



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

Green Bags are full of fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread.

Purple Bags are full of healthy staples such as rice, pasta, shelf-stable milk, soup, cereal, tuna, and peanut butter.

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 20,000 pounds of fresh produce, dairy, meats, and bread from supermarkets and bakeries, including Hannaford, Shaw's, Rosemont Markets, and Standard Baking
- we order 20,000 to 25,000 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

The Locker Project began in 2011 when a Portland parent, Katie Wallace, noticed a need for snacks in her daughter's kindergarten class at the East End Community School. Katie 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 family 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 each week nearly doubled. We launched Farms to Families in 2021 to access more local produce to share in the community. In October 2022, we moved to South Portland and invested in a facility that includes adequate cost 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)



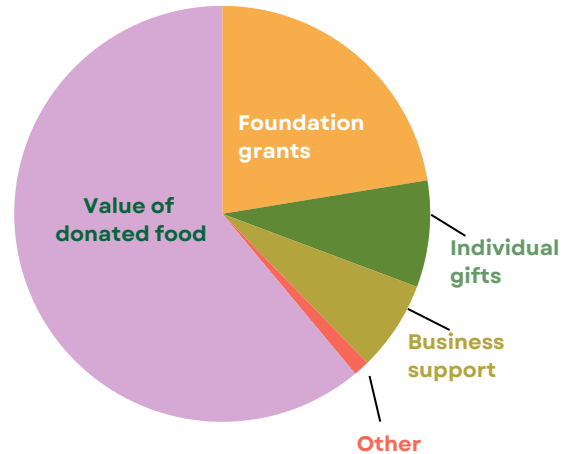
Healthy Food Shared in 2023: 558,000 pounds (by type)



2024 Program Partners

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| Portland Public Schools | Lifestance Health |
| South Portland School Dept | My Place Teen Center |
| Westbrook Public Schools | North Deering Gardens |
| Boys & Girls Clubs | Omar Bin Alkhetab Masjid |
| Falmouth Elementary | Portland Housing Authority |
| FedCap/Families Forward | Portland Public Health |
| First Baptist Church Westbrook | PPS Multilingual & Multicultural Ctr |
| Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center | South Portland Housing Authority |
| Head Start/Opportunity Alliance | Westbrook Regional Vocation Center |
| Intercultural Community Center | WIC/Opportunity Alliance |
| Lighthouse Childcare | 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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