



Our Mission

The Locker Project connects food-insecure children in Maine with nourishing food to improve their learning capacity, health, and future. We take a whole-family approach to child hunger with programs that strive to be low barrier, stigma-free, and environmentally responsible.

How We Share Healthy Food

We deliver **Green Bags** filled with fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread and **Purple Bags** filled with healthy staples such as rice, pasta, soup, and cereal to public schools, preschools and other program partners for students to take home.

Fresh Food Events provide a low-barrier opportunity for children and families to choose from an assortment of fresh produce, bread, and meat to take home.

Family Food Boxes combine fresh produce, bread, meat and staples in one large box for case managers and social workers to pick up for home delivery to families.



Where Our Food Comes From

Each month...

- we rescue up to 25,000 pounds of fresh produce, meat, and bread from supermarkets and bakeries, including Hannaford, Shaw's, Rosemont Markets, and Standard Baking
- we order up to 35,000 pounds of produce and discounted staples from Good Shepherd Food Bank
- we source additional produce from local farms, adding to the variety of fresh items we can offer families.

Nourishing Our Community

Our whole-family approach to child hunger...

- provides fresh produce, meat, bread, and healthy staples, covering the full range of essential nutrients
- ensures children become familiar with nutrient-dense foods early in life
- includes items culturally important to New Mainers
- stretches family food budgets, reducing stress and freeing up resources
- acknowledges parents as dietary role models who need healthy food, too.



Our Story

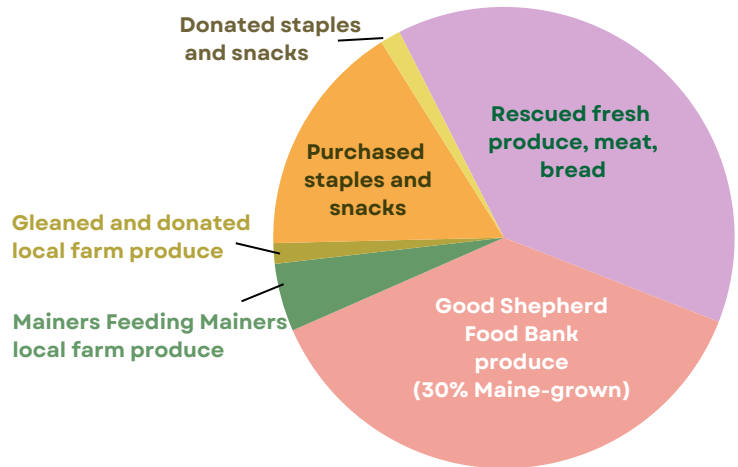
In 2011, a Portland parent, Katie Wallace, saw a need for snacks in her daughter's kindergarten class at the East End Community School and began bringing in snacks for other children. She worked with Good Shepherd Food Bank to set up a food pantry in the school nurse's office, and in 2014 she and founding executive director Katie Brown formed the Locker Project to operate school pantries across the district.

Within two years, 17 schools in Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook had Locker Project pantries. We began rescuing fresh food in 2017, to ensure that every child has access to nutrient-dense fruits and vegetables. By 2020, we had 34 program sites. During the pandemic, staff began packing bags of produce and staples as a low-contact way for children to take healthy food home, and the amount of food we distributed nearly doubled. We launched Farms to Families in 2021 to access more local produce to share in the community. In 2022, we moved to South Portland and invested in a facility that includes cold storage and volunteer space. In 2024, we shared 608,000 pounds of healthy fresh food and staples at 80 school and agency partner sites across Greater Portland.

Healthy Food Shared 2017-24 (in pounds)



Healthy Food Shared in 2024: 608,000 pounds (by type)

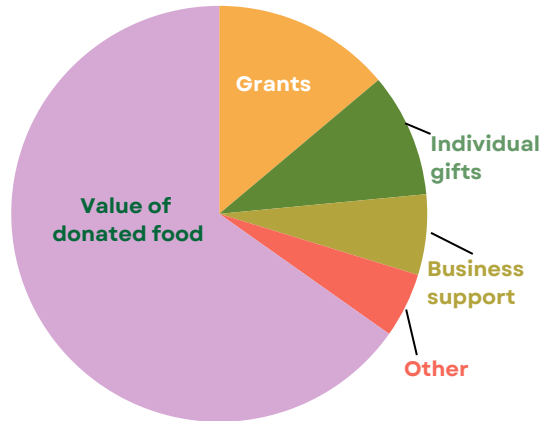


2024-5 Program Partners

Portland Public Schools
 South Portland School Dept
 Westbrook Public Schools
 Baxter Academy
 Boys & Girls Clubs
 Falmouth Elementary
 FedCap/Families Forward
 First Baptist Church Westbrook
 Head Start/Opportunity Alliance
 Intercultural Community Center
 Lighthouse Childcare

North Deering Gardens
 Omar Bin Alkhetab Masjid
 Portland Housing Authority
 Portland Public Health
 Presente Maine
 South Portland Housing Authority
 South Portland Library
 Westbrook Families Feeding Families
 Westbrook Regional Vocational Ctr
 WIC/Opportunity Alliance
 Woodfords Family Services

Revenue in 2024: \$1.62m (by category)



For More Information



- Sign up for our e-newsletter at mainelockerproject.org
- To volunteer, fill out the form at mainelockerproject.org/feedkids
- Questions? Email us at info@mainelockerproject.org
- DONATE ONLINE: www.mainelockerproject.org/donate or venmo@mainelockerproject.org

Find us on Facebook
 @mainelockerproject
 and Instagram
 @lockerprojectmaine



Scan the code to visit mainelockerproject.org

Phone: (207) 899-9540
 Warehouse: 111 Wescott Rd (rear entrance)
 South Portland, ME 04106
 Mailing Address: PO BOX 3134
 Portland, ME 04104