



GROWING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our mission is to connect 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.

- Annual Report 2023 -



From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

It's easy to practice gratitude when you work with a dedicated team, are supported by a generous community, and see the impact of what we do every day. As an organization, we are deeply appreciative of our school and agency partners, our committed volunteers, and our generous donors. Working together, we reach more than 2,500 children and families at risk of hunger with nourishing food each year. When we all do our part, amazing things happen!

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Courtney Bowers, South Portland Program Manager
Ailish Dennigan, Portland Program Manager
Maddy Torraca Jones, Westbrook & Volunteer Program Coordinator
Stephen Perazone, Distributions Manager
Jeff Lyons, Distributions Associate



Our table at Portland's Lantern Walk in October

2023 Interns

Paige Ravenscraft, University of Southern Maine Healthy Food Access Intern (22-23 School Year) Candace Lee, University of Southern Maine Healthy Food Access Intern (23-24 School Year) Cada Driscoll, University of New England Dietetics Program (Fall 2023)



Staff members Jeff & Kevin at our Community Partners celebration in December

Thank You to Outgoing Board and Staff

Tiffanie Bentley Maureen FitzGerald Catherine Haas Naomi Neville Lauren Hickey

Adding Up Impact in 2023 Food, Farms & Families

We shared 558,000 pounds of nourishing food with more than 2,500 Greater Portland children and their families!

Fresh Food Shared: 450,000 pounds

fresh food RESCUED from local markets: 220,000 pounds

fresh food rescue partners: 9

local farm partners: 9

fresh food events held at schools and community sites: 361

Healthy Staples and Snacks Shared: 108,000 pounds

1,560 students took home 15,001 green produce bags & 10,727 purple staples bags

Case managers delivered 1,141 FAMILY BOXES of staples and fresh food to children's homes

81 schools and partner sites and more than 150 volunteers helped us share healthy food with families!



Portland Program Manager Ailish set up this fresh food table for students and staff at Deering High School in September



Ready for an August POPUP picnic at the Libbytown Community Garden





IN PORTLAND

We shared 124,000 pounds of healthy food through our partnerships with the Portland Public Schools, including Portland Adult Education and the Multilingual & Multicultural Center pantry. We shared an additional 103,000 pounds in collaboration with Head Start; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program; Portland Public Health; Portland Public Housing neighborhoods; and other agencies that serve children and families.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT



Our volunteers from Toast and Gorham Savings Bank helped share healthy snacks in late August as folks from Lamey Wellehan and New Balance fitted more than 135 members of the Downtown Portland Boys & Girls Club for new shoes. The Portland Rotary Club organized the event and provided backpacks filled with school supplies.

VALUES IN ACTION: PARTNERSHIP

Working with The Opportunity
Alliance (TOA) enables us to reach
families with infants and toddlers as
well as preschool-age children.
We've been working with Head
Starts across Cumberland County
since 2019. In May 2023, we
began delivering green bags of
produce to the Portland and
Westbrook Women, Infants and
Children (WIC) Nutrition Program
offices for new and expectant
parents to take home.

TOA staff also pick up family food boxes from our warehouse for home delivery.



VALUES IN ACTION: CONVENIENT FOOD ACCESS

We offer take-home food programs in each of the South Portland schools but recognize that other community locations might be more convenient access points for some families. The Boys & Girls Club and Redbank Community Center are additional sites where we provide older students with access to fresh food to take home.

Courtney, our South Portland
Program Manager, also sets up
fresh food tables at bimonthly
community meals at the West End
apartments in partnership with
Wayside Food Programs and
Avesta Housing.

IN SOUTH PORTLAND

We shared 56,000 pounds of healthy food through our partnerships with the South Portland Schools. We shared an additional 74,000 pounds in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club, South Portland and Redbank Community Centers, South Portland Housing Authority, and other agencies that serve children and families.



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- FedCap, where we share fresh food with young New Mainer parents attending language and other classes, named the Locker Project 2023 Community Partner of the Year. Courtney traveled to NYC in November to accept the award.
- In February, Courtney gave students from Memorial Middle School's Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) program a tour of the warehouse and a brief history of the Locker Project. The students came prepared with lots of great questions!









VALUES IN ACTION: OFFERING CHOICES

Middle- and high-school students are learning to cook and prepare food for themselves and their families. By setting up fresh food tables in schools, we can offer students a choice of ingredients and support their growing independence. Our fresh food events at Westbrook High, Westbrook Middle and the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center are popular with students as well as staff.

We also host neighborhood events each week that feel like free farmers markets. Families can choose from a wide variety of fresh foods, including fresh produce grown on nearby farms.

IN WESTBROOK

We shared 60,000 pounds of healthy food through our partnerships with Westbrook Public Schools and the Westbrook Regional Vocational Center. We shared an additional 74,000 pounds in Westbrook through our partnerships with Head Start, WIC, Woodfords Family Services, Intercultural Community Center, My Place Teen Center and other local agencies.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Two of the weekly routes filled the entire van as Lauren, former Westbrook Program Coordinator, delivered produce bags for more than 200 students to Westbrook schools and our agency partners (top).
- Dedicated agency staff are key to our program partnerships. Hannah (left) and intern Sarah (right) deliver our green bags of produce to the classrooms of the Woodford Family Services elementary school program every week.

FARMS TO FAMILIES

We are committed to connecting children and families with the freshest and most nutritious fruits and vegetables available. Through Good Shepherd Food Bank's Mainers Feeding Mainers (MFM) program, we were able to share more than 35,000 pounds of produce grown on local farms. Our MFM farms in 2023 included Two Farmers Farm, Jordan's Farm, Pineland, Buckle Farm, and Liberation Farm (SBCA). Partnerships with Bumbleroot and Frith farms as well as the Cumberland County Gleaning Initiative increase the local bounty we can share with families.

FAMILY FOOD BOXES



Mid-year we decided to gauge the need for family food boxes by offering them to case managers at several partner agencies. By the end of 2023, we had shared more than 1,100 30-pound boxes of mixed staples and fresh food, tailored to the families' dietary needs and preferences.

Home delivery of food assistance reduces many of the barriers families face to food security, including work hours and lack of transportation. Among our family food box partners are The Opportunity Alliance, Lifestance Health, Connections for Kids, Head Start in Bridgton, Portland Public Health, and Falmouth Elementary School.

VOLUNTEERS!





Volunteers from the community and corporate partners helped sort and package produce and staples for distribution to local families



Regular volunteer Chris helped Stephen collect rescued food from Rosemont Market

Volunteers contributed more than 2,000 hours in 2023. We couldn't do it without you!



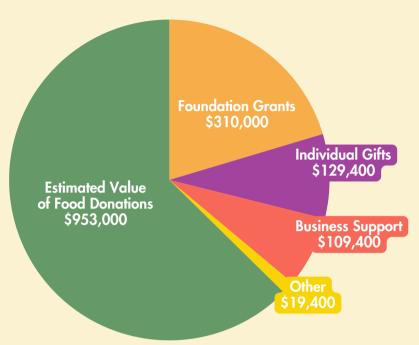


FINANCIALS

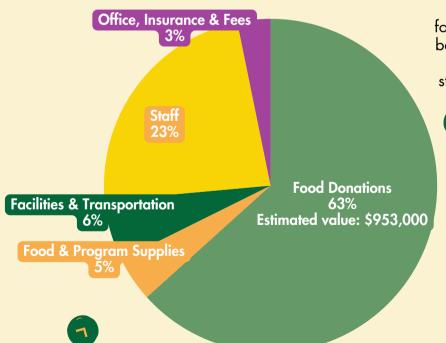
2023 Revenue: \$1.52M

The Locker Project is a community-funded nonprofit organization that relies on the generosity of individuals, families, foundations, and local businesses.

Financial contributors in 2023 included 360 individuals and 220 organizations.



2023 Expenses: \$1.52M



More than half of the Locker Project's revenue and expense every year is the estimated dollar value of fresh food rescued from supermarkets and bakeries, free produce ordered from Good Shepherd Food Bank, and staples and snacks donated through community food drives.

Fresh produce, meat, bread, deli and dairy make up 95 percent of food donations.



To supplement donated food and provide families with essential nutrients, we purchased 83,300 pounds of dry goods, including shelf-stable milk, rice, pasta, peanut butter, tuna, soup, infant formula, toddler food, snacks, and culturally important foods, including palm oil and cassava flour.

Individuals

Community Support

Carole Aaron Sophia Abbott Bonnie Acker Susanna Adams Jenny Alfrey Lynda Allegri Christina An Therese & Tom A

Therese & Tom Armstrong Thorvald Arnell

Ted Arnold

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Jason Blake Abby Bohlen Scott Bohlen

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Lorrayne Carroll & Joe Medley

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Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation

Liberty Mutual Little, Inc.

M&T Charitable Foundation Machias Savings Bank



Organizations

Community Support

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Maine Laser and Aesthetics, LLC
Maine Track Club
Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
Martin's Point Health Care
Moe's BBQ
Nappi Distributors
Patriot Subaru
PayPal Giving Fund

Patriot Subaru
PayPal Giving Fund
Porta Company
Portland Food Co-op
Portland Provident Association

Portland Provident Association
Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce

Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce Portland Rotary Club Charitable Fund

Portside Real Estate Group Raytheon Technologies Rose Foods

Rosemont Market
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Saco & Riddeford Savin

Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution Sarah Compton & Matthew Schaefer Fund

Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation Shaw's

Simmons Foundation
Simple Generosity
Simply Shara Photography
Six Branches Family Acupuncture
Spiral Journeys, LLC
SPSD Community Partnerships
St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
Tandem Coffee Roasters

TD Charitable Foundation

The Beim Foundation

The Bolduc Family DAF, Renaissance Charitable Foundation

The Kitchen Window Charitable Trust

The LMNOP Parliament Fund

Three of Strong Spirits

Toast

Town & Country Federal Credit Union

Town Fair Tire Foundation
Two Fat Cats Bakery

United Way of Southern Maine

Unum

VIA Agency

Vitalius Real Estate Group

Walgreen's Walmart

Westbrook School Department

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Club Charities

Westbrook-Warren Church, UCC

WEX

Whole Foods Community Giving Program

Wilkinson Foundation Woodford F&B Z Fabrics

In-Kind

Frith Farm
Hannaford Supermarket
Jordan's Farm
Rosemont Market
Shaw's Supermarkets
Standard Baking Co.
Turas Farm

Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who contributed to making 2023 a successful year by donating, volunteering, partnering with us, hosting food drives, and spreading the word about the importance of nourishing all the children and families in our community!



For more information, visit www.mainelockerproject.org. Questions? Email us at info@mainelockerproject.org.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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