## John Sayles

 Chief Executive Officer \&
## Carrie Stahler

Government and Public Affairs Officer

Vermont Foodbank
gather • share • nurture

## Vermont Foodbank Mission

- Mission: to gather and share quality food and nurture partnerships so that no one in Vermont will go hungry
- A food distribution organization
- Provide nutritious food to people in need through a network of more than 300 network and community partners - food shelves, meal sites, senior centers, after-school programs, schools, and hospitals - in communities serving all 14 counties in Vermont.


## Hunger in Vermont

## Hunger before \& throughout the pandemic

- Food insecurity had been declining steadily since spiking during the Great Recession and had been holding steady at 1 in 10 Vermonters for several years
- It took 10 years to return to pre-recession levels of hunger
- The Vermont Foodbank was serving 1 in 4 people annually
- 1 in 10 is an unacceptable level of hunger to return to as the status quo


people in VT are food insecure.

Today, even more people are experiencing food insecurity than at the height of the pandemic*.

*From University of Vermont NFACT research team at:"A 2022 Assessment of Food Security and | Health Outcomes during the COVI" by Ashley C. |
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| McCarthy, Farryl Bertmann et al. (uvm.edu) |

## Hunger Inequities in Vermont

## Due to the pandemic and current economic crisis, food insecurity rates are higher for certain groups of people:

1.8XPeople identifying as women were $1.8 x$ more likely to experience food insecurity than men.

3.1xHouseholds experiencing a job disruption during the pandemic were 3.1x more likely to be food insecure than households without a job disruption.
6.9X Households with an annual income below \$50K werle 6.9 x more likely to be food insecure than households making \$50k per year or more.

## VT Foodbank Food Distribution Programs



- The Vermont Foodbank Distributed:
- 11.7 million Ibs of food in 2019 (pre-pandemic)
- From 2020-2022, 49.7 million lbs of food were distributed across Vermont
- VeggieVanGo saw a 127\% increase in participation from 2019 to 2022
- 60\% of the Foodbank's network reports an increase in usage in the past year



# We Work With MORE THAN 320 

 Food Shelves, Meal Sites, Hospitals, Schools, \& Community Partners
## IMPACT

More Than


50 Million Pounds of Food Distributed Since 2020

More Than


300 Vermont Farms
Supported Through
Purchasing \& Gleaning

More Than

\$2.4 Million Stayed in the Local Economy in FY22

Vermont Foodbank

## What you can do:

Fund the Vermont
Foodbank \& our network's continued efforts to provide food to food-insecure households with \$3 million in base funding.


## Thank you for your time.

Vermont Foodbank

vtfoodbank.org

