

SHARING IS CARING

TO ERICA, IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE OF ALL

Growing up, Erica's mom always taught her to be grateful for what she has and to share what she can with others.

Erica also recalls how her mom would provide food for her family any way she could on a limited income — even if it meant skipping a meal so her children could eat.

“Even though we didn't have much,” Erica says, “whatever we did have, [Mom] always shared.”

This kindness has become a cornerstone in Erica's life. Now with children of her own, she wants to ensure she provides for her family, too — just as her mom did!

Erica never wants her children to know the pang of hunger, or to experience food insecurity. But recent financial challenges on a tight budget prompted her to seek out support at her local food distribution.

“There's always a way to feed my children and myself,” Erica says.

Your generosity ensures Erica can do just that! When her budget is pushed to the limit, she doesn't have to worry about when or where her family will get their next meal.

Erica even extends her mom's giving spirit to her own neighbors today.

“One of the beautiful things that I love about



picking up food from the food bank is they give you an enormous amount,” she says. “And I've always made bags for all my neighbors, so everybody knows me because I go and drop off food.”

What would Erica and her children do without friends like you? Thank you for helping their family get by when times are tough. 🍌

Erica's story is representative of the people we serve.

***Look inside for
these stories!***

- 🍌 Letter from the CEO — Page 2
- 🍌 “If I Can Do This, I'm All Right” — Page 2
- 🍌 Strengthening Hunger-Relief Efforts — Page 3
- 🍌 Woman of Distinction Awards Recap — Page 4

**\$1 helps
provide
2 meals!**



LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

As you read this, we will have just hosted the 2025 edition of An Evening in Good Taste. Although this newsletter went to print too early to share a full report, your support grows every year, and I feel confident in saying it was the best ever!

This issue provides a range of upbeat and forward-looking stories of support and overcoming hunger hardships. We provide neighbor profiles of Mike and Erica, two volunteers who love giving back even as they receive help at local pantries. They know firsthand how important it is to help people having a hard time getting enough to eat, and they have a heart for helping others.

And finally, we share two examples of our strong partnerships and collaboration with others working to help our neighbors in need: an elected-official gathering at our facility hosted with the Business Council of Westchester and attended by many of our supporters in New York State and Westchester County government, as well as a personal highlight in which our dear friends at United Way of Westchester and Putnam recognized me and my good friend Leslie Lampert as symbols of leadership in our collective fight against hunger. I was honored on behalf of the men and women of distinction who are fighting hunger at Feeding Westchester and our partners across the county and state!

Enjoy the issue and the coming spring.
Gratefully,

Karen C. Erren

Karen C. Erren
President & CEO

“IF I CAN DO THIS, I’M ALL RIGHT”

THIS VETERAN HAS ONE LESS WORRY, THANKS TO YOUR KINDNESS

It’s not always easy asking for help. Even though people are social creatures, ready to give and accept help, many of us have a hard time asking for it.

But not Mike. He’s both an active participant and regular volunteer in his local food pantry program. And he understands just how vital these services are for neighbors — because he’s felt the impact of your generosity firsthand.

“You don’t know exactly how much you help the people that are on a limited income,” he says. “What we get [here] will last us for a couple weeks.”

Sadly, many veterans like Mike face economic instability and food insecurity. Just to make ends meet, he visits his local food bank for support.

But Mike looks on the bright side, always finding something to be grateful for — even if it’s as simple as having enough food to get through the week.

“Everything comes down to putting food on my table,” Mike says. “If I can do this, I’m all right.”

Your generosity lightens the load for neighbors like Mike. Thank you for caring! 🍌

Mike’s story is representative of the people we serve. The photo has been changed to protect the identity of the person sharing this story.





WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS SPOTLIGHT THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

The annual Woman of Distinction Awards was a big day for Feeding Westchester and several of our valued partners. The event, titled Take a Walk in Her Shoes, was hosted by the Women’s Leadership Council and United Way of Westchester and Putnam. We were proud to see our president and CEO, Karen C. Erren, honored alongside our longtime supporter and friend Leslie Lampert, the executive chef and proprietor of Ladle of Love Hospitality. Karen and Leslie were inspirational both in their remarks and during a moderated discussion focusing on the challenges facing ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households, sharing how their organizations are working to create lasting change in our community.

Karen paid tribute to our many partners — several of which had representatives among the 250 attendees — in addition to UWWP and WLC at several points during the discussion. She shared, “For all of these folks who don’t have food on their tables consistently, Feeding Westchester — along with our dear partners at United Way, as well as 175 additional organizations throughout our county — *we* are their support. **We are the people in their lives who stand between them and hunger. And it is possible because of your support — the support of the community.**”

FIGHTING HUNGER AND FOOD WASTE IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Thousands of people in our community face hunger. Yet every day, we waste good, safe-to-eat food that could otherwise help support our neighbors in need of nourishment.

Thankfully, Feeding Westchester’s Retail Recovery Program is one of our most powerful weapons in the fight against hunger and food waste. Through a network of innovative partnerships with farmers, retailers, and manufacturers, we’re able to safely recover nutritious food and get it onto the tables of our neighbors facing hunger.

Just last year alone, we were able to divert 4.5 million pounds of food destined for landfills and use it to change lives instead.

Thank you for fueling our fight to keep good food in our community and out of landfills. Your generosity makes such a difference!



4.5 MILLION
POUNDS RECOVERED

71
RETAIL PARTNERS

4,672
DELIVERIES MADE BY
OUR FLEET



ELECTED OFFICIALS EXCHANGE VIEWS ON HUNGER AT FEEDING WESTCHESTER

Feeding Westchester recently partnered with the Business Council of Westchester to host state leaders and community advocates for a discussion on hunger relief and state budget priorities. The event, held at Feeding Westchester's newly expanded facility, showcased our enhanced capacity to meet food-insecurity challenges across the county.

The gathering featured a lineup of 12 state and county elected officials and staff, including Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Jamaal Bailey, Senator Shelley Mayer, Senator Nathalia Fernandez, and Assemblyman Matt Slater. The event also welcomed John Ravitz of the Business Council of Westchester and leaders from Feeding New York State, Long Island Cares, and local organizations such as CHHOP and the United Community Center of Westchester, all of whom provided valuable insights into hunger trends and collaborative efforts.

Karen C. Erren, president and CEO of Feeding Westchester, guided attendees through the expanded space, illustrating how the organization distributes more than 23 million pounds of food annually to communities in need. The tour and subsequent discussion emphasized the critical role of state support in combating food insecurity and ensuring that all residents have access to nutritious meals.

Presenters highlighted the importance of securing increased funding and policy support in the upcoming state budget. Collaborative strategies, shared by representatives from across the region, underscored the need for strong partnerships to drive impactful solutions.

This gathering reaffirmed Feeding Westchester's commitment to fostering alliances and advocating for resources that strengthen hunger-relief efforts. Feeding Westchester remains steadfast in our mission to provide food and hope to thousands of residents in Westchester County. 🍌

PAY IT FORWARD WITH A GIFT FROM YOUR ESTATE

Making a planned gift can change lives and be one of life's most gratifying experiences. A planned gift of any kind to Feeding Westchester can help you match your personal legacy goals while supporting our mission to create a community where everyone has access to food.

Your generosity will help to ensure we can continue providing food and hope to neighbors facing hunger.

Whatever the size of your estate, it's important to have a plan that will provide for the needs of your loved ones and honor your philanthropic passions. Start today by visiting plannedgiving.feedingwestchester.org.

To learn about the many types of tax-smart planned gifts you can make — such as a DAF, IRA, estate, charitable gift annuities, or appreciated securities — please visit feedingwestchester.org/get-involved/donate or contact Martine Campoli for more information:

Martine Campoli

914-398-6904

mcampoli@feedingwestchester.org

