



Ruth & Hal Lauanders Charitable Trust  
June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022



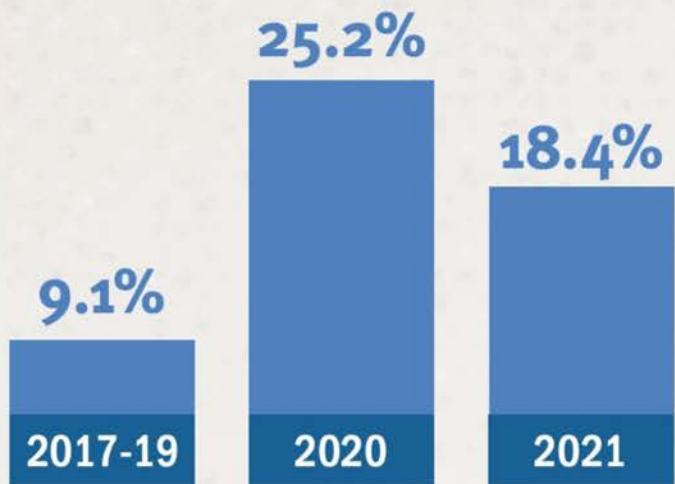




# Our Challenges: Hunger in RI



**Prevalence of Food Insecurity Among All Households in Rhode Island**



**Prevalence of Food Insecurity in Rhode Island 2021**

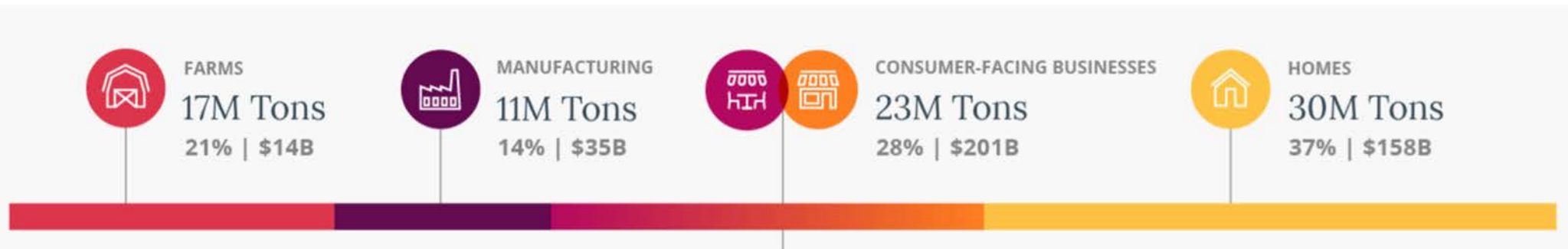


*\*All remaining households includes Asian, Native American/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander, and more than one race/ethnicity.*

Source: 2021 Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island, published by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank



# Our Challenges: Food Waste on Farms



## Reasons for "Farm Surplus"

- Overproduction – "bumper crops"
- "Ugly" food, too big/small
- Experimental crops
- Good/bad weather (timing)
- Labor shortages/tight margins
- 25% extra grown to account for variables



Healthy, fresh, locally grown surplus food often feeds animals, or gets composted/tilled into the fields.

# Mission & Vision

## Mission

*To improve the livelihoods of local farmers, increase food security for our most vulnerable residents, and get everyone engaged in strengthening the food system by eliminating on-farm food waste in Rhode Island.*

## Vision

*Hope's Harvest RI envisions strong and connected communities where farmers are honored, valued, and compensated for their contributions, neighbors get their hands dirty and have fun helping each other, and everyone enjoys an abundance of fresh, healthy food.*





It is unacceptable for our friends and neighbors to be hungry while good food goes to waste. Nourishing the Rhode Island community with fresh, healthy, locally grown produce is an act of love and justice with the power to transform our world.

Because **we believe everyone has a right to thrive, and there is enough for all of us**, *we take responsibility for our collective well being by (re)distributing resources for the common good.*

Because **we respect the labor** of our volunteers, our agency partners, and everyone involved in growing and harvesting our food, *we fill gaps, solve problems, and make it easy to help each other.*

Because **we take joy in our work and the connection it brings**, *we build power together in partnership.*

Because **we know our future is at stake**, *we offer solutions to the climate crisis by reducing RI hunger relief agencies' reliance on fossil fuels and making our local food system more resilient.*

Because **we honor the inherent worth and dignity of every human being**, *we stand against systemic inequality and stand up for food justice, food sovereignty, and the rights of all people to self determination.*

Because **we can always do better**, *we continuously strive to learn from and be accountable to our partners and our community.*

# Goals/Strategies



## Goals

1. Keep a steady supply of high quality, nutritious, locally grown produce going to hunger relief agencies as demand for fresh food increases, and despite potential disruptions to national and global supply chains due to ongoing local, regional, national, and global socio-economic crises.
2. Help local farmers gain an additional source of income by supplying surplus to the emergency food system. Ensure that they get a fair price for their product so they can stay in business.
3. Strengthen Hope's Harvest as an organization that can build and maintain ongoing capacity to meet the needs of our communities.

## Strategies

- Conduct gleaning activities and build systems and staff to streamline
- Grow support for contracts and surplus purchasing from farms
- Merge Hope's Harvest into Farm Fresh RI, forming a holistic and integrated approach to serving the hunger relief market with local food



# Hope's Harvest RI - Accomplishments



Recruited 700 volunteers, 350+ of whom have spent 4900 hours rescuing...



650,000 lbs of fresh, healthy, local fruits and vegetables from...



48 farms across Rhode Island and Southeastern MA, and...



Directed over \$250,000 in payments over three years to 32 local farms for surplus and/or contracted produce for delivery to hunger relief agencies.

Distributed to 48 hunger relief agencies, serving over 35,000 individuals per month...



# Activities & Outcomes



## Hope's Harvest RI Metrics - Against Original 2018 Goals

ACTIVITIES	YEAR 4 GOALS	ACTUAL
Pounds of food recovered (over 4 years)	322,080	650,000
Direct payments to farmers (over 4 years)	\$90,000	\$250,000
Food recovery trips (over 4 years)	210	700
Individuals receiving increased access to produce	4,000	35,000/month
Volunteers registered	265	700+
Unique volunteers attending trips	135	348
Donating farms recruited	15	43
Recipient agency partners	20	36
Volunteer hours contributed	1200 hours/year	2074 in 2021 - 4900 cumulative
Individual donations contributed	\$10,000/year	\$85,792
Funds raised above and beyond CFEI	\$160,000 over 4 years	\$1,071,385

# Agency Outcomes



AGENCY	#s Recvd	AGENCY	#s Recvd	AGENCY	#s Recvd
RI Community Food Bank	222592	We Share Hope	2650	SnapChef	335
The Elisha Project	210090	Job Lot	2160	RICAN	315
Olneyville Food Center	68177	Good Neighbors	2108	Scituate Senior Center	220
Jonnycake Peacedale	14524	Sucely M	1986	RIC	187
Martin Luther King Center	9926	FreeFridges	1831	JBGC	170
Comm. Action Partnership of PVD	9385	Federal Hill House- Holy Ghost	1095	TapIn	161
URI Graduate Student Village	8776	Better Lives	1023	Casa DeOracion	160
St. Martins	5706	Crossroads RI	1005	Family Services of RI	160
Jonnycake Westerly	5622	Calvary Baptist Church	1000	Comprehensive CAP Cranston	145
East Bay Food Pantry	5516	AMOR	844	RI Pride	135
McCoy Community Farm	4436	Food Not Bombs	835	St. Patrick's	117
Sunrise Forever	4396	St. Andrews/St. Peters	720	North Kingstown	108
St. Johns	4133	Beautiful Day	654	Tomaquag Museum	102
Amos House	3618	Daily Table	483	Haitian Baptist	100
Harvest Kitchen	3397	134 Collaborative	445	First Unitarian	60
Hasbro	3180	Direct Action Providence	350	Coventry Friends	50



# Love Letters from Agencies



“Through the work of Hope's Harvest RI, We Share Hope has been able to provide our partner agencies with fresh and delicious fruits and vegetables for their pantries, meal sites and food deliveries to unhoused folks of RI. While fresh and healthy produce is so appreciated by our clients due to their high retail prices and so packed with vitamins and nutrients, it is not something we see as often as other food items. HHRI is providing a service that is unlike any other; There is dignity in receiving farm fresh, quality produce and it makes our clients feel like they're not just getting "leftovers." It is empowering for those in need to feel like they aren't a burden to society and still have hope to get back on their feet.” -- Emily Crandell, We Share Hope

“We here at Hasbro Children's Hospital are so indebted to your staff for the wonderful fresh foods that we have been able to share with our families. They are thrilled with the food. One young patient of mine summed it up "DELICIOUS". – Dr. Celeste Corcoran, Hasbro Children's Hospital

# Volunteer Outcomes



	ACTUAL			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Volunteer hours contributed</b>	372	1212	1235	2074
<b>Registered volunteers</b>	158	317	660	740
<b>Unique volunteers attending trips</b>	70	214	147	312
<b>Percentage volunteers attending multiple trips (returning)</b>	33%	36%	57%	41%

# Love Letters from Our Volunteer

*"I had a great time! It is always fun to be around gleaners and HHRI staff."*

*"Fun and satisfying experience ! Nice folks .. nice cause .. nice time!"*



*"Great group of people working together nicely outside for the good of our community. What's not to like..."*

*"I learn something new every time I glean. The trip leaders share their knowledge and dedication so willingly, it's always a pleasure."*

*"Beautiful farm, nice team of volunteers and leaders, like minded positive people."*

*"Had an amazing time. Everyone was organized, friendly, efficient, and excited to be there. Can't wait to go back!"*

*"Great cause and a good way to learn, get outside, and meet people."*

*"One of the best experiences as a volunteer and master gardener, It actually get me more involved with the public and apply my skill as a gardener."*

*I'd never gleaned potatoes before, but everyone was so welcoming and informative that I was up and running in minutes.*



# Farmer Outcomes



	ACTUAL				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
<b>Total Farms Donating</b>	19	26	25	34	<b>48</b>
<b>Total Paid to Farmers</b>		\$14,297	\$71,317	\$109,700	<b>\$195,314</b>
<b>Total Farms Contracting</b>		5	7	12	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Farms Selling Surplus</b>		4	7	10	<b>10</b>

*"The food bank is a good partner because they take everything. I would never contract grow anything for anyone because I can't guarantee anything with New England weather. If I grow turnips for a wholesale vendor, and they back out, it's a problem. But the food banks will take anything and that flexibility is key. When I sell those turnips to Chelsea, they have standards I have to meet. So many times, it's too big, too small, it's still #1 quality. But when you're asking a small New England farm to grow to exact specifications - if I tried to do that, my waste would be 60% and I'd only be able to sell 30%. By not being held to grocery store quality...it prevents a lot of waste. Not being held to stupid wholesale perfection, but still getting income. We're moving away from wholesale, but would keep doing that for you because you're so much more flexible...If you were more picky, then this arrangement wouldn't work as well for us. It's hard to grow perfect produce in New England soil...it's not like we're in California...Your acceptance of variability is very enticing." - Chris Clegg, Four Town Farm*

# Farmer Contracts - 2020



Arcadian Fields, Hope Valley  
Earth Care Farm, Charlestown  
Hocus Pocus Farm, Seekonk, MA  
Sweet Pea Farm, Charlestown  
Shewatuck Farm, Exeter  
Casey Farm, Saunderstown

~16,000 lbs  
\$25,000



# Farmer Contracts – 2021



Arcadian Fields, Hope Valley  
Earth Care Farm, Charlestown  
Hocus Pocus Farm, Seekonk, MA  
Shewatuck Farm, Exeter  
Martinez Farm, Johnston  
Charlotte Uwimphue, North Kingstown  
Movement Ground Farm, Tiverton  
Osamequin Farm, Seekonk  
Dead Beet Farm, Scituate  
Revive the Roots, Scituate

~75,000 lbs  
\$94,000





# Surplus Purchasing - 2021



Shewatuck Farm

Ferolbink Farm

Brandon Family Farm

Freedom Food Farm

Boston Area Gleaners

Martinez Farm

Four Town Farm

Appleland Orchards

**87,162 lbs**

**\$27,314**

# Additional Resources Leveraged

- Fiscal sponsor relationship with Farm Fresh RI included access to physical and distribution infrastructure
- Over \$1 million in grant funds and business donations
- Over \$85,000 in individual donations
- Significant and consistent earned media (Edible Rhody, Providence Journal, etc.)
- Partnerships and contracts with state agencies, Farm Fresh RI, RI Community Food Bank, and many others
- Volunteer time valued at \$147,000
- Donated produce valued at \$597,000



**MAVF**



# Public Support



- Moving towards long-term growth and sustainability with public funding and support
- USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program
- USDA Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)
- Funds available for contracts & surplus purchasing
- Farmer Recruitment & Contract Management
- Logistics of food sourcing and transportation
- Coordination with Southside Community Land Trust, RI DEM, African Alliance of RI and the RI Food Policy Council



# Policy and Visibility

Visit from Senator Jack Reed and the RI Food Policy Council, Aug. '21



Visit from state agencies, legislators, and major funders, Aug. '21



## The Providence Journal

NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

**Boosters, kids' shots continue rising in RI**  
State health officials reaching out to families

By Wayne Miller  
wsmiller@providencejournal.com

**CUMMINGSVILLE** — Growing numbers of children are getting vaccinated for the COVID-19 coronavirus, it is being said, and getting their shots. The number of adults receiving boosters is also rising, state health officials say. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated.

**Other activity and on town**  
The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated.

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The Providence Journal, Providence, Rhode Island, August 10, 2021

The founder of Hope's Harvest has a mission: Plucking 'seconds' from RI farms to feed people. Given a minute, she might talk you into helping.

## THE GLEANERS



Hope's Harvest founder, Sarah Miller, working in a field.

**HOPE'S HARVEST** — The state of Rhode Island has been the center of a national food security movement, but for Sarah Miller, it's all about the people. She's the founder of Hope's Harvest, a nonprofit organization that plucks 'seconds' from local farms to feed people. She's the founder of Hope's Harvest, a nonprofit organization that plucks 'seconds' from local farms to feed people.

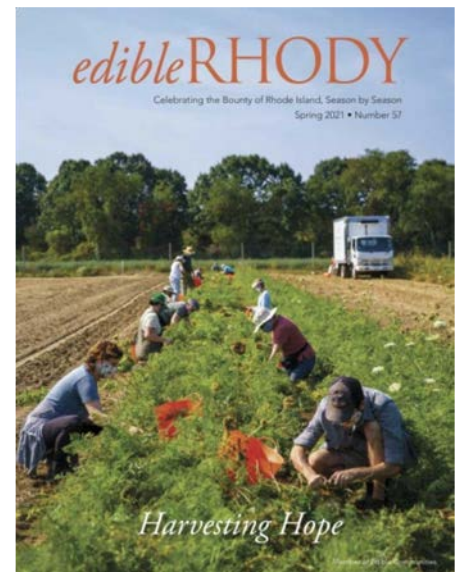
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## New on college menus: Tackling hunger

Food insecurity problem on campuses nationwide

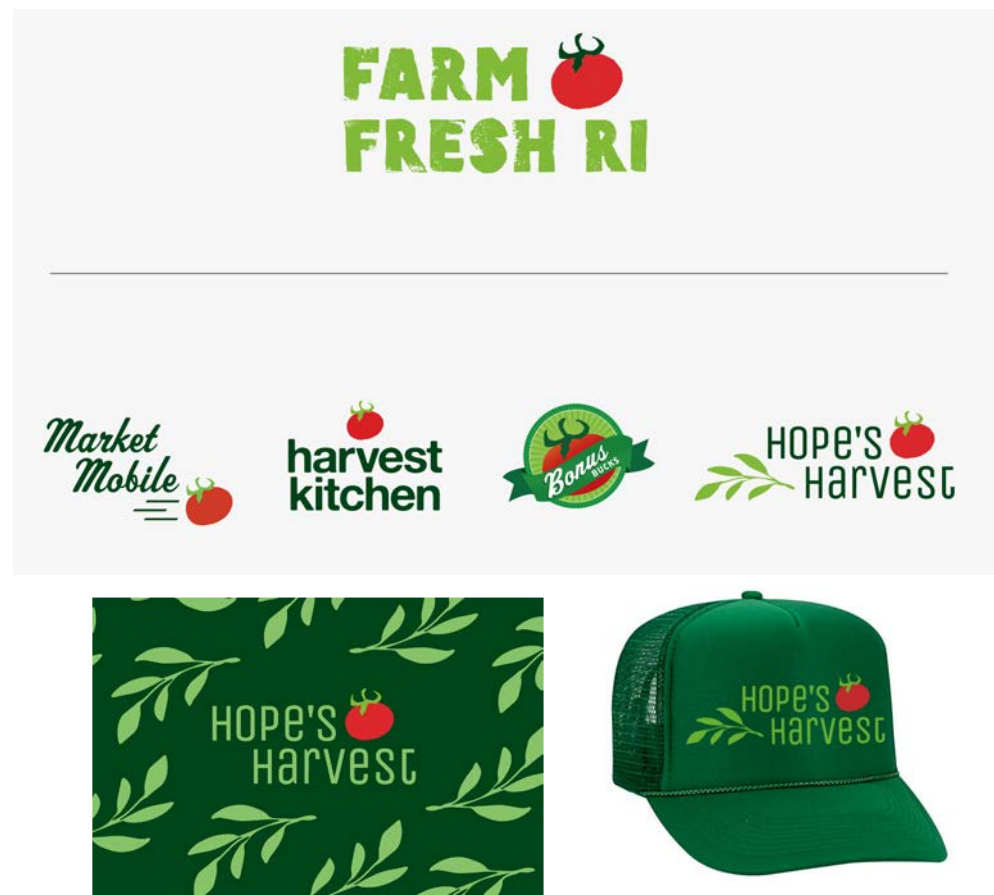
**HOPE'S HARVEST** — It may be hard to imagine, but many Rhode Island college students are facing food insecurity. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated. The state health department is reaching out to families to get their children vaccinated.

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# Farm Fresh RI Merger

- “Hope’s Harvest” now = All hunger relief programs at FFRI
  - Gleaning
  - Farm to Pantry
  - Contracts and Surplus Purchasing
  - USDA/DEM Local Food Purchasing Assistance (LFPA)
  - Senior Farmers Market Nutrition
- Brand identity - part of a family of programs, yet still recognizably us
- All institutional funders notified & onboard
- Program and staffing overlap/changes
- Additional partnerships and growth
- [hopesharvest.org](http://hopesharvest.org) redirects to [farmfreshri.org/hopesharvest](http://farmfreshri.org/hopesharvest) as of June 1st
- A happy home for Hope’s Harvest!



# What's Next? 2021-2023 Goals

1. Nourish the Rhode Island community with fresh, healthy, locally-grown produce.
2. Support local farmers' ability to thrive as essential contributors to a local food system that works for everyone.
3. Facilitate joyful volunteer investment in redistributing resources for the common good.
4. Ensure a strong and sustainable organization that provides exceptional value to HHRI's stakeholders and has the capacity to achieve our mission and goals.
5. Leverage our role and assets as an organization to advocate - locally, regionally, and nationally - for food sovereignty, racial justice, environmental sustainability, and the rights of all people to self-determination.









[Farmfreshri.org/hopesharvest](http://Farmfreshri.org/hopesharvest)