



**Healthy Food is a Human Right**  
New York State food banks call on the state to take the lead on ending hunger and poverty

# A MESSAGE FROM FEEDING NEW YORK STATE



**Dan Egan**  
Executive Director

## Leading Through the Tough Times

"If you're a leader, you lead the way - not just on the easy ones - you take the tough ones too" - Major Richard Winters, US Army WW2

Leadership can be rewarding when times are good. Celebrating wins and taking pride in your team's accomplishments brings joy and fulfillment. However, the true test of leadership arises in tough times - when grant revenues decline, key staff members leave, or significant challenges arise. It's during these moments that leaders discover their character.

Leadership can be exhausting, lonely, and overwhelming. The temptation to avoid difficult tasks or pass them on is real. Yet, true leaders resist these "easy outs" and rely on two critical qualities: discipline and integrity.

Discipline is the determination to complete tasks despite fatigue, difficulty, or setbacks. A disciplined leader pushes forward when the road is hard, adapts when someone lets them down, and perseveres after setbacks. Integrity, on the other hand, is doing what's right, even when it's costly. It means owning mistakes, maintaining high standards, and tackling tough assignments personally, rather than shifting them to others.

In challenging times, leaders with discipline and integrity inspire their teams to rise above adversity. They build trust, foster resilience, and drive collective success.

Reflect on a leader who guided a team through hardship—and strive to embody those qualities for your own team. That's the essence of great leadership.

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### *Please Welcome* **Amy Davenport**, Administrative Associate

Amy Davenport (she/her) joined the Feeding NYS team on January 13th. Amy earned her Bachelor's Degree from Ithaca College and holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Salem State University.

Previously, Amy worked at Hudson Valley Community College as a Program Assistant with the Career and Transfer Center. She has worked in various non-profit settings throughout her career.

Outside of work, Amy enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters (recently launched from the nest), reading, exercising, and traveling. She is looking forward to working with the FNYS team!



# Sourcing Connections



**Jim Germain**  
Statewide Produce  
& Logistics Director

**Beth Barlow**  
Sourcing  
Administrator

## Did You Know?

Feeding New York State has a year-round apple program offering varieties like Fuji, Honeycrisp, Gala, Empire, Snapdragon, Evercrisp, and Red Delicious.

These beauties are awakened from a cold storage sleep where they are then graded both internally & externally with lasers and x-rays.

Once apples are approved they are then washed & waxed...How bout dem apples?



## Mixing Center Offerings:

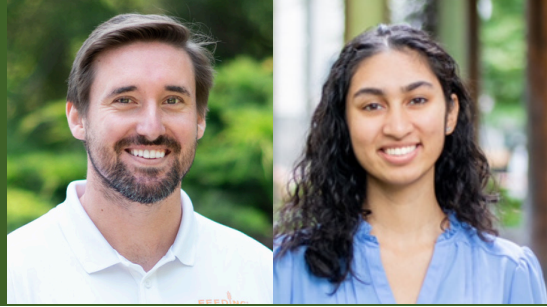


Feeding New York State is offering some amazing NY grown hothouse tomatoes out of our Mixing Center.

Orders can be combined with apples, cabbage, carrots, onions, potatoes, assorted winter squashes and fresh milk.



# Advocacy Happenings



**Ryan Healy**  
Advocacy Manager

**Alyssa Harrynanann**  
Advocacy  
Coordinator

## A Call for Action!

Governor Hochul recently released her Executive Budget, outlining her vision for various state programs and initiatives in the year ahead. In this budget, the Governor proposes free universal school meals for all New York students and an expansion of the Child Tax Credit.

While including funding for these initiatives is encouraging to see, we know that more needs to be done to end hunger in New York State, including fully funding statewide nutrition programs. Therefore, the advocacy team across our 10 food banks has been working tirelessly to fight for initiatives that will help to alleviate hunger and poverty. We greatly appreciate your collaboration in this advocacy work, and we know how crucial it is to work together to bring an end to hunger.

With that in mind, we'd like to invite you to **join our campaign**:

Tell Governor Hochul & State Lawmakers to **Fully Fund Hunger Relief**. Please sign our budget petition urging the governor and legislature to fully fund anti-hunger programs in the upcoming state budget.

Each message an office receives strengthens the likelihood of their support for our programs. We greatly appreciate your signing on and sharing this widely within your networks.



Check out our Podcast:  
Together with Feeding  
New York State

<https://feedingnys.org/podcasts/>

# Food Recovery



**Jay Hawkins**

Food Recovery  
Director

**Cathy Hobb**

Food Recovery  
Coordinator

## Cathy Hobb transitioning to FNYS Food Recovery Coordinator

You knew Cathy as part of the Boundless Collaboration Project, leading the Fill A Glass With Hope Campaign, where she focused on fostering partnerships with grocery stores, retail outlets, and other organizations to support the fundraising efforts of the program. As that winds down at the end of FY25, Cathy has agreed to take on the Food Recovery Coordinator role.

Cathy brings over 35 years of experience in the consumer goods industry, having worked with renowned companies such as Gerber Baby Food, Novartis, Nestlé USA, and the American Dairy Association Northeast (ADANE).

In her new role, Cathy will be responsible for enhancing and expanding food recovery efforts throughout the state. She will work closely with food banks, local grocery stores, retailers, and community organizations to establish effective partnerships that ensure surplus food is redirected to those facing food insecurity.

Outside of work, Cathy enjoys life on Wellesley Island, where she lives with her husband, Jeff, and their dog, Alex. She has a son, Timothy, and a daughter, Danielle, as well as a son-in-law, Kyle, and a 7-month-old grandson. Cathy enjoys embracing the river lifestyle with her family.



## EG America C-Stores in New York

**EG America**, the parent company of **Fastrac** and **Cumberland Farms**, is partnering with food banks across New York to combat hunger. With 130 stores, the goal is full participation by 2026, providing fresh food to communities in need. This initiative exemplifies their commitment to addressing food insecurity statewide.

These donations include eggs, dairy, fresh fruit, and items such as prepared sandwiches—food that can make a difference for families facing food insecurity.

Ryan Becraft, who leads EG America's donation program in New York State, shared his commitment to the cause, stating, "Anything we can do to provide our local communities with edible food is a win in my book."

# Member Engagement



**Steffani Williams**  
Member Engagement Manager

## Happy New Year!

Fall 2024 was full of exciting moments! I attended Partner Agency Conferences at Food Bank of Central New York, Feeding Westchester, and Food Bank of the Southern Tier. We also kicked off our second Food Bank Road Show, visiting Long Island Cares, Island Harvest (and their farm!), and City Harvest, with Food Bank of the Southern Tier joining us for the journey. Dan and I toured Regional Food Bank's new state-of-the-art warehouse in Montgomery, NY, which will greatly support feeding neighbors in Orange County and the Hudson Valley. And our team visited two dairy farms to see how our network partners with farmers to provide fresh, nutritious dairy products.



### Future collaborating for even greater impact includes:

- **New Virtual Workshops** - Learn Together with Feeding New York State

In January, we hosted a DoorDash workshop showcasing how both Food Bank of Central New York and Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina are using creative partnerships with DoorDash to serve their communities.

Next up: "Sourcing to Yes" so stay tuned for more information as you prepare for Feeding America's 2026 sourcing plan requirement.

- **Save the Date: Annual Member Summit**

Join us June 9-11 at the Hilton Albany. Registration opens soon for this exciting event to connect, learn, and grow! Visit <https://feedingnys.org/fnys-summit/> to stay in the know!

- **Join Us - Spring Roadshow Tours**

Our warehouse and operations teams are gearing up for more roadshow tours in 2025. Stay tuned for details!

- **Your Stories, Highlighted**

We love sharing your successes! Send us updates, photos, and stories so we can showcase your work across our social platforms.

I'm a huge supporter of your incredible efforts and amplifying the impact of your work. Your dedication and creativity are transforming lives across New York State, and I'm so proud of all you're accomplishing. **Thank you for being the heart of our mission.** Here's to an inspiring and impactful 2025!

# Strategic Initiatives



**Kathleen Stress**  
Deputy Director

## Dairy Distribution increasing through Boundless & NYFNYP



FNYS has been directing our NYFNYP funds to support additional dairy products like milk, yogurt and cheese, along with eggs and culturally appropriate produce to our members. We are proud to be able to support the following farms:

- Stoltzfus Dairy
- King Brothers Dairy
- Choy Division
- Hudson Eggs
- Giroux Poultry

### AMEN Food Pantry, Amsterdam, NY

Christine & Karl Andrzejczyk, Program Coordinators and Steve Terzo, ADANE

Cathy Hobb has been leading the **Fill A Glass With Hope** Campaign as part of our Boundless Collaboration. We are fortunate that American Dairy Association allowed us to implement their campaign in NYS. For the last two years, Cathy has worked with Massey Furniture to run the FAGWH campaign to support Jefferson County food pantries. This year \$7,476.00 was raised. The funds will support the following area pantries with gift cards to purchase milk at Stewarts Shops.

#### Pantries /community programs :

- The Salvation Army Watertown NY
- Rohde Center Adams NY
- Chaumont / Lyme Food Pantry
- Carthage / Village Ecumenical Food Pantry
- Dexter Presbyterian Church
- Community Action Planning Council
- Copenhagen Food Pantry
- Philadelphia Food Pantry
- Watertown Urban Mission
- Theresa Food Pantry



**Taste of Faith Pantry**  
Buffalo, NY



**Wellspring Food Pantry**  
Clifton Springs, NY



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www.feedingnys.org

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## Partnership *highlight*

### Sharing Excess Partners with FNYS Members

Sharing Excess is transforming food rescue by removing logistical barriers that hinder redistribution. With a proactive, hands-on approach, the organization simplifies fresh food donations for businesses, handling transportation, coordination, and delivery from start to finish.

Over the past year, the organization has donated nearly 2 million pounds of food—equivalent to more than 50 trailer loads—across New York, directly benefiting nearly all of the state's member food banks. Some products have been fresh produce along with soup stock and milk alternatives

Their work exemplifies the power of collaboration in building a sustainable, hunger-free future.

