2021 Annual Report
Rhode Island Community Food Bank Leadership

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Cover Photo Caption: A volunteer organizes shelves at the East Bay Food Pantry as part of their outdoor distribution, which they adapted to serve guests safely during the pandemic.

OUR MISSION
To improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders by advancing solutions to the problem of hunger.

OUR VISION
We envision a state where no one goes hungry.
Your Generosity Makes a Real Difference

Throughout the prolonged COVID-19 emergency, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank has been a vital source of food for thousands of people in dire need.

Thanks to the support of generous individuals, corporations and foundations, this year we were able to boost food distribution to a record-level 15.1 million pounds and meet the high demand for food assistance across the state. We showed that even in these challenging times, a caring community can come together to ensure that no one goes hungry.

In this Annual Report, you’ll learn about some of the individuals that we helped. Their stories illustrate the important difference that food assistance can make in peoples’ lives. Still, it’s the resilience shown by those we serve that is the best sign Rhode Island will emerge from this crisis even stronger as a community.

Our new strategic plan reflects this optimism. Using lessons learned during the pandemic, Food Bank Board and staff members shaped ambitious goals and bold initiatives for the next three years.

In the new plan, we commit to equitable food distribution, identifying and responding to underserved and marginalized populations in the state. In addition, to support good health and nutrition, we will increase our capacity to distribute fresh produce and to source locally grown food.

Most importantly, we hope to build coalitions and advocate to change the underlying conditions that leave families unable to afford adequate food. We will not be satisfied until everyone in Rhode Island has access to a nourishing supply of food, every day of the year.

Your investment in the Food Bank made the accomplishments of the past year possible. We hope you will be inspired to continue your support in the future. Together, we can achieve a hunger-free state.

We sincerely thank you.

Edward O. Handy, Ill
President, Board of Directors

Andrew Schiff
Chief Executive Officer

Last year, the Food Bank distributed 15.1 million pounds of food to neighbors in need through our network of 150 member agencies. That’s 1.3 million pounds more than the previous year, an increase of 9%.
We have faced challenges in providing healthy food to families this year. Food donations dropped as grocery stores met increased demand from their customers. Safety concerns meant we could not welcome volunteers to our facility. Our own operations — and those of our member agencies — faced disruption and shifts in service. For example, most pantries pre-packed boxes and bags to limit COVID-19 exposure risk, eliminating the ability of clients to choose their foods.

Yet bright spots emerged and continue to do so. Some pantries innovated, setting up outside client choice distributions. Here at the Food Bank, generous donations meant we could purchase about one-third of our food to keep up with local need while providing healthier options. Federal commodities and programs like Farmers to Families boxes also helped, making up 44% of our food supply.

We invested in our member agency network, strengthening their ability to distribute food. Extra federal cash benefits for families in need also helped. At the end of FY2021, we saw the number of people we served fall from a November 2020 high of 76,500 to pre-pandemic levels of 53,000 monthly.

We’re optimistic that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. But many COVID-19 relief programs have now expired. We’ll continue to keep a watchful eye on numbers in need as this new year unfolds.
Programs Offer Critical Lifeline to Families

The Food Bank operates several programs that promote long-term solutions to the problem of hunger. In 2021, we continued to serve guests and clients at member agencies through these programs, some of which looked a little different than they have in years past thanks to new safety measures.

Healthy Habits Nutrition Education
Healthy Habits teaches people how to shop, cook and eat with good health in mind, even on a limited budget. We offer flexible virtual and in-person modules, including four to six-week classes, one-hour workshops, quick recipe demonstrations and helpful hints about nutrition for adults, families and children. These budget-friendly classes focus on healthy cooking using items often found at food pantries. In 2021, we held several four-week virtual classes and created more than 50 videos featuring nutrition lessons and recipes.

Kids Cafe
The Kids Cafe program serves healthy evening meals to children at risk of hunger at after-school programs in local community centers. In 2021, Food Bank chefs and Healthy Habits staff prepared a total of 18,452 meals that were distributed to Kids Cafe sites at the East Providence Boys & Girls Club and the Pawtucket YMCA, serving an average of 80 children each day. The Food Bank has now added a third site at the Segue Institute of Learning in Central Falls. Together, these sites serve approximately 200 kids each day, Monday through Friday.

Senior Boxes
As part of the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), qualified low-income seniors at food pantries, senior centers and senior housing facilities receive a box of nutritious food that provides them with basic food items to add to their monthly food supply. In 2021, 1,660 seniors received nearly 20,000 boxes.

Meals4Kids Boxes
Meals4Kids boxes contain five breakfasts, lunches and snacks, along with information about important programs for low-income families. These boxes originally fed children during school vacation weeks and the gap week between the end of school and the start of the federal summer meal program. During pandemic closures, Meals4Kids boxes helped ensure that at-risk children continued to receive nutritious food. The Food Bank distributed more than 23,100 boxes during 2021.

Meals4Kids Boxes provide one week’s worth of non-perishable food for school aged children.
Challenging Choices

Ramona started coming to Good Neighbors Food Pantry in Riverside when the bills began to pile up. She left her job at a medical warehouse to take care of her children when the pandemic kept them out of school.

“I have two kids, they are nine and three,” she said. “I used to work, but the situation with schools and daycare getting closed because of COVID every few days meant I had to be home. There will be a distance learning day, or one of my kids will have a stuffy nose, and they can’t be at daycare or in school.”

This change in work status meant the family had to make tough decisions — food, rent or utilities? Now, Ramona is interviewing for a new job, but childcare remains a hurdle. “I recently had an interview for a part-time job,” she said. “But my daughter got sick and there was no one to care for her. I couldn’t go and I didn’t get the job.”

“If I could share something with the community, it’s that parents need help,” Ramona said. “I want people in the community to support parents. We need a way to bring money in for our family and have a place to take our kids when we are working.”

Ramona finds the support she needs at the food pantry. “They help me with milk, eggs and meat,” she said. “It is a good experience. If you are having trouble paying for things, this is one less thing to worry about.”

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Mark and Donna Ross

$50,000 - $99,999
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Christopher L. Benzak
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John and Karen Galvin
At Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, strengthening the state’s safety net is a top priority. That’s why the company has long supported the Rhode Island Community Food Bank with event sponsorships, grants and most recently, a $100,000 contribution for COVID-19 relief efforts.

“Our members are some of the most at-risk Rhode Islanders, and food insecurity is a stressor for many,” said Peter Marino, President and CEO, who also serves on the Food Bank’s Board of Directors. “We know that when Neighborhood invests in the Food Bank, every dollar counts and reaches deep into homes across the state.”

Neighborhood employees also support the Food Bank through food drives, volunteer opportunities and financial giving. “There is no excuse for a child to go hungry today, nor should a parent have to feel the pain and anxiety of having a child go hungry,” Peter said. “There are too many moms and dads that have to tell their children there isn’t enough to eat. That is why my wife and I have made the Food Bank our number one charity by far.”
The 1982 Benefactors’ Society
Recognizes our thoughtful friends who have included the Food Bank in their estate plans.

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*Deceased

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS 7/1/20 – 6/30/21

Two young guests wave after their family receives bagged groceries at the Bread of Life Pantry in Rumford.
Roger visits the Allendale Baptist Church food pantry in North Providence to supplement his pension.

Senior Veteran Finds Support and Friendship at Local Food Pantry

“I’m 96 and I’m a veteran. I served in World War II, and I live on a fixed income.”

After serving in World War II, Roger, 96, began working as a plumber. But since retiring from the industry, he’s found it hard to get by on a fixed income. About six years ago, a staff member in the senior public housing complex where he lives referred him to the Allendale Baptist Church food pantry in North Providence. He’s been coming to the pantry ever since.

“Coming here every month is a big help to me, since I retired over 30 years ago,” Roger said, adding that he appreciates that he can select the food he receives. “I can pick all the foods I like, and shop for what I need.”

Roger was born and raised in Rhode Island and has been in the Allendale area for over 20 years. He’s kept healthy over the years by participating in military drills and walking to the food pantry. Like many senior guests who come to the pantry from nearby housing developments, the past 18 months have been isolating at times. Roger knows that at the food pantry, he’ll find connection as well as food.

Individual Donors Cont’d

John and Brenda Dziedzic
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William Farber and Barbara Chernow
Alan Shawn Feinstein
Sheila Finnegan and Kathleen Redgate
Ronald and Heather Florence
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James Phillips
Amarnath Reganti
Mary and Alister Reynolds
Henry and Jan Rines
Helping the Hardest Hit at Home

“If what you are trying to do is prevent anyone from going hungry, it’s a great place to invest.”

When Cathy Lawson volunteered at a local food pantry, the experience reminded her of an important truth — there are people who can’t feed their kids.

“I was a single mom for a while and while my son never went without, I was one paycheck away from that,” she said.

That experience — and the commitment she and her husband, Tom, have made to giving locally — drove the couple to significantly increase their annual giving to the Food Bank last year. As the chairman and CEO of FM Global, which was thriving during the pandemic, Tom says they were in a position to help. In a down economy, “food is the first thing to go,” he said. “People aren’t working, but they need to eat. The need is so great right here.”

Cathy says she appreciates the Food Bank’s team-based atmosphere. “Everyone I’ve met from the Food Bank is very passionate about what they do,” she said. “I’ve always been impressed when I visit.”

The couple also appreciates the Food Bank’s commitment to meeting the needs of all people in the community. “People have always had trouble getting food,” said Tom. “You know the Food Bank is a good cause and you know it’s a good solution.”
Individual Donors Cont’d

Joel Cohen and Andrea Toon
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Janet L. Coit
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Richard Rudman
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End Hunger Challenge Fund

Created by a group of generous Food Bank donors to offer a pool of funds for matching gift challenges. Through their generosity, they inspire others to give.

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Kate & Kristopher Davignon
Jonathan & Ruth Fain
Charles Fradin
Arnold & Florence Friedman
Dan & Lisa Goldstein
Lynn & Dezi Halmi
The Hibbitt Family Fund
Marie Langlois & John Loerke
Thomas & Cathy Lawson
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Kenneth & Jody Miller
Joop & Ria Nagtegaal
Rob & Karen Powers
Eric R. C. & Peggy Smith
Joan & E. Paul Sorensen
Kathleen & Daniel Sullivan
Mary Brooks Wall

As part of an effort to source more culturally relevant foods, the Food Bank has begun testing new produce offerings at select member agencies, like these shishito peppers.
Working, But Ends Don’t Meet

“Without a kitchen, it’s hard to cook. When I come to this pantry, I know I can get what I need to cook at a friend’s house, or food I can eat wherever I am.”

Carol works at a local grocery store, but her paycheck doesn’t cover the cost of food. She’s also homeless after the house where she was living with a roommate was sold. Searching for new housing during the pandemic has been challenging, she said. With so many other people out of work right now, waitlists for subsidized housing are months long — and Carol often doesn’t feel safe at shelters.

“It’s really hard out there,” Carol said. “I’ll get a number from an advocacy agency, but they’ll be full.”

Rents have been increasing and the cost of full-price housing complexes is prohibitive for many people, including Carol. “In the winter, I’m outside in the cold and I sleep by a fire station,” she said.

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Carol selects groceries with a volunteer at Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center.

Carol knows she can go to the pantry to find food and to connect with people who can direct her to resources. “They are great here,” she said. “I know I can come and get the food I need. When I come here, I know that someone is going to listen.”

Individual Donors Cont’d

Wayne Griffin
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Meghan Hall
Ernestine and Joseph Hanly
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Carol and Douglas Leith
Scott Levine and Lee Andrews
Elizabeth Lowenhaupt
Dorothy and Joseph Marino
Matt Marshall
Karen and Ian Martins
Ray Dauplaise, a volunteer and coordinator at West Warwick Assistance Agency, holds tea that is available to clients as part of a wide variety of groceries.
Centenarian Gives to Help Children Thrive

“If you have, you give.”

Sidney Tynan may be 100 years old, but she hasn’t given up planting seeds. An avid gardener, she still maintains her garden, monitors animal visitors, and grows flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies to the Little Compton house where she has lived for half her life.

She is equally passionate about the relationship she has cultivated with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Sidney lived through the Great Depression and remembers her mother supporting family members in need — a lesson that left a lasting impact on her life. “I’m lucky to be able to give because I know it’s needed,” she said.

Sidney also believes in growing young minds. As the founder of a school, she is passionate about education and feels connected to Food Bank programs that support kids. She emphasizes the importance of the Kids Cafe program, which provides evening meals to kids at afterschool programs. Good nutrition is critical to helping kids thrive, she explained. For Sidney, supporting the Food Bank seeds a garden that helps kids grow and flourish.
Organizations & Foundations

$500,000+
Feeding America
State of Rhode Island

$250,000 - $499,999
Rhode Island Foundation

$100,000 - $249,999
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Carter Family Charitable Trust
The Champlin Foundation
Citizens Financial Group
CVS Health
The Norman and Rosalie Fain Family Foundation

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Share Our Strength
Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation
United Way of Rhode Island
Wakefern Food Corporation
Warren Alpert Foundation
Wine & Spirits Retailers

Cars wait in line at a winter food distribution at Faith Fellowship food pantry in West Greenwich. Many pantries adapted to drive through distributions to continue providing food while keeping guests and pantry volunteers safe.
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS 7/1/19 – 6/30/20

Organizations and Foundations Cont’d

Benzak Foundation
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CVS Health Charity Classic, Inc.
The Elms Foundation
Enterprise Rent-a-Car Foundation
The Frank B. Hazard General Charity Fund
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Fidelity Foundation
FM Global Foundation
Franklin Farm
Ira S. & Anna Galkin Charitable Trust
Gannon & Scott, Inc.
Frog & Toad Offers Smiles and Support

“I know that I’m giving one donation and I’m positively impacting all of the vulnerable communities that are here in Rhode Island at once.”

One business stepped up in a fun way last year to help those most impacted by COVID. Providence-based gift shop Frog & Toad sold amusing items to support the Food Bank, the COVID Relief Fund and other causes.

“I didn’t know what else to do besides try to help,” explained Asher Schofield, who co-owns the store with his wife, Erin. “I felt like we were able to provide some financial resources with some levity that helped uplift people at a scary time.”

Frog & Toad partnered with Hey Rhody magazine and artist Abigail Brown to create a poster of Iconic Rhode Island Foods that raised $2,500 (at last count) to benefit the Food Bank. The shop previously raised more than $2,000 for the Food Bank with their Quarantine Alphabet poster — and there’s no telling what they’ll do next.

Why does Schofield support the Food Bank? “With 150 member agencies tucked into every community in the state that I love, I know that I’m giving one donation and I’m positively impacting all of the vulnerable communities that are here in Rhode Island at once,” he said.

Asher Schofield (left) and artist Abigail Brown, who designed the Rhode Island Iconic Foods poster sold to raise funds for the Food Bank at Frog & Toad in Providence.
Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire — To Help

“How many people can we feed? How much of an impact can we have on the community, especially the community that needs it most?”

Michael Correia, owner of Regency Cigar Emporium in East Greenwich, remembers aunts and uncles bringing food over when he was a child. His dad was sick, and his mother worked long hours to keep the family afloat. “I didn’t realize the struggle my mother went through,” he said. “But I never went without a meal and as I got older, I began to realize that this is why the family brought over food.”

Those memories — and his competitive spirit — sparked Regency Cigar’s Food Bank support. In 2008, Michael collected more than 100 pounds in food donations from his customers. He set higher yearly goals until they donated 40,000 pounds of food. But when he learned how the Food Bank uses its purchasing power, he pivoted to a fundraiser, bringing in $20,000 in his first year.

Michael was determined to raise even more. “How many people can we feed?” he asked himself. “How much of an impact can we have on the community, especially the community that needs it most?” Last year, he encouraged other business owners to join him in a fundraising drive that brought in more than $100,000 for the Food Bank.

“I didn’t have a lot of control over my situation until I was old enough to do something about it,” he said. “As I became more successful, it was important to me to give back.”

Organizations and Foundations Cont’d

Walmart Foundation
Waterson Terminal Services
Wines & More of Cranston

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Hopkinton Liquor Depot
Captain L. LeNissa Rivera loads a guest’s car with groceries at Salvation Army of Newport.
An Ally in the Fight Against Hunger

“We are in the business of feeding people, so our partnership with the Food Bank is a natural fit.”

Caring — about its customers and the community — is part of the founding philosophy behind Shaw’s Supermarkets. This core value is evident in the company’s long partnership with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and its role as a valuable resource and ally in the fight against hunger.

Shaw’s is a long-time donor of food and funds to the Food Bank. Most recently, they provided significant grants through the Shaw’s and Star Market Foundation’s Nourishing Neighbors program for healthy breakfast cereals, Meals4Kids Boxes and healthy Kids Cafe afterschool meals. Shaw’s also supports the Food Bank and its member agencies through its Retail Rescue, Turkey Bucks and food collection bin programs.

“We are in the business of feeding people, so our partnership with the Food Bank is a natural fit,” said Rob Backus, president of Shaw’s. “Through Nourishing Neighbors, our customers who are purchasing food to provide for their own families, donate so generously so other families in the community can do the same. It is vital that we support the Food Bank and remain focused on helping in the fight against hunger to ensure all families have access to food.”
Organizations and Foundations Cont'd

Morgan Stanley
Moses Brown Alumni Association
National Association of Letter Carriers of the USA
Navigant Credit Union
Newport Harbor Corporation
Nexgen Mechanical, Inc.
Henry E. Niles Foundation
North Family Trust
Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce
Northup's Service Center, Inc.
Ollie's Bargain Outlet
Peregrine Group, LLC
Providence Equity Partners, Inc.
The Prudential Foundation
Matching Gifts
R.I. Bridge Association, Inc.
Realtor Foundation of Rhode Island
Residential Properties, Ltd.
Rhode Island Dental Association
Rite-Solutions, Inc.
RSF Social Finance
Grant Sherburne Fund
Simon's Supply Co., Inc.
Edwin S. Sofofenko Foundation
St. Paul Housing Corp.
Systems Engineering Associates Corporation
Teknor Apex Company
Textron
TPS Group Holdings, LLC
Tracy Glover Studio
Twin River Casino
United Congregational Church
Vertikal6, Inc.
Warwick Mall
Watch Your Head, LLC
Zartarian Foundation

Staff at the East Bay Community Action Program in East Providence stock shelves with staples from the Food Bank.
The Food Bank’s team of warehouse workers packs boxes heading out to member agencies across the state.

Food Donors

1,000,000+ Pounds
Western Harvest Gardens

100,000 - 499,999 Pounds
BJ’s Wholesale Club
Feeding America
Fresh Point
Shaw’s Supermarkets
Stop & Shop
Target
Walmart

50,000 - 99,999 Pounds
Aldi, Inc.
Bimbo Bakeries USA
Garelick Farms LLC
Gold Medal Bakery
Hope’s Harvest
Ocean State Job Lot
Young Family Farm

25,000 - 49,999 Pounds
Bush Brothers & Company

Confreda Greenhouses & Farms
Dave’s Marketplace
Franklin Farm
The Granny Squibb Company, LLC
Mondelez International
RI Department of Health and Human Services
Starbucks Corporation
Wright's Dairy Farm & Bakery

10,000 - 24,999 Pounds
AT&T
Blount Fine Foods
Boston Area Gleaners
Chex Finer Foods
Clements’ Marketplace
Cranston Public School Department
Cumberland Farms
Ferolbink Farms
Girl Scouts of Southeastern NE
Gotham Greens
Henkel Corporation
Lifespan

Little Rhody Foods, Inc.
PriceRite
Steere Orchard
Tony’s Seafood, Inc.
Tourtellot & Co., Inc.
Wenger’s Farm

5,000 - 9,999 Pounds
Brigido’s Fresh Market
Brown University
Eastside Marketplace
GRT Logistics
Katsiroupas Bros.
MapleMama Beverages LLC
Maxlite
MOJO Organics
Nuts ‘N More
Save A Lot
Trader Joe’s
URI College of the Environment & Life Sciences
**FY21 - Statement of Financial Position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 12,102,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and grants receivable, net</td>
<td>$ 677,651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food inventory</td>
<td>$ 1,631,396</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$ 151,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>$ 5,861,396</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$ 7,186,360</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 27,610,790</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$ 413,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 413,852</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>$ 25,467,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td>$ 1,728,941</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 27,196,938</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 27,610,790</strong></td>
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**PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 15,744,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food contributions (Fair market value)</td>
<td>$ 9,843,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDA commodity food (Fair market value)</td>
<td>$ 5,673,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-op revenue</td>
<td>$ 26,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants and contracts</td>
<td>$ 1,806,358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net investment income and other income</td>
<td>$ 1,407,815</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support and revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 34,502,037</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$ 23,898,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$ 1,126,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising and development</td>
<td>$ 1,640,431</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 26,665,729</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 7,836,308</strong></td>
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The financial statements of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank Association are audited by Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. A copy of the complete audited financial statements, along with the auditor’s report thereon, is available at rifoodbank.org.

**A Note on our Financial Statements**

The Food Bank is showing a significant surplus for FY21. The surplus reflects the generosity of many individual, corporate and foundation donors during the Coronavirus crisis. Unspent funds are being carried over into FY22 to allow us to transition from an emergency crisis response to a long-term response.

Donated food has declined while the need for food remains very high. For the foreseeable future, the Food Bank will need to purchase significantly more food in order to provide assistance to all in need.

**FY21 - Public Support & Revenue**

- **Food Acquisition & Distribution**: 88%
- **Corporate & Foundation Grants**: 8%
- **Individual Contributions**: 9%
- **USDA Commodity Food (Fair Market Value)**: 28%
- **Other - 4%**
- **Corporate & Organization Contributions**: 29%
- **Government Funding - 5%**: 17%
- **Donated Food (Fair Market Value)**: 29%