

SPRING 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

HUNGER CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

Doris knows this firsthand. As a volunteer, she handed out food and heard stories from struggling families, seniors living on fixed incomes, and individuals with minimum wage jobs who were barely getting by — all trying to make ends meet in an area with a high cost of living intensified by the pandemic. As the need increased throughout the community, so did the faces of hunger. Many reaching out for assistance for the first time.

This became painfully true for Doris, who used to volunteer at our mobile pantry in Peekskill and suddenly became the person needing help.

Doris had been working full time to pay her bills when she was diagnosed with chronic health issues. When her illness left her unable to work, she came back to the mobile pantry — this time on the other side of the table. Receiving the fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, meat, and dairy items, she felt extraordinarily grateful.

“It is a great help,” says Doris. “Because of programs like this I can still pay my rent on a limited income without having to worry if I can eat.”




Your support matters! Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Doris doesn’t have to make the difficult choice between buying healthy food and paying her rent or medical bills. Your support ensures we can continue to help your neighbors in need because hunger can happen to anyone.



“I used to be a volunteer at the pantry before I got sick. Now, I come for assistance getting food.”

- Doris

Look inside for these stories!

-  The state of hunger in Westchester. See what you’ve done!
-  Our first MLK Day of Service Food Drive
-  Meet our newest Board Members

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As summer approaches I look forward to all the produce the season brings. For families who simply can't afford to purchase enough food, receiving healthy, fresh produce is a true gift. We're proud that 40 percent of the food your donations provide is fresh fruits and vegetables. Already, our team is sourcing a rich variety of that summer produce to distribute to people like Doris, who shares her thanks on page one.

As we look toward turning the corner on the COVID-19 pandemic, we know hunger will remain a significant challenge for thousands of families. The last year has

highlighted the fact that hunger truly can happen to anyone — the people we help may be a neighbor, the family you see at the park, a fellow volunteer, or even a family member.

Although the need is staggering, this community's commitment to ensuring none of our neighbors go hungry is even more profound. I hope you'll be inspired by what we are accomplishing. Together we are Feeding Westchester.

With gratitude,

Karen C. Erren



Karen C. Erren,
President & CEO

THE CONTINUING CHALLENGE OF HUNGER

The Level Of Hunger In Your Own Backyard Remains High

One year after Westchester became ground zero for the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, hunger remains a significant challenge as the health and economic impacts continue to affect families and individuals across our community. According to a study by Feeding America, food insecurity in Westchester County has risen by more than 50 percent during the pandemic.

This year your contributions are making it possible for us to distribute over 1.5 million pounds of food to struggling families every month. Thank you!



"The level of hunger in our own backyard remains high and our neighbors in need are relying on us to distribute nutritious food as well as advocate for funding, programs, and services."

- Karen C. Erren, President & CEO

SEE WHAT YOU DID:

January 1, 2021 to
March 31, 2021



Neighbors helped
per month
*On average

225,171



Food provided for
kids and school
programs

2,869 bags

TOGETHER WE ARE FEEDING WESTCHESTER



Honoring MLK Day With A Drive Through Food Drive

Our first ever Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event was a big success. Thanks to the kindness of this community, in three short hours we collected nearly 2,000 pounds of food and 175 Help from Home bags — one of our virtual volunteer initiatives where people pre-pack bags with certain foods, which we then in turn distribute through our community partners and programs!

One Bright Idea Feeds Neighbors

When COVID-19 safety restrictions at a local apple farm created a neighborhood parking problem, Paul Silverman's family turned it into an opportunity to support Feeding Westchester. The Silvermans opened their backyard for temporary parking and raised \$650, which provided nearly 2,000 meals for hungry neighbors.



Meet Our Newest Board Members

We are so grateful for the innovative and generous leadership of our Board of Directors and are proud to introduce five new members.



Davis John Abraham
Yonkers



Tracey Levy
Larchmont



Kecia Palmer-Cousins
Peekskill



Jonathan Tretler
Scarsdale



Jennifer Wells
Bronxville



Fresh produce
distributed

2,000,000 lbs.



Pounds of food
distributed

5,000,000 lbs.



Pounds of food
recovered and diverted
from landfills

810,935



Feeding Westchester is the county's leading nonprofit hunger-relief organization at the heart of a network of nearly 300 community partners and programs. With a mission to nourish their neighbors in the fight against hunger, the organization sources and distributes good, nutritious food and other resources throughout every community in Westchester County.

200 Clearbrook Road
Elmsford, NY 10523
914.923.1100

FeedingWestchester.org

Donate online at:

FeedingWestchester.org/donate

For other ways to get involved:

FeedingWestchester.org/take-action

Follow us on:

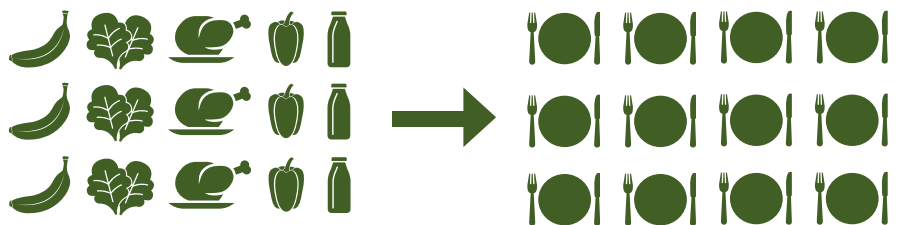


FOOD RECOVERY IS GOOD FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

You're Helping Us Get Surplus Food To Those In Need

Nearly 40 percent of our entire U.S. food supply gets wasted each year making uneaten food the number one item in America's landfills. Feeding Westchester's robust food recovery program picks up surplus food that would otherwise be wasted and puts it on the tables of the more than 200,000 Westchester residents in need.

In 2020 Your Support Helped Us:



Recover **3.4 million pounds** of produce, dairy, and meats to become **2.8 million meals**

LEAVE A LEGACY JOIN THE HARVEST SOCIETY

A bequest could be the most important charitable gift you ever make. Show your commitment to feeding our hungry neighbors by naming Feeding Westchester in your legacy plan.

For more information please contact Feeding Westchester's Director of Individual Giving, Kelly Garvey, at kgarvey@feedingwestchester.org or 914.418.5212.

Once recovered, we move quickly to inspect, sort, and pack — then deliver the perishable food to community partners, programs, and through our Mobile Food Pantries and Fresh Markets often on the same day it's recovered!

Thank you for helping us to stop food waste and to provide healthy, fresh food to children, seniors, and families throughout Westchester.

LEND US Your Voice

As a direct service agency, we understand ending hunger requires more than feeding the hungry. We know that eliminating hunger requires addressing its root causes and this cannot be solved by charity alone. Through advocacy, Feeding Westchester works to address the systemic issues that contribute to and perpetuate the problem of hunger in our society.

But we can't do this alone. If you would like current information on our specific advocacy efforts or would like to join our advocacy action alerts, email ncrawford@feedingwestchester.org