



Food For Free

Bridging the gap between waste and want

January 2015 Newsletter

Board of Directors

Peggy Kutcher
President

John Musser
Vice President

Dana Philbrook
Treasurer

Joanna Vanden
Clerk

Erik Brown

Anne Cushman

Maggie McNally

Kirsten Sims

Staff

Sasha Purpura
Executive Director

Michelle Holcomb
Development Director

Kelly Worrall
Operations Director

Produce Rescue

Adam Collins

Julio Francisco

Dann Friedman

Christian Oviedo

Jose Santana

Home Delivery

Simon Walsh

Field of Greens

Jordan McCarron

Matt Crawford

Administration

Veronica Barron

Hello and Happy New Year!

2014 was a year of growth and change at Food For Free. The best news? We almost doubled the amount of food we diverted from the waste stream! In 2013 we reported rescuing approximately 700,000 pounds of food. That means, without Food For Free, all of that food would have gone to landfill or compost instead of to the people who most need it. But, in 2014 we rescued nearly 1.3 million pounds! That's an amazing number and it's due to the hard work of our staff, the commitment of our food donors, and your support.

That's not all that took place though. In 2014 we doubled our home deliveries, started picking up at Whole Foods and Trader Joes 7 days a week, hired our first ever operations director, increased the number of recipient agencies to which we distribute by almost 25%, started distributing food in 4 new cities, kicked off 2 new programs—a mobile food pantry in collaboration with ABCD and a prepared food rescue program in partnership with Harvard University—and changed our fiscal year to better align with our revenue cycle.

We hope you've been keeping up with our progress via our email newsletters, website blog, and Facebook updates, but for those of you who prefer good old paper communications, we didn't want you to miss out. This short newsletter will highlight some of our more significant updates while also giving me the opportunity to once again thank you for your ongoing support.

As I mentioned, 2014 was a year of growth. This was only possible because we have such a strong and consistent support base in all of

you. You have said our work matters. You have made Food For Free a priority. Because of that, we distributed over 50% more food in 2014, diverted nearly 100% more food from the waste stream, reached nearly 25% more agencies, and ensured that many more of your neighbors had access to the fresh, healthy foods they need.

Our fiscal year now runs from July 1 to June 30 each year (changed from a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year). We're including our 2014 ½ year financials in this document. Don't be alarmed when you see a deficit of \$144,312. As I mentioned, we've changed our fiscal year to better align with our revenue cycle—that is to say, we often receive about 60% of our annual revenue between the months of October and December. Adjusting our fiscal year simplifies our budgeting process and, as an added benefit, better aligns with the fiscal years of some of our larger funders. As a result, you can expect to see our annual report in the fall of 2015.

We begin this new year deeply grateful for our community of supporters. We are excited about what we can accomplish in 2015 with the backing of so many committed individuals, businesses, and foundations and look forward to sharing our successes with you.

Sasha Purpura



Income

Contracts & Grants	\$43,180
Individual and Business Donations	\$23,354
Events and appeals	\$54,966
In-kind donations	\$500
Investment income	\$190
TOTAL INCOME	\$122,190

Expenses

Salaries	\$143,397
Payroll taxes	\$14,630
Fringe benefits	\$20,449
Total compensation & benefits	\$178,476
Rent	\$2,400
Depreciation	\$16,512
Total occupancy costs	\$18,912
Transportation, travel and meals	\$15,890
Food Purchases	\$14,583
Insurance	\$9,736
Total program expenses	\$39,849
Administrative and office	\$2,282
Special event costs	\$468
Bank and credit card fees	\$1,915
Telephone and communications	\$3,758
Printing, postage, & publications	\$10,303
Accounting and bookkeeping	\$9,512
Miscellaneous	\$1,027
Total other expenses	\$29,265
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$266,502

Finances for the Six Months Ending June 30, 2014

Thank you to our 2014 Party Under the Harvest Moon Sponsors

Your support will be reflected in our 2015 Financials

Harvest Moon Sponsors



FORESTCITY



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology



Communications Sponsors



Neighborhood Sponsors: Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Boston Organics, Cambridge Trust Company, Classic Graphx, Four Burgers, Harvard/MIT Co-op, Prellwitz Chilinski Associates

2014 Program Highlights

Expansion of Home Delivery Services

In January of 2014, thanks to a generous gift from a local supporter, Food For Free was able to expand our Home Delivery Program by offering clients a second delivery each month. Currently, 86 of our 94 clients are availing themselves of this option. Clients who accept both deliveries are receiving approximately 80 pounds of food each month, about half of which is fresh fruit and vegetables.



Weekend Food Collection

“Would it be possible for you to pick up on the weekend?”

This is a question we’ve heard often from our retail partners. Thanks to a collaboration with Tufts Food Rescue and BU’s Student Food Rescue, we can now say “yes!”

By partnering with these two student-run groups, we have been able to provide weekend pickups for five of our existing partner stores.

Food For Free serves as the single point of contact for each store and coordinates all of the pick-ups to ensure consistency and reliability,

while the student groups provide additional weekend coverage.

Prepared Foods Rescue

On October 1, Massachusetts implemented a commercial food waste ban, prohibiting the disposal of large quantities of food waste via the municipal waste stream. Businesses and institutions that produce more than 1 ton of waste per week must now find other avenues for dealing with their surplus foods.

Last June, in anticipation of this legislation, Food For Free launched a pilot Prepared Foods Rescue program in partnership with Harvard University, collecting from a single dining hall during the summer months. Pilot successful, Prepared Food Rescue was expanded to serve 14 Harvard dining halls in September.

In this new program, Harvard freezes un-served food after each meal and Food For Free picks it up for distribution to meal programs and shelters.

Right now, this means an additional 2,000+ pounds a week of prepared food. That’s almost 2000 meals a week!

Mobile Food Pantry

In September Food For Free teamed up with Action for Boston Community Development to start a mobile food pantry. The new program brings groceries to families being housed in hotels/motels in Brighton, serving 40 households—about 170 individuals—per month. Food For Free provides fresh fruit and vegetables as well as the all-important transportation services.

New Staff

Kelly Worrall, Operations Director

In June Food For Free welcomed Kelly Worrall into the new position of Operations Director.

Operations Director is a new role at Food For Free. Kelly is spending a lot of time on the trucks, getting to know our recipient agencies and food donors. With her oversight, we are getting a more comprehensive understanding of our recipients’ and donors’ needs and our own capacity. Kelly’s chief goal is to help Food For Free become more strategic and efficient in our movement of food.

In joining Food For Free, Kelly has made quite a change in her career. With a degree in chemistry from Wheaton College, she provided customer service and application support as a Senior Field Automation Engineer at TECAN, a global manufacturer of liquid handling robotics.

She brings incredible leadership and problem-solving skills to her role, as well as a contagiously positive outlook.

José Santana, Driver

José Santana joined the team in October. Like Kelly, he had volunteered for Food For Free in the past, so we knew he would make a great addition.

Santana takes point on Prepared Foods collections from fourteen Harvard University dining halls, picking up thousands of meals each week.

Previously, Santana was a prep chef at Whole Foods Markets. His knowledge of the stores and network of relationships has proven a huge advantage to his work here, but it’s clear that Santana makes friends everywhere he goes. Says Kelly, “Besides being one of the hardest working guys I know, he is always smiling, polite, and eager to help.”

He goes by his last name, so feel free to shout out “Hey, Santana!” next time you see him out driving the trucks.

2015 Dates to Remember

See foodforfree.org/events
for more information

February 5

Didriks Kick-off Party
Didriks, Cambridge

March 9

Music for Food Concert
New England Conservatory

April 18

Empty Bowls Fundraiser
Mudflat Studio, Somerville

April 27

Music for Food Concert
New England Conservatory

Wednesdays, May-October

Volunteer shifts at Field of Greens
Field of Greens, Lincoln
foodforfree.org/volunteer

August 31

Tickets go on sale for
The Party Under the Harvest Moon

September 20

Three Squares New England
Ride for Food
Dedham
www.threesquaresne.org

October 16

Party Under the Harvest Moon
Morss Hall, MIT, Cambridge

Food For Free
11 Inman Street
Cambridge MA 02139