

Do you have enough to eat?: **How we feed our neighbors in need.**



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Vermont Foodbank
Shining a Light on Poverty Series:
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WHAT IS THE VERMONT FOODBANK?

*THE MISSION OF THE VERMONT
FOODBANK IS TO GATHER AND
SHARE QUALITY FOOD AND
NURTURE PARTNERSHIPS SO
THAT NO ONE IN VERMONT WILL
GO HUNGRY.*



Vermont
Foodbank

VERMONT FOODBANK'S SOURCES OF FOOD:

Grocery Stores,
Food Manufacturers,
Individuals,
Other Businesses,
Schools



Farms



USDA Foods



277,000

Miles/year
logged by
Foodbank
trucks

The Vermont
Foodbank distributes
8 Million
pounds of food
each year

Network
partners rely
on the Vermont
Foodbank for
71%
of their
food needs

DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

Barre

Brattleboro

Wolcott

Warren

NETWORK PARTNERS

Our Network Partners

Food
Shelves



Soup
Kitchens



Senior
Meals

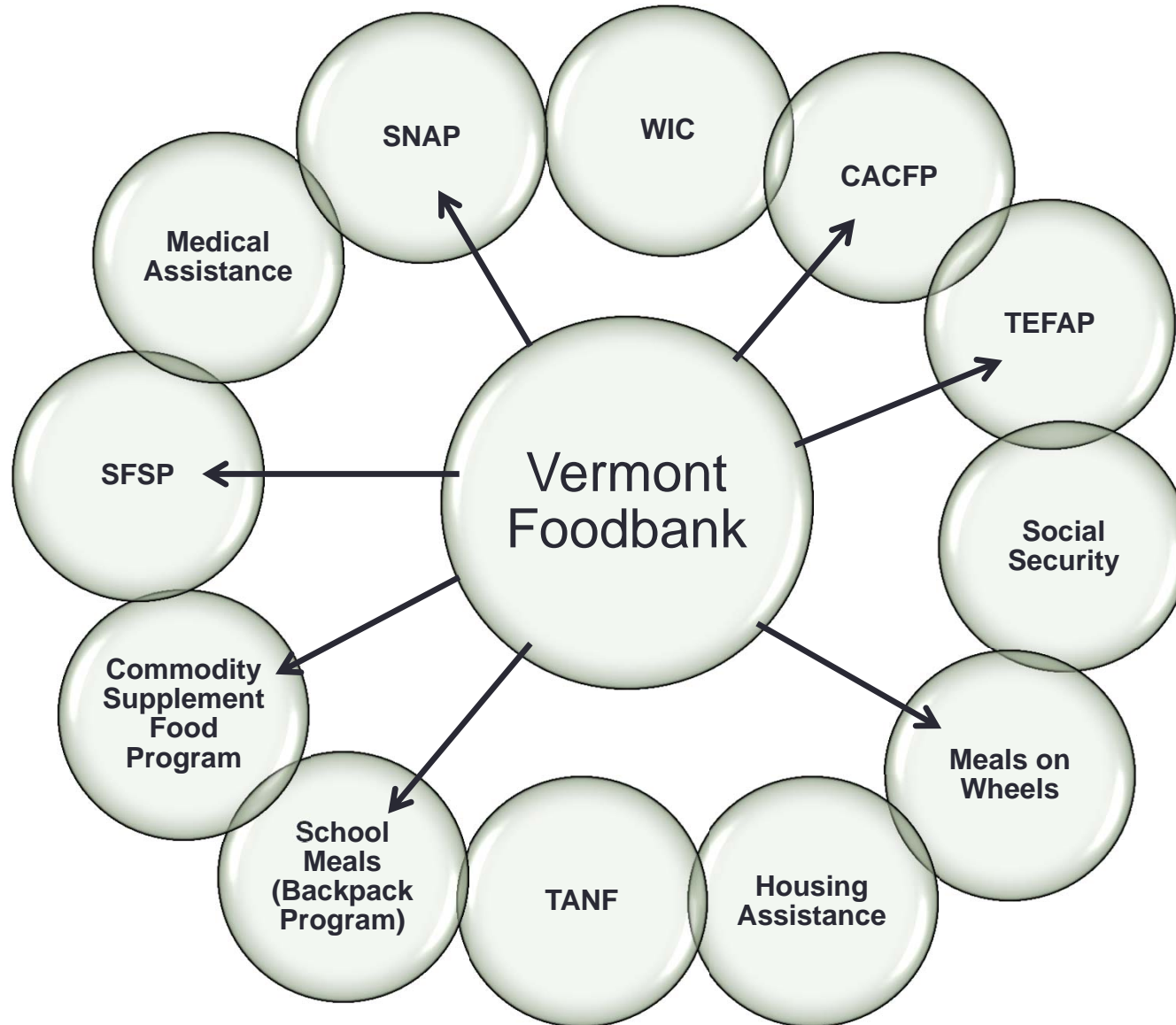
Youth
Programs



Emergency
Shelters

70% of our Network Partners are run by volunteers.

Where Charitable Food Fits





THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF HUNGER

❖ **The language of hunger has changed.**

- ❖ Instead of our neighbors being hungry, we say that our neighbors are food insecure. The USDA defines households as food insecure when “their lack of financial resources does not allow them to fully meet their basic food needs at all times.”

❖ **“Supplemental” nutritional services no longer meet the needs of our neighbors.**

- ❖ Many people take advantage of multiple supplemental nutrition services, but are still food insecure.

❖ **The “working poor”:** participants are working, but not earning enough to meet their basic needs.

- ❖ 36% of people needing assistance have at least one employed adult living in the household.

❖ **Food shelves are an important part of the “coping strategy” used by the food insecure.**

- ❖ People are using food shelves as a regular part of their monthly food supply.



THE CHANGING ROLE OF FOODBANKS

Definition of “Food Distribution”

In the 1980’s: The Vermont Foodbank distributed food by gathering food and distributing it to agencies. In it’s first year the foodbank distributed 145,000 pounds of food to 43 network partners through “direct” distribution.



By 2013: The Vermont Foodbank is distributing 8.1 million pounds of food through distribution to network partners, but also through programs like the Community Kitchen Academy, Backpack program, 3SquaresVT Outreach, School Food Pantry To-Go, and more!





- ❖ **The Foodbank no longer provides strictly “emergency food”:**

- ❖ People are using the Foodbank and Network Partners as part of their monthly food source.

- ❖ **The need is growing:**

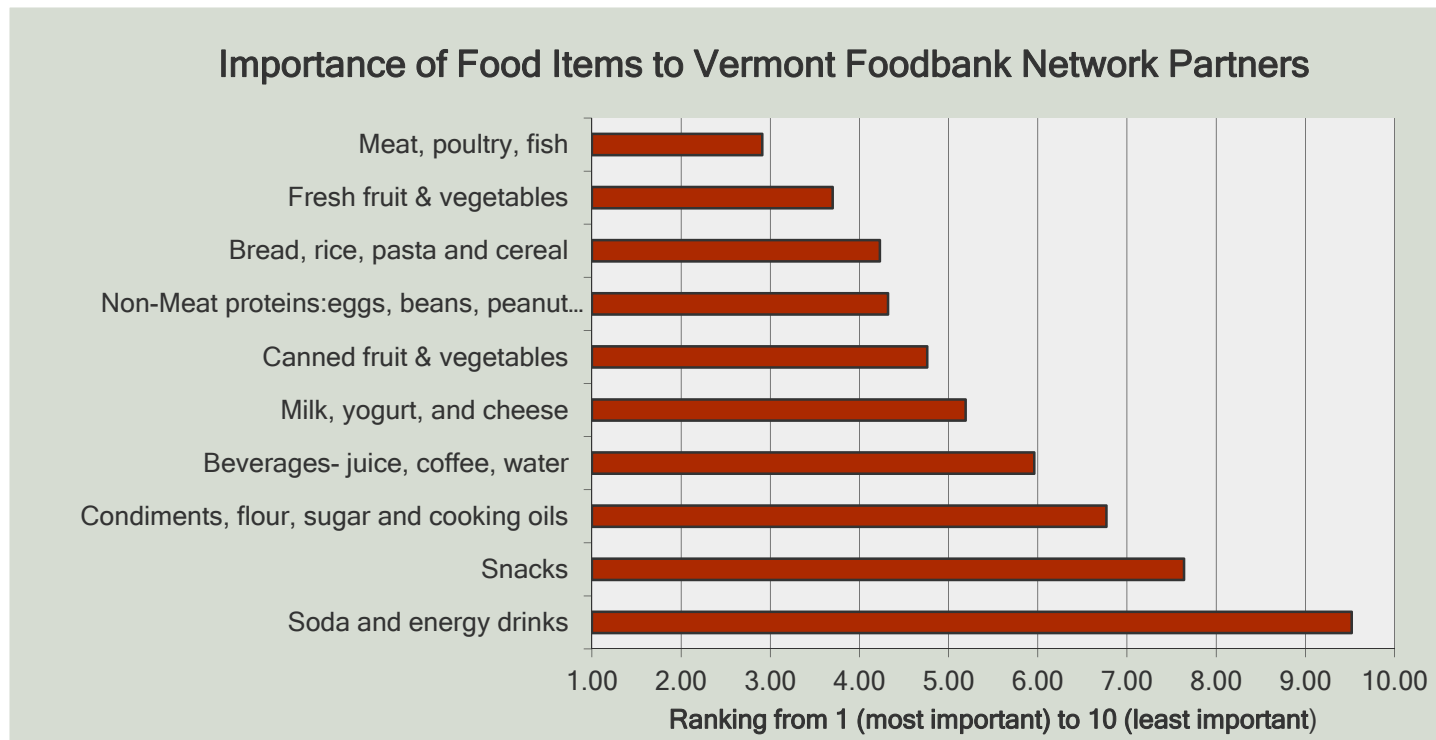
- ❖ In the 2010 Feeding America Hunger Study: Among the Vermont Foodbank’s network partners: 83% of pantries, 80% of kitchens, and 71% of shelters reported that there had been an increase since 2006 in the number of clients who come to their food program sites. The numbers are not in for the 2014 Hunger Study, but our network partners are reporting that they are seeing even more people at their agencies.

- ❖ **The supply of donated food is diminishing:**

- ❖ Increased efficiencies at food retailers have resulted in decreased surpluses of products that formerly were donated to Foodbanks.
- ❖ Sources of food potentially available to Foodbanks are “fresh” products like produce and government sources.


❖ Focus on health & nutrition:

- ❖ Network partners (and their participants) are asking for more fresh and nutritious items:



❖ Increased focus on the role of good food's relation to good health:

- ❖ Community Kitchen Academy
- ❖ HealthCareShares



With the increased focus on the role of good food in relation to good health, Foodbanks are positioned to use food as a way to connect with people, but we need partners to make lasting changes in our culture to address food insecurity.



HOW TO INCREASE OUR EFFECTIVENESS

Collective Impact

Collective Impact brings diverse organizations together with a common goal of solving a social problem. All actors involved collaborate in a highly-structured manner to make a true impact on a complex issue.
(FSG)

Principles for Collective Impact

Common Agenda

- **Common understanding** of the problem
- **Shared vision** for change

Shared Measurement

- **Collecting data** and **measuring results**
- Focus on **performance management**
- **Shared accountability**

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- **Differentiated approaches**
- Willingness to **adapt individual activities**
- **Coordination** through joint plan of action

Continuous Communication

- **Consistent** and **open communication**
- Focus on **building trust**

Backbone Support

- Separate organization(s) with **staff**
- Resources and skills to **convene** and **coordinate** participating organizations

Collaboration Supports Collective Impact

Collaboration

Organizations coming together to deliver a program (i.e. distributing food)

- Collaboration builds the foundation and opens the door for collective impact



Collective Impact

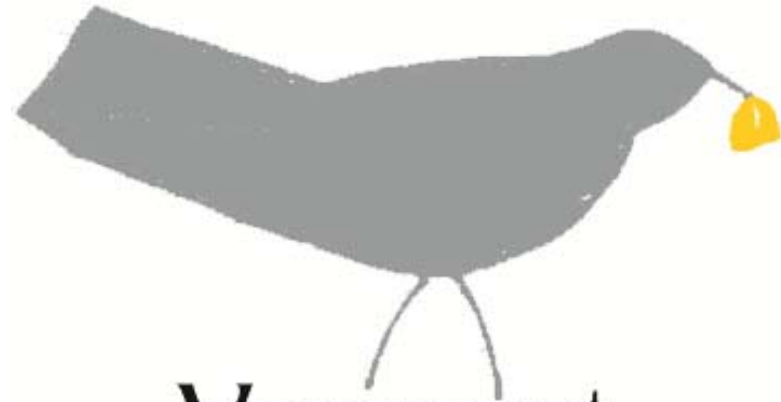
Communities coming together to achieve a common desired outcome or result.

- Community partners engage in rigorous planning using data to align on common outcomes, strategies and interventions, build evidence and share in collective accountability.

We are stronger as one.

By breaking down the “silos” of services; by understanding the roles that we all play and by working together, we can draw on each other’s strengths, learn from each other’s experiences, and work to that common purpose. In doing this, we have a better chance of reaching our goal and addressing the needs of our friends and neighbors.





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Any questions?