoing feedback loops, and close partnership with leadership. As a volunteer-led organization, Sunshine and Daisy's leadership and board include individuals with deep roots in the Memphis community who are directly engaged in service delivery, allowing community voices to influence decisions in real-time.

In practice, community involvement occurs through continuous feedback gathered during mobile pantry distributions, Emergency Food Box deliveries, and outreach with unhoused neighbors. These conversations serve as informal yet consistent feedback loops that inform the co-design of programs



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related to food selection, distribution schedules, delivery methods, and access accommodations. Trusted community partners, including churches and neighborhood organizations, also serve in advisory roles, sharing insights into emerging needs and service gaps.

Recent example: Community feedback highlighted challenges faced by neighbors without access to refrigeration or cooking facilities. In response, Sunshine and Daisy expanded Walk Away Food Boxes, adjusted Emergency Food Box contents to include more ready-to-eat items, and prioritized adding portable refrigeration to the mobile pantry bus. These changes were implemented directly in response to community input and improved access for neighbors facing the greatest barriers.

As a result of this funding, what will be achieved for both your organization and those you serve?

As a result of this funding, Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry will strengthen the quality and reliability of food access for neighbors facing the greatest barriers, and increase the organization's capacity to respond to urgent needs.

For the communities we serve, this funding will enable Sunshine and Daisy to distribute an additional 150 Emergency Food Boxes and 175 Walk Away Food Boxes, helping the organization meet its annual goal of approximately 520 Emergency Food Boxes and 520 Walk Away Food Boxes. Each Emergency Food Box provides 3–4 meals for a household experiencing crisis, while Walk Away Food Boxes provide ready-to-eat nourishment for unhoused neighbors. These added resources will increase immediate food stability for hundreds of individuals facing transportation barriers, housing instability, or limited access to cooking facilities.

Adding one portable refrigerator or freezer to the bus will significantly improve the nutritional quality of the food available. This equipment will enable Sunshine and Daisy to safely transport and distribute fresh produce, dairy, and frozen meals, increasing the number of cold and perishable items offered at distributions and reducing reliance on shelf-stable food.

For Sunshine and Daisy, this funding will improve operational flexibility, food safety, and responsiveness. The organization will be able to meet increased demand without expanding waitlists, reduce food waste, and accept a wider range of donated and purchased items.

Overall, this investment will translate directly into more meals on tables, more stability for families in crisis, and more consistent, dignified access to nutritious food across Memphis—strengthening both immediate food security and long-term community resilience.



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Full Name of Executive Director or Authorized Signer:

Andrea M. Denette

Date:

2/11/2026

Sunshine and Daisy Mobile Food Pantry

Sunshine And Daisy Mobile Food Pantry
Budget P&L - FY26 P&L
 January - December 2026

	Total
Revenue	
Donations	62,000.00
Grants	80,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 142,000.00
Gross Profit	\$ 142,000.00
Expenditures	
Meals & Entertainment	300.00
Other Business Expenses	50.00
Program Services	0.00
Car & Truck	0.00
Fuel	400.00
License and Registration	300.00
Total Car & Truck	\$ 700.00
Contractors	10,400.00
Courier Delivery	50,000.00
Food for Bus/Emergency Boxes/Walk-Away Boxes	0.00
Bus Food	30,000.00
Emergency Food	15,600.00
WalkAWay Food	10,400.00
Total Food for Bus/Emergency Boxes/Walk-Away Boxes	\$ 56,000.00
Other Business Expenses	945.48
Personal Hygiene /Household items for bus	8,000.00
Purchases	0.00
Christmas Gifts	1,100.00
Total Purchases	\$ 1,100.00
Reimbursable Expenses	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000.00
Total Program Services	\$ 129,145.48
Supporting Services	0.00
Bank Charges & Fees	100.00
Insurance	2,000.00
Interest Paid	91.07
Membership Fees	476.31
Office Supplies & Software	500.00
Office/General Administrative Expenditures	100.00
Rent & Lease	1,500.00
Taxes & Licenses	85.00
Telephone	0.00
Total Supporting Services	\$ 4,852.38
Total Expenditures	\$ 134,347.86
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 7,652.14
Net Revenue	\$ 7,652.14

Here are two news segments. The first one is from 2022 and the third is from 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EMorHg5u00&list=PPSV>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBgmJBpXqUE&list=PPSV>

SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS

Takin' it to the streets: Mobile food pantry delivers kindness

By [Jane Roberts](#), Daily Memphian

Updated: December 26, 2023 10:41 AM CT | Published: December 24, 2023 6:45 PM CT

[8 comments](#)



Santa Diego Ramirez passes out candy canes to children at the Sunshine & Daisy gift distribution Sunday on Mamie Road in the Nutbush neighborhood. (Jane Roberts/The Daily Memphian)

Early Sunday, the blue bus that's become a billboard for kindness in Nutbush, pulled into the empty lot at 4007 Mamie Road, immediately animating the quiet street of

modest homes off Jackson Avenue.

Within minutes, cars were parked on both sides of the street. A truck with a trailer of food boxes was jockeying in place, and parents in a blend of races were lining up, waiting quietly to pick up bags of gifts.

Ninety minutes later, the bus was a few blocks over on Berkshire Avenue, the volunteers, including a Spanish-speaking Santa, were distributing gifts and food boxes for dozens of other families.

Making sure all Tennesseans eligible for food assistance get it



Families line up for the rolling food pantry called Sunshine & Daisy. On Christmas Eve, the pantry delivered toys for children in addition to groceries. (Ziggy Mack/The Daily Memphian)

Tending lists and hoisting boxes are Gretchen Gintz and Andrea Denette, Sunshine & Daisy to this crowd and the dozens of people across the city who fund their work and lift it in place.

“I get up on a Saturday morning and I’m like, ‘Oh my gosh. I am so tired. I don’t know if I can do this,’” Gintz said. “And by the end of it, we’re like electrified. It’s so much fun. Every single time I go out there, it’s like, ‘This is the best thing. I love it.’”

Sunshine & Daisy is the rapidly growing work of two women who met seven years ago at a food giveaway on Jackson Avenue. They recognized the zeal in each other and joined forces to serve more people.

With a mostly female support system, they run a rolling food shelf out of the bus, filling it each week with hundreds of pounds of food donated by Whole Foods at 5014 Poplar Ave., Church of the Holy Communion’s food recovery program and nonperishable donations from dozens of others, including 1,000 pounds of food given this month by WISE: Women. Inspired. Supported. Empowered, an employee resource group at Sunbelt Rentals here.

Gintz is a learning specialist at Hutchison School. Denette is an information security analyst at International Paper. In December, on top of their full-time jobs, they each squeeze in an average of four hours a day — mornings and evenings — to shop, stock and raise the money that keeps the bus loaded for the holiday.

Their mission is serving people in a way that maintains their pride.



Volunteers J.T. Reesor (left) and Andrew Chase assist with distributing groceries as the Sunshine & Daisy Mobile Food Pantry makes a stop in the Nutbush neighborhood on Dec. 24. (Ziggy Mack/Special to The Daily Memphian)

“Our big thing is giving families the dignity to choose what they need for their family. So, we try to provide a big variety,” Gintz said.

“We set it up like a grocery store. So, people are shopping like they’re in a grocery store,” Denette said.

“We’re a no-questions-asked food pantry. We don’t require anyone to show us an MLGW bill or ID or anything, but we do count how many people are in each family,” she said.

Church needs volunteers to bag 40,000 pounds of sweet potatoes

When it’s possible, they stock things that are hard to find in food pantries, including pet food.

“We know some of our people will feed their pets the human food before they’ll feed themselves,” said Gintz, tossing a new cat collar in one family’s Christmas packages on Sunday. She knew they needed one.

Their grassroots work provides groceries for at least 194 families — 833 people — twice a month, plus the dozen or so emergency food boxes the two deliver each week, frequently to people living in cars.

“We sent out an emergency box two weeks ago to a husband and wife who live in their car with their four cats. We sent them food that could be just opened and eaten since they have no way to cook it,” Gintz said.

Gintz and Denette are now so busy collecting and sorting groceries, they have outsourced emergency food delivery to Roadie, UPS’s crowd-sourced delivery platform.

“And in the last two or three weeks, we’ve been like, ‘Oh, my gosh, this is so much food. I don’t know how we’re going to get this out,’” Gintz said.

“And for the last three weeks, there has been huge line waiting on the bus.”

The two worry that what they have — sometimes boxes of bananas, mislabeled cans or trays of prepared food from the hot meal bar — won’t be enough to feed the increasing need.

[Seed funding: Nonprofits give free garden beds to about 100 homeowners](#)



Volunteer Andrew Chase (left) and others assist Javier Lopez (right) in the Nutbush neighborhood on Sunday, Dec. 24. Sunshine & Daisy Mobile Food Pantry serves the community around Mamie two Saturdays a month.
(Ziggy Mack/Special to The Daily Memphian)

“It never fails; we always have enough,” Denette said.

“It’s never not been exactly what we needed to give,” Gintz said.

They have found a community among people who are undocumented or marginalized for dozens of reasons. They trust them to know their own needs.

In 2020, when Denette and Gintz formed their 501(c)(3) nonprofit, they named it for what at least one unhoused man saw in them.

“Every time we would come up and see him, he’d say, ‘Oh, hello, Sunshine, and hello, Daisy.’”

“Gretchen is Sunshine, and I am Daisy,” Denette said.

On the first and third Saturdays, the bus pulls up on Mamie Road to the crowd of people they've seen twice a month for years.

The same is true on the second and fourth Saturdays, when the bus serves a men's recovery center on Semmes Street.

"Then we have other volunteers that take it to South Parkway and Lauderdale on the months with fifth Saturday," Gintz said.

The budget this year is \$30,000, all from donations and grants, including \$12,500 from the Memphis City Council, which gave \$1,250 last year.

“ *Our big thing is giving families the dignity to choose what they need for their family. So, we try to provide a big variety.* **”**

Gretchen Gintz

Co-founder of Sunshine & Daisy Mobile Food Pantry

The mission this year also received a \$1,000 WREG Community Changers grant, \$1,000 from Idlewild Presbyterian Church, and a gift from the city of Houston, Texas, where Denette has a friend on the city staff.

"I think people are seeing what we are doing," Gintz said.

The work is done by network of friends and friends of friends who see in Sunshine & Daisy what it looks like to care for neighbors.

"It could be me tomorrow that needs the help or needs the food," said Markeya Taylor, one of Denette's co-workers at IP.

"The least I can do is give back. Helping versus hindering is my goal."

On Christmas Eve, she was coordinating the gift distribution, which included toys the nonprofit bought for 91 children, plus extras for drop-ins.

Mid-South nonprofits grapple with region's hunger challenges

“We’re not going to turn a child away without getting a toy,” Gintz said.

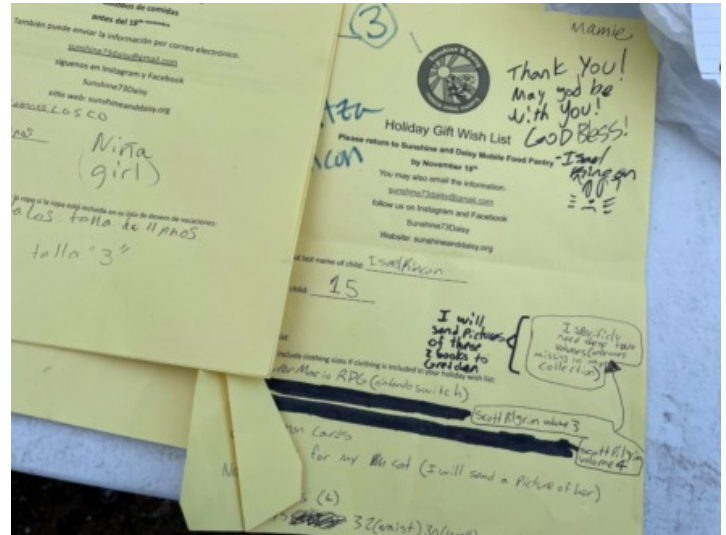
At Christmas, the mission goes into overdrive, adding not just loads of toys but toys the nonprofit purchased from children’s wish lists. The name tags are left blank so the parents can fill them out, in their handwriting.

“We want them to be able to write what they want,” said Denette.

They also collect items for 100 holiday food boxes.

“Getting enough food to prepare that many food boxes is a huge job. Even though we’ve gotten huge food donations, there’s items that we put in the boxes that don’t get donated very often. So, we have to shop for the quantity that we need to make the boxes even,” Gintz said.

This year, that meant finding and storing 56 4-pound bags of sugar after a donor gave 44 bags.



Families submitted wish lists for their children in November. On Sunday, Dec. 24, Sunshine & Daisy Mobile Pantry delivered the presents for 91 lists. They also brought a few extra toys so no children would be left out. (Jane Roberts/The Daily Memphian)

Hospital's cereal-eating contest shines light on childhood hunger



Melisha White (right) works with Santa (Diego Ramirez) at the check-in table Sunday, Dec. 24 as families arrive at the Sunshine & Daisy Mobile Food Pantry. (Ziggy Mack/Special to The Daily Memphian)

The warehouse is the pool house at Gintz' Bartlett home, where cans and other nonperishables line shelves five rows high.

"I would say we have 6,000 to 10,000 pounds there now. I think we have 4,000 pounds in corn alone," she said.

On Thursday, Dec. 21, at least a dozen women gathered to wrap the gifts.

"It was nice to do it with all my friends," said Ashley Gordon, who was out Sunday morning, helping with gift distribution, while her family waited for their own festivities to begin.

"We made this a priority. I told my family that I would be out from 7 a.m. to noon because I want to be a part of this. It's an honor. I think this is a part of being in God's community and giving back."

Before they were Sunshine & Daisy, Gintz and Denette were two women who enjoyed serving others. For Gintz, who was youth minister at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, the Lester Street Massacre in 2008 was galvanizing.

“The youth and I were just sitting around at a youth event talking about the impact of that terrible, awful moment in the city, and wondering what the opposite of that would be,” she said.

“We decided the opposite of that was love.”

The youths, she said, decided they could show love by making 100 lunches and delivering them after church.

“We would pile into my minivan and drive around the city asking people on the street if they wanted food,” Gintz said.

“Soon, parents would want to come, and the kids would bring friends. People loved it. It was amazing. We ended up with two minivans full of people.”

Meanwhile, Denette was serving in food lines, starting in 2013 at the United Methodist Church on Looney Avenue, which offered a meal on Saturday nights for the hungry.

Love Food, Hate Waste event all about small changes; plus, there will be beer!

“I would go every Saturday and serve food,” said Denette, whose earliest model was her grandmother, who owned a Dairy Queen on the poor side of her town.

“She would always have workers from the gin next door come in. There would be some that would not be able to afford their food. ... She was OK with that.

“Even as a small child, I always knew that I wanted to help people,” Denette said.

Every day, her grandmother also fed a homeless woman whose name was Mamie.

Nearly every time the bus pulls up to its parking place on Mamie Road, just a random street in the city of need, Denette feels the warmth of affirmation.

“To me, it says I’m doing the right thing. That’s a very important part it for me.

“My heart has this huge smile on it.”



In addition to groceries, Sunshine & Daisy Mobile Food Pantry also delivered toys on Christmas Eve. (Ziggy Mack/Special to The Daily Memphian)

TOPICS

SUNSHINE & DAISY **GRETCHEN GINTZ** **ANDREA DENETTE**

Jane Roberts

Jane Roberts has reported in Memphis for more than 20 years. As a senior member of The Daily Memphian staff, she was assigned to the medical beat during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also has done in-depth work on other medical issues facing our community, including shortages of specialists in local hospitals. She covered K-12 education here for years and later the region's transportation sector, including Memphis International Airport and FedEx Corp.
