



Guests begin shopping for free food at Connecticut Foodshare's newest mobile food pantry in Stamford, CT.

## Connecticut Foodshare Announces Strategic Plan to Improve Food Security

Over 500,000 neighbors across Connecticut are facing hunger, and food insecurity has increased by 40% since 2020. To address the tremendous need, Connecticut Foodshare's newest strategic plan is focusing on four pillars through 2028: increase food access; bolster food supply; mobilize support; and strengthen our organization.

### PILLAR A: INCREASE FOOD ACCESS

By 2028, we aim to advance partnerships and programs throughout Connecticut to offer food assistance that is accessible, equitable, coordinated, and effective through three supporting strategies:

**Improve access for neighbors:** We are making data-driven decisions to better understand and serve areas across the state where there are existing gaps in access to food. For example, last year we added more food distribution sites in Stamford, Waterbury, and New Haven, where need is not only high, but food assistance services may be lacking or need strengthening.

**Expand SNAP application assistance efforts:**  
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan



During the SNAP shutdown last year, our mobile food pantries provided additional food to families.

(SNAP) is the most powerful tool for increasing food access – for every meal that a food bank can help provide, SNAP can provide nine.

Continued on page 2 

Connecticut Foodshare's SNAP Outreach Team helps people apply for SNAP over the phone. Last year we assisted 2,645 households in applying for SNAP, a 24% increase from the prior year. We plan to strengthen our efforts to help more eligible households have access to the benefits they need. We recognize that expanding SNAP's enrollment will lessen the pressure on the charitable food system in Connecticut and more equitably distribute our resources statewide.

**Ensure access is dignified and convenient:** We aim to meet neighbors where they are through a welcoming and supportive experience of accessing food. We invested over \$3M in grants to agency partners across the state to fortify their programs and improve the experience of obtaining food assistance. Our teams are supporting the state's food pantries and meal programs to build capacity and strengthen the quality of services for our neighbors.

Your support makes all of this work possible — helping our neighbors have the food and dignity they deserve — because this is our community, our food bank.

**Scan here to stay up to date on this new strategic plan!**



*"The signs have made the guest experience better by providing key information and a friendly welcome in a language they're likely to know. Sometimes even small changes can make a big difference for the people you serve!"*  
- Open Doors, Norwalk – Community Impact Grant Recipient

*"We are able to purchase and transport far more fresh food from local wholesalers than before - and do it with fewer trips. Having our own vehicle has greatly relieved the pressure on volunteers." - Daily Bread Food Pantry, Danbury – Community Impact Grant Recipient*



## Reflections From Jason



**Jason Jakubowski**  
President and CEO

The landscape of food banking has changed faster than anyone expected since our last strategic plan. Food is harder to source, and it's more expensive. Nearly 600 agency partners are seeing more people than ever before, many of whom never imagined they would need help.

So, here's the reality: we cannot slow down. We cannot wait for things to "get back to normal." Our neighbors need us now.

That's why we built a new strategic plan for 2025–2028. And we built it with as much data, research, and compassion as the plan that came before it. We brought in neighbors, volunteers, partners, donors,

our Board of Directors and staff — the people who live and support our mission every day. Those connections and conversations helped form the plan's pillars that will build upon the achievements of the last three years. These pillars aren't just goals, they are a call to action.

While this newsletter focuses on Increasing Food Access, you will receive updates on all of the new pillars as the year – and the plan – progresses.

Community support will not only help families get the food they need today, but will lay the foundation for brighter futures. That's the impact you make possible.

As I look ahead, I feel real urgency, but I also feel hope because our community is capable of so much. Now we have to push even harder.

Together we can deepen our impact and move Connecticut closer to lasting food security - town by town, family by family.

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT: **Miranda Muro**



**Meet Miranda, our Senior Director of Network Relations,** who helps ensure communities have access to the food they need through a network of food pantries.

**Q:** How did you get started in food banking?

**A:** I enjoy getting to know my community and doing what I can to help. When I was in second grade, I organized a food drive with one of my friends and Governor Rell came out to see it because we collected a lot of food!



Hear more from Miranda  
in her own words.

## Save The Date



Connecticut Foodshare

# Walk Against Hunger

Connecticut Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger brings neighbors, families, and teams together to raise awareness and critical funds to fight hunger in our communities. Every step you take helps ensure individuals and families have access to healthy, nutritious food.

**When: Saturday, April 25, 2026**  
**Registration starts at 8:00 am.**  
**The Walk steps off at 10:00 am.**

**Where: Dunkin' Park, Hartford, CT**  
**Emcees: Renee DiNino and Scot Haney**



## Taste of SoNo

Mark your calendars—Taste of SoNo returns to Fairfield County this May for its second year! This unforgettable evening will showcase some of the area's best restaurants, mixologists, and brewers, all coming together in support of Connecticut Foodshare's mission.

**When: Thursday, May 28, 2026**

**Where: The Magnificent Room at The SoNo Collection**

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, **please contact our Events Manager, Chevron Reid, at [creid@ctfoodshare.org](mailto:creid@ctfoodshare.org).**

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