

FOOD RESCUE: FIGHTING HUNGER AND WASTE

“Since COVID, everything [is] up,” says Betsy Quiroa, “The rent up, the food up, the vegetables up.” As high food prices continue and the cost of living soars in Westchester County, families like Betsy’s are benefiting from rescued food through Feeding Westchester’s Retail Recovery program.

Last year, Feeding Westchester recovered 3.8 million pounds of fresh food that would have otherwise gone to waste thanks to support from you and our community partners. That meant that fresh produce, bakery goods, and frozen meats, which grocery stores throw away because they are nearing their expiration date, have damaged packaging or were ordered in excess, can help feed the 1 in 3 Westchester households at risk of hunger. Households like the Quiroas.

Our fleet of refrigerated trucks travel county-wide, picking up perishable food daily from our retail partners, then delivering it to the Feeding Westchester Distribution Center where it is sorted, packed, and distributed to our nearly 300 programs and partners like the Carver Center food pantry. At Carver Center, Betsy can find fresh fruit and vegetables—some of which is rescued food—to help feed her family of six.

Because of you and our hunger-relief network, perfectly good food previously destined for landfills can now nourish Betsy and her family.

THANK YOU for keeping good food from going to waste and feeding our Westchester County neighbors.



Betsy Quiroa at Carver Center

**Look inside for
these stories!**

Feeding Futures
Building Bridges
See Your Impact

A MESSAGE FROM **THE CEO**

As we celebrate Earth Day on April 22, we wanted to ensure you are aware of programs we've adopted to reduce the amount of food going to landfills.

The Retail Recovery program, featured in our cover story, is a growing success. Working with 57 retail partners last fiscal year, we collectively "rescued" 3.8 million pounds of good, nutritious food that otherwise would have gone to waste.

A small amount of food that we capture is not of a quality for us to share with our neighbors in need. For those few pounds, we've partnered with the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities on a compost program, which you can read more about in the sidebar on the adjacent page.

Together, these programs are making a difference in our local environment—and in the fight against hunger—just like the generous support of each of you.

I hope you enjoy the inspirational stories about impact in this issue—which you make possible!

Gratefully,

Karen

Karen C. Erren
President & CEO



FEEDING FUTURES

Students' minds aren't the only thing expanding at Port Chester Middle School. Access to healthy foods is increasing as well. Last September, the school launched the Port Chester Middle School Pantry to complement its Mobile Food Pantry which was already in place.

The new pantry reflects the school's commitment to broadening services for school families by helping fill community needs between monthly Mobile Pantry distributions. To create a warm and inviting environment for pantry visitors, the school has renovated its Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) room to accommodate the pantry's dairy, produce, nonperishables, and other goods.

Recently, Feeding Westchester's Procurement Manager, Kim Cicero, was presented with a generous donation opportunity from a collaborative vendor: an industrial sub-zero freezer for one of our partners at no cost. Recognizing the potential to diversify the food offerings at the Port Chester school pantry, Kim seized the opportunity.

Ms. Fasano, a teacher at Port Chester Middle School, is appreciative: "To be able to now order high protein meats and frozen fruits and vegetables is an important and exciting addition to our distribution."

It takes a community to nourish a community. Thank you for helping meet students' and families' needs—right where they are.



TOGETHER WE ARE FEEDING WESTCHESTER

BUILDING BRIDGES TO HELP COMMUNITIES THRIVE

"I know that the people of Yonkers will be provided with quality food by Feeding Westchester," says Anthony Bailey, Deputy Director of YCAP (Yonkers Community Action Program).

It's a partnership in which missions align. By providing healthy meal options, Feeding Westchester serves as a crucial ally in YCAP's mission to empower Yonkers residents through improved health resources. Feeding Westchester programs and support systems have revolutionized YCAP's distribution management, Anthony says, allowing YCAP to tailor services to community's needs. And, through data allocation and management, the organization has gained invaluable insights into client attendance and distribution.

Collaboratively constructing strong support networks through partnerships enables us to tackle the underlying factors of hunger. Feeding Westchester's tools and support have helped Anthony and YCAP better understand the needs of their community.

It's your partnership that makes all the difference. With your help, we can empower individuals and foster a healthier, more equitable future for all.



A SPECIAL GIFT TO HONOR A SPECIAL MILESTONE



Adam and the next generation of family fundraisers

"Growing up in Yonkers was an amazing part of my life so when my parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2023, it was natural for us to find a local nonprofit that we could raise some money for at the same time. Feeding Westchester continues to support families that need the help the most. The 5,354 meals that we were able to contribute really made a difference to us at this special time too."

-Adam G

Adam, a Yonkers native, could think of no better way to honor his parents' milestone 50th anniversary than giving back to his childhood community. He shares why his family chose Feeding Westchester:

Composting at Feeding Westchester

Our focus at Feeding Westchester is to get good, nutritious food to our neighbors in need, but occasionally, some fresh produce doesn't meet our quality standards. Enter Composting!

Since last June, Feeding Westchester has been filling a few bins weekly. Compostable product is gleaned from donated food, picked up by our friends from Westchester County and transferred to their facility in Valhalla. While the total amount is small, over time it adds up and ensures that less food is sent to a landfill...and that is good for our environment and for the neighbors we serve!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Golden Scoop Corporate Packing Competition

Friday, June 7, 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Join us as local companies unite in the fight against hunger for Golden Scoop! Teams will compete to see who can pack the largest amount of food in the shortest amount of time. This event not only helps distribute food to our nearly 300 programs and partners to benefit our Nourishing Seniors programs, but it also offers corporations a meaningful way to give back through volunteering. Participants can engage in a friendly fundraising competition to support Feeding Westchester's mission.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Rebecca Snyder at rsnyder@feedingwestchester.org



Feeding Westchester serves Westchester County, providing food to a hunger-relief network of nearly 300 partners and programs. With a mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger, we source and distribute good, nutritious food and other resources wherever they are needed most.

Feeding Westchester is located at:
200 Clearbrook Road
Elmsford, NY 10523
914.923.1100

FeedingWestchester.org

Donate online at:

FeedingWestchester.org/give

For other ways to get involved:

FeedingWestchester.org/get-involved

Follow us on:



SEE YOUR IMPACT

JAN - DEC 2023



Neighbor visits
monthly average

224,224



Pounds of fresh
produce distributed

8 MILLION

Child visits through
pantries, deliveries,
and school programs
monthly average

80,989



Pounds of food distributed

22.4 MILLION



Number of meals distributed

18.7 MILLION



Retail Recovery (pounds recovered)

4.2 MILLION



"Scouting for properties in our community, we've seen firsthand how prominent food insecurity is, even right here in Westchester. That has inspired me to use the resources and visibility of our restaurants to help. While working at a food pantry in Mount Pleasant, I've seen Feeding Westchester in action and in awe of the work you do. We're trying to make a difference in our town, but I love that Feeding Westchester takes care of all of Westchester!"

- Bobby Harris, co-owner of Rye's Barley Beach House Restaurant and winner of \$1,000 for Feeding Westchester (and an opportunity to spend quality time with Derek Jeter), as part of Optimum's Community GOAT contest.