

*Creating innovative solutions to
distribute nutritious foods*



hunger & hope



FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL NEW YORK is a not-for-profit organization working to eliminate hunger through nutritious food distribution, education, and advocacy in cooperation with the community. The Food Bank is the primary food supplier for 262 emergency food programs in our eleven county service region of central and northern New York.

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Executive Director's Message

When you think of hunger, what comes to mind? Now that you have thought about it, the reality is that the faces of hunger may not be the ones you expect!

Through our emergency food network, we see working families trying to make ends meet, children out of school for the summer with less access to healthy meals, seniors who feel that others may need the food more than they do; the face of hunger is your neighbor, friend or colleague.

That is why the initiatives of the Food Bank and our partner agencies are more important than ever. We are working to increase access to nutritious foods through additional outlets such as garden projects and nutrition education while building on service delivery through our mobile food pantry, Pantry Annex Cold Trailer (PACT) units, and the development of school pantries.

We are also delighted to announce we have a satellite office located at the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) Philanthropy Center in Watertown. NNYCF has been a longtime supporter of the Food Bank, ensuring that our emergency food agencies in St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Lewis counties have funds available to acquire the food they need to feed their communities. The office will allow us to increase our visibility in the north country while providing a satellite field office for our agency relations, advocacy, and development staff.

As we move through a new federal budget process, we are committed to ensuring that the people who need us most have access to the services that will help them in times of need. Advocacy is one of our most effective approaches and we are embarking on our regional hunger assessment to share with our elected officials. The study will be conducted through September and then available for release in January 2018.

In the meantime, this issue highlights some of our initiatives that are helping to provide wholesome food to individuals and families in need. We would not be able to pursue and implement these initiatives without your support. Thank you for believing in our work and our mission.

Together we can solve hunger!

Warmest regards,

Kathleen L. Stross

SCHOOL FOOD PANTRIES

Within Food Bank of Central New York's eleven county service area, one in five children is food insecure. With help from the Morgan Stanley Child Hunger Impact Grant and several dedicated community members, we set out to help children and their families struggling with food insecurity by implementing school pantries. The School Pantry Program minimizes the stigma sometimes attached to food assistance by offering it in a familiar setting that is already part of families' everyday lives and increases access with more convenient days and times of service.

The Food Bank is partnering with five school pantries including Thousand Islands School Pantry, Clifton-Fine School Pantry, Watertown Central School District School Pantry, Waterville School Pantry, and Afton School Pantry with Heuvelton School Pantry beginning shortly. All school pantries provide nutritious meals to families in need throughout the coming school year.

It is our hope to continue to grow similar School Pantry Program partnerships, focusing on meeting the needs of hungry students and their families by providing a reliable source of nutritious food.

DISTRIBUTION INNOVATION

The national hunger relief network has long focused on sourcing more fresh food items like fruits, vegetables, and dairy. While supply is crucial, it is also essential to have the capacity to properly store and distribute these perishable products. Several factors affect this process including hours of operation, facility access, volunteer support, and refrigerated storage capacity. Some of the most nutritious and readily available donations we receive are perishable products, yet many of our partner agency sites do not have the refrigerated storage space required to distribute large quantities of these perishable food items.

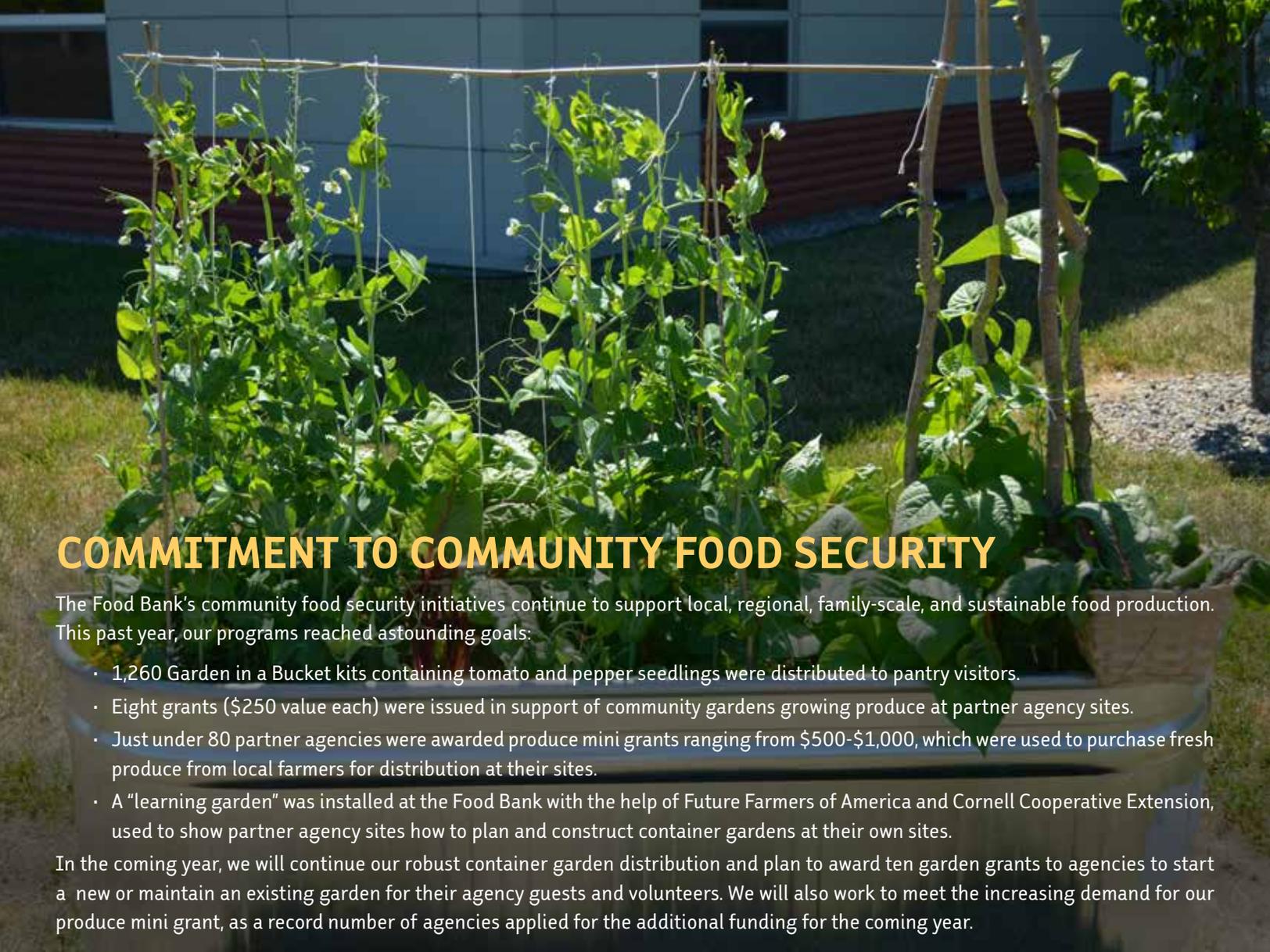
In partnership with CoolBot, Arctic Vans, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, we have developed three mobile walk-in coolers. These 450 cubic foot Pantry Annex Cold Trailer (PACT) units have been met with much enthusiasm from our agencies. Dropped in a location accessible to our more remote agencies, the PACT units serve as a refrigerated satellite hub allowing us to increase the flow of perishable foods to these previously underserved areas. Since these units may only be needed for a few days or one week per month, they can be shared by several agencies within a community or across a region.

Pantries that receive their deliveries a few days prior to their general hours of operation or who would like to distribute more perishables for several days following their delivery can now accept and distribute larger quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables. The trailers can be delivered full of product by the Food Bank or our trucks can deliver food items directly to the units once they are parked at a determined partner agency site.

We are very excited at the opportunity to enhance the distribution efforts of our partner agencies and see more nutritious product connected to individuals in our service area.



PACT is a collaboration between Food Bank of Central New York, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the communities we serve.



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY

The Food Bank's community food security initiatives continue to support local, regional, family-scale, and sustainable food production. This past year, our programs reached astounding goals:

- 1,260 Garden in a Bucket kits containing tomato and pepper seedlings were distributed to pantry visitors.
- Eight grants (\$250 value each) were issued in support of community gardens growing produce at partner agency sites.
- Just under 80 partner agencies were awarded produce mini grants ranging from \$500-\$1,000, which were used to purchase fresh produce from local farmers for distribution at their sites.
- A "learning garden" was installed at the Food Bank with the help of Future Farmers of America and Cornell Cooperative Extension, used to show partner agency sites how to plan and construct container gardens at their own sites.

In the coming year, we will continue our robust container garden distribution and plan to award ten garden grants to agencies to start a new or maintain an existing garden for their agency guests and volunteers. We will also work to meet the increasing demand for our produce mini grant, as a record number of agencies applied for the additional funding for the coming year.

WAYS TO GIVE



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THANK YOU

SavorSyracuse: On April 27th, over 300 people joined us for SavorSyracuse. Twenty local restaurants, caterers, wineries, and breweries showcased their finest food and drink samples at SKY Armory. Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Delta Air Lines, and other major sponsors of the event: Wegmans, Exelon Generation, Image Press, TOPS Friendly Markets, and Welch Allyn.

Golf Open: Thank you to the 116 golfers who enjoyed a beautiful day at Camillus Country Club to help support our work. This year we raised enough money to distribute 52,000 meals into our community. Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Delta Air Lines.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 23 - September 4: New York State Fair Food Drive

September 1 - 30: Hunger Action Month

September 2: Color Vibe Run

November 4: Lord of the Gourd

December 8: Food for Families

Please visit our website at foodbankcny.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information about our events and volunteer needs.