

Rhode Island Community Food Bank – 1982-2006



2005 – A network of community farms grows and donates fresh produce items to the Food Bank.



2006 – The Food Bank's **Neighborhood Pantry Express**

begins delivering fresh produce to families in high-need cities. In just its first spring of operation the program helps 1,200 people, 35% of them children.

The Food Bank now provides nearly 9,000,000 lbs. of food per year and helps 51,000 of your Rhode Island neighbors every month!

These are just a few of the many achievements you've helped the Food Bank make over the last 25 years. We are so grateful to all those who have supported the Food Bank and helped us grow and change to meet new needs. Please continue to support the Food Bank!



Four Ways You Can Help the Food Bank



Make a generous 25th Anniversary Donation Today – You can continue your support and help the Food Bank reduce hunger in Rhode Island by making a special 25th Anniversary Donation today. We will be extremely grateful!

Join Sustainers Harvest – Members of this important group of supporters make our programs more efficient by making a monthly gift to provide regular income. Please call 401-942-6325 or visit us online at www.rifoodbank.org for more information.

Donate Food – You can donate to local food drives, or by dropping off food at 200 Niantic Avenue, Providence. Particularly needed are: canned tuna, chicken, salmon, and turkey; beef stew; peanut butter; canned fruits, vegetables, juices, and beans; boxed cereals; pasta; rice; oatmeal; and macaroni and cheese.

Volunteer – You can contribute to the effort of helping hungry Rhode Islanders by volunteering your time. Visit www.rifoodbank.org for a list of volunteer opportunities or contact us by phone at 401-942-6325.



200 Niantic Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
www.rifoodbank.org

Twenty Five Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors ...



Rhode Island Community Food Bank – 1982-2006:

Meeting the changing needs of hungry people in Rhode Island



1982 – Our community rallies to reduce food waste and help the disadvantaged by opening the **Rhode Island Community Food Bank** with a generous grant from the Rhode Island Foundation. The Food Bank’s home is an 11,000 sq. ft. warehouse at 350 Allens Avenue in Providence.

1984 – Two years later, the Food Bank distributes over 2,000,000 lbs. of food. Local supermarkets provide over 750,000 lbs. to the effort. Bruce Springsteen, Kenny Rogers, and other performers ask their fans to support the Food Bank.

In 1984, the Food Bank distributes over 2,000,000 lbs. of food.

1986 – The Rhode Island Community Food Bank begins its first Capital Campaign to raise funds to expand its food collection, storage and distribution facilities.

1987 – In just five years, the Food Bank has become a crucial part of Rhode Island’s tradition of caring for our neighbors in need. More than 110 volunteers help 10 employees distribute millions of pounds of food and reduce hunger among Rhode Island’s children.



1988 – The Food Bank reaches distribution capacity within its Providence facility.

1989 – The Food Bank serves 371 member organizations that provide food to the hungry. The Capital Campaign begun in 1986 is successfully completed on World Food Day, October 16th and the Food Bank moves to a new, larger home in West Warwick.

1990 – The Food Bank begins the **Direct Delivery Program** to streamline the process of distributing donated food. Today, the Direct Delivery Program’s system of 12 trucks is a highly efficient way to bring food to member agencies throughout the state.



1991 – **The Food Bank distributes nearly 4,000,000 lbs. of food!**



1995 – Kids Cafe is created in Savannah, GA to help make sure the most vulnerable kids have dinner. The Food Bank soon becomes a provider of Kids Cafe meals in Rhode Island.



1998 - The Food Bank begins the **Community Kitchen** program to train unemployed adults for jobs in food service. While preparing for work in local restaurants,

hospitals, colleges, and schools, students prepare roughly 600 Kids Cafe meals four days per week.

2003 – The Rhode Island Community Food Bank completes its Capital Campaign and moves into an expanded facility at 200 Niantic Avenue in Providence. The Providence warehouse is roughly double the size of the West Warwick facility.

2004 – The Food Bank creates the **Fresh Rescue** program to gather excess produce, dairy, and protein products from local supermarkets. The first annual Governor’s Fill the Food Bank Food Drive results in 115,000 pounds of food during the summer, when Food Bank stocks are always low.

