

2020 Annual Report



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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.

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Cover Photo Caption: The Food Bank increased distribution to sites in communities that were hardest hit by the pandemic, like Progreso Latino in Central Falls

A Year of Hardship & Generosity

The past year will be remembered for the tragic and deadly spread of the Coronavirus across our country, the hardship caused by the severe economic downturn, and as a time of racial reckoning. It should also be remembered for our community's generous response and the extraordinary philanthropy directed to those in need.

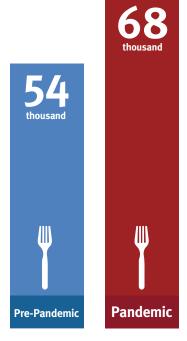
COVID-19 ruptured our economy and set off a tidal wave of food insecurity. One in four Rhode Island households suddenly lacked adequate food. For Black and Latinx families, the rate of food insecurity was even higher: one in three. Long-standing health and economic disparities were revealed in the suffering endured by communities of color.

From the outset of the crisis, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank played a unique and crucial role. We distributed a record amount of food in partnership with our statewide network of 159 member agencies and in cooperation with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. We showed that even in the worst of times, by working together, we can ensure that no one in Rhode Island goes hungry.

We know that our work is only possible because of your support. Over the past year, you and thousands of other Rhode Islanders demonstrated your commitment to the Food Bank through an unprecedented outpouring of generosity. For that, we are truly grateful.

As you read this Annual Report, feel proud of everything you helped us accomplish. Our long list of supporters is a testament to the strong compassionate spirit in our community that rallied to feed thousands of our neighbors. Every donation, every gift, made a difference.

We sincerely thank you.



Rhode Islanders Receiving Emergency Food Assistance Through the Food Bank's Network





Edward O. Handy, III

President, Board of Directors



Anter 21/

Andrew Schiff

Chief Executive Officer



For more Annual Report content, including videos, hold your smartphone camera over the QR Code.

Addressing the Crisis Head On

With the onset of COVID-19, the Food Bank immediately ramped up food acquisition and distribution to be able to meet the increased demand. Last year, we provided 13.8 million pounds of food. That's 2.2 million pounds more than the previous year.

At the same time, less food was donated from the food industry as consumers increased their purchasing. To fill the gap, the Food Bank bought in bulk from wholesalers, acquiring more of the food that is most-needed by guests at member agencies.

With FEMA and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the Food Bank delivered I million pounds of food including 180,000 Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) and 20,000 Family Boxes to cities and towns in need of additional resources. These pre-packaged meals provided critical assistance to people who may not have access to a nearby food pantry.

For the safety of staff, volunteers and guests, the Food Bank made changes to its operations following the recommended guidelines for social distancing. Volunteer shifts were canceled and the tasks of sorting food and packing boxes were shifted to staff.



Community Kitchen chefs prepare individually packaged meals for Kids Cafe afterschool programs.



For a complete list of member agencies, hold your smartphone camera over the QR Code.

Many of our member agencies moved to a drivethru distribution system where guests pulled up in their cars to receive a pre-packaged supply of food. Normally, we prefer to give guests the opportunity to select the food they want.

Meal sites and soup kitchens switched to providing grab & go meals. Masks, sanitizer and

other supplies were provided to sites.

In addition to receiving food assistance from our network, many people received additional benefits through federal programs like SNAP and unemployment insurance via the CARES Act. These resources expanded the safety net, helping people make ends meet.

13.8 million

2019

million

Increase in Pounds of Food Distributed

2020



Adapting Programs to Serve the Community

The Food Bank continued operating many of its programs to serve guests and clients at member agencies. However, some adjustments were made in response to the pandemic.

Healthy Habits Nutrition Education

At the onset of COVID-19, the Healthy Habits nutrition education team stopped visiting member agencies with their in-person cooking demonstrations and workshops.

Instead, the team has focused on taking the program virtual, by recording video recipes and educational sessions that can be used by anyone with internet access.

Member agencies and their guests can view recipes that include full meals for the entire family and Healthy Bites for quick answers to questions about eating well and food safely. And, of course, there is valuable information about making healthy meals on a budget using items often found at food pantries.

Learn more about Healthy Habits and check out their video recipes by holding your smartphone camera over the QR Code.



Senior Boxes

As part of the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), qualified low-income seniors receive a box of nutritious food that provides them with basic staples to add to their monthly food supply. The boxes are distributed through food pantries, senior centers and senior housing developments. Currently, 1,660 seniors are enrolled in the program, receiving nearly 20,000 boxes last year.

Kids Cafe

The Kids Cafe program serves healthy evening meals to children at risk of hunger at community organizations. The team also provides nutrition education as part of their afterschool activities. Meals are prepared daily by the chefs from the Food Bank's Community Kitchen. Starting in March, meals were individually packaged to reduce contact and ensure everyone's safety.

Community Kitchen

The Food Bank's long-running job training program, Community Kitchen, prepares low-income adults for careers in the food and culinary industry. The program is held in both the classroom and a fully functional industrial kitchen. Due to the close quarters involved in both settings, the Food Bank decided to suspend the program at the outbreak of COVID-19 with the hope of picking it up again when it is safe and practical.

A Recipe For Success

Kimberly Di Dominicus graduated from the Food Bank's Community Kitchen culinary education program in March, with the hope of finding a job making her favorite creation – pastries. Almost immediately upon completing her training, she was hired by Latte Love, a coffee house in Cranston.

Ever since, she's been making the kind of pastries that excite her, and it's evident she's doing what she loves.

Kim enrolled in Community Kitchen when she decided that she wanted a career in the culinary industry. After the free fourteen-week training, she was on her way. She credits the chefs who run the program for her success.

"Chefs Heather and Ron do a very good job making learning really easy and fun. They make you feel like if you work hard enough, anybody could succeed."

Kim recognizes that she is lucky to be doing so well during these challenging economic times. Many others in the restaurant industry are struggling during the pandemic.

Her creative desserts and positive attitude have been popular with both costumers and managers. "They're opening up a new location, and I'm probably going to transfer over there. Right now I'm doing all the baking as the pastry chef, so I'm going to be doing baking for both locations."

Thanks to the Community Kitchen, Kim has the recipe for success.

Community Kitchen graduate Kimberly Di Dominicus with one of her pastry creations at Latte Love.





Andy Swanson and his wife Louise address hunger in their community by supporting the Food Bank.

Meeting A Most Basic Need

"The idea that food insecurity is allowed to exist for so many in our community and across this country is an underreported scandal. We believe access to healthy food should be prioritized, much the same way we think about clean water and clean air. Donating to the Food Bank was a natural extension of that thinking."

Andy Swanson and his family moved to Rhode Island from New York a few years ago and wanted to find a way to make a difference in their new home. They discovered the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and were excited to get involved with an organization where they could make an impact on a pressing need.

In addition to giving financially, the Swansons have volunteered and attended Food Bank fundraising events.

"I vividly remember my first visit to the Food Bank. The sheer scale of the facility is overwhelming and quite sobering. At the same time you will leave inspired by the dedicated team working tirelessly to serve those most in need in our community."

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The food pantry at Saint Edward Food & Wellness Center provides a lifeline to Jenee and Tarea.

Facing Food Insecurity and Getting Help

Kevin Fein

The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on Jenee and Tarea, guests at the Saint Edward Food & Wellness Center in Providence.

They moved to RI to take care of Jenee's grandmother who passed away from COVID in the spring. The funeral wasn't until this fall. "My grandmother died alone. People need to be taking this seriously. COVID is really affecting people's lives, and really hurting people."

And Tarea, who has an existing respiratory condition, had to quit her job when her boss refused to enforce mask wearing for customers.

Settling into a new community is always hard, but it is even more challenging during this public health crisis.

They had never experienced food insecurity before and asked

their neighbors where they could find food assistance. That's how they found out about Saint Edward.

Once a week, they walk to the pantry to pick up food for the two of them and Jenee's young son.

She explains, "We live right down the street so it's very convenient and the people here are friendly and are always welcoming, no matter when you come."

They're also able to get extras like masks and toilet paper, two expensive items that are not always easy to find.

Jenee's message to others in need is simple:

"I want people to understand that just because we come to a food pantry doesn't make us any less than anybody else. I want people to know it's okay to ask for help if you need it."

Individual Donors Cont'd

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The 1982 Benefactors' Society

Recognizes our thoughtful friends who have included the Food Bank in their estate plans.

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Mabel T. Woolley*
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*Deceased





Bonnie Axelson knows she is helping to end hunger by giving to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

A Passion for Reducing Hunger

"I believe that the Food Bank plays a vital role in reducing hunger - the number of food insecure people is so high and the Food Bank addresses this problem."

In Chicago, Bonnie Axelson and her husband owned a successful seafood distribution business. They donated food and funds to food banks and soup kitchens to give back to their neighbors in need.

When they moved to Rhode Island, they wanted to support their new community and became involved with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

"I am passionate about the need to reduce hunger and I am happy to contribute to this valuable work," said Bonnie.

Not only does she donate, but she often advocates for the Food Bank, encouraging others to give as well. She knows that every bit helps and that, together, we can reduce hunger.

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Laura Jean and the team at the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program in Pawtucket added at-home delivery to help meet the increased demand for food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delivering Food to Those in Need

Serving A Hard Hit Area

The staff and volunteers at the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program (BVCAP) in Pawtucket have been busier than ever since the outbreak of the public health pandemic. Along with the increased demand for food comes challenges like serving people unable to get to the pantry.

"I see so many people who are out of work for COVID-related reasons, and are now using the pantry for the first time," explained Laura Jean, assistant coordinator of youth & family services.

BVCAP serves Pawtucket and Central Falls, two communities that are among the hardest hit by the crisis.

"We've been getting a lot of calls from people who wanted food, but they couldn't get here for any number of reasons. More and more are calling now especially that cases are going up, and people stay home."

To address the need, the team at BVCAP created a home delivery program.

"We're making bags for people who are home-bound, disabled and elderly. Anyone who can't get out of their home can access supplies and food."

The deliveries take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with about 22 stops each day. That's in addition to the hundreds who are served at the food pantry every day of the week.

Laura tells the story of one such guest.

"We had an older woman come in that hadn't eaten in days and she opened the bag before she even left and started eating here before she pulled out of the parking lot. She'd never used the pantry before. She didn't know where to go before this."

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End Hunger Challenge Fund

Created by a group of generous Food Bank donors to offer a pool of funds for matching gift challenges. Through their generosity, they inspire others to give.

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Joan & E. Paul Sorensen
Kathleen & Daniel Sullivan
Polly Wall

Creating A Way to Give

"The Food Bank is there for people who need nourishment and, in this country, so full of food, the whole idea that people are hungry is absurd."

That's the reason that Food Bank donor Roberta Shapiro is so committed to the work of the Food Bank. She knows that the organization truly makes a difference.

A talented fiber artist, Roberta makes and sells scarves, trivets and coasters, donating the proceeds to the Food Bank, raising thousands of dollars for the organization.

"I just feel lucky that I'm in a position to be able to do this. It's a complete circle. I use a lot of materials that are scraps and remnants of really lovely materials that might otherwise be discarded, and I turn them into products. I get to have fun doing it and I get to donate money to the Food Bank."

She also sees the need in the community



Roberta sits in her home studio where she makes unique items that she sells to support the Food Bank.

firsthand as a volunteer with the Pawtucket Backpackers, providing food for kids to take home so that they have something to eat on nights, weekends and school breaks when they're not receiving free and reduced-price meals.

"I'm in retirement, so I want to do what I love doing, and to be able to do it and give the money to the Food Bank is just perfect."

You can check out her work and support her efforts at **fuzzygoods.com**.

Organizations & Foundations

\$250,000+

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In the Spirit of Giving

When liquor sales started to climb during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sara Slahetka of Wine & Spirits Retail Marketing wanted to find a way to give back and help others.

She came up with the idea to donate the \$5 delivery charge from the ten Rhode Island stores in their network to the Food Bank. That first effort raised more than \$8,000.

They adapted their idea for a second campaign where they donated \$5 from every curbside pickup. The campaign, which has been modified and repeated, continues to raise money for the Food Bank to provide food assistance to individuals and families throughout the state.

"Our organization has always believed in supporting our local Rhode Island community. We feel that there is no cause greater than food insecurity and the efforts of the Rhode Island Food Bank need all of our support now more than ever."



"We have been in the fortunate position to support this great nonprofit in the past and we plan on supporting them for years to come. We would implore other businesses to join in the efforts of the Food Bank to feed our neighbors in need."

For more information on Wine & Spirits Retail Marketing, visit: wsretailers.com

Participating Stores:

Atwood Wine & Spirits
Delta Wine & Spirits
Douglas Wine & Spirits
Hopkinton Liquor Depot
Island Wine & Spirits

Knights Liquor Warehouse Mendon Wine & More North Smithfield Liquor Warehouse People's Liquor Warehouse

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Walking the Walk

Continuing the Tradition...Virtually

Each Spring, the community of Bishop Hendricken High School holds their annual Hunger Walk to raise money for local organizations to provide food assistance to neighbors in need.

This year, with the outbreak of COVID-19, the school made the walk virtual and used social media to engage students, faculty, alumni and anyone else who wanted to participate.

"We knew it was going to be different but it was important for us to continue this tradition and engage our students in service to their community," explained Christian Kabbas, Senior Manager, Communications & Marketing.

The campaign started in April with one challenge on Twitter and quickly expanded to involve members of the Hendricken family in places far and wide. Participants posted video of themselves walking and nominated others to join in the challenge while encouraging their followers to donate.

"I don't think we realized how quickly it would catch



The Hendricken Family held their annual Hunger Walk virtually by challenging others to participate via posts on social media.

on. We tapped into parents, we tapped into alums, we tapped into folks that we didn't even know."

This year's walk raised \$11,000 to help provide food assistance to Rhode Islanders through the Food Bank's member network.

"What started as something to help people that really need it right now also helped continue and build a tradition for our community."

Organizations and Foundations Cont'd

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Rallis Conover Family Fund Regency Cigar Emporium

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Droitcour Company &

Goodwin Bradley Pattern Co.

Ira S. & Anna Galkin Charitable Trust

Green Development, LLC

Gregg's Restaurants & Pubs

Chelsea Groton Foundation
Haffenreffer Family Fund

Hart Design Group

Hazard Family Foundation

Hodges Badge Company, Inc.

Harry M., Miriam C. &

William C. Horton Fund

Roy A. Hunt Foundation

Income Research & Management

Island Foundation, Inc.

John W. Kennedy Co., Inc.

Johnson & Johnson

Family of Companies

Kilmartin Charitable Corporation

The Liana Foundation

Organizations and Foundations Cont'd

McCormack Family Foundation

MetLife Auto & Home

National Grid

Neighborhood Health

Plan of Rhode Island

New England Mechanical

Contractors Association

Newport Harbor Corporation

Nordson Corporation

Regina O'Hara Charitable Foundation

Omni Hotel

ParsonsKellogg, LLC

People's Liquor Warehouse

of Apponaug

Purdue Pharma L.P.

Rhode Island Dental Association

SAIC

Shaw's Supermarkets

Shriners of Rhode Island Charities Trust

The Silver Family Fund

Southern New England Windows, LLC

Subaru of America, Inc.

Frederick C. Tanner Memorial Fund

Textron, Inc.

The Violet Orange

Tito's

Twin River Casino

Walmart Foundation

The White Family Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous

Admiral Packaging

Antaya Technologies Corporation

The Ayres Foundation

Beacon Mutual Insurance Company

BNY Mellon

Brown Rudnick, LLP

Cameron & Mittleman, LLP

Central Congregational Church

Chase Family Foundation

The John Clarke Trust

Cornish Associates

Cox Media

Customers Bank

Darden Restaurant Group

Falvey Linen Supply

Fraternal Order of Police Association

Garden Grille

Charles H. Gardiner Memorial Fund

Google

Harrington Family Charitable Fund

Imperial Pearl

JS Pallet Co., Inc.

Laird Norton Family Foundation

Locke Lord LLP

Edith S. S. Loebs Fund



Organizations and Foundations Cont'd

Macy's/Bloomingdale's
Mandeville Sign, Inc.
Marshall Building & Remodeling
Mendon Wines & More
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Mineral Springs Spirits
The Murray Family
Charitable Foundation
National Grid
Nexamp
Henry E. Niles Foundation
Northern Rhode Island
Chamber of Commerce
Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

Pierce Atwood
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Prime Therapeutics
Public Employees' Local 1033
Regan Residential Heating and
Air Conditioning Company
Reset Church of Rhode Island
Roch's Fresh Foods
George M. and Barbara H. Sage Fund
Schneider Electric North
America Foundation
Solidifi US Inc.
Spoonflower Inc.

St. Paul Housing Corp.

Swarovski North America
Touro Fraternal Association
Tourtellot & Co., Inc.
UBS Foundation
United Congregational Church
United Natural Foods, Inc.
Vertikal6, Inc.
Walmart – Westerly
Wines & More of Rhode
Island – Cranston

No Stopping Their Support

Stop & Shop supports the Rhode Island Community Food Bank with food and fund donations all year long. During the COVID-19 pandemic they provided even more assistance to make sure that our member agencies had enough food to meet the increased demand.

"Fighting hunger is something we do every day all year round and it's such an important part of who we are as an organization," said Jennifer Brogan, Director of External Communications & Community Relations.

With funding from Stop & Shop and their Stop & Shop Family Foundation, the Food Bank was able to pack and distribute tens of thousands of Meals4Kids boxes providing 5 breakfasts, lunches and snacks for kids in need.

"We're so happy to be working together with the Food Bank to



identify their needs and help them respond to the increased demand for food in the community."

This Fall, Stop & Shop partnered with Young Family Farm, donating 5,000 pounds of fresh produce and packing bags that were distributed to 1,000 families in need in Southern Rhode Island.

"We receive so much support from the community and this is how we want to give back. And we know that food assistance is needed now more than ever."



Stop & Shop staff and volunteers packed 1,000 bags of fresh produce at Young Family Farm in Tiverton.

Food Donors

500,000+ Pounds

Stop & Shop Western Harvest Gardens

100,000 - 499,999 Pounds

BJ's Wholesale Club Gold Medal Bakery **Target** Walmart Young Family Farm

50,000 - 99,999 Pounds

Scouting for Food Drive

Shaw's Supermarkets

Aldi, Inc. Bimbo Bakeries USA Confreda Greenhouses & Farms **Cumberland Farms** Feeding America Ferolbink Farms Garelick Farms LLC Mid-Atlantic Regional Cooperative Mondelez International Nestle Water North America Niagara Bottling LLC Ocean State Job Lot

25,000 - 49,999 Pounds

Amica Insurance

Boston Area Gleaners Bozzuto's Inc. **Brown University** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Post Consumer Brands Tropicana Products, Inc.

10,000 - 24,999 Pounds Atlantic Trading LLC Big Y **Bradford Soap** Chesapeake Farms ConAgra Consolidated Dave's Marketplace Eastside Marketplace Franklin Farm Fresh Point Girl Scouts of Southeastern NE Gotham Greens Hope's Harvest Jackson Farming Co. Kournegay Family Produce MapleMama Beverages LLC

Pete & Gerry's Organic Eggs PriceRite Save A Lot Steere Orchard Sunny Valley International Taylor Farms New England Tony's Seafood Inc. Trader Joe's URI College of the Environment & Life Sciences Wenger's Farm

5,000 - 9,999 Pounds Bank of America Brigido's Fresh Market Campbell Soup Company East Farm Kellogg Company National Grid Northeast Apple Company Nuts 'N More Pippin Orchard Roger Williams Park Zoo Top This Pizza Crusts, Inc. Tourtellot & Co., Inc. Tyson Foods, Inc.





Food Donors Cont'd

Upstate Niagara Yogurt Cooperative US Foods

1,000 - 4,999 Pounds

ABF Freight

Al Asprinio

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School

Arpin Van Lines

Belgravia Imports

Belmont Fruit Market

Bryant University

Calise & Sons Bakery, Inc.

Care New England

Charter Care Health Partners

Cheesecake Factory

Citizens Bank

Daniele, Inc.

Dockside Seafood Marketplace

Eastland Food Products Inc.

Edesia

Finlays

Flood Auto Group

Foundry Artists Association

Globe Electric

Greenwood Elementary School

Homestead Baking Company

Horizon Beverage Company

JAFCO Industrries, LLC

Johanna Foods

Johnson & Wales University

Lincoln Packing Co.

Little Rhody Foods, Inc.

Marcum LLP

Miss Rhode Island USA Pageant

Ocean State Artisans

Packaging & More, Inc.

Picerne Real Estate Group

Providence VA Medical Center

Reliable Tranz LLC

Rhode Island School of Design

RI Lumber & Building Materials Dealers

Roch's Fresh Foods

Soul Warming Soups

State of RI Department of Corrections

& Secretary of Sate

Toppa Food Service

Trinity Repertory Company

Unlimited Carriers

Wel Freight LLC

Wildtree

Winman Junior High School

Woonsocket Backpack Program

RI Mushroom Co., LLC

FY20 - Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,196,264
Accounts and grants receivable, net	531,661
Food inventory	1,185,813
Prepaid expenses	102,107
Property and equipment, net	5,974,434
Investments	4,958,827
Total assets	\$ 19,949,106
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 588,476
Total liabilities	588,476
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions	18,234,777
With donor restrictions	1,125,853
Total net assets	19,360,630
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 19,949,106

FY20 - Statement of Activities

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE	
Contributions	\$ 12,955,781
Food contributions (Fair market value)	\$ 8,245,138
USDA commodity food (Fair market value)	\$ 5,539,206
Shared maintenance & co-op revenue	456,074
Government grants and contracts	889,252
Special events, net	128,221
Net investment income and other income	331,910
Total public support and revenue	\$ 28,545,582
Total public support and revenue	\$ 28,545,582
Total public support and revenue EXPENSES	\$ 28,545,582
	\$ 28,545,582 20,534,010
EXPENSES	
EXPENSES Program services	20,534,010
EXPENSES Program services Management and general	20,534,010 1,162,389

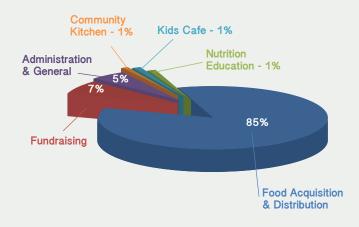
The financial statements of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank Association are audited by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. A copy of the complete audited financial statements, along with the auditor's report thereon, is available at rifoodbank.org.

A Note On Our Financial Statements

The Food Bank is showing a significant surplus for FY20. The surplus reflects the generosity of many individual, corporate and foundation donors during the height of the Coronavirus crisis, which occurred during the last quarter of the fiscal year. Unspent funds are being carried over into FY21 to allow us to

transition from an emergency crisis response to a longterm response. Donated food has declined while the need has increased dramatically. For the foreseeable future, the Food Bank will need to purchase significantly more food in order to provide assistance to all in need.

FY20 - Expenditures



FY20 - Public Support & Revenue





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www.rifoodbank.org

