

Inside this Issue

Page 2

Farewell Natasha!

Page 3

Sourcing Connections

Page 4

Advocacy

Page 6

Vendor Spotlight



FNYS Annual Meeting

June 6-7, 2023

City Harvest

further details will be emailed

Farm Partnerships Are Essential



Eric Hansen-Hansen farms, Jim Germain-FNYS, Russell Farms-Max Russell & Scott Kneeland

A MESSAGE FROM FEEDING NEW YORK STATE



Dan Egan
Executive Director

Farewell **Natasha**



After 22 years of outstanding leadership at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Natasha Thompson is leaving the food bank community for a new gig as CEO at WSKG, the NPR affiliate radio station in Binghamton NY.

Under Natasha's leadership, Southern Tier expanded its programs significantly, and in 2017 was awarded "Food Bank of the Year" by Feeding America - an astonishing achievement for a small food bank.

She served as the Feeding New York Board Chair for several years evolving the association into its next phase of development and led our Advocacy Committee through a critical period of growth. We will miss Natasha!
Wishing her all the best in her new role.



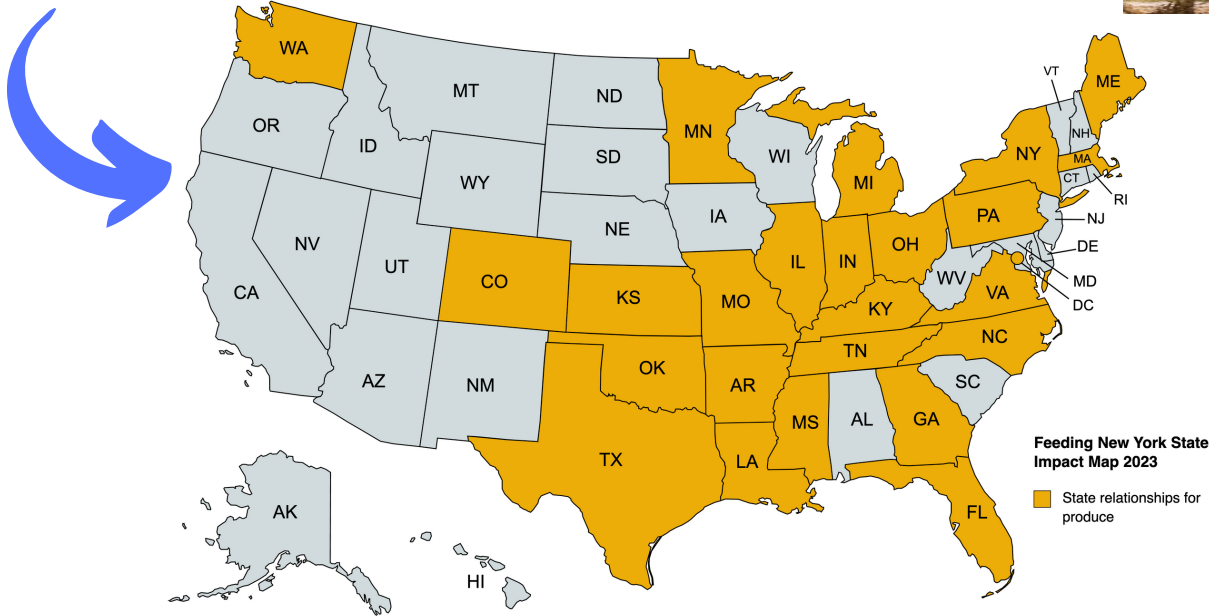
Sourcing Connections SPRING HIGHLIGHTS



Jim Germain
Statewide Produce
& Logistics Director

40 million pounds!!!

FY22-23 to date: **40,425,455 pounds acquired.**
A new yearly record and the year ain't over yet!!



Empire Producers Expo 2023

Relationships are key!! The Empire Producers Expo provided the venue to reengage with our donors, who continue to support our work with access to wholesome foods!

1st photo-Melissa & Michael of Williams Farms; 2nd photo Peter Ricardo, FBCNY; 3rd photo Dan Henry, Henry Farms



Advocacy

WELCOME FELICIA-ADVOCACY INTERN, COMMUNITY EVENT HIGHLIGHT



Ryan Healy
FNYS Advocacy
Manager

SOMOS New York Conference

On March 11th, Feeding New York State participated in a panel discussion at SOMOS alongside Assemblymembers Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas and Catalina Cruz. Feeding New York State was also joined by organizational partners including United Way of New York City, Hunger Free America, and Citizens' Committee for Children of New York.

The panel focused on the issue of food security in New York State, with an emphasis on the disproportionately high rates of poverty and food insecurity for Hispanic New Yorkers. State lawmakers and advocates called on New York State to do the following:

1. Guarantee healthy school meals for all
2. Fully invest in New York's anti-hunger programs including HPNAP, NOEP, and Nourish New York
3. Dismantle barriers to wellbeing in urban and rural communities alike
4. Affirm healthy food as a basic human right



Front row (left to right): Assemblymember Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz, and Grace Bonilla (President & CEO at United Way of NYC)
Back row: Dan Egan

Q&A with Felicia Avevor FNYS Advocacy Intern



Q: What are you studying at UAlbany and what led you to choose your field of study?

A: I'm currently studying public health at UAlbany. Prior to becoming a public health major, I've always known I wanted to help people in some way. When I took Introduction to Public Health my freshman year, I learned a lot about the public health system and the different factors that play a role in peoples' health outcomes, from the environment that they live in to the level of education they've received. I decided to pursue this as my major because I want to be able to improve the quality of life of people who face barriers that impact their health.

Q: Any hobbies or extracurricular activities on campus?

A: I'm the secretary for Sankofa Africa, an organization on campus that focuses on giving back to the Albany community and giving back to Africa. I'm also part of the tennis club at UAlbany.

Q: Do you have a dream job or career path after graduating?

A: I would like to become an epidemiologist and focus on maternal and child health. More specifically, I would like to focus on black mothers and children. I want look into the disparities in birth outcomes for black mothers compared to other racial groups and look at disparities that impact black children and find ways to prevent them.

Q: What does food justice mean to you?

A: Food justice is ensuring that everyone is able to access healthy food that is affordable regardless of economic status or where they live. On top of healthy food for all, it is important that the food system isn't harming the environment.

Q: What issue(s) within the food system are you most passionate about? And how do you see advocacy as a way to address this/these issue(s)?

A: One issue that I'm particularly passionate about are food deserts. People in low income areas aren't able to access healthy and affordable food because grocery stores are located outside their community and therefore they have to settle for what they can access. This usually ends up being fast food or food that isn't healthy but it's what they can afford. Through advocacy work, we can bring issues about access to food to the attention of people in the community as well as lawmakers and emphasize the importance of people in these areas having access to quality food in their community and make it so that more grocery stores are put in these areas or that corner stores and bodegas can carry fresh produce at an affordable price.

Food Recovery

MEMBER STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Jay Hawkins
Food Rescue Manager

Hello!

My name is **Marcy McMahon** and I'm the new **Food Donor Partnership Specialist** at Foodlink in Rochester. Previously, I was a JSY Nutrition Educator at Foodlink for five years, where I taught cooking and nutrition classes to low-income adults across our service area and consulted with member agencies to improve the pantry environment.

I'm eager to build a successful donation program that will improve nutritious food access and divert food waste on a large scale. I'm thankful for all the support I've received so far. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself!



Marcy McMahon
Food Donor Partnership Specialist
585-413-5055 (office)
mmcmahon@foodlinkny.org
FoodlinkNY.org

Food Recovery Goals



By partnering with the food banks during 2022 we were able to exceed our 2 million pounds goal we set for the first year of the NYS Food Donation and Scraps Law being implemented. With more funding to support our members we are looking to hit 4 million pounds in 2023 alone. Through February we are at 460,000 pounds! We continue to see a correlation with increased pounds for the food banks that have invested in their Food Rescue programs.

In March the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a new report summarizing the progress made with the New York's law:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/2022foodannualreport.pdf

NYC Food Summit

Food Bank For New York City's annual "Food Security Summit" took place February 2023. The one-day conference was about bringing together hunger fighters from across New York State to collaborate, brainstorm, and create solutions for a food secure future.

This year's conference theme of "We Rise," centered on elevating the voices of those we serve and demonstrating how we as members of New York City's largest emergency food network rise as innovators, cultural advocates, and first responders to meet their unique and varied needs. This coincided with several workshops including building relationships with elected officials, maximizing SNAP benefits, the key to effective fundraising, and how to be a leader.

Feeding NYS has had the opportunity to attend several agency conferences throughout the State over the past year and we look forward to continuing to support our members any we can. We plan to attend Foodlink's agency conference in April.

Grants

CREATING FOOD, REDUCING WASTE



Matt Spafford
CEO, Maple Ridge Foods

In the United States, billions of pounds of food goes to waste every year while millions of people go hungry. Maple Ridge Foods is devoted to utilizing up-cycled ingredients as one way to both reduce waste and to bring affordable premium products to those in need. Maple Ridge Foods utilizes our supply chain expertise to identify food that would have otherwise gone to waste, utilizing it to develop affordable food bank feeding programs. Using our transportation skills, we are able to deliver affordable much needed feeding programs to Food Banks around the country.

Maple Ridge's flagship program, **Shredding Hunger**, delivers 1 pound shredded cheese for \$1.90 per pound anywhere in the country in quantities as little as 6 pallets; allowing small food banks to participate in all programs. Maple Ridge Foods also offers other programs such as 8oz block cheese with **Blocking Hunger** and 1lb. ground beef with **Grinding Hunger**. Maple Ridge is committed to providing affordable products to those in need through food banks nationwide. We partner with manufacturers throughout the country to insure that freight deliveries are affordable. Maple Ridge Foods is looking everyday for new manufacturers and food banks to partner with to grow Shredding Hunger.

SHREDDING HUNGER
\$1.90 PER POUND DELIVERED

Packed:
24/1 lb per case
1620 cases per truck load
60 cases per pallet
27 pallets per truck load
Flavors can vary

MAPLE RIDGE FOODS

Maple Ridge Foods is a food sourcing and logistics solutions company that utilizes their food supply chain expertise to help food banks with low-cost transportation.
7465 Chadwood Ct • Kewaskum WI 53040
mapleridgefoods.com

Proud Member Of
UPCYCLED
FOOD ASSOCIATION

HPNAP Transportation by Beth Barlow

The HPNAP transportation grant is a valuable resource to our members. The grant was set up to help offset the cost of transportation in getting wholesome food (donated or purchased) from our valuable donors to food banks in need.

Feeding NYS (in coordination with Regional Food Bank) is working hard to help members utilize this grant to its maximum potential. FNYS will assist in making arrangements for the collection and distribution of donated or purchased foods to our members by: determining the eligibility of food, negotiating the best price with the transportation companies, processing paperwork for transported food, and work as a liaison with Feeding America to find national as well as local donors.

The rising costs of freight and food, along with funding cuts to programs like emergency SNAP benefits, has made the HPNAP Transportation grant an even more important resource. The HPNAP Transportation grant reimburses transportation costs for HPNAP approved food whether transportation is arranged by the Food Bank or FNYS. HPNAP approved food guideline can be found on <https://tinyurl.com/2h2ynbj6>

Questions: Contact Jim Germain or Beth Barlow 518-930-7000



Grants continued BOUNDLESS UPDATE



Kathleen Stress
Research Director

NYS Dairy Distribution Initiative

5 Food Banks, FNYS, 2 Dairy Industry partners working together to develop sustainable models of dairy access

Progress To Date

Milk Coolers

25 milk coolers delivered
13 more to place

Park It Market

One unit to Island Harvest March 2023

Pantry Annex Cold Trailer

One unit to Foodlink June 2023
One HUB unit to Regional Food Bank July 2023

Funding Secured

\$3,600,000 (FANO and BC Partners)



FeedMore WNY | Foodlink | Island Harvest | Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York | American Dairy Association North East

FNYS MEMBER ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Camp City Harvest transports guests back to their summer 'home away from home,' as they revisit the fun of summer camp! City Harvest's 19th annual Summer in the City gathers some of New York City's hottest chefs, restaurants and mixologists, all in support of our work feeding New York City.



<https://www.cityharvest.org/event/summer-in-the-city-2022/>

Annual Auction Gala

May 5 @ 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

For more information, please contact:
Caitlyn Krug, 518-786-3691 x232



**Regional
Food Bank**
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK



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

Proud member of



Partnership *highlight*

Thank you
to **Williams Farms**
for providing
4,941,710 pounds of
produce this fiscal
year to support our
members!



Four generations of Williams Farm Family and
Jim trying to pretend he works there