



RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK

2022 Annual Report



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Rhode Island Community Food Bank

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Your Impact on the Lives of Rhode Islanders in Need

During the pandemic, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank was a vital source of food for thousands of people in dire need. As we moved into 2022, we were hopeful that things were going to get easier for those who were suffering. But with the end of federal COVID benefits, and the sharp increase in costs due to inflation, many Rhode Islanders faced even greater challenges this year.

The Food Bank is experiencing similar challenges. Our costs have also risen due to inflation, but we're not backing down on our commitment to distribute more fresh, culturally relevant foods.

That's why we're so grateful for the support of the generous individuals, corporations and foundations that helped us meet the increased demand for food assistance across the state. We demonstrated that even in these challenging times, when not a news day goes by without a story about the impacts of inflation, a caring community can come together to ensure that no one goes hungry.

In this Annual Report, you'll learn about some of the individuals we've helped, as well as an agency that leverages the support they receive from the Food Bank to serve

struggling families in Providence. We'll share how we're progressing on our 2021 – 2024 strategic plan. Plus, you'll read about what inspires some of our supporters to join us in this important work.

Your investment in the Food Bank has made the accomplishments of this difficult year possible. We hope you will be inspired to continue your support in the future. Together, we can achieve a hunger-free state.

With sincere thanks,

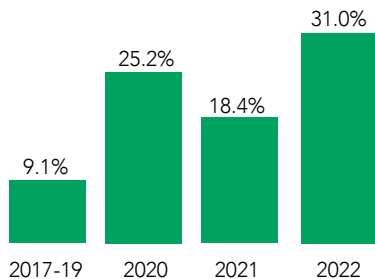


Edward O. Handy, III
President, Board of Directors



Andrew Schiff
Chief Executive Officer

Prevalence of Food Insecurity Among All Households in RI



According to findings from the latest RI Life Index, shared in our *2022 Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island*, 31% of households are food insecure and unable to afford adequate food.

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders by advancing solutions to the problem of hunger.

Our Vision

We envision a state where no one goes hungry.



2022 Status Report on Hunger

Hold your smartphone camera over the QR code to learn more about the need in Rhode Island.

Cubanelle peppers from Confreda Farm in Cranston, awaiting distribution from our warehouse – an example of one of the culturally relevant foods provided to our member agencies to better meet the dietary preferences of our guests.





A guest shops the shelves at
Community Action Partnership of
Providence County.

Year in Review

Find Food in Your Community

Hold your smartphone camera over the QR code for a list of our 140 member agencies.



Inflation Increases Demand for Food

While we saw some aspects of life return to a more pre-pandemic normal, last year brought a new set of challenges for Rhode Islanders who were already struggling. The end of some government COVID benefits, coupled with inflated costs for food, fuel, rent and utilities, meant that our member agencies continued to serve as a lifeline for thousands of people who could not regularly afford enough food.

By the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2022 (April through June 2022), our member agencies were serving 63,000 people every month – 10,000 more per month than they did in 2021. To keep up with the need, the Food Bank worked hard to acquire and distribute an elevated level of food. Thanks to generous support from individuals and businesses across the state, we distributed 15 million pounds of food this year, including 2.7 million pounds of fresh produce and 1.5 million pounds of culturally relevant foods.

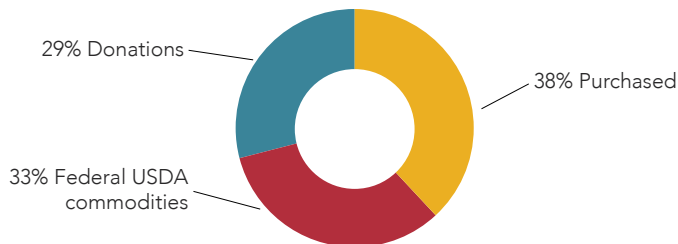
To meet the health needs and food preferences of the people we serve, the way we source food continues to evolve. Purchased food made up 38% of what we acquired, which enabled us to provide our agencies with healthier options and the foods most in demand by those they serve. Federal USDA commodities made up 33% of our food supply, with donations making up the remaining 29%.

We continued to make progress towards our strategic plan goals, including:

- Ensuring the strength of our member agency network by distributing more than \$1 million in funding for capacity building and capital costs
- Forming a dedicated SNAP outreach team to ensure that eligible households can enroll and receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for the purchase of groceries
- Bringing on new agencies to meet the needs of underserved communities including Women's Refugee Care and the Center for Southeast Asians
- Creating new partnerships with local farms, fisheries and growers to improve access to fresh produce, proteins and dairy

As we watch the economic impacts of inflation, the Food Bank will innovate and change to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of those we serve.

2022 Sources of Food



A guest at Good Neighbors Pantry in Riverside selects from produce, grains and even baked goods.



Program
Updates



Students at Oakland Beach Elementary School in Warwick sample nutritious foods from a Healthy Habits kids cooking demo.

Programs & Services Enrich Families

The Food Bank offers several programs that enhance our core work of acquiring and distributing food for families in need.

Healthy Habits Nutrition Education

Healthy Habits is a community nutrition education program that works to bridge the gap between food insecurity and health for individuals, families, children and seniors. Through the lens of accessibility, cultural competency and health equity, our staff of culinary nutritionists provide demos, workshops and multi-week classes that leverage foods commonly available at member agencies to empower the community to eat healthfully on a budget. In FY22, the team returned to in-person programming, with more than 100 sessions, reaching 1,100 people in person, plus thousands more through social media.

healthy habits
EATING WELL ON A BUDGET



Kids Cafe

Kids Cafe serves healthy evening meals to children at risk of hunger at after-school programs in local community centers. Food Bank chefs and Healthy Habits staff prepared over 33,000 meals that were distributed to Kids Cafe sites at the East Providence Boys & Girls Club, the Pawtucket YMCA, and the Segue Institute of Learning charter school in Central Falls. In October 2022, we added a fourth site at the Pawtucket Boys & Girls Club. Together, these sites serve more than 400 kids each day, Monday through Friday



Community Nutrition Education: Hold your smartphone camera over the QR code to learn more about the Healthy Habits team's approach to nutrition.



Ermalinda, a SNAP outreach coordinator, helps a couple fill out their application at the West Warwick Senior Center.

Senior Boxes

As part of the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), qualified low-income seniors receive a box of nutritious food each month to add to their food supply. Boxes are available to participants at food pantries, senior housing facilities and senior centers. In 2022, the US Department of Agriculture increased the number of boxes we're able to distribute from 1,700 to 2,240 per month, enabling us to support even more seniors in need.

SNAP Outreach

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a critical benefit for Rhode Islanders who need food assistance, providing funds they can spend on food in the grocery store. Yet some eligible individuals struggle with the enrollment process and may not even know they're eligible. To educate and advocate for those who need SNAP assistance, the Food Bank has deployed a trained, bilingual team to agencies across the state to help guests fill out forms, answer questions and make referrals to RI Legal Services when guests need legal help. In FY23 we plan to reach over 4,000 households to determine their eligibility for the program.



John, a Food Bank driver, delivers CSFP boxes to Pilgrimage Senior Center, a CSFP distribution site in Warwick.



Volunteers from Stop & Shop make Meals4Kids boxes. Stop & Shop invested \$150,000 in this important resource in 2022.

Meals4Kids Boxes

Meals4Kids Boxes include five days of healthy breakfasts, lunches and snacks like cereal, macaroni and cheese, snack bars and tuna with crackers, plus nutrition education activities and information about social service resources for families in need. Distributed through community organizations and food pantries, shelf-stable Meals4Kids Boxes are an essential source of kid-friendly foods for struggling families. The Food Bank distributed 41,484 of these boxes in FY 2022.



To-Go Bags

In response to feedback from our member agencies, the Food Bank began offering a more convenient option for unhoused guests. Packed in reusable drawstring backpacks, To-Go Bags contain nutrient-dense foods that are easy to open and don't require refrigeration or cooking. Each bag includes seven light meals and sixteen snacks, in addition to water and shelf-stable milk. In FY22, we distributed 300 bags through agencies like McAuley House in Providence, with plans to distribute 3,000 in FY23.



Yvette Kenner, administrator at McAuley Ministries in Providence, and Food Bank board member hands off an easy-to-carry To-Go Bag to a guest.

Food Bank Stories

“We live simply so others can simply live,” Donna shared about their approach to philanthropy.



Retired Couple Shares their Passion for Giving Back

Dave and Donna Goodrich of Portsmouth live a life of service. Donna, a retired teacher, and Dave, who retired from his job with the federal government, both came from families that valued giving back and they instilled those values in their own children as well. The Goodriches have spent their retirement helping in their community wherever they could. Donna served on the board of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Newport, one of our member agencies. The Goodriches also delivered food for the MLK Center before the pandemic. The couple found the Food Bank through the MLK Center and have been donors since 1999.

Over time, the Goodriches have supported the Food Bank as donors, as volunteers and as champions of the cause.

"Today, there is so much conversation centered around low standardized test scores and low achievement in the classroom," Donna said. "However, these educational outcomes are often the result of children who are not able to focus in the classrooms because they are hungry and/or homeless. The Food Bank has worked tirelessly to implement a wide variety of nutritious food programs to ensure that our children do not go to school hungry."

Dave described the Food Bank as "a beacon of hope in challenging times."

He added, "When you don't have hope, it's hard to just pick up your feet and move forward. Hunger limits our ability to function as human beings. If you know there's a place like the Food Bank that helps you get nutritious food, it gives you hope so you can function – and move forward."

Caregiver Struggles to Make Ends Meet

Linda's job as a caregiver enables her to pay basic monthly expenses, but the high price of food has made it tough to afford a healthy diet.

"I can't shop like I shopped before - just go in and look around," she said during her weekly visit to the Joy Fellowship Pantry on the Lane in Bradford. "I have to be very, very careful on my spending or I won't make ends meet. Without this food pantry, honestly, I would be struggling."

She's all smiles, however, as she chats with the food pantry staff and selects her groceries. "I get milk every week, and today I'm getting celery, cabbage and carrots. Then I can just add some chicken broth and maybe a little chicken and make some stew."

"Without this food pantry, honestly I would be struggling."



“Every piece of the puzzle at the Food Bank is efficient, intentional and impact-driven,” Jillian said. “I’ve been a fangirl of the Food Bank for a very long time.”



Food Assistance as a Child Inspires Philanthropy as an Adult

Jillian Balzano, community relations officer at The Washington Trust Company, has served on the Food Bank's development committee for the past two years, but has been involved with the organization even longer.


Jillian recalls growing up spending a lot of time contributing to the community with her family. But one of her earliest childhood memories around food is visiting a church food pantry with her mom. "We would go once or twice a month and get dry goods from the pantry. I didn't know that my parents were struggling," Jillian explained. "I just knew that we got food and the ladies who ran the pantry would always have a special treat for me, like a little box of cereal with the rest of the stuff." Her early memories of a food pantry being a part of her extended community made a lasting impression.

"When you hear 'philanthropy' you think of people going to galas and writing big checks," Jillian mused. "But I always try to think of where I can plug in my skills to produce a better outcome. What I would say to younger people wanting to get involved – it doesn't take a lot of money to make a difference."

"It's unfair for anybody to have to sacrifice a basic function – taking medicine, getting to their job, caring for their children – in order to put food on the table," Jillian shared. "These are problems that have to be solved now, for the families forced to make these choices, but there's also a systemic problem on a larger level that needs to be addressed."



More from Jillian: Hold your smartphone camera over the QR code to watch a video clip of our conversation with Jillian Balzano, a member of the Food Bank's development committee.



Elsa, a guest at the East Bay Food Pantry in Bristol, picks out food with the help of a volunteer.

“I’m going to get a driver’s license, get a car, and hopefully later on, get a house. Those are my biggest dreams. I want to leave my kids with something.”

Pantry Helps Elsa Rebuild her Life

Elsa and her two sons, ages 16 and 9, moved to Bristol from New York City to escape a domestic violence situation. She has family in Providence, but chose the quiet and friendly community of Bristol for the safety and affordability it offered her family compared to New York.

Elsa first landed in a domestic violence shelter and has now moved into transitional housing for low-income families, which she loves. She works in retail and also receives SNAP benefits to help pay for food for her family, but it’s not always enough to feed her growing boys.

Elsa visits the East Bay Food Pantry in Bristol to supplement her food budget and SNAP allotment. “It helps me a lot,” Elsa said. “Sometimes food stamps aren’t enough. When I first came here, I didn’t have anything, and they helped me a lot. I don’t grab everything that they give me at the food pantry. I just take what I need.”

Elsa appreciates the variety of food she can get at the pantry, including fresh produce. “The fresh vegetables are for me – I always try to grab some kale.”

Coastal Medical Knows Food is Critical to Lifelong Health

"With every donation activity I've been a part of, I'm humbled and in awe of the response that we get from the people here at Coastal Medical," shared Shannon Boyd, special projects administrator. "It's just so rewarding to be a part of."

Shannon reflects on the organization's partnership with the Food Bank over the past two years. Each holiday season they've held a virtual funds drive to raise money to provide healthy food. The company matches all employee contributions to inspire generous giving. Through these drives, they've given over \$40,000 for those in need of food assistance.

"At the foundation of health is access to basic human needs. Every year, our Coastal Medical team looks forward to helping to put food on families' tables," Shannon explains. "As a medical organization aimed at improving the overall wellness of our patients, hunger is something you can see, feel and affect."

Paula Rossi, Coastal's vice president of HR and compliance shares, "We love what we do. It's a part of our mission, it's a part of who we are."



Shannon Boyd (left) and Paula Rossi (right) of Coastal Medical.

"This cause resonates with those who work in healthcare."

Pantry Welcomes All in Need

Denise Greene, executive director at the West End Community Center in Providence, is a ball of energy and a vocal champion for the Food Bank. “They support innovative ideas, and they care just as much as we do.”

For Denise, the importance of this partnership came into focus during the pandemic. The 500 people served by their food pantry every week – mostly seniors – depended on them for food. “We never closed the food pantry,” she said.

The Center bustles on Fresh Food Fridays, when guests line up to select from an impressive variety of vegetables arrayed like a farmer’s market. Some guests visit the pantry three times a week: once for food pantry staples, once for a “senior box” of foods provided through the CSFP administered by the Food Bank, and on Fresh Food Fridays during the warmer months.

West End makes their guests feel welcome from the moment they enter, with bilingual staff members conversing with guests in Spanish. Support services extend beyond food to include help with SNAP, citizenship applications, rides to appointments and translation assistance.


“It doesn’t matter what problem they have,” said Denise. “I smile and try to help. Whoever comes here, we serve.”



**“Our best friend in
the community is
the Rhode Island
Community Food Bank.”**



A volunteer at the West End Community Center fills a guest's bag at a Fresh Food Friday distribution last summer.

A photograph showing two women in a food pantry. The woman on the left, a volunteer, is wearing a red shirt, glasses, and a blue face mask. She is holding a green box of 'PORE' brand hand sanitizer and a clear bottle of 'PORE' brand hand sanitizer. The woman on the right, a guest, is wearing a blue and white patterned sleeveless top and a white face mask. She is pointing her right index finger towards the products. In the background, there are shelves stocked with various food items, including cans of soups and boxes of pasta. In the foreground, there are several large jars of jam or preserves with red lids. The text 'CAP Providence County offers more than just food. A volunteer helps a guest select from personal care items.' is overlaid in the top right corner.

CAP Providence County offers more than just food. A volunteer helps a guest select from personal care items.

Food Bank Finances

FY22 Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$6,561,681
Accounts & grants receivable, net	699,886
Food inventory	1,077,484
Prepaid expenses	324,068
Property & equipment, net	5,740,673
Investments	10,432,110

TOTAL ASSETS **\$24,835,902**

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$463,614
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TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$463,614**

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	\$23,088,797
With donor restrictions	1,283,491

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$24,372,288**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$24,835,902**

FY22 Expenditures

- 87% Food acquisition & distribution
- 7% Fundraising
- 4% Administration & general
- 2% Kids Cafe & Nutrition Education



The financial statements of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank Association are audited by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. A copy of the complete audited financial statements, along with the auditor's report thereon, is available at rifoodbank.org.

FY22 Statement of Activities

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Contributions	\$12,289,784
Food contributions (fair market value)	6,779,714
USDA commodity food (fair market value)	4,986,168
Co-op revenue	217,356
Government grants & contracts	1,291,129
Net investment income & other income	(1,329,368)

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE **\$24,234,783**

EXPENSES

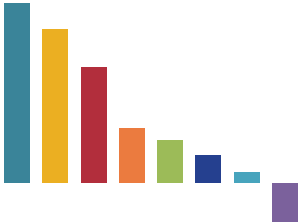
Program services	\$24,016,921
Management & general	1,202,577
Fundraising & development	1,839,935

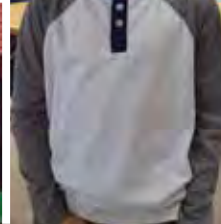
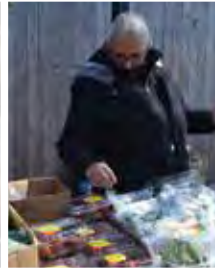
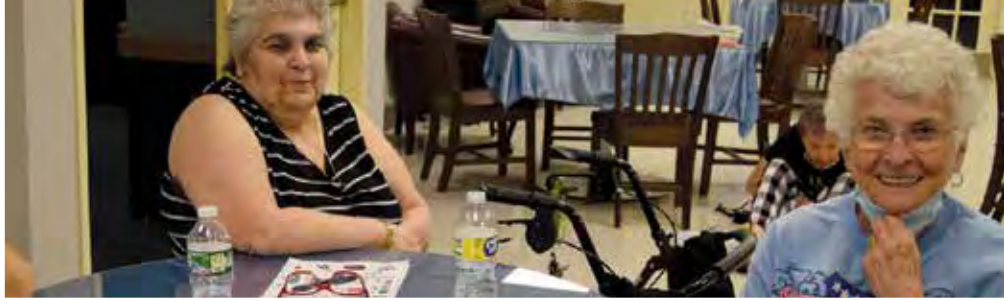
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$27,059,433**

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS **(\$2,824,650)**

FY22 Public Support & Revenue

- 33% Individual contributions
- 28% Donated food (FMV)
- 21% USDA commodity food (FMV)
- 10% Corporate & foundation grants
- 8% Corporate & organization contributions
- 5% Government Funding
- 2% Other
- 7% Investment income (loss)





200 Niantic Avenue, Providence, RI 02907 | (401) 942-6325 | www.rifoodbank.org