



VOLUNTEER VIEWS & NEWS FROM THE FOOD BANK

FEBRUARY 2016

This newsletter is dedicated to the volunteers of the Regional Food Bank, Patroon Land Farm, and Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. You help us provide much-needed food and other supplies to people in need. Thank you!

2015 Distribution Hits New Record

With help from volunteers like you, we distributed a record 35,149,035 pounds of food and other basic need items to our network of 1,000 member agencies (food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.) in 23 counties of the state. This equates to more than 29 million meals for people in need. Thank you!

2015 DISTRIBUTION

County	Pounds Distributed	Number of Meals Provided
Albany	3,969,071	3,307,559
Clinton	800,504	667,087
Columbia	1,086,537	905,448
Delaware	317,154	264,295
Dutchess	2,620,134	2,183,445
Essex	356,231	296,859
Franklin	1,455,099	1,212,583
Fulton	723,388	602,823
Greene	650,449	542,041
Hamilton	63,686	53,072
Montgomery	338,760	282,300
Orange	3,832,686	3,193,905
Otsego	1,029,178	857,648
Putnam	737,831	614,859
Rensselaer	1,865,469	1,554,558
Rockland	2,923,478	2,436,232
Saratoga	1,360,827	1,134,023
Schenectady	2,892,623	2,410,519
Schoharie	599,405	499,504
Sullivan	949,501	791,251
Ulster	4,469,033	3,724,194
Warren	1,368,940	1,140,783
Washington	739,051	615,876
Total	35,149,035	29,290,863



What does love look like?
 It has hands to help others.
 It has feet to hasten to the poor and needy.
 It has eyes to see misery and want.
 It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.
 St. Augustine

Off Site Volunteers Provide Valuable Assistance

We want to offer special thanks to the volunteers who help us collect food and funds at off-site events. So far this year we have asked for and received help for several of these functions including:

- 9th Annual Neighborhood Food Drive - at dozens of neighborhoods throughout the Capital District
- Bruce Springsteen Concert at the Times Union Center
- Food Drives at ShopRite Niskayuna
- Mac and Cheese Bowl at Siena College
- Siena Basketball Game at the Times Union Center

If you are outgoing and would like to be contacted the next time an off-site event is scheduled, let us know. The more, the merrier!

9th Annual Neighborhood Food Drive Update

This year, with thousands of households participating, the 9th Annual Neighborhood Food Drive brought in 33,177 pounds of food, setting a new record. We appreciate the tireless efforts of event organizers, Kathy and Dr. Bob Busch, Judy and Steve Krakower, and Shara Siegfeld, and the dozens of volunteers who made this year such a success.



Monthly Groups Contribute to Sorting Success

Many of our volunteer groups are 'repeat customers' that come in on a monthly basis.

Two of these groups recently asked us for their cumulative totals for the year.

We were impressed to see how much they sorted and thought you would be too.

Office of the State Comptroller (OSC): 111,810 pounds | Turner Construction: 105,877 pounds

Volunteer Snapshot



The confirmation candidates of St. Joachim-St. John prepare for their confirmation through community service. In today's materialistic world, it is important that they understand the impact their time and involvement in service projects have for both the organization being served and themselves.

Through their volunteer work at the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, the youngsters learned, in a very tangible way, the reality of poverty and hunger in their own community.

As they learned to sort, pack and weigh food and other items to be distributed to food pantries, they not only gained new knowledge and skills, but gained a sense of pride as well. **The youngsters walked away understanding that every person counts and they can make a difference.** They look forward to returning to the Food Bank soon!

Patroon Land Farm: Notes from the Field

We're Back for 2016!

First, we celebrate you, our volunteers! During the 2105 season at the Patroon Land Farm, we hit record numbers for volunteers. Over 2,300 individuals volunteered more than 11,000 hours of good honest labor to keep our Farm producing fresh, nutritious vegetables to feed the hungry. Thank you!

What did you do?

- Seed in the greenhouse
- Transplant in the fields
- Weed, hoe, and thin the rows
- Harvest, wash and pack the vegetables
- And everybody's favorite, pick rocks!



We will begin scheduling volunteers in small groups (up to 15 people) at the beginning of April. Toward the end of April, we will schedule larger groups. Dates and times are Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., usually in 2-hour increments. Contact Farmer Laura at lauram@regionalfoodbank.net to schedule your time.

We welcome everyone:

- Families
- Individuals
- Elementary, middle, high school, and college students
- Local businesses
- Churches, mosques, and synagogues
- Girl and Boy Scout troops
- Non-profit organizations



Just to let you know, our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) vegetable and fruit shares are on sale. Please contact Bob at bobb@regionalfoodbank.net or call him at 518-786-3691 x296 to learn how you may purchase and receive a share of farm fresh vegetables this summer.

How to Reach Us to Volunteer

Regional Food Bank Volunteer Coordinators: 518-786-3691, x234 or volunteers@regionalfoodbank.net
Food Bank of the Hudson Valley: 845-534-5344, x116 or CGriffinDePaolis@foodbankofhudsonvalley.org
Patroon Land Farm: Laura Martin at lauram@regionalfoodbank.net