



Food Bank
of Central New York



INSPIRE. COLLABORATE. STRENGTHEN.

hunger & hope

Sponsored by **DUNKIN'**

2020 Winter Newsletter



FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL NEW YORK is a not-for-profit organization working to eliminate hunger through nutritious food distribution, education, and advocacy in cooperation with the community. The Food Bank is the primary food supplier for 280 emergency food programs in our eleven county service region of central and northern New York.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Chris Fletcher

PeopleSystems

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Ciaralli

Grossman St. Amour

TREASURER

Peggy Rowe

Dannible & McKee

SECRETARY

Jean O'Toole

New York Beef Council

Kathy Allen

Tops Friendly Markets

Sal Campanino

Wegmans Food Markets

Karen Krogman Daum

Smith Sovik Law Firm

Louis DeMent

Giovanni Food Company

Christopher H. DeVoe, CFA

Constellation Asset Management, Inc.

Renee Duffy

CXtec and TERACAI

Jeff Knauss

The Digital Hyve

Michael Madigan

Bank of America

Dr. Chilukuri Mohan

Syracuse University

Karin Reeves

Reeves Farms

Whitney Kummerow-Schmidt

Hancock Estabrook, LLP

Dr. Irene Scruton

SUNY Oswego

Kelly Springer

Kelly's Choice

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed the many blessings that the holidays provide.

We are in full swing again and are continuing to focus our efforts on distributing wholesome food items to our 400 partner agencies. In the first five months of our fiscal year, we provided 5.4 million meals. Thankfully we have many robust partnerships that allow us to continue to feed our communities and focus on ensuring that nutritious food is available to all that seek our service.

In this issue we highlight the importance of collaboration, whether with community based organizations, elected officials or you! We could not do this work without public support. Advocacy has been a central focus as we educate on the need to maintain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the benefit it offers to our eleven county service area.

With the new year, comes new changes. I have an opportunity that allows me to stay in the community but I will be leaving the Food Bank. Since 2013, I have held this honored role and I leave Food Bank of Central New York well positioned for future endeavors. I am very proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together. Thank you for your personal support to me over the years as well.

I am delighted to share that Karen Belcher, Chief Operating Officer, will be the Interim Executive Director and will continue the good work we do. Karen has been with the agency for 18 years and provides us with a vast level of experience and expertise. We won't miss a beat with her leadership.

Thank you for being part of our mission and for being an ambassador for helping feed the hungry. Wishing you a wonderful start to the new year.

Warmest regards,

Kathleen

Please visit foodbankcny.org to view our full length annual report.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CARE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP



In 2018, Food Bank of Central New York was presented with the opportunity to initiate a partnership with the Central New York Care Collaborative (CNYCC). During these past two years, the Food Bank has participated in CNYCC projects [Care Transitions Project and the Patient Activation Measure Project] focused on improving the continuum of care across all healthcare settings (for example hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, community based and home centers) for the Medicaid population and encouraging individuals to take ownership of their health. This non-traditional partnership with CNYCC has provided many benefits for the Food Bank, including:

1. Funding as a result of completing performance activities. The funding has helped to support gaps in funding for specific Food Bank staff positions and offset operational expenses;

2. Educating about the breadth of services the Food Bank offers and raising awareness of healthcare organizations about the role that community-based organizations (CBOs) play in individuals' health.

We were also fortunate to be a part of the "CNYCC Innovation Fund" grant collaboration to address social and behavioral determinants of health and community health needs. The Food Bank has been named as a co-collaborator on four grant initiatives working with partners through Syracuse Community Health Center, Liberty Resources, Upstate University Hospital, and ARISE. The initiatives include food insecurity screening and utilizing the Food Bank as the connector to food assistance services. These activities began late 2019 and will continue through 2020. We plan to share the results of these projects after the evaluation process in late 2020.

ADVOCACY ALERT

This past year has been a particularly challenging year for protecting and strengthening access to vital anti-hunger programs, like school meals and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. The current administration

has repeatedly released proposed rule changes that would reduce or eliminate SNAP benefits for seniors, working families, and children or would cause nearly a million children nationally to lose access to free school meals. At Food Bank of Central New York, we've been making a concerted effort to increase our grassroots engagement to take action against these harmful proposals.

As part of the Food Bank's advocacy strategy and in conjunction with a grassroots advocacy training through Feeding America, we've embarked on a story collection project. Our Director of Government Relations has been conducting interviews of partner agency guests and taking their stories to our elected officials both locally and in Washington, DC.

Elaine (*not shown*), from Canton, recently shared how vital the combination of school nutrition programs, SNAP, and her local food pantry is to her household (which includes three grandchildren). Elaine's 5-year-old grandchild has cystic fibrosis and nutritious food is incredibly important to her health. "We're on a really strict budget... we travel for medical appointments to Syracuse. I've been coming [to the pantry] every two weeks because it helps stretch our budget. It's important that we get the funds

for and support programs so that kids can eat properly." During recent visits to Washington, we've been able to share messages from Elaine and others to encourage our Members of Congress to work on a strong Child Nutrition Reauthorization that would expand access to important programs like school meals and the Summer Food Service Program.

To stay up to date on advocacy alerts, follow the Food Bank on social media for calls to action with steps that you can take to strengthen and protect the programs supporting our mission. Your voice is as important as ever in ensuring the critical programs assisting our friends and neighbors in need remain intact and viable.



HUNGER DOES NOT TAKE A BREAK

For many children, school breaks can mean the potential to miss ten or more nutritious meals. This year, Delta Air Lines is partnering with the Food Bank to provide children with much needed meals during the upcoming school breaks.

Our partner agencies will be able to distribute School Break Boxes to the public, a Food Bank initiative piloted in spring 2019. The School Break Box is designed as a supplemental food source for children and their families during school breaks. The boxes are filled with nutritious and easy to prepare shelf stable foods. We are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to our partner agencies and are thankful to Delta Air Lines for their commitment to feeding children and their families during school breaks.



Design by Laura Jensen, Communications Manager

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO THROUGHOUT 2020



Arthur Wood, AGM/ Senior Director of Facilities (Vernon Downs Casino Hotel) and Lynn Hy, Chief Development Officer (Food Bank of Central New York).

We are excited to announce our new partnership with the Syracuse Auto Dealers Association (SADA). The SADA Charity Preview will be held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at the Oncenter complex. Tickets are on sale now for \$125.00 per person. All proceeds from your purchase will benefit our work.

SavorSyracuse is the Food Bank's annual gala event; over 20 local restaurants, wineries, and breweries will be in attendance for sampling of the tastiest food and drink. SavorSyracuse will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at the Marriott Downtown Syracuse in the Grand Ballroom. Thanks to presenting sponsor Delta Air Lines for their continued support and this event.

We thank Jeff Gural and Vernon Downs Casino Hotel for their incredible donation in the amount of \$53,460 to the Food Bank. We appreciate all who attended the Lee Greenwood and Crystal Gayle benefit concert in 2019. Stay tuned in April for our summer 2020 concert announcement at Vernon Downs Casino Hotel.

For more information about these events, please contact Lynn Hy, Chief Development Officer at (315) 437-1899 ext. 247 or lhy@foodbankcny.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January-February: Check Out Hunger at Tops Friendly Markets

January 23: Food Bank Telethon on NBC 3 and CBS 5

February 5: SADA Charity Preview

February-March: St. Patrick Hunger Project

March-April: Check Out Hunger at Wegmans

April 23: SavorSyracuse

April-June: Brews & Bites

July 7: Food Bank Golf Open

Please visit our website at foodbankcny.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date information about our events and volunteer needs.



Donate Online



Mail a Check



Give us a Call



Transfer Stock



Make a Legacy Gift

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTORS

Amalia Swan, Chief Outreach Officer
Becky Lare, Director of Government Relations
Lynn Hy, Chief Development Officer

SPECIAL THANKS

Kathleen Stress, Executive Director
NEWSLETTER DEVELOPMENT AND LOGO DESIGN
Laura Jensen, Communications Manager

