

Capital Region Food Program

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November 2024

Dear Friend:

This December marks the 51st consecutive year the Capital Region Food Program (CRFP) has worked diligently to help reduce hunger in the Greater Concord area. The organization still maintains its completely volunteer effort model, no paid staff, while ensuring all funds donated are used exclusively for the purchase of food.

Since 1974, our signature Holiday Food Basket Project has distributed holiday meal boxes to more than a quarter of a million individuals in Concord and the surrounding 17 communities. Throughout this time, CRFP has consistently made modifications to best serve the needs of local communities. In 2022, The CRFP Board voted unanimously to adopt a new business model for that project moving forward.

The new Holiday Project model has been a huge success in several ways including the ability to maximize the impact of community donations and reduce unintentional food waste. Extensive data collected continues to validate the research supporting this new model. Additionally, the data showed that many products purchased were not available through the traditional standard/custom Holiday Food Baskets. Items, such as gluten free, low/no salt, culturally appropriate food items, fresh and frozen produce are examples of items purchased.

Due to the flexibility and benefit of the holiday vouchers, we have seen a 25% increase each for the past two years and anticipate at least a 15% increase this year. This year vouchers will be provided to eligible participants on December 14, 2024, and redeemable through January 31, 2025 at local Market Baskets.

Our Year Round Distribution Project (YRDP) has continued to meet the demands of our partner agencies and has become even more vital. This project continues to demonstrate its value to our community. Utilizing a Just-in-Time production model we have been able to adjust to the changing needs and challenges of distribution channels. This project has realized a 10% increase in participating agencies as well as an 8% increase in food with the average monthly cost increasing from \$7,500 to \$9,000 per month.

The continued generosity of individuals like you makes it possible for us to help those in need throughout the year. Please know we appreciate all your past and current tax-deductible donation support.

With deep appreciation,



Elena M. Alois, Chair
Capital Region Food Program Board



Maria Manus Painchaud, Chair
CRFP Holiday Project



Jennifer L. Carleton, Vice Chair
Capital Region Food Program Board



Lauren Kilmister, Chair
CRFP Year Round Distribution Project