

### Inside this Issue

#### Page 1

NYS Budget Update

#### Page 3

Message from Mark Quandt

#### Page 7 Feeding

Westchester: No Food  
Wasted

#### Page 8

Partnership Highlight



## NEW YORK STATE BUDGET UPDATE!

On Friday, April 8, the New York State budget passed. Highlights for New York's food banks include two big wins:

- The State will continue to fund **Nourish New York**. The \$50 million allocated for this program represents essentially level funding compared to last year.
- The State increased **HPNAP** funding by \$22 million. This will provide much-needed relief to those we serve and represents a huge victory for our recently-rebooted Advocacy Committee.

Taking the long view here, this budget represents a **\$72 million dollar** increased investment in anti-hunger work compared to three years ago. It is not all we wanted, but it is *\*most\** of what we wanted.

This victory happened only because of the teamwork of all ten Feeding NYS member food banks, led by our Advocacy team. Congratulations to each of you.

# FEEDING NEW YORK STATE NEW HIRE

**Ryan Healy, Advocacy Manager**



Considering the challenges facing working families across New York, there is an urgent need for public policies that reduce food insecurity and support our communities.

My name is Ryan Healy and as Feeding New York State's new Advocacy Manager, I look forward to utilizing my experience in political organizing and the nonprofit sector to help advocate for a hunger-free New York State. In this role, I will be working on state, federal, and root cause issues that relate to food insecurity.

Since joining the team in mid-February we've focused our advocacy efforts on the New York State budget, which saw a \$22 million increase to New York's Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) – the first HPNAP increase in over 5 years. We've also partnered with Hunger Free America on a gubernatorial forum – set for April 26th – that will focus on the issues of food insecurity, poverty, and economic empowerment. Looking ahead, we will build off these early successes to push for policies that assist New Yorkers experiencing food insecurity.

On a more personal note, some of my hobbies include hiking, reading, traveling, volunteering, and watching or playing sports.

I'm honored to be a part of this amazing team and I share everyone's vision for a hunger-free New York. Thank you for your continued support, and please feel free to email me at [rhealy@feedingnys.org](mailto:rhealy@feedingnys.org) if you'd like to get in touch or discuss your ideas for advocacy!



# A MESSAGE FROM MARK QUANDT

**Former Executive Director of  
Regional FB NENY**



I recently had a nice lunch with Dan Egan. We talked about old food bank days and today's challenges and opportunities. When I got home, I had an email from Dan asking if I would write an article for this newsletter. Since I can't say no to Dan, I agreed even though I'm supposed to be relaxing in my retirement.

I remember food banking in the 80s with great fondness. It was still in its infancy and full of dedicated, intelligent people. I consider many of them to be among the most inspirational people I ever met. It was a simpler time for food banks. We were trying to find our way to be of service to the hungry while becoming relevant enough in our communities to survive and grow. Few people knew who/what we were, money was tight, volunteers were scarce, food donations were limited, and our facilities and equipment were crude. We had to persevere, be frugal, work hard, and have great faith. But despite the many challenges, it was a wonderful time.

How does that time compare with food banking today? There is no comparison. Today, food banks provide much more food, it is better and more nutritious, facilities and equipment often rival the for-profit sector, volunteers are abundant, financial support is incredibly strong, and we are meeting the needs of our hungry neighbors better than ever. By 2020, we had become highly respected organizations in our communities. Then the pandemic hit and we became rock stars. It was strange in a way to be the focus of so much attention, but it felt good to know people were truly recognizing the invaluable services we provide. We can all be proud of our accomplishments.

Food Banks have grown up. We have moved way beyond the collection and distribution of donated food that was at the heart of food banking in the beginning. We have many programs targeting specific needs, and we continue to innovate and incorporate new ideas into our array of services. But personally, I am always drawn back to those early days, to the core of what makes food banks so special. Everything we do today is still built on that core. It is the reason so many people support our work – the simple concept of alleviating hunger by working with the food industry to prevent the waste of good food and get it to people in need.

There are two morals to this story. First, never let Dan treat you to lunch. You will pay a price. Second, always remember and respect the core that has made food banks what they are today.



# BOUNDLESS COLLABORATION



**Kathleen Stress**  
**Research Director**  
**at Feeding NYS**

## BOUNDLESS COLLABORATION 2022

The BC Team is off and running, well ‘delivering’, on our work to increase dairy access for pantry guests. With support of the FANO Boundless Collaborative funds we have been able to begin planning and testing dairy pilots across five food bank regions.



Project partners include five food banks and two dairy representatives:

- Feeding NYS (state association)
- Food Bank of the Southern Tier (food bank)
- FeedMore WNY (food bank)
- Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY (food bank)
- Island Harvest (food bank)
- Foodlink (food bank)
- American Dairy Association of North East- ADANE (dairy industry partner)
- Dairy Farmers of America (dairy industry partner)

We are testing three pilots: JIT, Direct Dairy Delivery and the use of a Pantry Annex Cold Trailer (PACT). The testing will run from March 14-May 13. The goal is to evaluate each pilot program and develop scalable models for food banks across the state and the network to implement, providing operational methods to increase access to dairy and perishable foods while increasing consumption of dairy for our consumers.

The BC Team will share our findings with all FNYS members as we evaluate and analyze the approaches. Look for further updates around June.



# FEEDMORE WNY

**Michael Daloia, Chief Products  
and Services Officer**



## Boundless Collaboration Team Spotlight

FeedMore WNY is proud to be a participant of Feeding NYS's Boundless Collaboration Initiative and partner with the American Dairy Association, Dairy Farmers of America, and

several other food banks on this exciting opportunity. This initiative, which is funded through a Feeding America grant, will allow FeedMore WNY to pilot models to increase access to fresh fluid milk through its partners in the WNY community.



Since 2012, FeedMore WNY has been piloting innovative ways to meet community demand for dairy products, such as milk. A system of providing vouchers to clients, which could be redeemed at local grocery stores for a gallon of milk, had initially showed great promise. However, transportation barriers and other challenges have led to decreased client participation in this model, so new solutions are needed to meet demand. This grant allows FeedMore WNY to pilot a Direct Dairy Delivery model. By increasing capacity for our partners to accept and safely store dairy products, vendors can deliver fresh fluid milk directly to our partner agencies. In the instance of one agency that does not have the ability to build out additional capacity inside its facility, a Pantry Annex Cold Trailer is being provided for additional refrigerated storage outside of the pantry walls.

This pilot allows clients to receive fresh milk along with their emergency food, eliminating travel barriers, such as the need for a subsequent trip to the grocery store in the case of voucher systems. Through direct dairy delivery from vendors, product quality and freshness is maximized, enhancing the client choice experience and overall impact on the food security of a household. We are excited to see the outcome of this pilot program and how it brings together dairy farmers, producers, and households.

# ISLAND HARVEST

**David Sank, Chief Supply  
Chain Officer**



## Boundless Collaboration Team Spotlight

Island Harvest Food Bank is excited to participate in the Feeding New York State Boundless Collaboration dairy project. The goal of the Boundless Collaboration project is to identify an equitable and sustainable process to provide dairy to our neighbors in need. As a member of this team, Island Harvest is looking for ways to leverage the rich abundance of milk and dairy products in New York State and find a solution that is mutually beneficial to dairy farmers and processors while enabling Island Harvest to fulfill our mission to end hunger and reduce food waste on Long Island.



Though New York State has rich dairy resources, they are not evenly accessible in all regions of the state. Most of our product is sourced through food rescue and donations with a limited spending budget for dairy. Sourcing, transporting and storing dairy can be challenging due to its limited shelf-life and highly perishable nature and so we are excited to be experimenting with new resources and opportunities for dairy.

As a result of our participation in this project, Island Harvest will distribute an additional 2,560 gallons of milk to 5 member agencies over 8 weeks. But this opportunity has done more than provide milk for our neighbors in need- it has also increased the capacity of our participating agencies to store and distribute milk through the provision of milk coolers from the New York State Dairy Association. It has enabled Island Harvest to establish new and enhanced relationships across New York State with dairy farmers and processors, increasing our ability to source, purchase, and distribute milk across Long Island. Increasing our capacity and that of our member agencies will enable us to collect, sort, and distribute more food and product, thereby serving more Long Islanders in need.

# FOOD PREFERENCE SURVEY

Kathleen Stress, Research Director

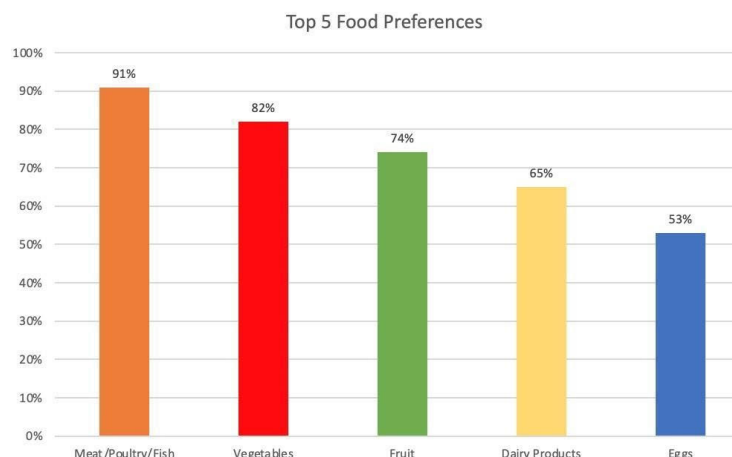


In Fall 2021, FNYS developed a Food Preference Survey to ask pantry guests what type of foods they prefer to receive when visiting their local food pantry.

We received responses from five food bank regions to help

us build data that showcases pantry guest food preferences. Our food bank members work diligently to develop nutrition policies with the consumer in mind, and we want to continue to support their efforts in acquiring wholesome foods to provide to the communities they serve.

Please take a moment to review the executive summary of the survey at: <https://feedingnys.org/food-preference-survey-2021-executive-summary>



## NO MEAL WASTED

Kim Fraser, Procurement Coordinator



For the month of April, Feeding Westchester will be hosting a campaign that focuses on food waste and how we combat it with our Retail Recovery Program.

We hope to educate our community on the issue of food waste and provide resources on food dating and other nutrition-related topics. We'll also include interviews with some of our Retail Recovery Partners about their role in our operations and their thoughts on fighting food waste, as well as local sustainability experts on why food waste is an important issue to address in regard to the environment and hunger.

Find out more. Visit: <https://feedingwestchester.org/no-meal-wasted-food-recovery/>



33 Elk St., Suite 203  
Albany, New York 12207  
P: 518-930-7000  
[www.feedingnys.org](http://www.feedingnys.org)

Proud member of



**PARTNERSHIP** *Thank You*



**NYSAC**  
— NEW YORK STATE —  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



**FARM CREDIT EAST**