

# P2P

peer to peer

FEEDING<sup>®</sup>  
NEW YORK STATE

FALL 2023 | ISSUE 7



## autumn

Ah, autumn, the magical time of year when the blazing heat of summer slowly cools its jets, making way for the crisp chill of winter.

# A MESSAGE FROM FEEDING NEW YORK STATE



**Dan Egan**  
Executive Director



## You can re-hire positions. You can never replace people!

Kelly Regan was the first person hired after I became ED in March of 2019, and has been the backbone to our success. Since then, Kelly has helped to bring structure and focus to FNYS. She has managed the books, which seems like it should be easy, but as we grew so has the spreadsheet. Kelly works alongside our members to ensure that the funds available to them are utilized while she efficiently tracks the requirements. When she is not tracking down invoices she is tracking down FNYS staff-ensuring that we have the resources we need to do our jobs and the gear to look cool out in the field.

And just when we got in the groove, Kelly has decided to retire. There is no way we can replace Kelly's vibrance, line of questioning or caring spirit that she has provided to each one of us. We can wish her only the best as she takes on new adventures in her next chapter, happening at the end of the calendar year.



"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

- Andrew Carnegie



# Sourcing Connections WE HAVE THE VEGGIES!



**Jim Germain**  
Statewide Produce  
& Logistics Director



## Mixing Center Products

FNYS is fortunate to have the support of the FANO Agri Food Grant to help offset costs for our members. All products ordered through the Mixing Center will be no cost product to you. *Freight to your food bank will need to be covered by your food bank.*

**New crop** “Orchard Run” NY fresh apples. Will be packed in cardboard bins, 700-800lbs. each. Cost around \$0.20/lb. FOB. Types: McIntosh, Empire, Jonagold, Cortland

**Other items available:** Beets, Onions, Carrots, Potatoes & Cabbage. Medium eggs also available to add to your planned load.

## Peter Ricardo: The Man, The Myth, The LEGEND!

You mention Peter Ricardo’s name in any community and at least one person chimes in that they know & love him.

Peter has spent almost 20 years in food banking, dedicating his brainpower to educating donors and communities on the importance of access to wholesome foods and how food banks work. Peter’s agricultural passion runs deep as he has devoted his career to working across 11 counties in Central New York to develop vital donor relationships for nutritious foods, attending numerous farm bureau county meetings while sharing his expertise & views with the network.

There will never be another Peter but how lucky is this network that we had the chance to learn and grow with him. Take a moment to wish Peter the best, you can do so through Dec. 2023:

[pricardo@foodbankcny.org](mailto:pricardo@foodbankcny.org)



# Advocacy Happenings

## WELCOME FAREENA, ADVOCACY COORDINATOR



**Ryan Healy**  
FNYS Advocacy  
Manager

## Advocacy Q&A: Getting to know Fareena

### **Tell us about your background and education**

I grew up in Pakistan and moved to the USA full time in 2011 with my family. I am one of 5 siblings and grew up in Niskayuna, New York. I have undergrad degrees in Political Science and Economics. I have worked in the state legislature and in civil service before that. I am currently pursuing my masters degree at the University of Albany.

### **What is the focus of your master's thesis?**

My masters thesis focuses on the gridlock of democracy because of Markets and policy choices that benefit corporations. The US government makes policy choices for said corporations leaving constituents and voters voiceless in our system of democracy. I use the 2008 financial crisis as a case study.

### **What issues are you most passionate about?**

I have a plethora of issues I am passionate about but I believe that systemic racism and economic disparities are the root cause of a lot of policy issues we face today at the state and federal level. I believe that tackling the problem of inequality will solve a lot of other issues that are a direct result of the way our system was designed.

### **What does food justice mean to you?**

Food is a basic human right. There should be absolutely no question or argument about whether someone gets to eat or not. This not only includes giving people in need the direct means to purchase food but also making sure nutritious food is available to all people.

### **What is your vision of advocacy?**

My vision for advocacy includes intersectionality. I strongly believe that policy issues such as poverty, homelessness, minimum wage, housing and food security etc. need to be addressed holistically and with multiple factors in mind. These issues are systemic and if someone is hungry and unable to access food, there are a lot of other barriers they are facing in their life.

### **What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?**

I am really into cars. I used to work for a car dealership and learned a lot about cars by being in the shop. I learned how to work on cars soon after and I am looking to get an E36 as a project car next year.

### **Favorite food:**

As everyone knows around the office, I love to eat!

I am not a picky eater and love all sorts of cuisines.

I would have to say my favorite is a comfort food I had growing up called masar chawal (lentils and white rice).



Fareena Aslam, Advocacy Coordinator  
[faslam@feedingnys.org](mailto:faslam@feedingnys.org)



# Food Recovery RECOVERY INVESTMENTS



**Jay Hawkins**  
Food Recovery  
Manager



FNYS has been leading a project that will help our members inform their partner agencies (pantries, food rescue organizations, shelters, etc.) on best practices for partnering with food donors through a series of videos! There has been a nationwide push to enable more partner agencies to do their own donation pick ups. This coincides with funding that has been made available by Feeding America, the state, and other organizations.

Feeding Westchester and Foodlink have assisted FNYS with the scripts for the training videos that were provided to our volunteer actors from Albany High School Drama Club. We started filming mid-October at Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and hope to have the videos completed by the end of the calendar year!

## New Member Staff

A big WELCOME to Caila (*pronounced Kayla*) Jewell the new Food Industry Partnership Coordinator, Retail at Regional Food Bank of NENY!

Caila joined Regional Food Bank in May 2023. In her previous retail career she realized how important “community connections” were & decided to look for something different and more rewarding.

During her first few months at Regional she has attended many events such as the Golf Classic and Chefs and Vinters. Caila feels that these events are excellent team building and networking opportunities. Caila has been excited to see the all the different cogs in the in the food bank distribution process.

While growing up in Schenectady she saw food insecurity first hand and is proud to be a part of the team at Regional Food Bank. Caila has realized how great the need for food is in NY and has spent time learning about how the different regions of the state are affected by food insecurity.

When Caila is not working, she spends her off time with her dogs Dobby and Harry. In addition, she spends time with her family up north and eating good food.



# Grants

## THE WORLD OF DAIRY & WELCOMING CATHY!



**Kathleen Stress**  
Research Director

## Promoting the NYS Dairy Distribution Project



West Coast Dairy Symposium  
*San Diego*

IFT First  
*Chicago*

Mid-West Dairy Symposium  
*Kansas*

FNC- *Philadelphia 2022 & Minneapolis 2023*

*Dairy Nourishes Michigan 2023*



I have been honored to represent NYS members at conferences across the US to highlight the Boundless Collaborative work of increasing dairy access and distribution in New York State. The BC Team of 5 food banks and 2 dairy partners have been working together to build systems that help get dairy into the hands of our neighbors. See more at [feedingnys.org/boundless](https://feedingnys.org/boundless)



### Career background

35 yr exp: Consumer Good industry- Gerber Baby food, Novartis, Nestle American Dairy Association Northeast (ADANE).

During Covid my work at ADANE was to organize & work with food banks, local groups, and food suppliers to give away milk and food.

## Welcome Cathy Hobb

Hello! I'm Cathy Hobb, Feeding NYS PT Boundless Coordinator. I started this new role in August 2023. My focus is working with our food banks on outreach to grocery & retail stores, along with other organizations to support the fundraising campaign of Fill A Glass With Hope.

I will support the FAGWH program with food banks to help raise donations to be used to purchase milk for the local pantries and build new opportunities to use the FAGWH programs to increase awareness and the need for dairy.

I am excited to support, connect with and collaborate with all you by helping with these programs, while building a long-term fundraising program to continue future support of providing the much-needed milk and dairy products.

Please reach out to me at [chobb@feedingnys.org](mailto:chobb@feedingnys.org) or 315-727-7810



# Member Engagement BUILDING CONNECTIONS



**Steffani Williams**  
Member  
Engagement  
Manager

Hello! I'm Steffani Williams, Feeding New York State's new Member Engagement Manager. I joined the team in August 2023 and I'm thrilled to be a part of this organization and our extended network of amazing food banks and people!

For the past 16 years, I worked at Onondaga Community College (OCC) in Syracuse where I wore many hats and frequently witnessed firsthand the far-reaching impact of food insecurity on educational outcomes. In these pursuits, I embraced the belief that every person, no matter their background, should have access to vital resources, including healthy food!

In my role with Feeding NY State, I am here to help our member food banks and teams engage with the FNYS team and each other so we can build opportunities together. My goal is to learn and understand your successes and challenges and I will strive to help with whatever is needed to better assist our neighbors in need.

I hope we can find success in streamlining operations, improving coordination, and ultimately enhance the overall ability to fulfill our collective mission.

I am excited to support, connect and collaborate with my new food bank friends, and I look forward to enhancing our opportunities for partnering, engagement, resource integration, communication, recognition, activities, and other coordinated efforts. Together, we will continue to make a meaningful impact on hunger alleviation and community well-being across New York State!



My first visit was to  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  
and I am headed your way soon!





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Proud member of



# Partnership *highlight*

## Food Recovery: 5 Million Pounds Trucked Not Chucked!

**DON'T CHUCK IT - TRUCK IT**  
**Food Rescue Program**  
 An amazing success ...  
 growing bigger by the year!

<b>2023 (SO FAR)</b>	<b>2,900,000 LBS</b>
2022	1,900,000 LBS
2021	148,000 LBS

**5 MILLION LBS TRUCKED NOT CHUCKED**

Since 2021, Feeding New York State, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, has rescued more than 5,000,000 lbs. of food that would otherwise have gone to waste.

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation | **FEEDING NEW YORK STATE**

FNYS and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation have partnered to implement the NYS Food Donation & Food Scraps Law. Working together with NYS food banks, we have successfully captured 5 million pounds of edible foods that would have typically been thrown away. These wholesome foods were donated to our members and food programs throughout the state to provide additional food items for our neighbors!