



Willing Hands

Impact Report

Spring 2024



2023 By the Numbers

855
people need food
every day in the
Upper Valley

1,207,530 lbs
of CO₂e avoided
through food recovery
and gleaning

561
volunteers

135
food donors

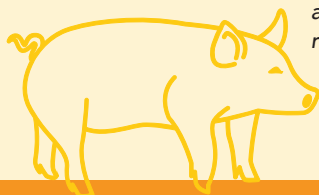
Food sourced:
944,535 lbs
(getting closer to our goal
of 1 million pounds!)

Food delivered:
846,461 lbs*

*** Why the difference?**
Willing Hands staff
and volunteers sort
recovered produce.
Anything unfit for
distribution goes to a
local pig farmer.

72
delivery site
partners

2x Since 2020,
we have **doubled** the
amount of local food
we source annually.



Behind the scenes

Staff

Chris Castles

Operations Manager

Sara Cavin

Manager of Programs

Alec Fannin

Gleaning Coordinator

J Green, Driver ★**Peter Griggs, Driver****Krista Karlson**

Outreach & Development Manager

Gordon McKusick ★

Driver

Katie Ryan-O'Flaherty

Mission Impact Coordinator

Christine Savage ★

Community Engagement Coordinator

Tim Sevigny

Warehouse & Delivery Coordinator

Beth Svahn-Monroe ★

Administrative Coordinator

Scott Trombley

Warehouse Coordinator

Mikey Van Siclen

Farming Coordinator

Gabe Zoerheide

Executive Director

Board of Directors

Leslie Rimmer

President

Johanna Miranda

Vice President

Shari McLaughlin

Treasurer

Janet Hardy

Secretary

Laurie Beyranevand ★**Gary Brooks****Amanda Charland** ★

Rebecca Hooper
Holland

Saranya Loehrer**Suzanne McDowell****Cyndi Scott****Sheldon Stansfield****Chuck Wooster** ★

★ = New staff or board member!

Dear friends,

Willing Hands was founded in 2004 with the idea that nourishing food should be available to everyone and that we all can have a role in reducing waste. Twenty years later, these are still the tenets that drive our work. Over two decades, this community of volunteers, staff, financial and food donors, farmers, and like minded nonprofits have distributed almost 40 million servings of food. This spring, we will handle our 10 millionth pound of food. Over this time, Willing Hands has become indispensable to the Upper Valley social safety net and the 30,000 people who we serve each year.

For many years, we have described our mission as reducing waste, supporting food security, and equitably offering nutritious food. Reducing waste is often thought of as an end in itself. Waste is something that we, as flinty New Englanders, have an almost primal reaction to. Over time, we came to understand that reducing food waste is an essential tool for confronting climate change. We may have known about climate change back in 2004, but now it's undeniable that it will be a defining force of our lifetimes.

Our work over these years is to make nourishing food a right and not a privilege. To provide equitable access to what every person needs to thrive. This work is as essential now as it was back in the early aughts. We appreciate the vision of our founders and the sweat, dirty hands, compassion, and optimism that have enabled this work to continue.

Gabe Zoerheide, Executive Director



Welcome, New Board Members!



Laurie
Beyranevand

PROFESSION: Director of the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law & Graduate School

PASSION: The power of food to bring people together



Amanda
Charland

PROFESSION: General Manager of the Co-op Food Stores and Auto Service Centers

PASSION: Finding innovative ways to support the community through cooperative business practices



Chuck
Wooster

PROFESSION: Owner, Sunrise Farm

PASSION: Land stewardship and civic engagement

Impact Spotlight

88%
of site partners get
the majority of their
fresh produce from
Willing Hands.

Looking ahead: Our forthcoming Strategic Plan has a strong emphasis on serving our community with **equitable & reliable access** to fresh foods.



Most neighbors who receive Willing Hands food at income-eligible housing sites **rely on our service every week** to supplement their weekly grocery trips. This underscores the importance of consistent, year-round deliveries to meaningfully improve food security.

“The families we serve are eating healthier than they were just a few years ago. We’re so grateful that we can provide fruit and vegetables to our clients through Willing Hands.”

—Bethel Area Food Shelf

Thank you to Twin Pines Housing Trust and Lebanon Housing Authority for partnering with Willing Hands to study the impact of our fresh food deliveries. Thank you to the Center for Advancing Rural Health Equity (CARHE) at Dartmouth Health for funding this work.

Community Climate Solutions



More than a year ago, we set out with an ambitious goal: measure the climate impact of our work, and then identify ways to double that impact. With support and guidance from a group of community climate leaders, we refined dozens of strategies for reducing direct emissions from our daily operations and increasing avoided emissions from food recovery. With the plan in place, work has already begun: We recently installed a heat pump in the Willing Hands office, and we’re in the process of buying an electric van and cultivating new food recovery partners. **Learn more: willinghands.org/impact/climate**

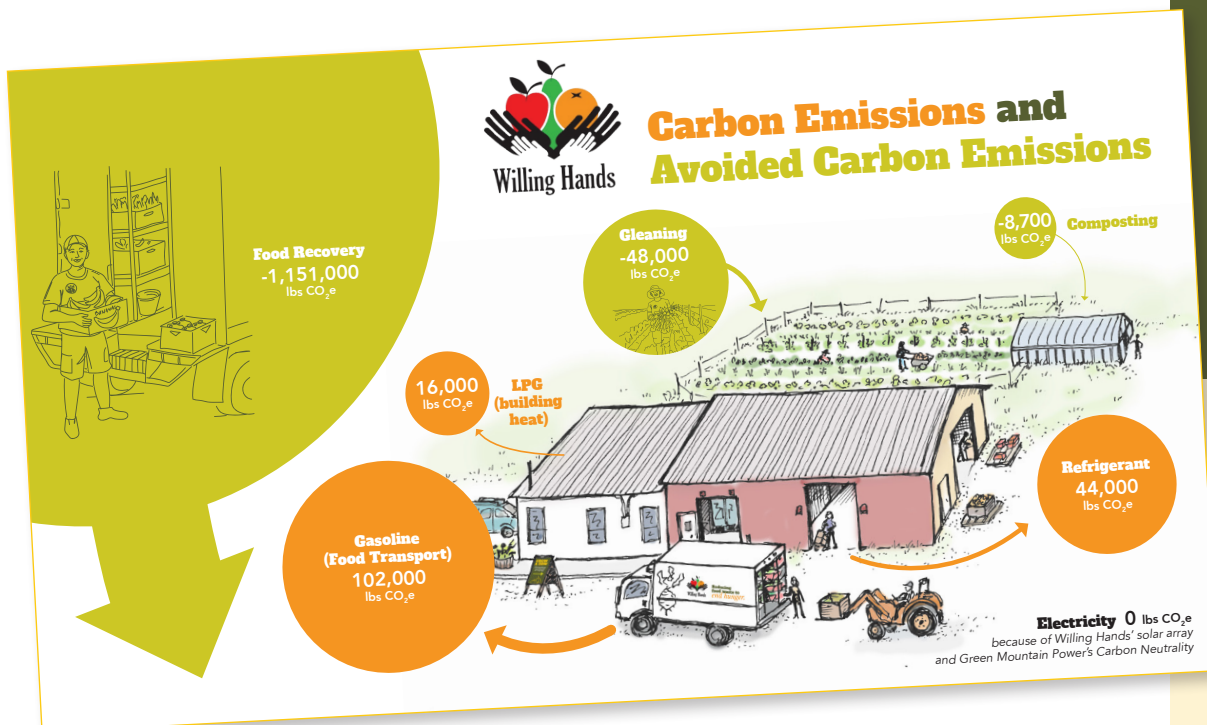
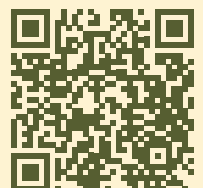
Fast Facts

Willing Hands is **carbon negative** by 1 million pounds CO₂e

Installing a heat pump will **reduce propane usage by 75%**

Reducing food waste has the potential to **reduce 10x as much CO₂e** as the transition to electric cars

Scan to watch our video on climate work





**Reducing
food waste to
*end hunger.***

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WHT RIV JCT VT
PERMIT 86

198 Church Street
Norwich, VT 05055
willinghands.org

68,822 lbs
of food harvested by
community members

273
new volunteers

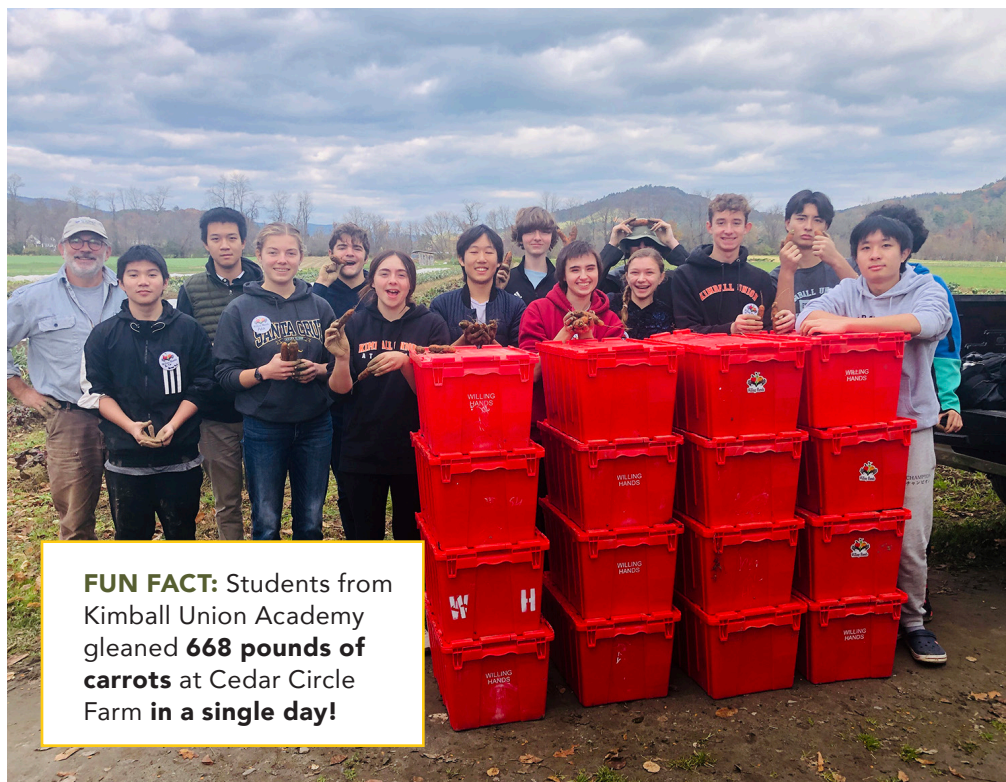


Thank you, Tito's
Block to Block
Program! With
support from Tito's,
Willing Hands
brought our River Road garden into
production and installed a sign to
share our work with the community.

**"This could easily
turn into the most
gratifying volunteer
work you will ever do."**

—Willing Hands volunteer

Willing Hands at Work
Thank you, volunteers!



FUN FACT: Students from
Kimball Union Academy
gleaned **668 pounds of
carrots** at Cedar Circle
Farm **in a single day!**