



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.

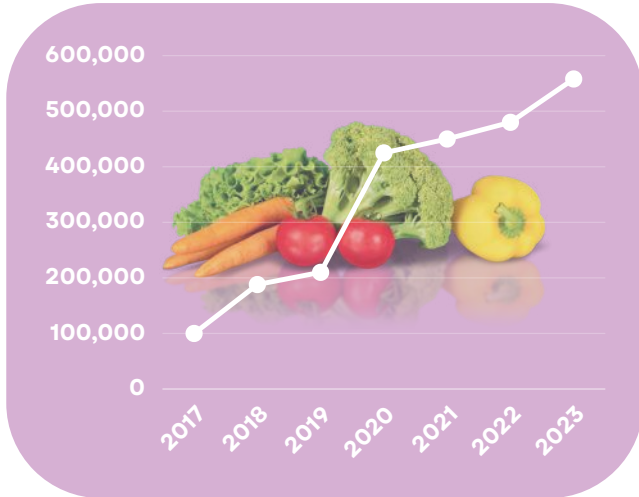


Our Story

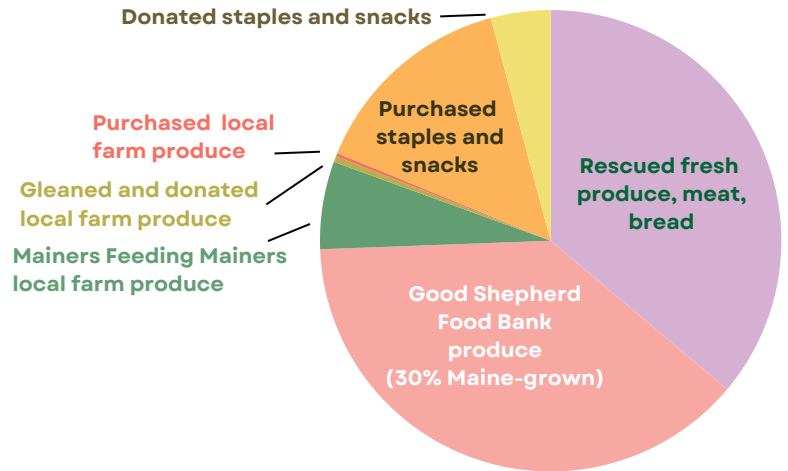
In 2011, a Portland parent, Katie Wallace, saw a need for snacks in her daughter's kindergarten class at the East End Community School and began bringing in snacks for other children. She worked with Good Shepherd Food Bank to set up a food pantry in the school nurse's office, and in 2014 she and founding 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 2023, we shared 558,000 pounds of healthy fresh food and staples at 80 school and agency partner sites across Greater Portland.

Healthy Food Shared 2017-23 (in pounds)



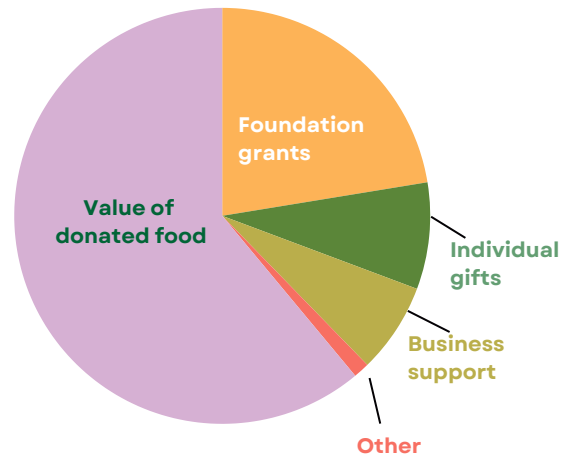
Healthy Food Shared in 2023: 558,000 pounds (by type)



2024-5 Program Partners

Portland Public Schools	Lighthouse Childcare
South Portland School Dept	Lifestance Health
Westbrook Public Schools	North Deering Gardens
Baxter Academy	Omar Bin Alkhetab Masjid
Boys & Girls Clubs	Portland Housing Authority
Falmouth Elementary	Portland Public Health
FedCap/Families Forward	Presente Maine
First Baptist Church Westbrook	South Portland Housing Authority
Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center	Westbrook Families Feeding Families
Head Start/Opportunity Alliance	Westbrook Regional Vocational Ctr
Intercultural Community Center	WIC/Opportunity Alliance
	Woodfords Family Services

Revenue in 2023: \$1.6m (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

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