Hello Friends and Supporters,

I’m excited and honored to be taking on a new role with Food Finders!

While I’ve been transitioning much of my operations responsibility over to my support staff, it still has been a whirlwind of activity. Food insecurity and food waste are not new, but COVID-19 has resulted in an even greater need for our services.

Over the past couple months, I have been inspired by the flood of new volunteers that have stepped in so that some of our existing volunteers could self-isolate; inspired by the partners we serve that have increased their capacity to meet the growing demand; and inspired by the passion of a group of college students concerned about the food going to waste on farms, who you’ll read about in this issue.

I’m also grateful for our Food Finders staff and Board for their deep belief in our mission. They understand our services are needed now more than ever, and they have gone above and beyond to ensure food is getting to those who need it most!

We couldn’t do what we do without YOUR continued support of Food Finders throughout our 31 years, and I thank you for your tremendous response during this pandemic. Please take care of yourself and your families, and together we will get through this.

With Gratitude,

- Diana Lara, Executive Director
Volunteer Highlight: Erin Lightle

Erin Lightle is no stranger to food rescue, having joined Food Finder’s volunteer team about two years ago. As the pandemic hit, many of our senior volunteers stepped back to self-isolate and take extra precautions, including Erin’s mom and friend. Erin found herself with reduced work hours and some extra time, so without hesitation, she and her husband, sons and extended family stepped up to fill in and help ensure that food was still getting where it needed to go.

“It’s been a simple decision to continue volunteering during this time and even checking my Food Finders app to pick up extra routes. I’m healthy and I take precautions and I’m just moved by all the hungry and hurting families out there and inspired by the great work being done by the food banks. I’m not a healthcare professional nor first responder, so this is one simple way I can help. I’m happy to be one cog in the wheel and contribute,” shared Erin.

While times have been challenging, we have a positive story to share—Food Finders has a new partner!

You may have heard about the growing amount of produce being left behind or wasted at farms as a result of reduced and cancelled orders in the restaurant and other food-related industries. With many food banks and similar nonprofits already operating at capacity, the overtaxed and inefficient food supply chain needed a solution, and quickly.

Thankfully, several resourceful and action-oriented college and grad students noticed this disparity and stepped in to form FarmLink. As the name denotes, they link overage produce and other items directly from local farms to shelters and pantries that can use it to feed our increased food insecure population. Equally important, part of their funding will help keep farm workers and truckers employed. Farmers can still receive tax deductions for their produce donations, helping sustain their business into the next growing season.

Food Finders will be their fiscal agent to assure nonprofit status and help direct their rescued food to appropriate recipient partners. FarmLink’s founders have a goal of rescuing and redistributing 1 million pounds of food by July, and they’ve already hit the ground running by rescuing more than 100,000 pounds since forming in March.

Co-Founder James Kanoff said, “Food Finders is the driving force behind the FarmLink project and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing organization and team. Their guidance, leadership and veteran experience will allow this project to grow to a scale we could not have imagined.”

We’re happy to help. Let’s get growing, FarmLink!
Many Thanks

Below are many of the recent contributors to our program—thank you for your support!


You Went Bananas For Our Birthday!

When we decided to have a virtual marathon fundraiser for our 31st birthday, it was with some hesitation knowing that we were asking for support during a rather precarious period in people’s lives, but you delivered in BUNCHES!

We were able to surpass our goal of $31,000, crossing the finish line and slipping way past to a final outcome of $48,000. We couldn’t be more thankful or thrilled--our fruit bowl overfloweth! Your support is already making a world of difference in the lives of thousands of food insecure people, many newly unemployed due to the current pandemic and its side effects.

Part of our overall thank you above includes many of you who contributed during the month of April for this campaign. While we had some space restrictions, please know we appreciate each and every one of you!
The annual Giving Tuesday event came early this year, and right on the heels of our birthday campaign, yet you still generously helped Food Finders surpass its goal of $5,000 to raise just over $12,000. Your donations will go towards many meals for people in need. Muchas gracias!