

PURPOSE



Inside

ON A MISSION
Fresh Start Farms
is helping to feed
New Hampshire
communities

PAGE 12

FOCUS ON
'Everyday superheroes':
Nonprofits respond to COVID-19

PAGE 6

GREATER GIVING
Foundation donors giving with
urgency and generosity to
meet this moment of need

PAGE 14



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 4 **UP FRONT**
Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund distributes \$40 million; NH Gives shatters all records; New Hampshire's first Spanish-language news service; Sonya Salanti hired to direct Tillotson Funds
- 6 **FOCUS ON**
Nonprofits, Foundation respond to the COVID-19 public health crisis
- 9 **Q&A**
Jessica Cantin, CEO of the YWCA of New Hampshire
- 10 **MEETING THE MOMENT**
Nonprofits supporting communities in crisis
- 12 **ON A MISSION**
Fresh Start Farms of the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success provides healthy, local food
- 14 **GREATER GIVING**
Donor-advised fund holders step up to meet community need amidst pandemic

Cover: Sylvain Bukasa at Fresh Start Farms in Dunbarton, NH

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION is New Hampshire's statewide community foundation, founded in 1962 by and for the people of New Hampshire. We manage a growing collection of 2,000 funds created by generous individuals, families and businesses, and award more than \$40 million in grants and scholarships every year. We work with generous and visionary citizens to maximize the power of their giving, support great work happening in our communities, and lead and collaborate on high-impact initiatives. Learn more at www.nhcf.org or call 800-464-6641.

Printed on 100-percent recycled paper made by Monadnock Paper Mills in Bennington, NH.



Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

© 2020 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

PURPOSE is published twice a year.

Managing Editor: Kristen Oliveri | ko@nhcf.org

Staff Writer: Lois Shea | lrs@nhcf.org

All photos by Cheryl Senter unless otherwise noted.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Ober,
President and CEO
Kenneth Kinder, Chair
Maureen Beauregard
JerriAnne Boggis
Mary Johanna Brown
Barbara Couch

The Rt. Reverend
Robert Hirschfeld
Lucy Hodder
Dianne Mercier
Jeffrey Meyers
Joseph Morone
Pawn Nitichan
John Weeks, III

'WE ARE NOT ALL IN THE SAME BOAT'

By Richard Ober, president and CEO



The other day, a friend pulled down a stack of old newspapers to light a fire. The headlines from early in 2020 seemed to come from another century: “Candidates talk climate with youth,” with an accompanying photo of people crowded shoulder-to-shoulder in Concord, listening to a maskless Andrew Yang deliver a speech. “Explore winter while it lasts.” And then, ominously: “Cruise ship in quarantine.”

Little did we know.

When the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic fallout hit our communities, not a single person was unaffected. But some of us were much worse off than others. Someone wise said: “We are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat.”

People who were already struggling have been hit hardest: unable to stock up on food and supplies for more than

“When the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic fallout hit our communities, not a single person was unaffected. But some of us were much worse off than others.”

a few days at time, unable to work from home or out of work completely, perhaps afraid to seek medical attention because they knew they could not afford to pay.

And COVID has hit communities of color disproportionately: As of mid-November, Black people account for almost 4 percent of the state’s COVID-19 cases yet only represent 1.4 percent of the state’s population; Latinx people account for almost 12 percent of COVID-19 cases in New Hampshire but comprise 3.9 percent of the state’s population. That such a health measure can be predicted by race is a tragic (and tragically unsurprising) example of structural inequity and systemic racism. The state and organizations like ours have much learning and work to do about that.

In the face of this unprecedented need, New Hampshire’s nonprofit sector has responded with unprecedented adaptiveness and tenacity (see pages 6 and 10 and 12); New Hampshire people have responded with incredible generosity

(see pages 5 and 14) and with tireless leadership and effort to combat this emergency (see back page).

As I write this, cases are rising again at an alarming rate — though a vaccine, and hope, are on the horizon.

Our communities have been tested, and we mourn lives lost.

But we know that our communities will rebuild. And, when they do, New Hampshire’s nonprofits and the generosity that fuels them will be at the very heart of that rebuilding.

Until we get there, we all need to heed the advice of public health experts like Bobbie Bagley of the Nashua Department of Public Health (see back page):

“We’re not out of this pandemic yet. We still have to hunker down, we still have to be vigilant. Wear your mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing and stay home if you are sick.”

If we do that, together, we can look forward to the headlines that tell us, finally, that this pandemic is behind us. ■



Nearly 500 nonprofits, including the Colonial Theatre in Keene, received help from the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund

EMERGENCY FUND PROVIDES RELIEF TO NONPROFITS

The Charitable Foundation, New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits and Community Development Finance Authority worked together to create a grant program and help the state administer the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund, facilitating the distribution of \$40 million in federal CARES Act funding by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). The funds were part of the \$1.25 billion New Hampshire Coronavirus Relief Fund

established through the federal CARES Act.

Grants will enable nonprofit organizations with a wide variety of missions to continue to serve tens of thousands of New Hampshire residents. Separate funds were created by GOFERR for nonprofit organizations providing specific services, including child care, higher education, health care and for the New Hampshire Food Bank. Visit the Foundation's website for a final report on the fund. ■

¿QUÉ HAY DE NUEVO, NEW HAMPSHIRE?

New Hampshire's first Spanish-language news service, "¿Qué Hay de Nuevo, New Hampshire?" ("What's New, New Hampshire?"), is a daily, five-minute broadcast of important coronavirus-related and other news produced in partnership between the Granite State News Collaborative and New Hampshire Public Radio. The Foundation provided grant support to help launch the program.

Voiced by NHPR's Daniela Allee, the service fills a void for the state's Spanish-speaking community — the largest linguistic and ethnic minority in New Hampshire — at a time when accurate and timely information is essential to public health.

"¿Qué Hay de Nuevo, New Hampshire?" can be heard via the text and messaging platform WhatsApp and at nhpr.org/noticias and collaborativenh.org/noticias. ■



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Friends in Action raised \$108,398 during NH Gives

NH GIVES BREAKS ALL RECORDS

NH Gives, the 24-hour giving event created by the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits, shattered all previous records in 2020 — raising more for New Hampshire nonprofits than it had in the previous four years combined. An unprecedented 14,000 people gave \$3.4 million in just 24 hours — including \$1 million in the first eight minutes of the event. The Foundation partnered with the Center for Nonprofits on the event in June, helping to spread the word and build momentum. Generous foundation donors offered \$250,000 in matching grants to help spur donations to nearly 500 participating nonprofits.

“This unbelievable outpouring of support just shows what’s possible when we come together,” said Kathleen Reardon, CEO of the Center for Nonprofits. “These donations will have a lasting impact on our communities and the nonprofits that work so hard to make our lives better.” ■

WELCOME, SONYA



Courtesy photo

Sonya Salanti of Bethlehem has been named director of the Neil and Louise Tillotson Funds, a family of funds that supports nonprofits in Coös County and surrounding communities in Vermont, Maine and Québec.

Salanti comes to the Foundation from the SEEP Network, which supports nonprofits to create opportunities for vulnerable populations worldwide, especially women, to participate in markets and improve their quality of life. She has worked extensively in economic development, energy efficiency, and educational initiatives.

“The North Country has such rich resources and amazing people,” Salanti said. “I feel so grateful to be able to take what I have learned and use it in right here where I live, in a place that has such a foundation of resilience and community-oriented know-how.” ■

KUDOS



Foundation friends **Howard Brodsky** and **Catholc Charities NH** were named Business Leader and Nonprofit of the Decade by *Business NH Magazine*.



Courtesy photo

Mukhtar Idhow, executive director of the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success, was awarded the Entrepreneurs’ Fund of New Hampshire 2020 Social Innovation Leader Award, a \$25,000 grant to foster and celebrate social innovation among New Hampshire nonprofit leaders.



Photo by Tammy Byron

Portsmouth artist **Carl Austin Hyatt** was awarded the 2020 Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant. The \$25,000 grant to an individual artist is one of the largest unrestricted grants to an artist in the United States.



'EVERYDAY SUPERHEROES'

New Hampshire nonprofits have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with 'grace and ferocity'

Martha Stone runs Cross Roads House, a shelter in Portsmouth for people who are homeless. Some of those people also have jobs where they do things like work in grocery stores. Some have children. Some are elderly.

When COVID-19 hit, Stone had to figure out how to continue providing them all safe housing, and meals. She had to figure out how to make space for children to do remote learning and how to isolate people with health conditions.

She and her staff had to make all of that happen basically overnight. And they did.

"People who dedicate their careers to serving the homeless are everyday superheroes — so they're not really afraid of the impossible," said Elissa Margolin of Housing Action New Hampshire. "You really see their tenacity and their commitment and their strength come out at a time like this. They didn't crumble."

While Margolin was talking about people who help the homeless, the same could be said about nonprofit workers who care for people with disabilities, who feed the hungry and run child care centers and

protect victims of domestic violence and mentor kids in need — and do thousands of other things that support and strengthen our communities.

Everyday superheroes.

And all over the state, those everyday superheroes have masked up, gloved up and gone on meeting their critical missions for New Hampshire through this time of extraordinary crisis.

A grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Community Crisis Action Fund to Housing Action New Hampshire helped the shelter that Stone runs — and others, from Keene

to Nashua — keep providing services through this time of crisis.

From the start of this public health crisis, the Foundation has focused on supporting nonprofits to reduce the pain and hardship on our most vulnerable neighbors — struggling families, hungry children, seniors, underserved people in every community; and working with public and private partners to reduce the impact on critical health care and social service systems.

Foundation staff reached out immediately to nonprofit partners to learn what was needed most urgently, and where. On March 20, the Foundation created the Community Crisis Action Fund to help respond to the need, to which generous people responded with \$4.2 million in donations. One hundred percent of those contributions are going out into the community. The Foundation also released installments of multi-year grants early and allowed for maximum flexibility with current grant dollars; redirected grant dollars for COVID response; and worked in partnership with the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits to help create a record-breaking year for the one-day giving event known as NH Gives (see page 5). With the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits and Community Development Finance Authority, the Foundation advocated for federal relief for nonprofits and created a grant program to administer the state's Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund (see page 4), helping to get much-needed federal relief dollars to nonprofits large and small. The Foundation continues to work closely with nonprofits and other partners to address evolving community needs.

“New Hampshire’s nonprofits have met this moment with grace

“New Hampshire’s nonprofits have met this moment with grace and ferocity and an unwavering commitment to our communities. And they have often done so when continuing to show up for work meant significant personal sacrifice and risk...I really do not know where our communities would be right now without the nonprofit sector.”

– Richard Ober, president and CEO, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

and ferocity and an unwavering commitment to our communities,” said Richard Ober, president and CEO of the Foundation. “And they have often done so when continuing to show up for work meant significant personal sacrifice and risk. The Charitable Foundation is incredibly proud to work in partnership with them and support them. I really do not know where our communities would be right now without the nonprofit sector.”



Here are just a few examples:

When the COVID-19 public health crisis hit, the Foundation worked with the state to quickly establish an **emergency child care collaborative** that kept emergency centers open so they could care for the children of essential workers — and to get those centers the supplies and resources they needed to do so.

Early-childhood educators — who do challenging work for very modest pay — have long been the unsung heroes who keep the economy ticking, educating and caring for young children while allowing parents to work. Now, at centers across the state, they continued to work, caring for the

children of health care professionals and other hospital staff, first responders, pharmacy and grocery store workers, workers in mental health facilities and more.

The pandemic has hit the early-childhood sector hard, forcing center closures — including some important centers in New Hampshire for the training of early-childhood educators.



Demand for food from food pantries has surged during the pandemic.

The **New Hampshire Food Bank** has responded, with staff working tirelessly to meet the demand in every corner of the state.

Meals on wheels programs have also adapted their operations: Shifting to delivering frozen meals (and providing microwaves for people who did not have a way to heat them up), and doing wellness checks via telephone.

When schools closed, nearly all school districts started delivering school breakfast and lunch on school buses. Nonprofits stepped up as well, expanding weekend meals programs, beginning summer meals programs early and serving substantially more families.

[Continued, p. 8]



The **New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence** and its 13 member organizations — which, together serve 15,000 people across New Hampshire every year — have taken swift action throughout the crisis, fast-tracking new technologies, working with local authorities and systems, and adapting practices to help keep people safe. New technology allows victims to contact crisis centers via a protected web-chat platform, so they can call for help in silence, and without leaving a digital trace on a device. The technology became critical when victims and abusers were required to shelter in the same space.



For many community college students, completion of their degree or certificate program represents a significant step up on the economic ladder. Many are adult students with children of their own. The vast majority work — some at multiple jobs — while completing their studies. For many, all of that adds up to extremely tight budgets, full schedules and complicated logistics. Many students — whose jobs were in industries like hospitality and food service — were laid off. Some had no computers or wifi at home to continue with remote learning. Already-tight budgets were stretched to breaking.

The Foundation made \$65,000 in grants to the **Foundation for New Hampshire Community Colleges** to be distributed to students to cover emergency needs — anything from tuition assistance to help paying for food and utilities — to help keep them on-track to degree completion.



Across the state, **nonprofit community health centers and recovery centers**



A family plays outside at Cross Roads House in Portsmouth

fundamentally altered their practice models overnight: turning to telemedicine to continue to provide services while keeping people safe — and the practice is here to stay. Grants from the Community Crisis Action Fund helped them assemble the technology needed to do so.



Staff at **Easter Seals of New Hampshire** saw a spike in need among elders they serve — many of whom have chronic health conditions and extremely limited incomes.

A grant from the Community Crisis Action Fund allowed the organization to create The Helping Hands Relief Fund to support people over 60 who have low incomes and for whom other financial assistance is not available. The fund covers essential goods and services for basic needs to help protect the health and well-being of people who face compounded risk from COVID-19.



New Hampshire Legal Assistance, which represents people with low incomes in civil cases — including eviction and foreclosure, unemployment and some domestic violence cases — is facing increased demand for services as the economic fallout of the pandemic continues to ripple out. A grant from the Community Crisis Action Fund is helping Legal Assistance to meet that need, and a grant from the Foundation’s Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund is helping to sustain the operations of the organization’s satellite office in Berlin.



Nonprofits have come to the rescue in thousands of ways during this time of unprecedented need.

“The effects of this crisis are still being felt, and will be felt for years,” Ober said, “and nonprofits will be critical to our shared success as we rebuild from this.” ■



**YWCA
IS ON A
MISSION**

ELIMINATING RACISM, EMPOWERING WOMEN

Jessica Cantin is the CEO of the YWCA of New Hampshire. She spoke with the Foundation's Lois Shea about the YWCA's work to eliminate racism; empower women; and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

The YWCA adopted racial justice as part of its charter in the 1940s and eliminating racism became an explicit part of the mission in 1970. Why are eliminating racism and empowering women intertwined threads of the same mission?

Because, over history, women and Black, indigenous and other people of color have been consistently marginalized, under-represented, have not been afforded the same pay or the same rights as white men. And essentially, when we are looking at social justice, what are the two prevailing social justice issues if you distill it down? It comes down to empowering women to continue to lift up their voices and eliminating racism — and really being bold about that.

On the state level, we really pivoted toward our racial justice work in the last 12 to 18 months. We are starting to build out those intentional relationships with partners like the Southern NH University Center for New Americans, which is housed in our center.

We have a full-time racial justice

advocate working in the REACH Crisis Services center.

The YWCA provides services for victims of domestic and sexual violence — including operating a shelter. What adaptations have you had to make due to COVID?

We operate a crisis line, but during COVID you might have been quarantined with your abuser, so we had to get creative around incorporating web chat that would not be traceable. We had to advocate for practices in courts where folks could file a domestic-violence protection petition digitally or do an online process. And we have one of largest domestic violence shelters in New Hampshire. We couldn't put everyone in there socially distanced, so we had to make adjustments.

You were also filling gaps in basic needs.

We were a recipient of a \$10,000 COVID-relief grant from the Foundation, and we allocated that to the more vulnerable communities we serve. Families needed things like baby

formula because traditional assistance programs were not taking appointments or were backed up because the need was so great. People needed diapers, help with utility payments. The grant allowed us to do biweekly distribution of hygiene items and activity kits for children at home, and household items like laundry detergent — things that might not seem very expensive to you or me, but if someone is counting their last pennies to get rent paid, can really eat into their budget.

What is most urgently needed now, among the people you work with?

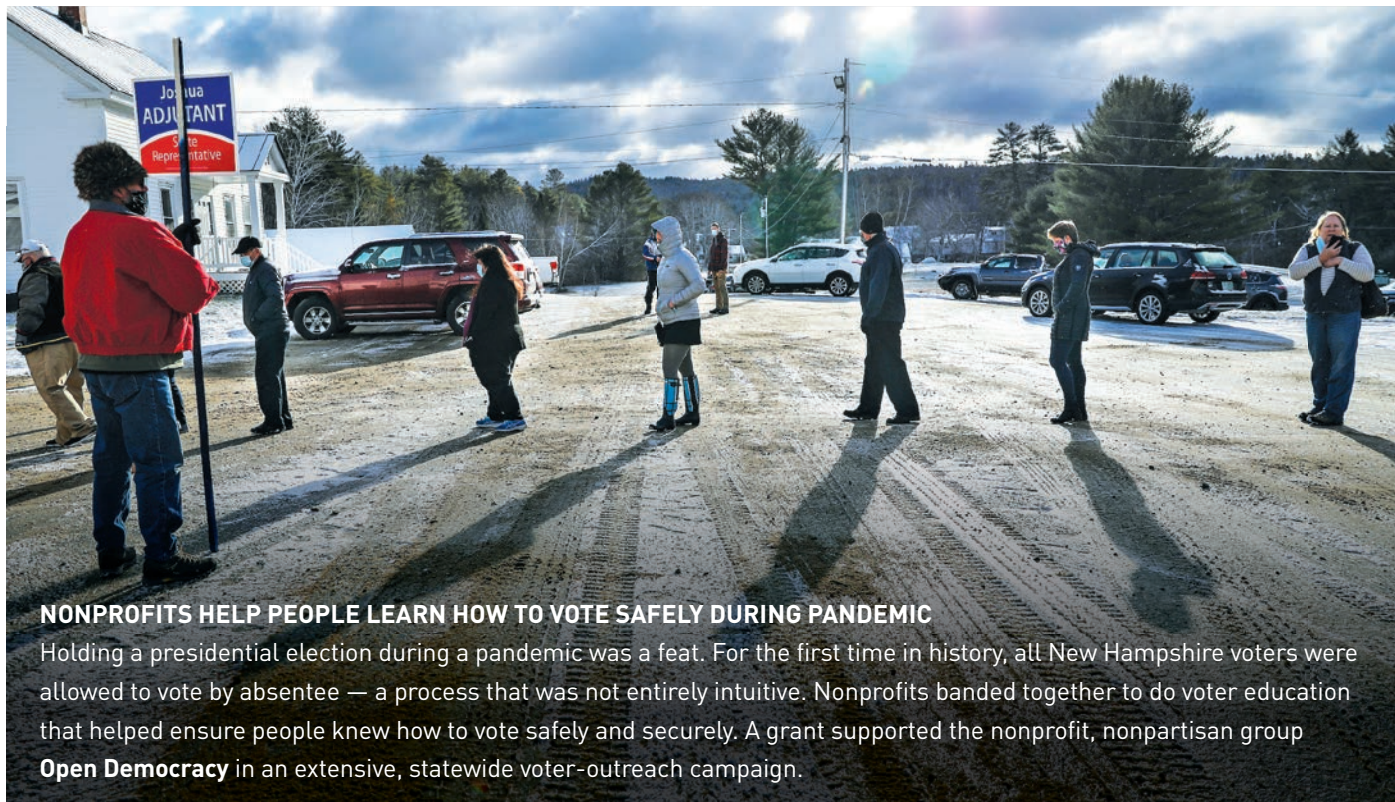
At the top of the list is housing. In Manchester, housing is extremely expensive and inventory is really low. And then the basic needs like winter clothing. With all of the folks in need, we think strategically about it.

A lot of people just view us as a place where women go when they are in an abusive relationship, but that is not all we do. I would encourage people to get to know us more.

We've been at this for 100 years and the needs have just evolved. ■

MEETING THE MOMENT

Across the state, nonprofits have adapted to continue meeting their missions for New Hampshire during a year of unprecedented crisis.



NONPROFITS HELP PEOPLE LEARN HOW TO VOTE SAFELY DURING PANDEMIC

Holding a presidential election during a pandemic was a feat. For the first time in history, all New Hampshire voters were allowed to vote by absentee — a process that was not entirely intuitive. Nonprofits banded together to do voter education that helped ensure people knew how to vote safely and securely. A grant supported the nonprofit, nonpartisan group **Open Democracy** in an extensive, statewide voter-outreach campaign.

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

The **ACLU of New Hampshire** works on everything from reproductive rights to voting rights, from racial justice to immigrants' rights to free speech to the death penalty to LGBTQ rights. The realities of the pandemic have made many of those issues even more urgent. Many of the people whose rights the ACLU defends are also among the most vulnerable to the virus. A grant from the Community Crisis Action Fund is supporting those efforts.



Courtesy photo

MONTSHIRE MASKS UP

Grants have helped **The Montshire Museum of Science** weather this challenging time. The museum has re-opened with new guidelines for visitors, and the "Montshire-at-Home" program is supporting families and educators during remote learning with virtual workshops, DIY science projects, video explorations teachers' guides and more.

CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

The **Country Day School** early-childhood education center in Colebrook was designated as an emergency child care center to care for the children of essential workers during the pandemic. The Foundation helped the state establish a collaborative of emergency centers, and grants have supported centers around the state.



HELPING STUDENTS STAY ON-TRACK

A grant to the **DUET** program in Manchester will help that program provide emergency financial relief to students who faced unanticipated expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. That relief is designed to help students stay enrolled in school and on-track to complete their college degrees at Southern NH University.

SUPPORTING LOCAL JOURNALISM

Reliable reporting on local public health information is more important than ever — at a time when many local news outlets are struggling. Foundation grants are helping get the news out: to the **Granite State News Collaborative**, whose 17 news outlets reach a broad statewide audience; to support a new Spanish-language broadcast of COVID-related news (see page 5); and to the **New Hampshire Center for Public Interest Journalism**, publisher of InDepthNH.org.



Courtesy photo



NASHUA TO DEPLOY MORE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

People of color are getting sick with COVID-19 at rates starkly disproportionate to their representation in the population overall. New Hampshire's COVID-19 Equity Response Team recommended deploying an army of COVID-19 Response Community Health Workers to help people of color access care, testing and other services and resources to improve health outcomes. A grant from the Community Crisis Action Fund is helping the **City of Nashua** hire four community health workers to serve communities of color.



FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success operates farms that have become an important part of the local food-shed

When COVID-19 pandemic struck, things many of us took for granted — like the ease of shopping in grocery stores and the consistent availability of food and other necessities — felt perilously at-risk.

And that peril was most acute among those who already knew scarcity — people who could not afford to stock up on necessities, who lacked access to affordable, healthy produce, and those for whom it was least safe to venture to supermarkets.

More and more people started

turning to local food systems. And one organization comprised of immigrants and refugees has stepped up to get the job done: Growing and distributing local, healthy produce — and finding ways to get it to elders, people with disabilities and those on very limited incomes.

The Organization for Immigrant and Refugee Success operates Fresh Start Farms, where 15 farmers grow everything from beets, basil and broccoli to peas, peppers and potatoes. Fresh Start has been in operation for eight years, and recently purchased a

56-acre farm property in Dunbarton. Farmers also produce food at two sites in Concord. In partnership with Neighborworks Southern New Hampshire, ORIS recently opened the Fresh Start Farms Food Hub in downtown Manchester.

Fresh Start sells produce at farmers' markets, through a CSA and now through its "mobile market," which makes the rounds to 14 housing communities in Concord and Manchester where many elders and struggling families live.



Sylvain Bukasa, a farmer at Fresh Start Farms, a project of the Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success

“As a community, we all do better when every single one of us in the community is doing well,” said Mukhtar Idhow, the executive director of ORIS, who came from a farming family in Somalia. “It doesn’t do any good to me if I have access to food and my neighbor does not have access to food, if a senior woman next to me does not have access to food.”

A grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation’s Community Crisis Action Fund is supporting the work. The Foundation is also

supporting other food hubs around the state that increase demand for, and equitable access to, locally grown food.

The mobile market visits Tina’s building in Manchester. Tina is immune-compromised and uses an electric wheelchair.

“I can’t get to the store regularly,” Tina said. “I can get the vegetables and things that I need when they come here, and I know that they are fresh and I know that they haven’t been shipped from wherever.”

Fresh Start participates in Granite State Market Match, a USDA program designed to help families with low incomes purchase healthy, local food. Customers who pay using SNAP or EBT have their purchasing power doubled — getting two dollars’ worth of produce for every dollar spent. And, Tina said, mobile-market staff get to know their customers — setting aside items that are their favorites, and helping with recipes and cooking instructions.

The commercial space now housing the Food Hub was the only space of its kind in a residential district, much of which had been developed by Neighborworks, a nonprofit which provides affordable housing.

The Food Hub will house a retail food market, program headquarters, space for farmer training, a commercial kitchen and storage for farmers.

Sylvain Bukasa wakes on summer mornings at 5 and is working among his crops on the Fresh Start Farm in Dunbarton by 5:45. He gets there early so he can be at his second job by mid-day.

He said that the Food Hub will be a huge step forward for all the Fresh Start farmers — allowing them to grow and sell more.

“We need a place where we can process our food, store our food, and then sell our food,” Bukasa said. “That’s what excites me. That has helped me to sell every week, and to donate some food to nonprofits. We were so limited, because we didn’t know where we were going to store our food. But there is no limitation anymore.”

Fresh Start is adding infrastructure for winter greenhouse growing.

The Fresh Start FarmsShare CSA saw a huge uptick in demand in 2020. In 2019, the summer FarmShare program topped out at 70 customers by mid-June. In 2020, Fresh Start had to cap summer shares at 200, which were sold out by April.

Justin Monroe and his family are new Fresh Start CSA customers. A weekly delivery comes to their home in Nashua. “It’s a great organization and we are happy to support their mission and the fact that they are growing food in a way that is healthy,” he said. “When the pandemic hit, it was nice because we could get a predictable delivery, and it would eliminate some of our grocery shopping.”

Fresh Start Farms has become an important part of the local food-shed.

“Many people have been quietly building the infrastructure for local food systems for years,” said Ben Amsden, a senior program officer at the Foundation. “We’re just fortunate that the groundwork was already underway, and some of these systems put into place when COVID hit, because organizations like ORIS are positioned to provide critical services to help feed our communities.” ■

LEARN MORE @ WWW.REFUGEEESUCCESS.ORG


 A photograph of an elderly couple, Brad and Sue Wyman, standing in their kitchen. Brad is on the left, wearing a grey zip-up jacket over a maroon shirt, and Sue is on the right, wearing a blue long-sleeved top and glasses. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The kitchen features wooden cabinets, a sink, and a window with white curtains.

'THIS IS AS RAINY AS THE DAY GETS'

The COVID-19 public health crisis has re-shaped the way many Foundation donor-advised fund holders are approaching their giving

Morgan and Tara Rutman watched closely as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded across Europe and then the U.S. They did not wait for community transmission to hit New Hampshire before they acted to help nonprofits that would be on the front lines when the virus hit here.

They called the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and asked for suggestions on where to recommend immediate grants from their donor-advised fund.

"We wanted to get money out there that would be effective right away," Tara Rutman said.

Since the very beginning of this unprecedented crisis, donor-advised fund holders at the Charitable Foundation have stepped up to meet community need.

Between March and October, donor-advised fund holders at the Foundation transferred more than \$2.7 million into the Foundation's Community Crisis Action Fund to respond to immediate community need and recommended an additional 570 grants totaling \$3.4 million in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Foundation is encouraging its donors to give generously to help communities weather the COVID-19 crisis and its economic fallout — and to aid in recovery.

"The need is unprecedented and will continue for the foreseeable future as we rebuild and recover from the effects of this crisis," said Melinda Mosier, Foundation director of donor services.

"We are genuinely honored to work with people whose generosity is helping

our communities through this time."

Grants have supported critical work for vulnerable people: Meals on Wheels for elders, child care for children of essential workers, support for survivors of domestic violence, mental health services and suicide prevention, emergency needs for vulnerable families — and more.

When the Foundation established the Community Crisis Action Fund on March 20, Barbara and Dick Couch (pictured on page 2) were among the first to respond.

"We felt the world shutting down around us, and there was almost a sense of panic and fear...but that instantly turned to: 'What could we do?'" Barbara Couch said.

Within days, they requested that a substantial amount be transferred

“I really hope that people who have the means really think about if they have done enough yet. I would ask people to look in the mirror and ask themselves ‘Have I done enough?’ and ‘Do I feel good about what I’ve done?’”

– Morgan Rutman, Foundation donor-advised fund holder

from their fund at the Foundation into the crisis fund to respond to immediate community need.

“We had every confidence in the Charitable Foundation to act quickly and with competence and compassion — and in its ability to deploy resources to the most vulnerable and marginalized populations,” Barbara added.

The Couches also manage a family foundation. In addition to contributing to the Community Crisis Action Fund, they decided to mirror the Foundation’s response strategy to make immediate, unrestricted grants, release multi-year funds early and provide maximum flexibility to grantees.

The Rutmans are spending down money now from their fund that they had initially planned to disburse over a period of years.

“Mike Tyson has a saying that everybody has a plan until you get punched in the face,” Morgan Rutman said. “COVID punched people in the face. The plan of having a reasonable amount of assets in the donor-advised fund that you would gradually spend over a long period of time is a great plan — but you have to adjust the plan because the need is unforeseen and at unprecedented levels.”

Brad and Sue Wyman, who live in the North Country, recommend grants from their donor-advised fund consistently for a variety of community needs. Sue, a retired teacher, also started a scholarship fund that helps Berlin High School graduates study math and science in college.

The pandemic re-shaped how the couple thought about their giving. In particular, they wanted to make sure that the amount they were recommending to grant from their donor-advised fund was proportional to what the current moment of crisis demanded.

“The metaphor would be a rainy day, and they don’t come any rainier than right now,” Brad said.

The Wymans had already recommended a generous contribution to the Community Crisis Action Fund in the spring. But they decided to make an additional ten-fold contribution — amounting to nearly a third of the total in their fund.

The effects of this crisis continue to unfold.

“I really hope that people who have the means really think about if they have done enough yet,” Morgan Rutman said. “I would ask people to look in the mirror and ask themselves ‘Have I done enough?’ and ‘Do I feel good about what I’ve done?’” ■



HOW YOU CAN HELP

New Hampshire’s nonprofits are providing critical services during this continuing public health emergency, and will be instrumental in rebuilding as our communities move forward. They need help more than ever to sustain operations and respond to community need. Please consider giving to help support their critical missions.

Here are three ways to help now:

- Give directly to nonprofits doing great work in our communities. The Foundation encourages gifts of unrestricted, operating support so nonprofits can put resources to work where they are most needed.
- Give to a community fund, like those established by United Way, or to the Foundation’s Community Crisis Action Fund, which distribute funds where they are urgently needed.
- If you are a fund holder at the Foundation and would like to use your fund to address increased community needs during this time, please call 1-800-464-6641 and choose option three for donor services, or email donorservices@nhcf.org.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

37 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301-4005

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

KEEPING COMMUNITIES HEALTHY

As a public health nurse, **Bobbie Bagley** has immunized people against the flu, piloted a public health van offering HIV testing, taught nursing, directed the Manchester Minority Health Coalition and served on her local volunteer fire department.

Now, as Director of Public Health for the City of Nashua, she tends to the public health of more than 200,000 people in 13 communities.

Since March, she has been working 10- to 16-hour days, seven days a week, managing the region's response to COVID-19.

When the first Nashua family had to isolate because of a positive COVID test, Bagley brought them food and a thermometer and made sure they had a way to get groceries. Since then, she has overseen community collaborations and systems responding to the crisis.

She also served on the Governor's COVID-19 Equity Response Team, which made recommendations in response to data showing that Black and Latinx people are disproportionately affected by COVID.

She applies her public health lens to everything she does, including her volunteer work as a member of the Foundation's Nashua Region Advisory Board.

The message she most wants people to hear now:

"We're not out of this pandemic yet. We still have to hunker down, we still have to be vigilant.

Wear your mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing and stay home if you are sick." ■

