

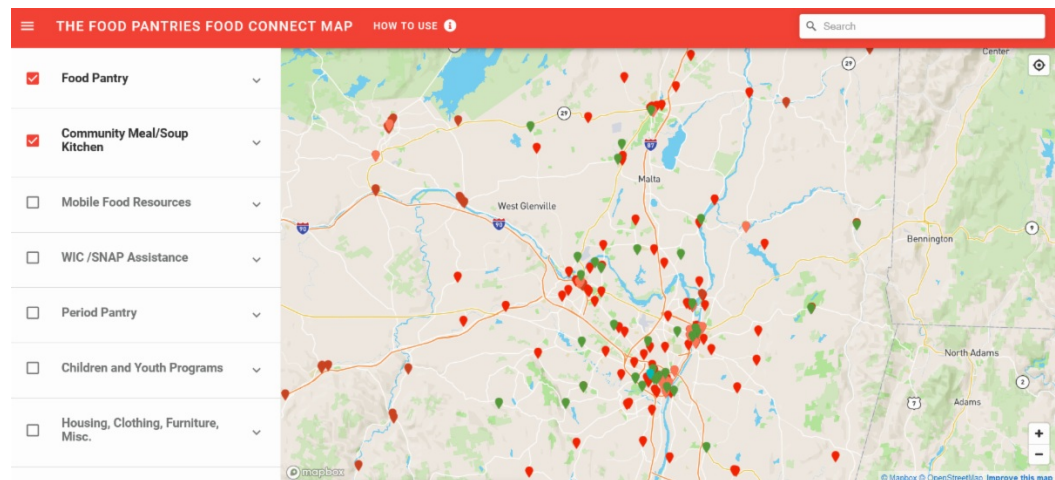


The Food Pantries Newsletter - June 2024

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our returned monthly email newsletter! We'll include updates on what's been going on at The Food Pantries, info on upcoming events, highlights on member pantries and our programs, and much more.

We're always looking for feedback. What do you want to see in our newsletter? Any questions you'd like answered or specific topics you'd like us to highlight? Let us know.

Thanks so much for your interest and support!



The NYS Food Connect Map - Increasing Access to Food Assistance and Other Resources

Do you know about the NYS Food Connect Map? Have you checked it out lately? This map is a digital tool that our organization and other partners created and have been maintaining since 2019. Over the last few years, the map has received major upgrades and is fully functional on mobile devices. Along with information about Food Pantries, we also gather and provide information about other important food resources such as: Community Meals, Soup Kitchens and Mobile Food Resources.

The NYS Food Connect Map is used by The Food Pantries Referral Team when discussing resources with community members who reach out, and we encourage the general public to use the map on their own to find nearby resources. In 2023, the map had over 39,000 active users! We're excited to continue to update and upgrade this tool in order to provide current, relevant and accessible nutrition security resources for community members

Check out the NYS Food Connect Map here: <https://map.thefoodpantries.org/>

Event Recap: Benefit Softball Game to Support The Food Pantries - NY Assembly Democrats vs Republicans on May 29 at HVCC

In a spirited affair, Carl's Crushers climbed back from an 8-0 first inning deficit and defeated Barclay's Bombers 19-13. Most importantly, NYS Assemblymembers came together to give back to their home away from home and support local Capital District food pantries. **\$10,000** was raised to support The Food Pantries for the Capital District! We're looking forward to continuing this annual friendly competition fundraiser next year. Thanks to all who donated and participated in this awesome event!



Interested in collaborating on an event or fundraiser to help support our work? [Click here for more info on how you can help.](#)

Report from the Ground:

"We set a record last week, serving over 100 families in five hours over two days!"
- Lynne Fuierer, Pantry Coordinator at First Church in Albany Food Pantry - June 27, 2024

Lynne's quote highlights the importance for families to be able to access food pantries and also the continued increased service levels we are seeing across The Food Pantries coalition. There was a 34% increase in pantry visits in Q1 2024 versus the same time last year.

We know that many families feel increased stress during the summer when children are not receiving school breakfast and lunch. Food Pantries are open and dedicated to meeting the needs of the community. Families should also be aware of the Summer Meals program. More info can be found here: [Summer Meal Site Map/Finder](#).

Event Recap: The Alliance for a Hunger Free NY's 2024 NYS Food Summit at the Armory at Sage College in Albany

June 12 saw the return of the biennial NYS Food Summit, which brought together hundreds of speakers and attendees, both in person and virtually. The 2024 edition focused on three main topics: Strengthening the Safety Net, Food As Medicine, and Ending Hunger Through Action.



Presentations and panels were spread around multiple rooms, but you can watch the archived live stream from the main Armory room (pictured) via the link below. The Food Pantries was proud to co-sponsor and provide organizational support for this amazing event. We can't wait to get together again in 2026 to share ideas, best practices, challenges and solutions!

Many thanks to Hunger Prevention Champion co-sponsors Broadview Federal Credit Union

& CDPHP. And thank you to additional supporters: Plentiful, EatWell, Price Chopper/Market 32, The Schenectady Foundation, Unite Us, United Way of the Greater Capital Region, Healthy Alliance, The Healthy Cafe Catering Co. & Umoja Food for Health.

More info: [2024 NYS Food Summit website](#)

Mission Moment of the Month - Feedback from a Guest who received a home delivery

"I just want to express my gratitude, it's so important for me to eat right for my health and you guys make it possible. I appreciate the lengths that you go to for me to receive vegan foods. I received such a beautiful box this week, everything is vegan. I want you to know we don't take your services for granted. Thank you."



["The Nourish NY Dream Team" during their panel discussion at the 2024 NYS Food Summit:](#)

Sara Adams (Trinity Alliance), Fred Boehrer (Focus Churches of Albany), Renata Gwozdz (CEO - Commission on Economic Opportunity) & Angie Pender-Fox (The Food Pantries for the Capital District).

This group talked how they collaborate to make their Nourish NY dollars stretch for dozens of pantries in 3 counties.



Lydia Calabro & Nick Goodnight (The Food Pantries for the Capital District)

Lydia had just told the office that the Referral Team made 98 food assistance referrals in one day! That accounts for the 3rd highest amount of the year so far, and is part of an 18% increase in referrals so far compared to last year, which was the busiest year yet. The Referral Team works extremely hard and are dedicated to making sure community members receive the info and resources they need.



Natasha Pernicka (The Food Pantries for the Capital District / The Alliance for a Hunger Free NY) & Peyton Yurch (The Alliance for a Hunger Free NY) at the [National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#) in DC.

Natasha and Peyton were in DC to network and learn, and to advocate for federal support for anti-hunger/anti-poverty programs such as: SNAP, WIC, TEFAP, Universal healthy school meals, and Food as Medicine.

Welcome to New Board and Team Members & We Are Hiring!

A quick but heartfelt welcome to the newest members of The Food Pantries!

William "Bill" Willard - Board Member - Turner Construction

Beth Wyman - Food As Medicine Registered Dietician

Lisa Frisch - Manager of NYS Food as Medicine Coalition

We are also hiring for several positions. Please help us spread the word!

[More info on our Indeed profile](#)

Thanks so much for reading our June 2024 Newsletter! If you would like to get involved, please reach out to us for info on [volunteering](#), [hosting a food or fund drive](#), or any other ideas you have. We would love to hear from you and we greatly appreciate your support and participation in our work to end hunger in the Capital District.

Together we can do more than any one of us alone!

[Donate](#)



The Food Pantries for the Capital District | 32 Essex Street | Albany, NY 12206 US

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