



SECOND CHANCE FOODS

2021 Impact Report

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P.O. Box 93 Carmel, NY 10512



A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Supporters and Friends,

I write to you today with the sad reality that many of our neighbors are in crisis. We are all seeing prices increase for so many goods we need in our daily lives. And, small increases in costs of living mean being forced to make tough decisions for those living paycheck to paycheck- nutritious food or gas to get to work? Imagine what it must be like for our many neighbors who live on the margins.

All of this demands our attention and action.

We ended 2021 with a call to grow our capacity - and you answered! Thank you for donating, volunteering, and joining us in making an impact. Together we have already created a healthier, more resilient, and more equitable local food system that is helping ease the burden on this vulnerable community. But there is more to do and more of our neighbors in need - and I know we can accomplish more together.

That is why I look ahead to 2022 and beyond; Second Chance Foods' focus will be on filling the gaps between the safety nets and people's lived reality. Too many children, senior citizens, and low-income people are being denied help based on income levels that are unrealistic. Working together with other local change-makers and with support like yours, we will reach even more people in need.

Together we can continue to find new and innovative ways to provide nourishing meals that rescue food, reduce wasteful food systems, and improve the environment.

Thank you for joining us in food justice,

Martha Elder

Martha Elder, Executive Director



2021 Impact By The Numbers



That's over 81% more meals than in 2020 & a combined value of goods and services worth \$745M!

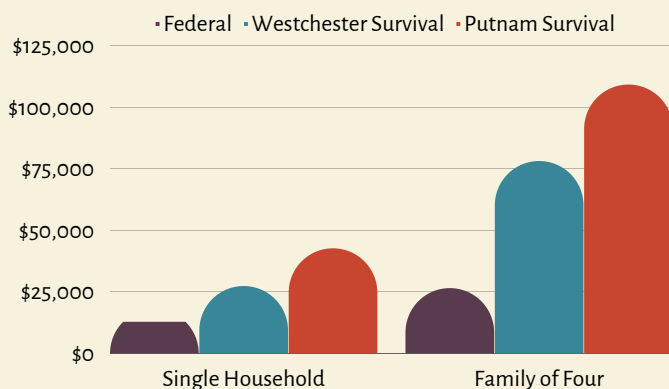


Gaps In Food Assistance Safety Nets

In Westchester and Putnam counties, **4-out-of-10** households are living paycheck-to-paycheck or in poverty. According to the United Way, a single person in Putnam County must earn \$42,636 a year or \$109,236 as a family of four with two children. These numbers are based on the bare minimum survival costs of the area for housing, utilities, transportation, food, taxes, etc.

However, the federal poverty level is significantly lower than the living standard in our area. Because government food assistance programs like SNAP and WIC use the Federal Poverty level to determine benefits, many community members are still left struggling to put food on the table. Additional barriers to federal support include lack of awareness of programs or eligibility, the stigma of participation, and general administrative burdens/red tape to sign up.

We believe that access to nourishing food is a human right.



Nourishing Food w/o Barriers

In 2021, over **6,980 people from 2,211 households** were directly served through our weekly distribution boxes of nourishing food filled with **56,624 pounds of groceries & over 28,620 homemade meals.**

This program was started in 2020 when many seniors, veterans, and families in need of food assistance were unable to travel to pick up food due to the risk of covid and other obstacles.

The pandemic highlighted a lot of barriers to receiving food assistance. However, transportation remains a significant reason why many people in our community do not receive the help they need. Unlike other food assistance programs and organizations, Second Chance Foods does not have income thresholds or other requirements for participation.

We will continue to grow our distribution boxes program and develop innovative ways to connect healthy food with hungry people.

Food Rescue to the Climate Rescue

According to the ReFED Food waste calculator our efforts in 2021 had a net benefit of



466.03 TONS
OF CO2 AVOIDED



That's the equivalent of 101 passenger vehicles driven for ONE YEAR



33.42 MILLION
GALLONS OF WATER SAVED



That's the same as over 50 olympic sized swimming pools



Our Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

RESCUING GROCERIES

Because 93% of unsold usable food ends up in the landfill.

LOCALIZING FOOD

Localizing Food sources with Fresh Organic Produce from Hudson Valley Farms

COMPOSTING

We're proud to compost unusable food and nourish the soil instead of adding to landfills



USING RESOURCES

We cook and process food to help prevent waste and extend shelf life.

RECYCLING

We take the time to recycle packaging and materials.



Thank You to all our volunteers, donors, and partners in food justice!

Grocery Partners: Trader Joe's **Farm Partners:** Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County Glean Team, Fishkill Farms, Glynwood Farm, Hilltop Hanover Farm, Rich Robbins, SPACE on Ryder Farm, & all our generous home growers who donate food!

Hunger Relief Partners: Brewster Community Food Pantry, Church of the Holy Spirit, Fareground,, Fishkill Food Pantry Fred's Pantry, Gilead Food Pantry, Hope on a Mission, Life Meals Soup Kitchen, Mount Carmel Baptist Church and Mount Carmel Food Pantry, Ossining Food Pantry, Patterson Food Pantry, Philipstown Food Pantry, Putnam CAP, Putnam Valley Food Pantry, and St John's Food Pantry.