

P2P

peer to peer

FEEDING[®]
NEW YORK STATE

JANUARY 2023 | ISSUE 4

Inside this Issue

Page 2

Message from our
Executive Director

Page 3

Food Sourcing Update

Page 4

Advocacy Update

Page 5

Community Update:
Venison Program



Advocacy In Action

Mark Emanation, Director, Capital District Labor Federation,
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and
Regional Food Bank Executive Director Molly Nicol

A MESSAGE FROM FEEDING NEW YORK

A new year of possibilities & initiatives



There's an old story from many years ago, when anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a prehistoric culture. Most of us would think of things like tools, or cave art or something like that. Mead's answer was none of these - she said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a leg bone that had broken, but had healed. Mead's point was that a healed bone is evidence that the group took risks and expended effort to help a person recover, rather than leaving them to their fate. Helping members of the community through difficulty, even when it costs us work and risk, is where civilization starts.

I wonder sometimes if in 2023 we can pass Dr. Mead's civilization test. We probably all want to live in a society in which we help each other, and can depend on others to help us if we need it. But do we? I wonder. Our national political culture seems to be content to leave people to their fate, no matter what difficulties we have put them through.

We can do better.

Over the last four decades, food banks and other similar organizations have been doing much of the 'helping work' upon which civilization depends. We at Feeding NYS are proud to be members of this community. However, our challenge is not simply to do this work better, but to change the national political culture so that we are all helping each other and no one is left behind.

In Kindness,



Food Sourcing Update

WORKING TOGETHER



Jim Germain
Statewide Produce
& Logistics Director

Getting on the road and meeting with food banks, community partners and donors is essential to my work. I would rather build face to face connections than send an email. I feel lucky that over the last year I have been able to be back on the road!

At the beginning of November, Dan and I accompanied FANO staff: Dru Montri, Bekah McMurrain & Robert Levy on a tour of NYC and Long Island members. The value to these trips goes way beyond FANO seeing facilities. It builds a rapport that is critical to our work, folding in all the layers of how FNYS and food banks work to feed our neighbors in need.



Advocacy Updates

LOOKING TO 2023



Ryan Healy
FNYS Advocacy
Manager

Following an impactful year of advocacy in 2022 – which included

- a 63% HPNAP funding increase,
- the codification of Nourish New York as a permanent budget line,
- and the first White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in over 50 years

Feeding New York State will have significant advocacy opportunities at the state and federal level.

At the state level, there is growing momentum for New York to join other states – California, Maine, Colorado, Vermont, and Massachusetts – in guaranteeing healthy school meals for all students. Feeding New York State is proud to work alongside a diverse coalition of education, anti-hunger, and public health advocates on this initiative. Additional state-level priorities for 2023 include increased funding for HPNAP and Nourish New York and continued public investment in SNAP outreach and enrollment.

The new year ushers in a new Congress that will work on the 2023 Farm Bill. The Farm Bill is an omnibus legislative piece that is negotiated every five years and carries major implications for nutrition and agriculture policy. Feeding New York State will advocate for a Farm Bill that strengthens the benefit adequacy of and expands eligibility for SNAP, affirms TEFAP as a lifeline for the millions of Americans experiencing hunger and food insecurity, and invests in grant programs that improve nutrition security and strengthen local food systems.

Looking ahead to 2023, Feeding New York State will continue our work guided by the understanding that healthy food is a human right. We look forward to another robust year full of legislative wins, coalition building, and organizing on behalf of a hunger-free New York.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Senator Gillibrand and Governor Hochul pack boxes of squash at the Regional Food Bank of Northeast New York. The squash was donated in bulk bins by our NYS farmers and has to be repacked by volunteers into smaller boxes for food pantry distributions to the communities they serve.



Community Highlight

VENISON PROGRAM



Stan Pasco
Supporter of the
Venison Program

The Venison Donation Program has been in existence in New York since the late 1990's. What started as a regional way for successful hunters to help those in need has grown to include almost every region across the state.

Every year close to 38 tons of venison is donated. One pound of ground venison equates to about four meals. Since its inception, the program has helped distribute over five million meals to neighbors in need.



Newspaper clipping from 2001

One of the program's early success stories occurred shortly after the 9/11 tragedy. The Food Bank of NYC was seriously low on meat to hand out. A group of Lower Hudson Valley hunters, with others, helped coordinate the delivery of 2,000 pounds of uncut venison. **These individuals cut, ground up and packaged all the venison in one night.** The following morning, they delivered the venison to the Food Bank in Hunts Point and the Bronx, thereby helping to alleviate the shortage.

Venison is a high protein, low fat meat that is also high in B vitamins and amino acids. It is the ideal meat for those who need to eat healthy and is organic to boot. When mixed with beans, rice or vegetables, venison helps to make a perfectly balanced meal.

If a hunter successfully harvests a deer, they need only to find a participating processor and drop off the deer. The hunter does not pay anything, and the food banks reimburse the processor for the processed meat.

In NYS, a hunter in most areas can legally harvest up to nine deer. For those who are successful in harvesting more than they need, there is no better way to help than to donate the excess to the food banks.



Food Recovery Update

FEEDING WESTCHESTER



Danielle Vasquez
Food Donations
Coordinator
Feeding Westchester



Target store:
Port Chester Management Team
Jay Hawkins, *FNYS* (Back, middle)
Kim Cicero, *Feeding Westchester* (Back, right)
Danielle Vasquez, *Feeding Westchester* (Front, right)

Hi, I'm Danielle Vasquez! In June 2022, I began my journey with Feeding Westchester as the Food Donations Coordinator. In my role, I have responsibilities that include quarterly site visits and regular food safety training sessions with each retail partner and their teams.

I have been told that I have become a friendly and familiar face for our retail partners. My regular visits with stores have increased the variety, quality and quantity of donations rescued.

My role has been instrumental in the launch of the Agency Enablement Program, which has resulted in an 18% increase in retail donations since the start of this fiscal year, and continues in an upward trajectory. Feeding Westchester has been able to transition 47 of our weekly pickups over to agency partners. This approach has reduced our food bank fleet pickup schedule, effectively allowing us to onboard 8 new retail partners this fiscal year to date. Our greatest successes have been within Stop & Shop, BJ's, Target, Costco and GoPuff stores.

I look forward to meeting my food bank colleagues over the new year! Please feel free to reach out to me at DVasquez@feedingwestchester.org.

FNYS MEMBER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Cathedral in Bloom January 13-15, 2023

<https://www.facebook.com/CathedralinBloom/>

Tickets can be purchased at

<https://regionalfoodbank.net/events/category/community-event/>

Cathedral in Bloom, the area's premier flower show, is coming back! Enjoy the glory of the architecture of The Cathedral of All Saints combined with the talents of the Capital Region's floral artists—regardless of the weather outside, it will be spring inside the Cathedral! A portion of ticket sales support Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY

AN EVENING | FEEDING IN GOOD TASTE | WESTCHESTER

April 1, 2023 - May 31, 2023

See website for details

<https://feedingwestchester.org/get-involved-events>



FNYS Updates

HPNAP Transportation Process: for FY24

FNYS will work alongside of Regional Food Bank on the HPNAP Transportation Grant. Please continue to submit your invoices to Deanna at Regional for payment. Jim at FNYS will assist with product transport coordination if needed.



FNYS Grant Opportunities for Members:

DEC Food Recovery Funds are available until 2025. Maximum award for Round I is \$150,000. Complete DEC RFP and submit by Jan. 5, 2023. Awards announced mid-January.



33 Elk St., Suite 203
Albany, New York 12207
P: 518-930-7000
www.feedingnys.org

Proud member of



Partnership *highlight*

This Holiday Season Guinness has partnered with Feeding New York State for the **third year in a row.**

For every new limited-edition Guinness Gives Back' 8-pack made, **Guinness is donating \$1* to a charitable organization** in the U.S. Feeding New York State is one of two charities in New York supported by this initiative.

