



The Department of Health's Center for Food Protection has started a groundbreaking program structured by the policy goals expressed in Rhode Island's Food Strategy. *The Rhode to End Hunger* is an ambitious project that hopes to alleviate food hunger and insecurity in Rhode Island by creating a sustainable system in which food donors (restaurants, bakeries, catering companies; etc.) contribute their excess wholesome foods to soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the state of Rhode Island.

We would like you to be involved in our effort of reducing food insecurity of at-risk populations in the state while simultaneously reducing the amount of wholesome food that is wasted. The *Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* (42 U.S. Code § 1791) protects donors whom are donating safe wholesome foods in good faith from liability. There is also a federal tax deduction for donated food under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code which makes all companies eligible for an enhanced tax deduction based on the fair-market value per pound of food donated.

The web based application called MEANS helps match food donors to meal sites. The Department of Health is pairing with MEANS to make sure that unused wholesome food is given to people in need instead of disposed of. We are asking you to be on the frontline of our cause by being some the organizations to take part in *the Rhode to End Hunger* by signing up for MEANS.