

NOURISHING OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER



# OUR MISSION

is to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger.

We envision a community where all people have access to the food they need today, and the fundamental resources to build a better tomorrow. The challenges have grown, but so has the determination of our staff, volunteers, and generous supporters throughout Westchester County.





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# A MESSAGE from our President & CEO and Board Chair

#### **Dear Friends,**

For the second year in a row, your support for Feeding Westchester rose to unprecedented levels. Because of you, we reached a new milestone of distributing 21.8 million pounds of food — 18.2 million meals for our neighbors in Westchester who would otherwise go hungry. Alongside our partners throughout our community — an amazing network of food pantries, soup kitchens, and meal program partners — Feeding Westchester served nearly 3 million people throughout the year. That was somebody's mother, somebody's brother, somebody's child. or grandparent. We are so appreciative of your generosity that made this possible. This community is at the heart of our operation. That includes you, and our incredible warehouse team, our office staff, and fundraisers. It includes our volunteers who devote personal time to sort through fresh produce and boxes of food, repacking them for people they may never see or meet, but deeply care about. It also includes our neighbors who so



Surnu Nortan

Sue Norton,

**Board Chair** 



Karen C EKKEN

Karen C. Erren,
President & CEO

desperately need a helping hand in their lives, and food on their tables for themselves and their families.

#### We stand together.

Through two challenging years of a world-changing pandemic, we stand together.

Through social and economic discord, we stand together. We stand together as we commit to providing this community nutritious food — an apple to start someone's day, greens for a refreshing salad — and the option to enjoy their own personally and culturally significant meals. We stand together in the collective effort to enhance the health and well-being of our neighbors.

Our ability to do this work is a testament to the compassion and commitment of each of you: our community partners, financial supporters, volunteers, and our team. We have doubled the scale of our operation over the past two years to meet the growing needs of our community — stretching our organization's operations and experiencing the heights and, at times, limits of our capacity. To those who have been on the forefront of this formidable effort, we are deeply grateful.

We don't know what the future holds. What we do know is that we are emboldened by our mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger. In the aftermath of what we hope is the pandemic's worst effects, we are seeing increased inequities in food security, housing, education, employment, and so much more. Our society is at a turning point and Feeding Westchester, along with each of you, is working toward positive, systemic change. Our mission is more important now than ever.

Our strategic plan for the next three years is designed to "Respond, Rebuild, and Reimagine" our approach to addressing hunger. We will go beyond focusing on closing the "meal gap," to work on addressing the root causes of hunger across Westchester County. We look forward to sharing more of our plans with you in the months ahead. Feeding Westchester will continue to unite the passion of our team members, donors, advisors, community leaders, and partners so we can provide families with nutritious food to eat. We invite you to learn more about our work over the past year captured in this Annual Report.

Thank you again for your commitment to nourishing our neighbors. We can't do this vital work without you. Together, we can build a community where all people have access to the food they need today, and the fundamental resources to build a better tomorrow.

Together we are Feeding Westchester.

#### On behalf of all of us, thank you!

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#### WHAT WE DO

# Distributing nourishing food to our neighbors in need.

Feeding Westchester is the largest hunger-relief organization in Westchester County, collecting and distributing food to our community partners and meal programs throughout the region. Getting nourishing food to the community requires a robust infrastructure and a high degree of coordination. Our operation is designed to address food insecurity when and where the need is greatest. Feeding Westchester secures donations from national food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, shippers, packers, and growers as well as from government agencies and other organizations. We then distribute that food and fresh produce through food pantries and meal programs that serve children, families, seniors, and veterans at risk of hunger. In 2021, Feeding Westchester distributed nearly 22 million pounds of food to our neighbors in need. The Feeding Westchester staff works closely with our partners, matching excess food with the organizations that need it most. Our organization provides additional services, too, such as training, oversight, and equipment grants to ensure that perishable and non-perishable food is handled and stored properly across our network. Together, with our community partners, Feeding Westchester continues to support programs that improve food security in our county, educates the public about the problems of hunger, and advocates for legislation that will protect our neighbors in need. Together, we all have a role in fighting hunger in Westchester County.



Courtney had the food she needed to feed her family, because of your support.

#### **AS COMMUNITY CONNECTORS**

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept through the United States in the spring of 2020, Courtney lost her job as a supervisor at a group home.

Her son Carter James, 4, loves fruit, but she couldn't afford to buy it for him without the income from her job.

Four months passed before she found a new job in mental health skill-building. Unfortunately, the pay wasn't as good as her previous job. But one of her clients told her about Feeding Westchester. Food from the pantries we work with now helps her feed her family.

"I'm glad they're giving greens," she said, as she loaded up her car with Thanksgiving foods she used to fill her table during the holidays.

"When I came, I thought, well, I can use this. Especially during a pandemic."

### Respond. Rebuild. Reimagine.

"I was working as an aid for the elderly before I was laid off because of the pandemic. Without the Mobile Food Pantry, things would have been much harder for me and my three kids. I get what I can from the store, but the prices have skyrocketed. At the pantry, I can get

- Charmaine, Mount Vernon resident

lots of fresh fruits and

vegetables as well

balanced meal."

as bread and milk so my family can have a As we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to distribute safe, healthy food to our neighbors in all corners of Westchester County is more important than ever.

Our goal in 2022 is to address the problem of hunger even more vigorously than ever before. We're rethinking our storage and distribution infrastructure, so that it better meets the needs of our community. We're reimagining what a future without hunger could look like with new initiatives that will help create a path out of hunger for many of our neighbors in need. We're expanding our network of resources throughout Westchester County to ensure knowledge of different services are available to those who need them.

One new initiative is the Help from Home program that allows residents to pack bags of food from their homes and then drop them off at our distribution center. The Retail Recovery Program is a relatively new partnership with close to 50 farmers, wholesalers, and retailers that rescues fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, and dairy products that would otherwise go to waste. The initiative has prevented thousands of people in our communities from going hungry. In addition, our continued collaboration with Nourish NY allows us to purchase surplus food from produce farms and dairy manufacturers, thereby helping local farmers and at the same time, nourishing our neighbors in their fight against hunger.

#### THE NEED REMAINED HIGH.

The need remained extraordinarily high from July 2020 to March 2021, with an increasing number of people requiring assistance compared to records from previous years.

#### **Neighbors served:**



328,626

(127,815 in 2019)



August

306,680

(127,878 in 2019)



September

263,820

(133,652 in 2019)



October

259,184

(149,371 in 2019)



November

272,298

(147,956 in 2019)



December

352,995

(129,231 in 2019)



January

**227,776** (142,218 in 2020)

February

00.000

209,906

(130,350 in 2020)



March

263.804

(173,087 in 2020)

#### Our staff faced challenges and made smart plans to pivot.

Some of the challenges we faced over the past two years as we adjusted to a historic pandemic included both staff and donor fatigue, a limited number of volunteers able and willing to help on a regular basis, as well as the difficulty of managing agency and partner needs in an extremely demanding environment. In addition, the federal benefits of the 2020 CARES Act that were put into place at the height of the pandemic ended in September 2021, leaving our neighbors more vulnerable.

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#### DESPITE THE CHALLENGES, WE FOCUSED ON REBUILDING.



Opened pop-up mobile food pantries in areas where there was greater need; 24 pop-up pantries in total.



Reduced food waste through our Retail Recovery Program, which in 2021 rescued more than 2,200,000 pounds of nutritious food, preventing it from ending up in local landfills.

Established at-home volunteer project Help from Home, providing convenient readyto-eat meals for delivery to our community partners and meal programs. Expanded our network of local schools, daycares, libraries, and other organizations so that children can get nutritious food each day, which is necessary for their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Reached out to more and more Westchester residents in need of federal aid such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and assisted them with the oftencomplicated application process.



Continued to deliver fresh food to seniors and people with disabilities, either directly to their homes or to the places where they congregate.

#### **OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATED:**



A food pantry is the main source of food for

66%

of the people we serve.



44%

of the people surveyed had to skip meals because they did not have enough food.



More than

50%

were worried that they and their family would not have enough to eat.



93%

of our neighbors relied on our services to live a healthy, happy life.

#### REIMAGINING A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS.

Turning the tide against hunger in Westchester isn't easy, but we're determined to make substantial gains in 2022. Our Strategic Plan, focused on reimagining a better future for our children, seniors, and families goes beyond filling "the meal gap." It aims to earnestly address and solve the root causes of hunger in Westchester.

#### RESPOND, REBUILD, REIMAGINE,

#### The future of hunger relief

Our Strategic Plan arrives at a moment of extraordinary change and possibility for Feeding Westchester. Through almost two years of pandemic response, we have doubled the scale of our mission and stretched every facet of our organization. Society is at a turning point, and Feeding Westchester, alongside our community partners, is working toward transformational change. The Strategic Plan is organized around five primary goals, which fit into two broader categories that capture our external work, Healthy Community, and our internal work, Healthy Organization.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN

#### **HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

#### **UNDERSTAND HUNGER**

Achieve a more complete and confident understanding of hunger in Westchester County that allows us to focus on greatest needs, set ambitious goals, and track and report impact, while respecting our neighbors' interests and priorities.

#### **ADDRESS HUNGER**

Meet our neighbors' food needs at the greatest possible scale, while developing innovative solutions to address challenges that have historically compromised dignity, accessibility, convenience, and quality.

### CREATE PATHS OUT OF HUNGER

Strengthen and establish new connections to wraparound services — both in-house and at partner organizations — to combat systemic disadvantages and create pathways out of hunger.

#### HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

#### STRENGTHEN CAPACITY

Develop the space, staffing, resources, and practices needed to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan and operate sustainably at a larger scale.

#### **UNDERSTAND HUNGER**

Invest in the knowledge and practices needed to include and support all staff, deepen collaboration, and pursue equity across the organization.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

With your help, we helped our neighbors thrive.

Brittany was working nights and babysitting for neighbors during the day. They stopped turning on the heat and stayed in the same room to stay warm.

"It's a terrible feeling but it's a reality. Do you get medicine? Do you get fresh food? Do you get the pair of [winter] shoes?"

- Brittany, Westchester resident

Because of the support and generosity of our community, partners, volunteers, and staff, we were able to accomplish the following in 2021:



PROVIDED

18.2M MEALS



to our neighbors in need



265K PEOPLI in need each month, an increase of over 43% from 2020







INCREASED the number of **FOOD PANTRIES** by **10** since 2020, to a total of

104 SITES throughout Westchester

### INCREASED the number of **CHILD FEEDING SITES**

to **18** from September 2020 through June 2021 using DoorDash and pallet drops, as well as

2 SUMMER FEEDING SITES through DoorDash

**OPENED** 

24 NEW POP-UP PANTRIES and provided food at









FOOD PANTRIES

(an increase from 2020 by 5)



2 SUMMER FEEDING SITES



SENIOR GROCERY
PROGRAMS

CATERED TO

15 ADDITIONAL SHELTERS and







neighbors, they also serve to sustain our communities and make for a better planet.

**Emergency Food Providers** 

In collaboration with nearly 200 more than 500 scheduled partner food pantries in 2021, we distributed almost 15 million — to children, families, seniors, Westchester County.

#### **Fresh Market**

Our Fresh Market is an provided communities with of nutritious food and fresh produce in areas where it is difficult to access affordable or

#### **Mobile Food Pantry**

Our Mobile Food Pantry makes stops a year. In 2021, it brought

#### **Child Feeding Programs**

Feeding Westchester provided children in our community with almost 175,000 pounds of closures.

#### **Retail Recovery**

Feeding Westchester recovers collected more than 2 million food that would otherwise have been wasted. At our sort, and pack the food. Then we get it straight to the people who need it most.

#### **Green Thumb**

We distributed 1.4 million pounds of fresh produce through our Green Thumb program, which provides bags full of fresh, seasonal produce.

#### **Senior Grocery**

Our Senior Grocery program encourages better health and with disabilities. In 2021 we distributed almost 1 million pounds of nutritious food vegetables directly to locations where seniors congregate and

#### **Nutrition Education**

hands-on cooking and

#### **SNAP Outreach**

thousands of low-income Westchester residents put food

#### **RX Pantry**

of improved food access, some of the critical barriers being. The program is a collaborative project involving healthcare facilities such as

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"As a single mom of three currently living in a shelter, the Mobile Food Pantry really helps feed my children when there are times I have to choose between food or laundry and diapers."

- Westchester resident

#### OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Feeding Westchester's most valuable resource

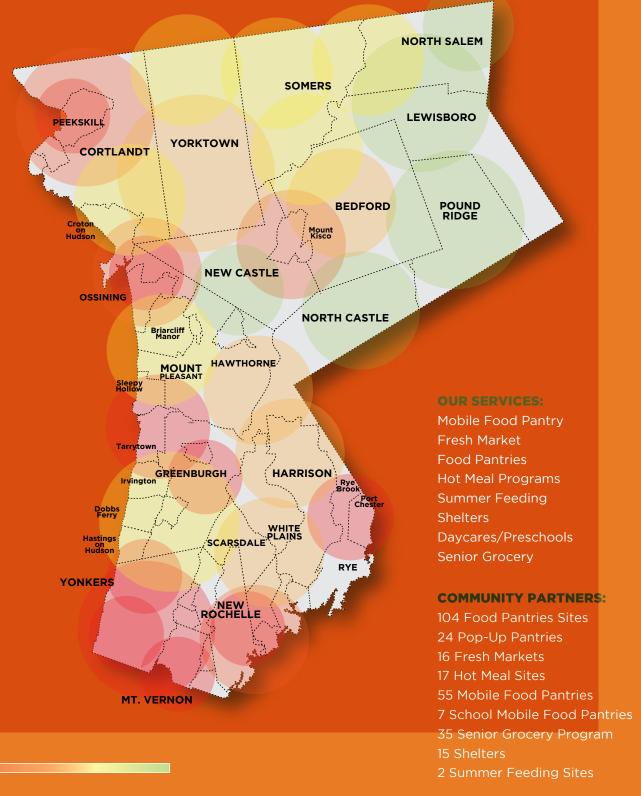
"I work as a special education Pre-K teacher to support my son and me. This job is all I have to put just enough food on my table ... It's been paycheck to paycheck."

- Westchester resident

Our tireless work includes various partnerships with frontline community organizations to provide food for our neighbors in need throughout Westchester.

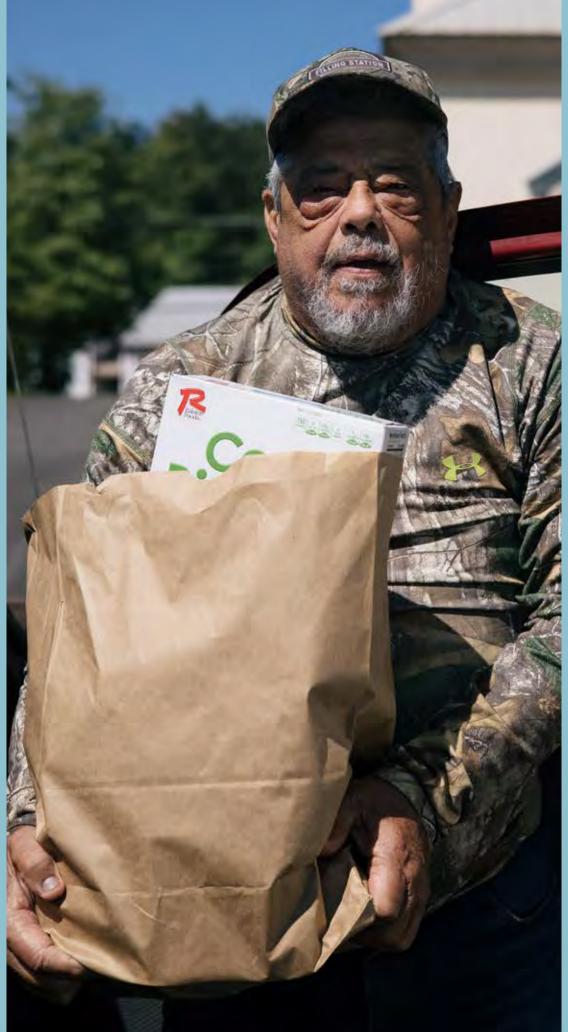
120 Lake St. @ Delfino Park (Ridgeway Alliance) • 914-Cares • Alexander Hamilton High School • Alice E. Grady Elementary School • Anthony F. Veteran Park (Ardsley) • Bethany AME Church Feeding Program • Bethel Baptist Church • Bethel Temple of Praise: Church of the United Brethren USA • Bethesda Baptist Church • Beulah SDA Church • Bible Way Church • Bowen Memorial Church • Bowen Memorial Outreach Program • Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester • Caritas • Carver Center • Carver Center Senior Program • Chicken Island Food Pantry • Child Care Council of Westchester • Children's Village - Life Bridges • Children's Village - Sanctuary • Children's Village - Stepping Stones • Choice Food Pantry • Church of Holy Spirit • Church of Saint Ann • Church of the Ascension • Church of the Assumption • Cluster - Goerlich Residence • Cluster Residences • Church of God Prophecy: Project Hope • Columbus Magnet Elementary School • Community Center of Northern Westchester • Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Mohegan Lake • Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown • Congregation Kol Ami of Westchester • Cottage Place • Croton-Cortlandt Food Pantry • Curran Court Homes • DeKalb (Ridgeway Alliance) • Delfino Park • Deliverance Temple Church of God of Prophecy • Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry • Dominican American Cultural Club • Don Bosco Community Center • Drew Street Apartments • Eastchester Community Action Program (CAP) • Ecumenical Emergency • Edward Williams Elementary School • El Centro Hispano • Elmsford School District • First Baptist Church of Peekskill • First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown • First Reformed Church • First Seventh Day Adventist Church • First United Methodist Church • Flynn Manor • Fox Senior Center Mount Kisco • Franklin Towers - Franklin Courts, Tarrytown • Fred's Pantry • George Washington Elementary School (Mohegan) • George Washington

# Children and adults go hungry in every community — including yours.



The Greates Need

16-17 Continues >>





# WITHOUT YOU, none of this would be possible.

"Though we have had to drastically reduce the number of volunteers we have in our facility, the support of all of those who have donated their time through virtual volunteering or with our community partners and programs has been vital to continuing to provide food to our neighbors struggling with hunger during the pandemic."

- Karen C. Erren, President & CEO, Feeding Westchester



"I'm the director of special and alternative education for the City School District of New Rochelle. I've been in the district for four years. We fed almost 300 families today.

It brings us so much intrinsic value. Remembering what we do is important. To give out fresh fruits and vegetables, along with eggs and dairy and cheese; it's not just canned goods and boxes of cereal. It's amazing for me and I get so much joy out of it. I go home and tell my family, 'You don't know how fortunate we are because people get excited over grapes, and fresh vegetables, and produce.'" – Dara Joseph, Mobile Food Pantry partner

We so appreciate volunteers like Jasmin, who works as an in-home hospice caretaker and spends her spare time packing and distributing food at one of our community partner sites, Shepherd's Flock Food Pantry in Yonkers.

"I get so much joy out of this." - Dara "I needed food one time and came here. Once I got back on my feet, I came back to help. With this pandemic, there's a lot more people who need help. Someone's got to be here for them, and we make sure they feel good when they come to get food." – Jasmin, Feeding Westchester volunteer



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

We hold ourselves to the highest standard of transparency and efficiency.

"For a number of people, if they don't get this kind of help, they might go hungry or they will drastically reduce what they are eating that evening.

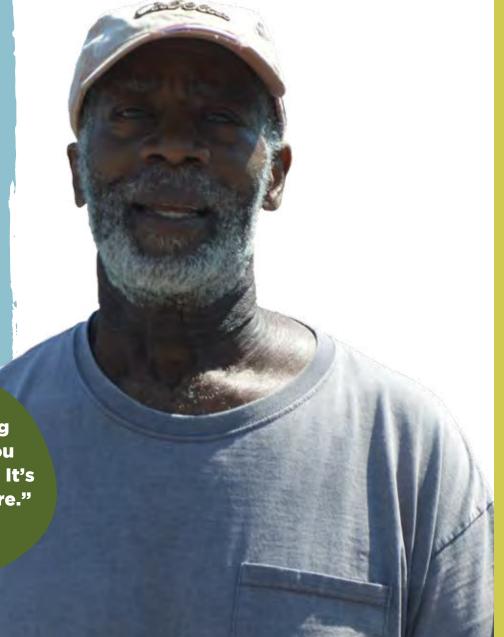
I'm a strong believer that if you can afford to help somebody, try to. God's been good to me. I did some dumb things when I was a kid and thank God, things worked out for me. When we do things like this it really makes me feel good."

- Lionel, Mobile Food Pantry volunteer

"I'm a giving person. If you can help, help. It's tough out there."

- Lionel

Feeding Westchester goes beyond the basics of providing safe, fresh food for our neighbors fighting hunger. In addition to offering hands-on nutrition education workshops and providing a healthy choice of fresh food for our neighbors, our focus is also on the long-term strategies that help eliminate hunger. Your support helps nourish our neighbors and enables us to invest more in our community. Generous individuals, companies, and foundations help us fill empty plates across the county, bringing us closer to the day when no one has to face hunger again.



GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT	YEAR END 2021	YEAR END 2020
NEW YORK STATE	\$ 3,011,307	\$ 2,131,136
WESTCHESTER COUNTY	1,916,256	175,542
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	498,722	993,336
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	328,915	104,981
PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM GRANT	566,957	-
OTHER GRANTS	-	21,123
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT	6,322,157	3,426,118
PUBLIC SUPPORT	YEAR END 2021	YEAR END 2020
CORPORATE/FOUNDATION/COMMUNITY/INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT	9,095,533	10,010,359
SPECIAL EVENTS	66,318	457,966
DIRECT MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS	2,901,452	1,937,990
ADOPT A PANTRY PROGRAM	300,892	229,396
OTHER PROGRAMS	136,208	258,133
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT	12,500,403	12,893,844
OTHER REVENUE	YEAR END 2021	YEAR END 2020
FOOD PROGRAM (NOTE 10)	15,048,986	15,753,970
SHARED MAINTENANCE FEES	77,899	152,073
INVESTMENT RETURN, NET	22,792	48,744
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	15,149,677	15,954,787
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:	7,919,049	(7,919,049)
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	33,972,237	32,274,749
	33,972,237	32,2/4,/49
EXPENSES	95,972,237 YEAR END 2021	
PROGRAM SERVICES	YEAR END 2021	YEAR END 2020
PROGRAM SERVICES SUPPORT SERVICES	<b>YEAR END 2021</b> 26,285,918	YEAR END 2020 23,352,393
EXPENSES  PROGRAM SERVICES  SUPPORT SERVICES  FUNDRAISING  TOTAL EXPENSES	<b>YEAR END 2021</b> 26,285,918 1,003,069	<b>YEAR END 2020</b> 23,352,393 650,478
PROGRAM SERVICES SUPPORT SERVICES FUNDRAISING	YEAR END 2021 26,285,918 1,003,069 1,871,180	YEAR END 2020 23,352,393 650,478 1,574,505 25,577,376
PROGRAM SERVICES SUPPORT SERVICES FUNDRAISING TOTAL EXPENSES  NET ASSETS	YEAR END 2021 26,285,918 1,003,069 1,871,180 29,160,167	YEAR END 2020 23,352,393 650,478 1,574,505 25,577,376
PROGRAM SERVICES SUPPORT SERVICES FUNDRAISING TOTAL EXPENSES	YEAR END 2021 26,285,918 1,003,069 1,871,180 29,160,167 YEAR END 2021	YEAR END 2020 23,352,393 650,478 1,574,505 25,577,376 YEAR END 2020

#### **DONOR LIST**

We are so grateful for your support.

#### \$500,000+



\$100,000+





Anonymous Donations



#### **Benevity Community Impact Fund**

#### **Scott and Bonnie Boilen**

#### **Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund**



The MagMurph Family Fund

Montefiore Hudson Valley Collaborative



Bradley and Nancy Sabel



**Stop & Shop Family Foundation** 

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#### \$50,000+

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#### \$25,000+

AEGON Transamerica Foundation • Anonymous • The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester, and Tuckahoe • Community Foundation of New Jersey • David and Katherine Moore Family Foundation • Lauren Weisholz and Andrew Ditchfield • Egidio Lombardi Charitable Lead Trust u/a/d 7.10.2015 • Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz • Entergy Indian Point Energy Center • Feeding New York State • Jandon Foundation • J.E. & Z.B. Butler Foundation • Robert Kirk • Lanza Family Foundation • Leo and Julia Forchheimer Foundation • Leventhal Family Charitable Foundation • MBIA Foundation, Inc. • Paul and Mary McEvoy • Marianne and Steven Mills • New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital • Old Oaks Foundation, Inc. • The Rao Family • Regeneron Pharmaceuticals • Thelma M. Roberts • Sandy and Joe Samberg • Bradley Y. Smith • Keira and Brian Smith • Society of The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Westchester County • Stadnyk Family Charitable Fund • Ilona Marsh and Mark Stein • Lisa Kunstadter and Nicholas Stephens • SUEZ • The Thomas & Agnes Carvel Foundation • Lance R. Wachenheim • Wegmans Food Markets, Inc • The William and Anita Newman Foundation

#### \$10,000+

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#### \$5,000+

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**28-29** FEEDINGWESTCHESTER.ORG

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"You have helped me and my two children survive this crisis. I lost my restaurant job in March and didn't qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. You have helped me by providing our weekly groceries that I cannot afford anymore. As long as someone is showing kindness. I will never ever lose hope."

- Yonkers mother

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#### WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

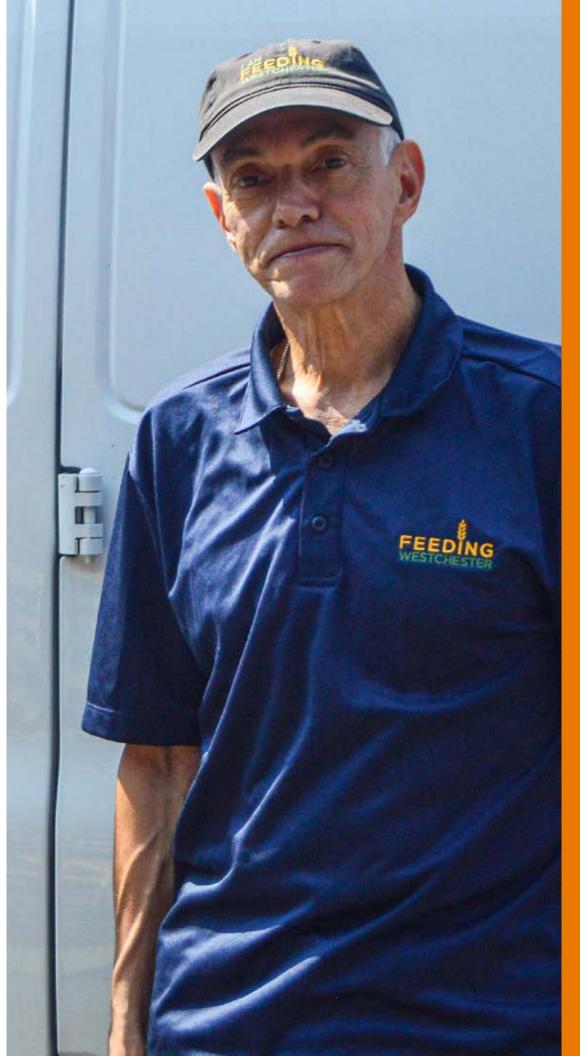
We want all people — no matter their racial or cultural background, sexual orientation, or gender identity — to survive and thrive.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are a critical component of our culture here at Feeding Westchester. It is both a priority in the work we do in the community, as well as how we treat each other internally.

We know that serving our neighbors who need food, who are disproportionately Black and Brown due to the impact of historical racism, requires thoughtfulness and intentionality. And we know that in order to do that work well, we must first hold a mirror up to our own faces.

"The best thing about Feeding Westchester is that the window dressing matches what goes on inside the building - we're here to serve the community by helping people who are hungry. I am always impressed both by the way the staff and volunteers work, as well as their dedication and commitment"

- Bob Covello, Volunteer Project Coordinator, Feeding Westchester



# To move forward on this journey, we have:

- Formed an internal DEI committee comprising staff members and fully supported by our Board of Directors and Leadership
- Began utilizing market comps to form wage ranges by position
- Instituted a \$20 per hour entry wage
- Invested additional dollars into employee benefits that were expended based on the recommendations of an employee-led volunteer committee
- Committed to working with staff members with an interest in professional development and career progression
- Hired outside facilitators to assess our current policies and procedures and to lead our Board and team down a path of revising, updating, and formalizing our DEI commitments

We are aware that this is a life-long learning journey. And we are here for it. We stand firmly against the centuries-long impact of institutionalized racism and we will continue to move forward and do our part to ensure we recognize this impact, learn from it, and take specific steps to combat it both for our dedicated team and the hunger relief work that means so much to each of us.



# THANK YOU.

Our ability to survive one of the most challenging moments in recent history is a testament to the strength of our supporters. That means you, and all you did to support our mission in 2021.

Together we are Feeding Westchester.



Please scan this QR code to be brought to a donation checkout form.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for your neighbors in need.



## TOGETHER FEEDING WE ARE WESTCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT | JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the annual report. We appreciate notification of any errors or omissions in order to correct our records. To report errors or omissions, please contact communications@FeedingWestchester.org.

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