# TOGETHER | FEEDING WE ARE | WESTCHESTER



# Who is Feeding Westchester?

We are the county's largest hunger-relief organization. Feeding Westchester nourishes our neighbors in the fight against hunger. As the heart of a network of nearly 300 community partners and meal programs, we source and distribute food and other resources to communities across Westchester, helping to ensure that none of our neighbors are hungry. Together we are Feeding Westchester.

Visit us at <u>feedingwestchester.org</u> to learn more.





#### What You Can Donate?

Feeding Westchester accepts anything from cases to truckloads of perishable and non-perishable food prepared by licensed food operators and businesses. See our Donation Guidelines included in this packet for more information.

### How We Collect Donations

Feeding Westchester houses a fleet of refrigerated trucks and vans equipped to pick up donations of at least 300 pounds. Call us to schedule a delivery through our loading dock, or we can pick up local donations. If you are able to donate on a consistent basis, we will work with you to set up a regular pick-up schedule. Donations must be organized and ready for pick-up as scheduled. You'll receive receipts and annual reports tracking how many pounds you've donated.

# Good for People — and the Planet

The food we safely recover doesn't just change lives. It also saves food from becoming waste, diverting millions of pounds of good food from landfills where it would have released methane, a powerful greenhouse gas and leading contributor to climate change.

## Food Safety and Liability

We take food safety very seriously at Feeding Westchester. We follow standard food safety guidelines and train our staff and partner community food programs to ensure your food is delivered and distributed in safe condition. As a donor, you're protected from liability by federal and state laws. Detailed information on these laws is available on <u>feedingamerica.org</u>.

### How to Get Started

It's easy to become a food donor! Call our Procurement Coordinator at 914.909.9622 or email <a href="mailto:kfraser@feedingwestchester.org">kfraser@feedingwestchester.org</a>.



# **Food Donation Guidelines**

## You Can Donate

- Close-to-code items
- Out of code items with extended use-by dates
- Perishable items
- Surplus production
- Unharvested or post-peak produce
- Discontinued items
- Shipping errors
- Partial cases
- Production flaws
- Mislabeled items
- Cosmetic damage to items
- Packaging changes
- Packaging errors
- Promotional and seasonal items
- Test product inventory

## We Cannot Accept

- Food that has been served or put on a buffet table
- Food that has been previously reheated
- Foods that were not kept at the appropriate temperature per the donation guidelines for more than 2 hours
- Seafood that is not fully frozen
- Food with damaged or compromised packaging, resulting in the loss of a sanitary barrier
- Products that contain alcohol
- Food with significant decay
- Food with severe freezer burn
- Food intended for raw consumption (sushi or seafood)
- Canned goods that are open, punctured, bulging, or seriously damaged
- Home prepared, home-canned or home jarred products
- Food stored in opaque bags



# **Donor Protection & Benefits**

## The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, passed by Congress in 1996, protects citizens and businesses in good faith who donate apparently wholesome food or an apparently fit grocery product to a nonprofit organization for distribution to people in need.

## Benefits of Product Donations

- Reduce storage and disposal fees
- Your donation may be tax deductible
- Enhance inventory control by reducing hard-to-move and unsaleable inventory
- Boost employee morale and foster community goodwill
- Protect your brand integrity
- Put products to good use instead of to waste

## Learn More About Feeding Westchester

Visit <u>feedingwestchester.org</u>, or contact Kim Fraser at 914.909.9622 or <u>kfraser@feedingwestchester.org</u>.