

# **Annual Report 2023**

# THE FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

# TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE





# **WORKING TOGETHER WE** CAN DO MORE.



What do we do when life is getting tough? We embrace our community. If I had to count the number of times I've had to reach out for help, I couldn't tell you. There are times in all our lives when we need support.

Reducing the stigma around food pantry assistance is just one of the areas of focus we have at The Food Pantries for the Capital District. And one of the ways that we do this is by sharing the reality of hunger and food insecurity. With more than 68,000 individuals seeking food pantry assistance from our coalition members in 2023, the larger systemic issues of

poverty, low wage jobs, and food inflation impacts on our neighbors are clear.

An older gentleman turned to a food pantry for the first time in his life last year. His SNAP benefits only amounted to \$26 a month and he was living off an extremely limited income. "I didn't know where else to turn to for help," he stated. This is where our coalition of 71 food pantry members fill a critical gap in our social safety network.

Sara Adams of Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region in Albany stated earlier this year that, "Our pantries have seen a ~20% increase in service requests in 2023 compared to 2022. Enhanced support is urgently needed to ensure our pantries can meet the need sufficiently."

"With the dramatic increase in food prices and the reduction of SNAP benefits at the end of February 2023, we have seen a significant increase in the need for food assistance - both in the number of new families asking for our service and in the number of times per month already registered families are asking for additional service. Where we once provided food pantry bags once a month, many families now need them several times a month and even weekly," shared Marcia Dudden of Living Hope UMC Food Pantry, in Waterford.

Angelo Calbone of LifeWorks in Saratoga adds, "Just as inflation is affecting our neighbors, it is also affecting our pantries. LifeWorks is now seeing a demand for our pantry services 3x the level it was pre-pandemic."

Working together we can do more than any one of us alone. With increased community needs and food inflation impacting us all, our coalition work is more important now that it ever has been. Our shared services and collaborative efforts provide support and help pantries increase their impact. I am proud of our collective work, and our incredible team of pantry members, staff, volunteers, and supporters who make it possible. Thank you for the role that you play in helping us fight hunger in the Capital Region!

Natasha Pernicka

Value & On

#### 2024 Board of Directors

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Jack Bastow Betty DiMaria Ronald Gibson Trent Griffin-Braaf Robert Lazar Nina Marinello Jane Sanders Marggie Skinner Todd Slingerland Mark Thomas Jonathan Thomson **Sherry Tomasky** 

Margaret Vella

# More than 90,000 people are food insecure in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties. 23,450 are children. We're here to help!

# **HIGHLIGHTS**

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# What does it mean to be a coalition of food pantries?

Working together to do more than any one of us can do alone.

### Did you know?

By providing a minimum of three days worth of free, nutritious grocery items, food pantries fill a gap for many people on a monthly basis. Pantries strive to distribute food based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's MyPlate model of the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet.

#### **OUR VISION**

A Hunger-free Capital Region

#### **HISTORY**

Our coalition was founded in 1979 by the Urban Ministries Fellowship, a committee of the Capital Area Council of Churches. We started with 10 member food pantries. In 1980 we sponsored our first food drive. That year, people sought food assistance 15,472 times from 16 food pantries. Since then we have grown substantially, as hunger has spread throughout the community we serve. Your support helps us provide food for 4.3 million meals annually to assist the hungry in the Capital District.

### **OUR MISSION**

We are a coalition of more than 70 food pantries in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties, working together to feed the hungry. Our mission is to address hunger in the Capital District through our member food pantries.

# How we fulfill our mission

We support our pantries by funding, purchasing, collecting, and delivering food. We provide a forum for networking, coordinating services, educating and training pantry staff and volunteers. We are a voice for the LOCAL hungry.

#### **Member Pantries**

#### **Albany County**

Albany Community Action
Partnership (ACAP)
Altamont Community Food Pantry
Bethlehem Food Pantry
Blessed Sacrament Parish
Capital Church Food Pantry
Capital District Latinos
Catholic Charities St. John's/St. Ann's

Outreach Center

Catholic Charities Sister Maureen lov

Catholic Charities Sister Maureen Joyce Food Pantry

Christ Our Light Church Food Pantry

First Church in Albany (FCIA)

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry

Guilderland Food Pantry

Hilltowns Community Resource Center Macedonia Baptist Church Food Pantry

Mater Christi Food Pantry

Metropolitan Food Pantry

**Onesquethaw Food Pantry** 

"The Pantry" @ St. Patrick's

Redemption Church Food Pantry

Sacred Heart Outreach

St. Ambrose Pantry

St. Clare's Food Pantry

St. James Food Pantry

St. Mary's Outreach

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

The Salvation Army Food Pantry Albany

Trinity Alliance - Arbor Hill Pantry

Trinity Alliance - South End Pantry

Trinity UMC Food Pantry

**United Church of Cohoes** 

Venture Churches Food Pantry

#### **Rensselaer County**

Nassau Resource Center

The Anchor Food Pantry
Brunswick Cares Food Pantry
Catholic Charities Roarke Center Food
Pantry
CEO Food Pantry
Conserns – U
Doors of Hope
The Gathering Place
HACA Food Pantry
Hope 7 Food Pantry
Mt. Ida Community Food Pantry

Oakwood Food Pantry Pittstown Area Food Pantry St. Joseph's Food Pantry The Salvation Army-Troy Schaghticoke Food Pantry Unity House of Troy, INC YWCA-GCR

#### **Saratoga County**

CAPTAIN CHS Karyl's Kupboard **Christ Church Food Pantry** Faith Food Pantry Franklin Community Center Food Pantry Grace Church Faith's Food Pantry Greater Galway Food Pantry Harvest Church Food Pantry LifeWorks Community Action Living Hope United Methodist Church Food Pantry Mechanicville Area Community Services Center (MACSC) Perry Road Food Pantry St. Clement's Food Pantry Salvation Army of Saratoga Springs Food Pantry Upper Room Thrift Shop & Food Pantry Wilton Food Pantry

#### **Schenectady County**

Bethesda House
Bethesda House - PG Wright
Food Pantry
Braman Hall Food Pantry
Bread of Life Food Pantry
Salvation Army Schenectady
State Street Food Pantry
Sycamore Collaborative

#### **Associate Members**

Associate members are interested in Full Food Pantry Membership, a process that includes a 6-8 month period of meeting membership guidelines and a vote of board and members.

#### **Albany County**

Alliance for Positive Health

#### **Rensselaer County**

Faith and Love Food Pantry

# Community Food Assistance Network

Albany Damien Center
Albany Food Farmacy
Capital Roots
Catholic Charities of the Diocese
of Albany

Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Ellis Food Farmacy

Fidelis Care

CDPHP

**FOCUS Churches of Albany** 

**Grassroot Givers** 

Healthy Alliance

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY LifePath (formerly Senior Services

of Albany)

Mom Starts Here
New Scotland Community Food Pantry

New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets

Pitney Meadows Community Farm Purple Pantry University at Albany Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York

RISSE

Sage College Nutrition Department

St. Mary's Healthcare

St. Peter's Health Partners

Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas

Siena College

South End Children's Cafe

St. Mary's Healthcare

St. Peter's Health Partners

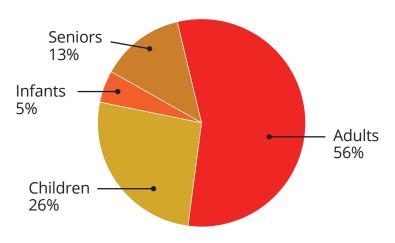


### **COALITION COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Meals 4,348,396 33% increase

# **Total Pantry Visits** 358,760

27% increase



Together, in 2023, our coalition of food pantries worked to alleviate hunger by providing approximately 68,334 individuals food for more than 4.3 million meals. Our member pantries were visited 358,760 times by individuals and families enduring food insecurity. Our coalition saw a 27% increase in overall pantry visits.

### WORKING TOGETHER WE ARE ABLE TO MAXIMIZE RESOURCES TO INCREASE OUR IMPACT. THE FOOD PANTRIES 2023 PROGRAM IMPACT NUMBERS INCLUDE:



Keeping our youngest fed and dry

157,209 Diapers 1,107 Formula



#### Connections

Referrals to pantries and other basic needs services

10.095 Referrals



#### **Individuals**

Our volunteers make a difference in our office, in our pantries, and in our community

150+ Volunteers



#### **Food Resources** for Pantries

Keeping shelves stocked all year long

\$245,046 Funded 239.506 lbs Collected



Coordinating and making grocery deliveries to those who cannot access a pantry

8,325 Home Deliveries



### Deliveries

312,606 lbs Food Drives/Donations/

**Community Events** 

3,629,401 lbs **Food Express** 

197.518 lbs Food Shuttle/Rescue 9.781 lbs **Hygiene Products** 

4,139,525 **Total lbs** of Food **Delivered** 

#### 2023 SPECIAL EVENTS

# **Harvest Evening**

HARVEST EVENING CELEBRATION Presented by Honorary Chair Anne Putnam, CEO of Fenimore Asset Management, honored Bruce Sowalski Memorial Award Winners. Top local chefs Kizzy Williams from Allie B's Cozy Kitchen, Brad Stevens from B-rads Bistro and Catering & The Babbling Brook, Meaghan McGugart from Honest Weight Food Co-op, Kelly Tisinger from Mazzone Hospitality, Layla Khafaga from Meezan Kitchen and Esther Decena from Salvation Army Schenectady participated in our Food Pantries Chefs' Challenge. The judging panel included **Donna & Yono Purnomo** of **Yono's** Restaurant and Ben Houck of Mazzone.









#### **Feature Sponsors**

**AOW Associates Business for Good** Camelot Print & Copy Centers Fenimore Asset Management KeyBank Raven Hill Solutions Times Union **Tri-City Rentals** 

#### **Major Sponsors**

Fagan Associates JH Consulting Rivers Casino & Resort Schenectady St. Peter's Health Partners

#### **Community Sponsors**

Arnoff Moving & Storage DSC Leadership Consulting, LLC Ellis Medicine The Pioneer Charitable Foundation **Pursuit With Bob** Robert Lazar, CPA Rosenblum Companies Stone Management University at Albany Foundation

#### **Supporting Sponsors**

**Ballston Spa National Bank** Boralex Hydro Operations, Inc. Brown | Weinraub C.T. Male Associates Casa Visco Community Resource FCU County Waste and Recycling Crisafulli Bros, Inc. **Dwight Plumbing & Heating Envision Architects** Grassland Equipment Hannay Reels

Healthy Alliance **Kevin Cleary Government Relations** LaMarch Safranko Law PLLC Lutz, Selig & Zeronda, CPAs, LLP MLB Construction Services, LLC Omni Development Company, Inc. One Church Street PNJ Technology Partners, Inc. R.F. Peck Company Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna, LLP

#### **Bruce Sowalski Memorial Award Winners:**

Welcoming to All - Schaghticoke Food Participating as a Contributing Member of the Coalition -Guilderland Food Pantry Innovation – Mechanicville Area Community Services (MACSC) Food Volunteer Relations - LifeWorks Community Action Food Pantry

# Hunger Heroes / CANstruction 2023 - NY State of Mind

#### **Hunger Heroes Teams**

**ACEC** C2 Design Group Essex St. Warriors Girls Can Do! JMT of NY Policy Research Associates Price Chopper / Market 32

Total Money Raised = \$8,555 Total Food Collected = 10,536 lbs 8th year for Hunger Heroes

#### **CANstruction Teams**

AOW Associates w/ Envision Architects Creighton Manning Engineering **CT Male Associates CSArch** Hyman Hayes Associates kW Mission Critical Engineering MJ Engineering & Surveying Mosaic Associates Ryan Biggs Clark Davis Engineering & Surveying

**Total Money Raised = \$60,000 Total Food Collected = 82,045 lbs** 12th year for CANstruction

#### **Hunger Heroes Sponsors**

**Best Tile** Capsal INC DBA, Burger 21 **CDM Fitness Engineered Solutions** Fruit Slashers LLC

#### **CANstruction Sponsors**

Accent Furniture Architecture + **Bouchey Financial Group** British American Development Corp. Complete Network Connect Center Day Automation Deb Best Practices - HR 911 E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy Eastern Heating and Cooling Inc. **Engineered Solutions** Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. Jade Stone Engineering, PLLC **Keystone Precision Solutions** Lightspec Albany Point Source Group Inc Robco Sales Robert Half Schoolhouse Construction The Klam'r Tavern & Marina

York Analytical Laboratories Inc















# Coffee & CommuniTea

Emceed by Giuliana Bruno

#### Volunteer of the Year Awards:

Jaimn Delacruz, State Street Food Pantry, Schenectady County

Regina Garhartt, Faith Food Pantry, Saratoga County

Donna Golinski, Pittstown Area Food Pantry, Rensselaer County

Michelle Wooten, Redemption Church Food Pantry, Albany County

The Canister Team, The Food Pantries for the Capital District - Volunteer of the Year

#### **Community Partner Awards:**

Stone Management Outstanding Community Partner Award

Janine Jurkowski Dinnie Shanley Award

Angela Warner Sister Mary Coons Award

#### WITH APPRECIATION



In 2023, our Food Rescue "Food Shuttle" Program collected and distributed 186,300 lbs of bread and baked goods, including whole grain items. We are so grateful to all our donors who participated in this program:

**Bimbo Bakeries** BJ's Wholesale Club **Bountiful Bread** Freihofer's Baking Co. Hannaford **Honest Weight Food** Co-op Mi Tierra Tortillas

**National Celiac Assoc. Pepperidge Farms Price Chopper** Supermarkets & **Market 32 Grocery** Stores Whole Foods



In 2023, we collected and distributed 84,318 lbs of **produce** to our member pantries. We are so thankful to our produce partners for working with us to get fresh, nutritious produce. Our top donors were:

**Capital Roots-Squash Hunger Price Chopper East** Greenbush

32.950 lbs

**Hannaford West Sand Lake** 

14,397 lbs

**Regional Food Bank of** 

Northeastern NY

11.218 lbs

**Whole Foods** 

8.127 lbs

**Operation Potato Drop** 

5.330 lbs

4.628 lbs

**Price Chopper Madison** 

Ave.

1.865 lbs

**Broadview** 

1.632 lbs

**Comfort Foods** 

803 lbs

Hannaford

784 lbs



We continue to be both amazed and incredibly grateful for all of the individuals and groups who offer support to our neighbors through food and fund drives. In 2023, we distributed 239,506 lbs of shelf-stable food! Our top donors were:

**Price Chopper Madison Ave Whole Foods Market** 

10,837 lbs 34,762 lbs **Shipology** Hannaford 22.560 lbs 8,993 lbs

Hoffman's Car Wash Soho Waterworks

7.267 lbs 16.925 lbs

**Price Chopper East Greenbush Hannaford West** 

6,475 lbs Sand Lake

**Hudson River Foods** 11,217 lbs

6.371 lbs **STAMP Out Hunger** 

10,956 lbs

# **Warehouse, Facilities & Delivery Partners**

Thank you to **Arnoff Moving, Hone Coworks, Storage and** Rigging, Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY, and Stone Management.

### **Honest Weight Food Co-op**

Our good friends and neighbors at the Honest Weight Food Co-op made The Food Pantries the recipient of their "Be the Change" program again in 2023. With the help of their shoppers, they made an incredible gift of \$6,006.29.

#### WAMC

We are grateful to WAMC Northeast Public Radio for promoting The Food Pantries during the amazing WAMC Fund Drives. WAMC listeners come through for us time and time again by supporting our work to fight food insecurity in the Capital District.

#### ANONYMOUS DONORS

Last year you contributed more than \$149,000 to The Food Pantries for the Capital District. The impact that you have made right here in our community is tremendous. We can't personally thank you, but we want to put this message out in the hopes that you see it, so you know the difference you've made.

# **THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS**

Ann Allen Cetrino Family Fund ARIA Foundation (Artistic Resources in Action)

Barry Alan Gold Memorial Fund of the **Community Foundation** 

B'nai B'rith Gideon Foundation

Broadview FCU

Brown & Weinraub, PLLC

CDPHP

Colonie Builders Inc.

Colonie Coalition of Neighborhood Associations

The Community Foundation for the **Greater Capital Region** 

Copps DiPaola Silverman PLLC

Dan Froot & Company

Elevance Health Foundation

Fagan Associates

Fenimore Asset Management

Frederick McDonald Trust

The GE Foundation

Gomez and Sullivan Engineers

Hannaford Supermarkets

Honest Weight Food Cooperative, Inc.

The Hortense and Louis Rubin Community Health Fund of The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region

Hudson Mohawk Road Runners Club lewish Federation of Northeastern New York

John D. Picotte Family Foundation Kevin Cleary Government Relations, LLC Life Insurance Council of New York (LICONY)

M&T Bank

Mamoun's Falafel Restaurant

Marshall & Sterling Wealth Advisors

The McCarthy Charities, Inc.

Mechanical Contractors Association of the Capital District, Inc

Multi-Phase Contracting Corp.

MVP Health Care

National Corvette Restorers Society, Inc.

NY Health Foundation

Package Pavement (Quikrete of Albany)

Price Chopper/Market 32

Regional Food Bank of NENY, Inc.

**Review Foundation** 

Rivers Casino & Resort

Rustic Barn Pub

The Schenectady Foundation

**SEFA** 

The Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation

Shutts Agency Inc.

St. Mary's Auxiliary

Stewart's Shops / The Dake Family

Foundation

**Target Corporation** 

Tax Alumni Club

Tierra Farm Inc.

**UniFirst Corporation** 

United Way of the Greater Capital Region

WAMC

Wednesdays At One Book Club

William Gundry Broughton Foundation

Willow Cabin Studio





#### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



#### The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York

The Alliance for a Hunger Free New York is a member-driven coalition of frontline emergency food providers across New York State. Our work is to amplify the collective voices and build a supportive network of frontline community food providers, like food pantries and community meals programs, as well as community members experiencing food insecurity. The Alliance is managed by The Food Pantries for the Capital District and our vision is a hunger free New York.

We aim to push the needle towards a hunger free New York by facilitating a NYS network of frontline community food providers while coordinating member-driven collective action. We also convene stakeholders for coordination with the Collaborative Anti-Hunger Advocacy Meetings, support our members in developing lived experience community organizing, support access to food providers through our Food Connect Map and Database, and presented the 2024 NYS Food Summit.

#### **Home Delivered Groceries: Why It Matters**

Through a partnership with researchers Dr. Cynthia Bott, LCSW and Sarah Toledano, LMSW, we are exploring the results of phone interviews with guests that have utilized home delivered grocery services. Some quick stats before diving into the survey results:

- 82% referrals made by the Food Access Connect Team (FACT) required home delivery. That's 8,325 home deliveries out of 10,095 total referrals.
- 42% of home deliveries coordinated by FACT were carried out by our one dedicated home delivery driver. That's almost 3,500 deliveries mostly made by one person!

Some of the responses to interview questions about why guests rely on Home Delivered Groceries are below.

Transportation: "I don't have a car. 8 or 9 months ago, the transmission died, and it's \$4,000 to get it fixed."

Disability: "I'm disabled, can't carry bags, and have no one to help me."

Mobility: "I'm homebound. I cannot walk more than 10 steps. I'm in pain. I use a walker."

Childcare: "I have two young kids and it makes it hard to go someplace."

This is an essential service that we will continue to seek funding for and to expand so that we can best serve members of our community.

#### **Healthy Pantry Initiative**

The Healthy Pantry Initiative (HPI) was designed in 2022 based on feedback from guests and member pantries with a goal of Increasing Guest Choice, Promoting Resources, Providing for Diverse Eating Patterns, Marketing Healthful Products, Emphasizing Fresh Produce and Whole Grains, and Meeting Environmental Objectives. 2023 saw the implementation of the HPI with all pantries visited and provided a ranking, which corresponded with an increase in funding for the following year: 7% for Gold, 5% for Silver and 3% for Bronze. Pantries also received information on steps for improving and reaching the HPI goal. The results were extremely encouraging: 32% Gold, 62% Silver and 6% Bronze.

Some highlights from the 2023 HPI included:

- 94% provide access to lean meats
- 85% always have fresh produce available
- 90% regularly offer 3 or more whole grain options
- 97% either ADA compliant or have procedures in place for guests who are unable to enter building
- 88% promote a welcoming environment

#### New York State Food as Medicine (FAM) Project

Through the NYS Food as Medicine (FAM) Project, The Food Pantries is coordinating the effort to institutionalize funding for FAM programs into NYS Medicaid. A steering committee comprised of diverse stakeholders was formed in October 2022 with the goal of supporting the process of drafting policy and practice recommendations. The final 15 recommendations and an Executive Summary were published in October 2023, here: https://thefoodpantries. org/home/new-york-state-food-as-medicine-project/.

One of the recommendations called for the development of a statewide coalition of FAM stakeholders to advise on FAM policy and practice. The NYS FAM Coalition was born with the aim of building on the foundation laid by the original project.

The NYS FAM Coalition convened with a meeting in October 2023, that included over 100 stakeholders from all sectors of the FAM landscape in NYS, including academia, government, healthcare, managed care organizations, non-profit, for-profit, lived experience, and more.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid approved a new 1115 Medicaid Waiver for NYS in January 2024. As we await the final details of the Waiver implementation plan, the Coalition's six subcommittees are gearing up to support NYS DOH and the nine regional Social Care Network Lead Entities for a successful integration of FAM into NYS healthcare.

To learn more about the Coalition and its work, go to: https://www.nysfoodasmedicine.org/. Special thank you to the NYS Health Foundation for financial support, and to Harvard Law School's The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (CHLPI) for technical assistance.

### 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As a local nonprofit, we strongly rely on individuals and community partners to support the work that we do. Your dollars stay local and make a real impact in our community. In 2023, our revenue was \$3,219,996 and our expenses were \$3,372,576. We realized a net loss of \$152,580. Thank you to all who contribute to help us feed the hungry!

# Did you know?



can provide up to 6.25 pounds of food

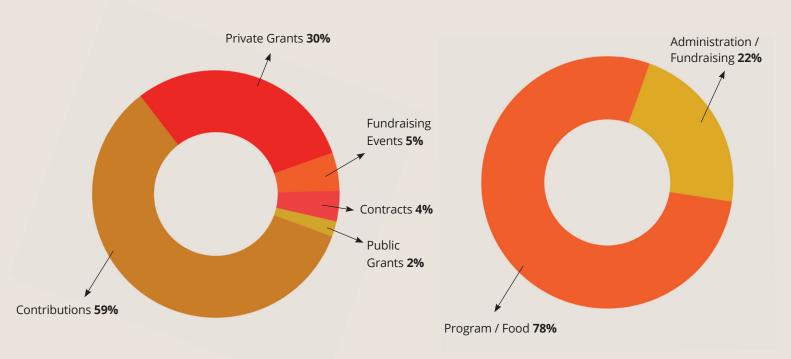


pounds of food can provide one meal



can provide 520 meals to feed the hungry!

#### 2023 Revenue: \$3,219,996 2023 Expenses: \$3,372,576



To request a copy of our audited financial statements please contact us at: (518) 458-1167 or pantries@thefoodpantries.org The Food Pantries for the Capital District Tax ID# 141752164 | Stock donation information: Charles Schwab & Company | DTC# 0164-Code 40 / Account# 6451-0525 / RIA: Dennis Fagan

<sup>\*</sup>Based on acquiring food for 16 cents a pound and Feeding America's calculation of an average meal = 1.2 pounds of food.



# THE FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT



#### **QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBER PANTRIES**

"The folks at TFP are very helpful and accommodating. I have stopped by the office several times to pick up additional items due to volume of guests, and I am always greeted kindly and helped immediately...thank you!"

"I am very pleased with the service that the Food Pantries offers. The staff is friendly and reliable. I am always welcome when I visit the office. The staff is surely there to serve all people."

"Our pantry continues to be able to help rural families and individuals because the commitment from TFP to work together to do more than we can do alone is a proven fact."

The Food Pantries for the Capital District, established in 1979, is a 501(c)(3) organization. 32 Essex Street, Albany, NY 12206

(518) 458-1167 pantries@thefoodpantries.org

#### **Staff**

Natasha Pernicka, MPA, **Executive Director** Angie Pender-Fox, Associate Executive Director Peter Crasto-Donnelly, **Program Director** Malachai Hendrix, *Program* 

Manager Angie Weber, Development and Communications Manager

Sara Roberts, Grants & Contracts Manager Curtis LeClair, Executive Assistant/Development &

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Beth Wyman, RD, Food as Medicine Registered Dietitian Kathy Marco, Business **Operations Manager** Donna Comley, Administrative Coordinator

Matt Cuevas, Software Database Project Leader

Libby Miller, Program Coordinator

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A special thank you to all of our volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to Stan Horaczek and Kerensa Rybak for the use of their photography.

Follow us: f thefoodpantriesofficial of thefoodpantries