

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Hello!

Thanks to the support of donors like you, our recent fiscal year broke records for dollars raised and meals delivered. We distributed over 9 million pounds of food – the equivalent of more than 7.5 million meals! These meals helped feed children, seniors and families in towns across Westchester. And, thanks to your support, we distributed more nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables than ever before (more than 3 million pounds)! I continue to be in awe of the quality of the fresh produce we provide to our hungry neighbors – fruits and vegetables I would be proud to serve my family and friends.

While we celebrate the success of distributing 9 million pounds, we are all too aware that we are still not doing enough for those who are hungry in our area - especially over the summer. Summer is a tough, and often hungry time, for children of all ages, and their families. More than 53,000 children rely on free or reduced-price school lunches during the year and lose access to those meals over the summer. A small percentage find meals through federal summer programs, but the majority do not.

One father, at a recent Mobile Pantry in White Plains, mentioned that he was in the line because his college-aged son was home from school. On his salary, he simply couldn't afford to feed his son over the summer.

Thanks to your support we are feeding those who are hungry this summer. We are providing more summer Kids BackPacks to community centers serving children, sending out Mobile Pantry trucks stocked with meat, bread and produce to sites across the county, providing more produce at Fresh Market distributions in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, Mamaroneck and soon Ossining, and helping our agency partners keep their shelves stocked and full so families and children can have summer meals.

If you have not already come by for a tour, I encourage you to visit our distribution center. Or, arrange a time to come by a Mobile Pantry or Fresh Market distribution to see how, with your support, together we are feeding Westchester this summer.

Gratefully,



Westchester County Business Journal

*We distributed over 9 million pounds of food – the equivalent of more than 7.5 million meals!*

## SUMMER HUNGER



*Summer: a hungry time for low-income children*

In Westchester County, 53,000 children rely on free or reduced-price school lunches. During summer months, children lose access to school-provided meals. National statistics show that only 1 in 6 children receiving free or reduced-price meals through National School Lunch Program, receive meals through the USDA Summer Food Service Program. Many children lack access to programs where meals are provided, or their families are not aware of the seasonal program. 5 out of 6 children will have to find other sources for meals, and already stretched-thin family budgets may not be able to provide them.

Thanks to your support, this summer, we will be expanding our school-based Kids BackPack program and distributing food to children through summer camps, community centers and municipal hosting sites. Children will receive bags containing six meals per bag that will help fill meal gaps over the weekend. Each bag will contain foods from all 5 food groups and will include fresh produce like apples, oranges, grapes and summer peaches.

## FOOD GROWING PROGRAM

Spring brought garden planning and seed starting to our garden sites where our partners and student-gardeners learn how to grow sustainable gardens filled with fruit trees and vegetables planted from just seeds!

Thanks to the support of a generous donor, we are starting a community garden in Yonkers, where young teens and community members will have access to education and hands-on



experience growing and harvesting vegetables! In addition, we recently gained access to beautiful garden beds at Westchester Community College, where we will host educational workshops and showcase various sustainable gardening techniques! Please come join us in the garden this summer!



*Volunteers and students learning in one of our 13 gardens and co-op garden sites*

## FISCAL YEAR IMPACTS

Thanks to your support we distributed more meals, provided more nutritious produce and helped feed more of our hungry neighbors.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2018:

More meals than ever before:  
**7,700,000** meals

More nutritious produce distributed:  
**3,200,000** pounds - more than one-third of our distributed food is fresh produce

More Kids Backpacks: **61,000**

More food recovered, kept out of landfills and distributed to those who need it: **3,800,000** pounds recovered

More nutrition education and food safety classes offered - including new nutrition education classes for teens in Yonkers.



*Jerrell preparing fresh string beans for distribution*

## HOW FAR A DOLLAR GOES



With your help, Feeding Westchester gets nourishing food - from farmers, manufacturers, and retailers - to people in need. Every \$1 donated provides 4 meals for children, families, and seniors struggling with hunger in our community.

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## CLIENT HIGHLIGHT: MEET STACY TORRES



Stacy lives at home with her parents to save money and to help with her children, and is hoping to find work soon. Stacy is grateful for Feeding Westchester's Mobile Food Pantry which she visits to help feed her 7 year-old daughter and 2 year-old son. She loves seeing the variety of fresh produce, "I come across new fruits and vegetables every time, and luckily my 2 year old loves to try them. I blend the fruits and vegetables into meals for them," says Stacy. Stacy is not only a client of the Mobile Food Pantry, but also a dedicated volunteer, bagging and helping others!

*Meet Stacy Torres, a 24 year-old single mom, actively seeking work*

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## SAVE THE DATES

**MILES FOR MEALS 5K WALK/RUN:**  
Sunday, September 23, 2018

**AN EVENING IN GOOD TASTE** (annual tasting event):  
Thursday, October 18, 2018

**COMMUNITY SCOOP-A-THON** (team volunteering evening):  
Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Check out [www.FeedingWestchester.org/events/](http://www.FeedingWestchester.org/events/) for more information

