



FARM FRESH RI

Annual Report 2023



Farm Fresh Rhode Island

Is a food hub with a mission to grow a local food system that values the environment, health, and quality of life of farmers and eaters in our region.

Mission Driven, Community Minded

What began with a question from a college student about where to find local apples, has blossomed into a mission-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting farmers and eaters. From operating farmers markets in low-income neighborhoods to distributing a million pounds in local food to food pantries, Farm Fresh Rhode Island is committed to ensuring every apple — and all local produce — finds its way into the hands of our community in the most sustainable and impactful way.

Join us in celebrating the journey of local produce through our food system and the many hands that help it along the way. Together, we can continue to build a resilient, local food system that values the environment, health, and quality of life for farmers and eaters alike.

Board of Directors

John Auger

Board Co-Chair

Managing Director IT Projects, Blue Cross
Blue Shield of Rhode Island

Jane Sabatini

Board Co-Chair

Retired, Former Certified Public Accountant

Shiela Brush

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Retired, Former Food Systems Practitioner

Angell Mendez

Executive Director, Red Tomato

Brayden Puddington

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Morgan Chase & Co.

Bruce Tillinghast

Retired, Former Chef & Owner, New Rivers
American Bistro

Kelley McShane

Managing Partner, Granny Squib Company

Kristine Merz

Founder & CEO, Orange Square

Nancy Reiter

Retired, Former Senior Technical Director &
Lean/Six Sigma Black Belt, AT&T

Rob Andreozzi

Owner, Pizza Marvin

Virginia Branch

Principal Owner, Branch Architects

A year of *Partnership & Collaboration*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2023, I am filled with immense gratitude for the opportunities Farm Fresh had to help make Rhode Island's food system more resilient and just.

In a year when our state saw food insecurity grow at an alarming rate, we collaborated with farmers, food producers, partnering organizations and state agencies to address those needs. Through the Local Food Purchase Agreement (LFPA) funding secured through the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Farm Fresh worked with Southside Community Land Trust, the African Alliance, the Rhode Island Food Policy Council, and the RI Commercial Fisheries Center and network of over 60 community based organizations to address food insecurity with thoughtful solutions across the state.

In addition to the LFPA, we also partnered with the RI Department of Education to launch efforts to better connect local farmers and food producers with every K-12 school district in the state. Local farms and food producers helped feed kids in schools at a volume that Rhode Island has never seen before.

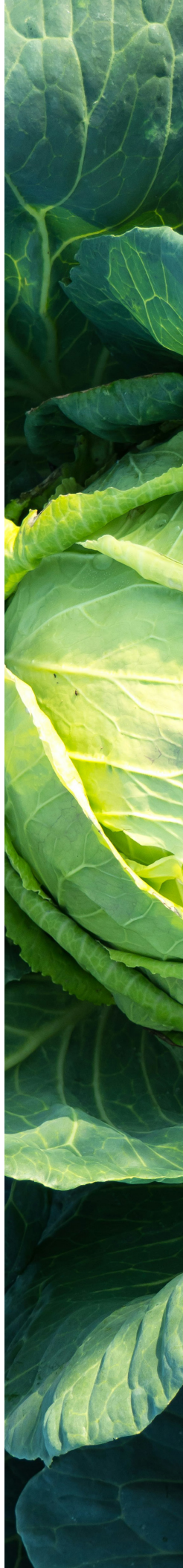
Together with our dedicated partners, volunteers and supporters, we have made significant strides in promoting local agriculture and ensuring access to fresh, nutritious food for all. Our collaborative efforts have led to innovative programs, expanded market opportunities, and laying the foundation for a more resilient local food system that benefits everyone in Rhode Island.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Your support and collaboration are the driving forces behind our success. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to nurturing these relationships and forging new ones, ensuring that Farm Fresh Rhode Island continues to thrive and make a positive impact.

With gratitude and optimism,



Jesse Rye
Executive Director, Farm Fresh Rhode Island





applesauce

youth made • local farms • job skills • good food



16oz 24oz
Apples, Lemons
Refrigerate after
Produced in
shellfish



2023 *In Action*

Two decades ago, Farm Fresh Rhode Island's co-founders, Louella Hill and Noah Fulmer, asked why they couldn't find a locally-grown apple in Rhode Island. That question would spark a journey that has transformed how local food is distributed, accessed, and appreciated in our community. Today, at our home in the Valley neighborhood of Providence, apples are arriving from orchards from all over the state and being loaded up into trucks heading to school cafeterias and hunger relief agencies, as well as being turned into delicious applesauce and apple chips.

SERVING UP HEALTHY HABITS

In March 2022, the USDA launched the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS) to address supply chain disruptions and bolster local food systems. Through this program, the RI Department of Education, in partnership with Farm Fresh Rhode Island, ***distributed funds to K-12 schools throughout the state, enabling them to purchase and serve local foods***, just in time for the 2022/2023 academic year.

LOCAL FOOD FOR ALL SEASONS

When apples and other produce are not in peak season or when farmers have surplus B-grade produce, Farm Fresh Rhode Island collaborates with local farmers to turn potential food waste into delicious, value-added products like applesauce and apple chips. These products are crafted with the help of youth in our culinary job training program, fostering skills and opportunities for youth involved with the RI Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

All of these value-added products are now made at ***Harvest Kitchen's new processing kitchen in Providence***. Opened in 2023, the kitchen is equipped with state-of-the-art appliances, including a combi-oven, food mill, steam kettles, and a tilt skillet. "We save so much more capacity now that we don't have to peel all of the apples individually," shares Harvest Kitchen Production Manager, Charreese Braxton.

TAKING A BITE OUT OF FOOD INSECURITY

All locally grown food has a purpose. Through our gleaning program, surplus produce of all varieties are harvested from local farms to feed Rhode Islanders struggling with food insecurity. In November 2023, we celebrated the milestone of ***one million pounds of food recovered from local farms***, thanks to the efforts of over 1,325 volunteers who dedicated more than 9,000 hours to gleaning from 56 local farms.

This combined effort serves approximately 35,000 food-insecure Rhode Islanders every month. Johanna Corcoran, Executive Director for the hunger relief agency We Share Hope, highlights the impact: "Hope's Harvest's focus on fresh, local produce fills a huge gap in our efforts to provide our clients with food that is not only filling, but nutritious. Fresh produce is often priced higher than shelf-stable bulk items and our dollars don't go as far."



2023 *by the Numbers*

252
farmers
& food
producers
partners

\$4,400,000
income
to farms
through our
programs

250,000
neighbors
connected to
the local food
system

35,000
people served
monthly at
hunger relief
agencies

100%
youth trainees
who earned
ServSafe
certifications

4,949
unique
products sold
on Market
Mobile

260,988
pounds of
produce
recovered

\$226,220
distributed in
Bonus Bucks
nutrition
incentives

326,348
pounds of
local food
served at
K-12 schools

2023 *by the People*

“Having a local, regular customer on this scale has been a real boom. We are thrilled you are shortening the supply chain to get good food to people who really need it”

— Ferolbink Farms
Tiverton, Rhode Island

“Even if you only help one person, it counts, but I’ve seen a lot more than one helped here.”

— Nancy Maddox
Harvest Kitchen Volunteer



“Farm Fresh’s unwavering support has enabled us to make a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of families in our community. Your donation has been instrumental in ensuring that we can provide essential dairy products and eggs to those in need. The impact of your contribution goes far beyond the simple act of providing nourishment; it brings hope and reassurance to countless families facing financial hardships”

— Dominga Dioufi
Progreso Latino, Food Pantry Coordinator

“As a chef, I look forward to the order days every week - it excites me like a child on Christmas morning... because I know what I’m doing as a chef supports our farmers, friends, and artisans around New England”

— Jonathan Cambra
Roger Williams University, Chef



“We want to express our deepest gratitude to you and your team for the invaluable partnership we have formed in our mission to improve food sovereignty for West African families in Rhode Island. Thanks to our partnership, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation. For the first time in our eight-year farming journey, all of our crops were successfully harvested. This accomplishment can be attributed to your commitment to working closely with us and your expertise in distributing food to those who need it the most.”

— Askiya Farm
Johnston, Rhode Island





A Home for Local Food

Join us for local food and community at the corner of Kinsley and Sims Avenues, overlooking the Woonasquatucket River in Providence. Our 60,000 sq. ft. purpose-built facility serves as the headquarters for our programs, including our Farm Fresh Providence Farmers Market. We are also the proud home to nine food-and-farm businesses. Opened in 2020, our market halls host marketplaces, local food gatherings, and community events.

A Taste of 10 Sims



Anchor Toffee

Savor delicious toffee and other hand-crafted confections made in small batches using the finest quality ingredients.



Harvest Kitchen

Stock up on youth-made pickles, relishes, and applesauce, along with a mix of other locally-sourced pantry items.



NEW HARVEST
COFFEE ROASTERS

New Harvest Coffee + Spirits

A great cup of coffee is always within your grasp. Sit back and enjoy single-origin coffees or a cocktail from the rotating menu.



Providence Brewing Company

On a mission to preserve the rich brewing heritage of Providence, visit this urban taphouse to enjoy delicious high-quality craft beers.



Rhed's Hot Sauce

Sample this award-winning hot sauce crafted to have layers of flavors, not just heat. Visit this women-owned spot for fantastic salsa and barbeque sauce.



Red Tomato

A nonprofit food hub working with trusted farmers, distributors, and grocers in the Northeast to support the regional food system.



Robin Hollow Flowers

Voted Best of Rhode Island! Shop fresh flowers, houseplants, potting supplies, hardgoods, cards, gifts, and more.



Tallulah's Taqueria

Specializing in Chicano street food, visit the outdoor patio or indoor dining room for mouthwatering tacos, margaritas, and more.

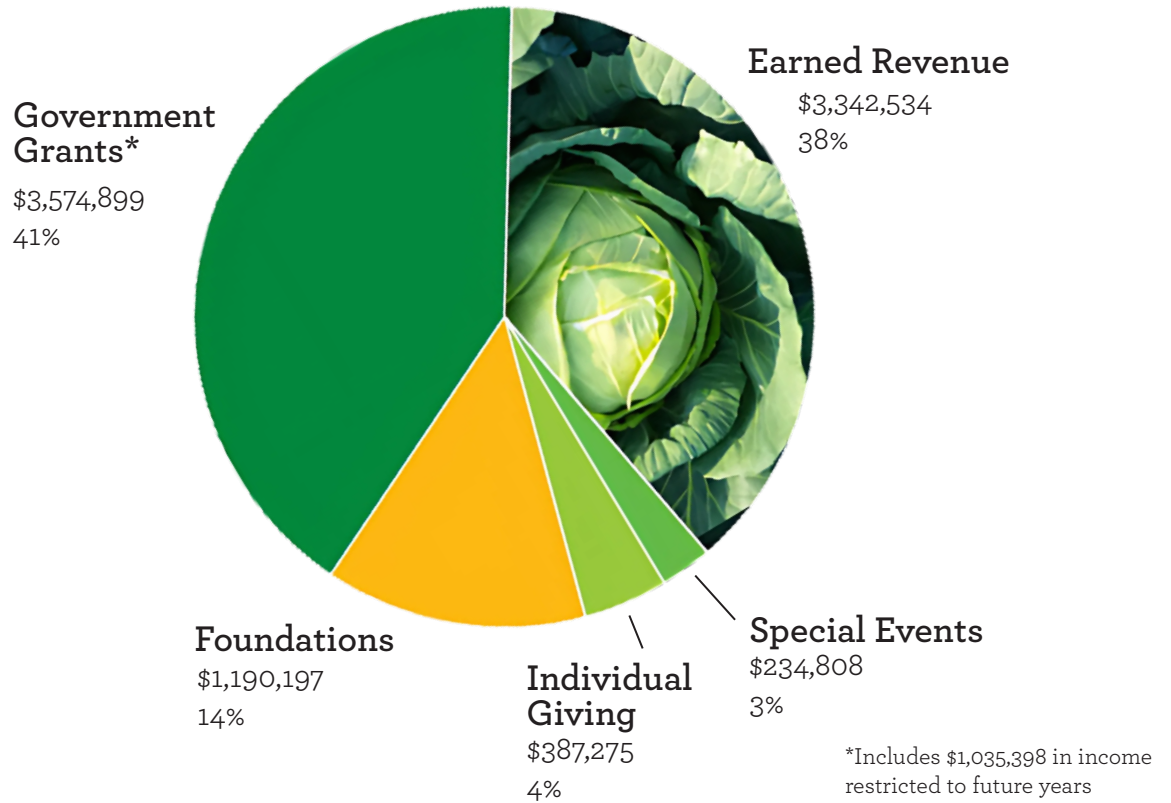


Wright's Creamery

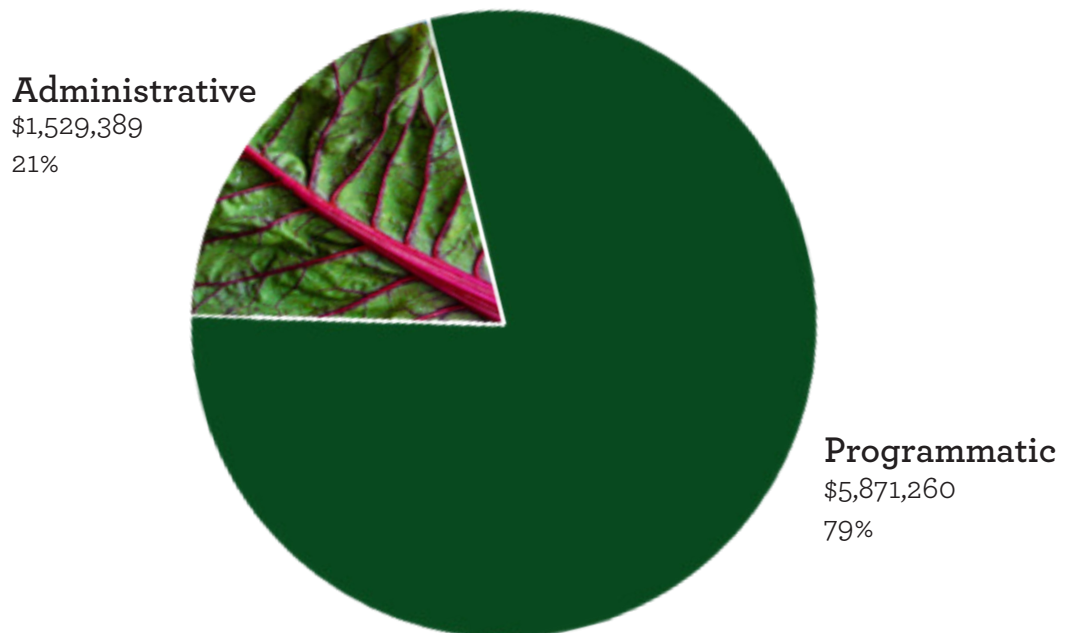
Grab a cow-to-cone scoop and see how it's made or enjoy the other dairy products and sweet treats. Sit at the counter or bring goods home.

2023 *Financials*

Income



Expenses



Fresh for All Fund

Since 2004, Farm Fresh Rhode Island has pioneered programs connecting local farmers and communities. Our focus on local food access, addressing food insecurity, and supporting farm viability remains crucial, especially amidst historic food insecurity levels in Rhode Island. In 2023, Farm Fresh Rhode Island launched the Fresh for All Fund to honor the impact and legacy of former Co-Executive Director Sheri Griffin. This fund helps to sustain the essential work of making local food accessible and ensuring fair compensation for farmers.

Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support

AAA Northeast
Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
Amica Foundation
Andrade - Faxon Charities for Children
Angell Foundation
Apple Pickers Foundation
The Apsen Group
Bank Newport
Bank RI
Barbara Sokoloff Associates, Inc.
Beacon Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island
BlueHub Capital
Branch Architects
BTone Fitness
CASE Construction Company
Cervenka, Green, & Ducharme
City of Pawtucket
City of Providence
Claneil Foundation
Coastal1 Credit Union
Commercial Fisheries of Rhode Island
Community Health Systems Foundation
Corp. for National and Community Service
Dave's Marketplace
EpiVax
Farm Aid
Farm Credit East
Fidelity Foundation
Flatbread Pizza Company
The Foundry
Frederick C. Tanner Memorial Fund
Green Thumb Industries
Health Resources in Action
The Helmway
Henry E. Niles Foundation
Jake & Co.
Johnson and Wales University
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Kendall Foundation
Land and Sea Together
Lions Club International
Meera and Ashok Vasudevan Foundation
Move for Hunger
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Newport Restaurant Group
Nordson Corporation
Ocean State Charities Trust
Oomph, Inc.
Packing and More
Papitto Foundation
Parsons Kellogg
Pizza Marvin
Point 32 Health Foundation
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation
Rhode Island Community Food Bank
Rhode Island Foundation
State of Rhode Island:
 Council for the Arts
 Dept. of Children, Youth and Families
 Dept. of Education
 Dept. of Environmental Management
 Dept. of Health
Stranahan Foundation
United Natural Foods
United States Department of Agriculture
United States Department of HUD
United States Small Business Administration
United Way of Rhode Island
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
Wadovick and Company
Whole Foods Market Foundation
Wicked Tulips





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