

2017

**Mainers Feeding Mainers
Program Report**



Good Shepherd
FOOD BANK OF MAINE

Program Overview

Mainers Feeding Mainers is a partnership between Good Shepherd Bank and Maine farms, dairies, fisheries, and other local producers to eliminate hunger in Maine.

Good Shepherd Food Bank is working to get fresh, local food out to the Mainers who need it most – those who struggle with food insecurity and have limited access to nutritious food. We do this by forming agreements with local farms, dairies, fisheries and creating safe and efficient distribution channels for local food.

2017 Accomplishments

Good Shepherd Food Bank through Mainers Feeding Mainers distributed **2.1 million pounds** of fresh and nutritious Maine fruits, vegetables, seafood, dairy and other local products to Maine families in need. More than **\$595,000** was invested into the Maine agricultural economy.

“Milk2MyPlate” - We participated in the **Milk2MyPlate Program** which is a partnership between Feeding America food banks and their local milk processors that provides a constant supply of fresh milk to food banks and their agency partners at an affordable price. Through a collaboration with the Maine Dairy Promotion Board and Oakhurst Dairy, we provided half-gallons of milk to ten school pantries. More than **300 students** were served through this program.

“Backpack Program” - In the fall of 2017, Mainers Feeding Mainers provided over **4,500 lbs.** of fresh Maine apples to our backpack program.

“School Pantries” – More than **15,000 lbs.** of fresh farm produce was distributed to school pantries in 2017.

“Lettuce Share” - Good Shepherd and the Mainers Feeding Mainers program provided over

“Thank you for doing this program. Veggies saved me money to buy my medications.”

“Very helpful to have these fresh fruits and vegetables when you are living on a tight budget. Prior to this, many weeks could not afford to purchase produce. Thank you so much!”

2017 MAINERS FEEDING MAINERS PROGRAM REPORT

Through purchase agreements and donations, more than 60 Maine farms, dairies, fisheries and other local producers located in all 16 counties have partnered with Good Shepherd’s Mainers Feeding Mainers Program in 2017.

<u>Androscoggin County</u>	<u>Hancock County</u>	<u>Piscataquis County</u>
Belanger Farm	Beech Hill Farm	Checkerberry Farm
Bell Farms	East West Farm	Helios Horsepower Farm
Berry Fruit Farm	Horsepower Farm	Ripley Farm
Chipman Farm	King Hill Farm	<u>Sagadahoc County</u>
Cultivating Community	<u>Kennebec County</u>	Turning Wheel Farm
Hillandale Farms	County Fair Farm	<u>Somerset County</u>
Little Ridge Farm	Emery Farm	Backyard Farms
New Roots	Field of Greens	Maine Grains
Ricker Hill Farms	Highmore Farms	Moodytown Gardens
River Rise Farm	<u>Knox County</u>	Moore Farm
<u>Aroostook County</u>	Erickson Field Preserve	Sherie Otis/Dasher Farm
Farm4ME/Catholic Charities	<u>Lincoln County</u>	Sweet Land Farm
Friends of Aroostook	Goranson Farm	<u>Waldo County</u>
Irving Farms	Spear Farm	Chase Stream Farm LLC
Pineland Farms Potato Company	Twin Villages Foodbank Farm	Fisher Farm
Smith Farms	<u>Oxford County</u>	North Branch Farm
<u>Cumberland County</u>	Cooper Farms	Songbird Farm
Carlin Family Farm	Weston Farm	True North Farm
Cozy Harbor Seafood	<u>Penobscot County</u>	Veggies 4 All/MFT
Jordan’s Farm	Charleston Correctional Facility	Wild Miller Farm
Mayberry Farm	Gardiner Farms	<u>Washington County</u>
Oakhurst Dairy	Greg Jordan Farm	Cherryfield Foods
Replenova Farm	Lakeside Family Farm	Folklore Farm
Somali Bantu Community	Rowe Orchards	Lynch Hill Farms
Wolfe’s Neck Farm	The Lion’s Farm	Tide Mill Organic Farm
<u>Franklin County</u>	Treworgy Farm	Wyman’s Food Inc
Riverweb Farm		<u>York County</u>
Sandy River Farms		Anderson Farm
		Spiller Farm

“This program helps bring delicious varieties straight to the consumer who may never look at vegetable as an accessible commodity. I believe this partnership strengthens Maine and brings neighbors together.”

“Our clients are so appreciate the very clean, fresh produce we get every Wednesday night. Everyone who brings the produce is so helpful and courteous. Thank you so much for this program and all it does for our families.”

“This is an amazing program and my clients LOVE having all the fresh produce and the variety. Thanks for working hard to sustain this program.”

2018 Priorities

Future plans for the Mainers Feeding Mainers program include a continued focus on an annual goal of acquiring 2 million pounds of fresh Maine farm product (about 50% purchased and 50% donated) on behalf of food insecure Maine families. We are also committed to expanding our capacity to safely store and distribute nutritious farm produce through the winter and spring, as well as exploring ways to process and preserve fresh food product for year-round distribution through our Auburn facility.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Finance Authority of Maine in 2016, Mainers Feeding

Mainers will expand even further in 2018 and beyond. In the next year we plan to strategically increase the number of farm partners, which will allow us to increase the amount of local food we source. In addition, we will begin construction on a cutting-edge produce storage and distribution facility at our recently purchased Bangor region warehouse. Once constructed, this facility will help us increase distribution of nutritious, local food, as well as field test new techniques for improved processing and storage of local fruits and vegetables.

Program Support

Mainers Feeding Mainers is sustained through a generous major funding collaborative that includes the following donors:

Sandy River Charitable Foundation
Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
Sam L. Cohen Foundation
John Merck Fund
New Balance Foundation
Betterment Fund
Walmart Foundation
Thomas W. Haas Fund
USDA / Local Foods
Promotion Program
F.A.M.E. / Fund for a Healthy ME
Next Generation Charitable Foundation
Hannaford

Program Staff

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