

Capital Region Food Program

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Press Release

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| August 14, 2019 | For More Information, contact: |
| For Immediate Release | Tori Berube (603.231.1396) |

SEVENTEEN LOCAL AGENCIES RECIPIENTS OF THREE TONS OF NONPERISHABLE FOOD

CONCORD, NH — Three tons of non-perishable food was distributed to 17 social services agencies, food pantries, and churches in the greater Concord area Tuesday, August 13th through the Capital Region Food Program (CRFP)'s Year-Round Distribution Project (YRDP).

Recipient agencies include: Boscawen Congregational Church's "Hilda's Food Pantry", CenterPoint Food Pantry, Chichester Food Pantry, Christ the King Food Pantry, Concord Community Action Program (CAP), Concord Human Services, Epsom Food Pantry, Friends of Forgotten Children, Gospel Light Food Pantry, Loudon Food Pantry, Open Door Community Kitchen, Pittsfield Food Pantry, Salvation Army – Concord Corps, St. Paul's Church Food Pantry, Suncook/Allenstown Community Action Program (CAP), Warner Community Action Program (CAP), and West Congregational Church Food Pantry.

As part of the Year-Round Distribution Project, non-perishable items such as canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, breakfast cereal, pasta, and soups are distributed at no cost to participating agencies. For a complete listing of partner agencies supported by the CRFP's Year-Round Distribution Project efforts, visit capitalregionfoodprogram.org.

Every dollar donated to the CRFP is solely used for the purchasing of food. To organize a food drive, donate food, or inquire about volunteer opportunities, please visit capitalregionfoodprogram.org.

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The Capital Region Food Program (CRFP) is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to help reduce hunger in the Greater Concord area through year-round distribution of food to individuals and families. Since 1974 this has been accomplished by securing financial donations and in-kind services and by coordination, collaboration, and cooperation with other community distribution and service agencies.

The CRFP distributes over 110 tons of food annually through two initiatives. Forty (40) tons of food is distributed through the Year-Round Distribution Project which is distributed eleven times each year to over thirty local agencies. Seventy (70) tons of food is distributed through the program's Holiday Food Basket Project, held in partnership with the New Hampshire National Guard each December.

www.capitalregionfoodprogram.org

IMPACT OF CRFP Key Facts

- Capital Region Food Program, a 501(C)3 not-for-profit organization, that is **all-volunteer**; no paid staff, no administrative costs. **Every** dollar donated to the CRFP is used exclusively to purchase food for our partner agencies, families and individuals in need residing in Concord and the surrounding 17 communities.
- Over 3200 tons of food has been distributed to the hunger insecure in Concord and surrounding 17 communities over the past 44 years with a value in excess of \$3,000,000.
- 30 Partnering agencies with the CRFP Year Round Distribution Project receive free caseloads of food to continue their good work, which translates into a minimum value of \$5,000 and maximum value of \$10,000 annually. The CRFP YRDP is a supplemental source of food for these partnering agencies without which they would likely be unable to secure these resources.
- The CRFP HFBP provides a wonderful holiday meal and enough food to sustain a family of 4 for a minimum of 2 additional weeks. In doing so this addresses the issues of childhood hunger during the holiday vacation.
- In 2016, according to the US Census Bureau, US Department of Agriculture and the Food Research and Action Center, 9.1% of the residents in Merrimack County are hunger insecure. Of those, 14% were children under the age of 18 and 6.9% were seniors. While these numbers are an all-time low we are experiencing an increase in need. During our 2018 HFBP 26.6% of the 6,900 individuals served were children, over 59% served were female and another 11% were elders.
- CRFP employs ongoing research into hunger insecurity to assist the board in making informed decisions. These decisions have resulted in adjustments to food offering and packaging in consideration of the diversity of recipients' needs. Recognition and adjustment for age specific dietary needs. Inclusion of products that foster good nutritional value.
- CRFP fosters collaboration, cooperation, coordination and communication between and among the social service agencies, soup kitchens, churches, food pantries and schools.
- Through strategic partnerships, CRFP receives in-kind support from postage and administrative supplies to transportation and facilities to legal and accounting and beyond. On annual basis the value attributed to these in-kind contributions is in excess of \$350,000, about double of the current operating budget. It is unlikely the organization would be successful in raising funds to cover those costs and the \$175,000 for the current operating budget.
- Agencies repeatedly confirm their appreciation for the support CRFP gives them as they believe the impact makes the difference between getting by and making a significant difference.