



VOLUNTEER VIEWS & NEWS FROM THE FOOD BANK

APRIL 2017

This newsletter is dedicated to the volunteers of the Regional Food Bank, Patroon Land Farm, and Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. You help us provide much-needed food and other supplies to people in need. Thank you!

Giving Thanks

April is National Volunteer Month, the time to officially recognize the incredible good work of all the caring people who donate their time throughout the year. Our volunteers are hugely important to us because they help in so many different capacities, allowing us to do more than we ever could on our own.

Most people help in our warehouses, sorting donations for distribution. Others help at our Farm where tasks run the gamut from planting seeds in the spring to harvesting vegetables in the fall. Still others help in the office or serve on fund raising committees, the Advisory Board, or the Board of Directors. Each person brings unique skills that improve the Food Bank and help us provide more food to more hungry people. **Thank you!**



In 2016:

**14,292 different people donated a total of
72,516 hours of service – the equivalent of 35 full-time employees**

Hunger in the News – Why We Need Your Help

Volunteers remain critical to the work of hunger relief because too many of our neighbors struggle to put food on the table for themselves and their families. Here are recent headlines that highlight the ongoing issue of hunger:

KIDS WHO SUFFER HUNGER IN FIRST YEARS LAG BEHIND THEIR PEERS IN SCHOOL

MARCH 23, 2017 | NPR

Growing up in a hungry household can hurt how a child performs in school years later, according to a new study. The study suggests that the early experience of hunger is likely to make children less ready for kindergarten than their classmates and kids who experienced food insecurity in their first five years are more likely to be lagging behind in social, emotional and cognitive skills.

THE HEARTBREAKING REASON SOME SCHOOLS NEVER SEEM TO GRANT SNOW DAYS

MARCH 15, 2017 | THE WASHINGTON POST

When school districts decide to stay open during inclement weather, many parents assume that it relates to the roads. But there's another reason schools are reluctant to grant snow days: Their students may have little to eat at home.

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS INCREASINGLY ARE THE WORKING POOR

MARCH 16, 2017 | HUFFINGTON POST

Newly released data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides more evidence of just how many low-income households continue to struggle to put food on the table. According to a recent report from the USDA, an increasing share of individuals who receive benefits through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program live in households where at least one person is working.

**Food Bank of the Hudson Valley | 195 Hudson Street | Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520
Patroon Land Farm | 132 Ketcham Road | Voorheesville, NY 12186
Regional Food Bank | 965 Albany Shaker Road | Latham, NY 12110
www.regionalfoodbank.net | www.foodbankofhudsonvalley.org**

CERVIS with a Smile

CERVIS is an online volunteer management software application that lets volunteers sign up for shifts through the Food Bank's websites. The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley launched the program in February, and the Regional Food Bank will go live with it on April 19. It will make it easier to register for shifts. ☺

Patroon Land Farm Volunteer Season Now Open

If you have a green thumb and want to put it to good use, sign up to volunteer at the Patroon Land Farm and help us grow vegetables for the Food Bank. Seedlings are sprouting in the greenhouse and will be transplanted into the fields in the coming weeks. Contact Laura Martin, Assistant Farm Manager, to reserve a shift or two at lauram@regionalfoodbank.net.

Regional Food Bank Expansion Continues

Last month we shared the good news that the new dock was open for business. Agencies are enjoying the ample space it provides to load orders and select produce, bread, and cooler items. The second phase of the project is also making progress - the expansion of the office and meeting spaces. Visitors to the building will find new offices nearing completion and lots of change taking place in the main office area to provide work space for additional staff. We appreciate everyone's patience during the construction process!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 8 - Feeding Our Families Food Drive Hudson Valley Stop & Shop Stores

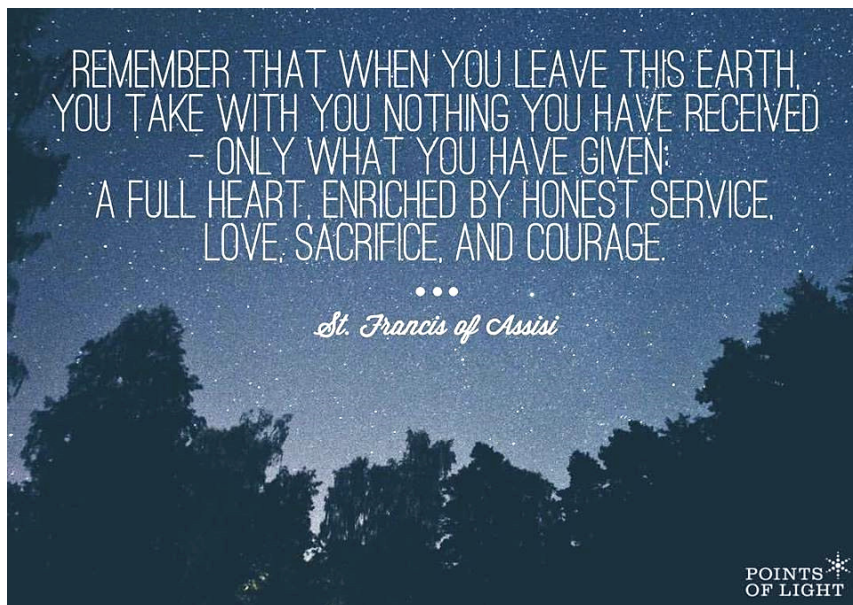
Sponsored by NBC 4 New York / WNBC, Telemundo 47 / WNJU and Stop & Shop
Hudson Valley residents are invited to visit any of the region's 199 Stop & Shop locations and place donation items inside clearly labeled collection bins.

Saturday, April 29 - Kicking Out Hunger Kickball Tournament Colonie Mohawk River Park | 71 Schermerhorn Road | Cohoes, NY 12047

Adult teams of ten: \$250 | Games from 10am-12pm

Youth teams of ten: \$100 | Games from 12pm-5pm

Sign up online at <https://www.crowdrise.com/kickingouthunger>



Meet the Volunteer Team

Food Bank of the Hudson Valley

Carol Griffin

Troy Martin

Regional Food Bank

Liz Gifford

Rich Mattice

M.E. Mazur

Ellie Zehnder

How to Reach Us

Food Bank of the Hudson Valley: 845-534-5344, x116 or cgriffin@foodbankofhudsonvalley.org

Patroon Land Farm: lauram@regionalfoodbank.net or Farmer Mark at 518-339-5726

Regional Food Bank Volunteer Coordinators: 518-786-3691, x234 or volunteers@regionalfoodbank.net