



SECOND CHANCE FOODS

*Elevating the health of people and planet
through food rescue.*

2020 Impact Report

Dear Supporters and Friends,

It is, of course, an understatement to say that 2020 was an extraordinary year. There was an extraordinary amount of loss, both loss of life and livelihoods. An extraordinary amount of isolation and loneliness felt by so many, and an extraordinary amount of uncertainty. Yet, throughout last year there were also **extraordinary examples of humanity, goodness, and community connection**. In this letter, I'd like to focus on the positives that came out of last year, from the greater awareness of food insecurity and the importance of healthy foods to the focus on local food systems. **This deeper awareness brought an extraordinary amount of support for which we are incredibly grateful.**

We live in an area with abundant wealth, which has historically made food insecurity a hidden issue. However, **last year brought hunger and health to the forefront of people's minds**. The prevalence of food insecurity was told in a new way as we saw how precarious finances can be for individuals and families. **Missing even one paycheck can impact the ability to purchase food, and along with it, the ability to stay healthy.** The impact of diet on our health came back into the national conversation. The world focused on health, diet-related illness, and maintaining healthy immune systems, which amplified the **importance of nutrition for everyone.**

Early in the year, we saw in the news as vast amounts of food went to waste while hungry people waited in long lines for hours to access food. But instead of standing by, we also saw many step up. We came together and found solutions. When in-person gatherings became unsafe, many of Second Chance Foods' regular volunteers and interns with intellectual disabilities had to pause their work with us. **In response, our community rose to the challenge!** We saw new volunteers from students, families, and furloughed workers who were able to step up and take their place. **With this support, Second Chance Food was able to continue to ensure our neighbors have access to fresh, healthy food throughout the year and even grow our operations' impact.**

It has become clear that we need a “new normal” in addressing food insecurity. A model that emphasizes local, sustainably raised, healthy food with choice for the recipients. This increased awareness means a greater responsibility for us to work together and create solutions. **We've seen the power of our community** and believe Second Chance Foods can be a leader of change with our unique emphasis on nutritious food that is accessible in its preparation. **Everything we've accomplished this year has been because of you, our community of supporters, volunteers, donors, food partners, farms, and neighbors.** We hope you join us again this year, and together we can elevate the health of people and our planet.

All my best,

Martha Elder

Martha Elder, Executive Director

Breaking the Cycle of Food Waste and Meal Insecurity

30%

of produce is left in the fields instead of being harvested.*

40%

of the U.S. food supply is wasted every year**

1.5M

New Yorkers struggle to feed themselves.**

85%

More groceries donated over 2019

276,320

Total Pounds of Groceries Donated!

\$480,797

Wholesale value of donated food!

17,300

pounds of fresh vegetables, fruit, and herbs, from 6 local farms

26,051

Servings of food

Donated to make nutritionally complete meals.

Powered by Volunteers

6,600 total hours

(825 days)

their hard work is worth more than

\$180k



4,500
hours
cooking
delicious
meals



1,700
hours
transporting,
sorting, and
delivering food



354
hours
harvesting
fresh
produce

*according to CivilEats.com

**according to CityHarvest.org



Responding to COVID-19 and community needs

As the lower Hudson Valley experienced the impact of the pandemic, Second Chance Foods found ways to take action and nourish our neighbors. These three innovative programs were created in response to the increased need for food assistance that impacted our community.



Feeding the whole family

When schools switched to remote learning in March, **the need for food assistance spread beyond free school lunches.** Many parents and families were also experiencing food insecurity for the first time.

To meet this need, Second Chance Foods provided a box of groceries for families through Carmel Central School District for the remaining 15 weeks of school.

In school pickup meant no additional stops and a reduced stigma of needing help.

These grocery boxes were primarily filled with **fresh produce to nourish both children and their caretakers.**

Summer Meals



For the 10 weeks of summer vacation, when local school districts were not able to provide free meals, we stepped up and helped.

Each week families picked up **a box of groceries and prepared meals from the Second Chance Foods Kitchen.**

We could not stand by and allow these children to suffer from hunger during the school break.

Summer is no vacation without adequate food.



Weekly Meal Delivery

In order to protect our most vulnerable neighbors and provide them with nourishing food, the weekly meal delivery program began in April 2020. The pandemic increased food insecurity, while it also made it harder for many to access food pantries.

This community partnership is the work of Second Chance Foods, County Legislator Toni Addonizio and Mount Carmel Baptist Church. **Together we addressed the issue of limited public transportation in a rural county, and the risk of exposure, with a weekly home delivery option.**

This program continues to this day in order to elevate the health of all our neighbors in need.