

Feeding Westchester COVID-19 Impact Report

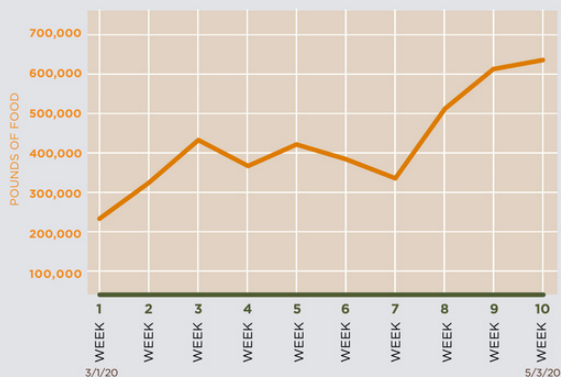


Summary: A Year of COVID-19

2020 was a historic year for us all. The COVID-19 pandemic left thousands of our neighbors in need of assistance — many for the first time in their lives. As a result of the pandemic, an estimated 12% of county residents are experiencing hunger; its impact rippling through every zip code.

For Feeding Westchester, 2020 and its ongoing ramifications brought unprecedented challenges. These challenges were met by an unprecedented response, all possible because of your unprecedented generosity.

Prior to COVID-19 our plans were moving along like clockwork. By March 2020, we had already distributed 9.6 million pounds of food — nearly reaching our fiscal year (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) estimate of 11 million.



From the very start of the pandemic in Westchester, the need for food, and our distribution, grew rapidly.

As the magnitude of the crisis increased, so did the need for a rapid response. Things changed seemingly overnight. Hardships grew. Resources shrank. The pandemic led to critical gaps in funding, food donations, volunteers, and distribution. The supply chain itself was impacted, resulting in food shortages and higher costs.

Your support helped us face the emergency head-on, assisting those hungry Westchester residents that came to us and our partners looking for food.

Powered by an unwavering commitment, we reinvented our operating models, pioneered new processes, and have innovated every step of the way to get food to people in need.

In 2019, Feeding Westchester distributed around 9.7 million meals. Throughout 2020, and the height of the pandemic, we helped provide over 18.4 million meals to between 275,000 and 300,000 of our neighbors each month — nearly twice that of the prior year.

With your help, we rose to the challenge, serving more of our neighbors in need than in any year throughout our history.

Throughout 2020 and the height of the pandemic, we have:

DISTRIBUTED
22 MILLION
POUNDS OF
FOOD

6 MILLION MORE
POUNDS THAN IN 2019



PROVIDED **18.4** MILLION MEALS

SERVED **250,000+** PEOPLE
IN NEED EACH MONTH ON AVERAGE



PARTNERED WITH NEARLY **300**
COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

RESCUED **1.7** MILLION MEALS
FROM GOING INTO LANDFILLS



JANUARY 2020 - DECEMBER 2020

Together we were able to:

Re-imagine

...our entire distribution system in order to double the amount of food going into the community.

Launch

...nearly 40 additional programs, including “pop-up” pantries, drive-thru distributions, and supplemental Mobile Food Pantries and Fresh Market programs, to meet the increased need due to the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Invest

...in our community partners and programs by providing laptops, forklifts and pallet jacks, kits and lights for late-afternoon distribution, and refrigeration and freezer units.

Feed

...between 275,000 and 300,000 neighbors in need each month during the height of the pandemic — more than double our pre-pandemic monthly average.

Offset

...the loss of our 11,000 in-person volunteer force by working hand-in-hand with the National Guard — who immediately stepped in to pack boxes, load food pallet, and staff our drive-through food distribution center.

Remain

...where we have been for more than 30 years, at the forefront of hunger relief in Westchester County in partnership with food pantries, soup kitchens, meal programs, shelters and other organizations.

Together we fed our neighbors in need.



“I love the comradery among the troop and Feeding Westchester staff. We’re all just people trying to make a difference in the world and we bonded over this experience. Seeing how grateful the people that we’re serving have been and seeing the signs that the kids hold up in the car windows thanking us has made this experience incredibly rewarding.”

- Leigh-Ann Soto, New York Army National Guard Specialist



“I lost my job because of the pandemic and I never qualified for SNAP. I needed help and found out about [the pantry]. Everyone here is very helpful and nice and it’s been such a big help for my family. Whatever we get here that we don’t use, we share with our neighbors.”

- Lucy, Yonkers Resident



Recovery will happen, but it will take time. Your support has strengthened our efforts, and will keep us going through these historically difficult days. Feeding Westchester is immensely grateful for the help of our donors, and the collaboration of our community partners and programs.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



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