



Willing Hands

Impact Report

Spring 2025



3,771,416
servings
of fresh food
delivered

748
volunteers

48,288 lbs
of food harvested
from the **Willing
Hands Gardens**

64,424 lbs
of food gleaned
from **farm partners**

"I appreciate the opportunity to volunteer doing something I love, being outdoors, and seeing the very real results of my labor."

—2024 Willing Hands volunteer

Behind the scenes

Staff

Gabe Zoerheide
Executive Director

Dave Yesman
Driver

Scott Trombley
Warehouse Coordinator

Beth Svahn-Monroe
Administrative
Coordinator

J. Cherry Sullivan
Director of Programs

Tim Sevigny
Warehouse & Delivery
Coordinator

Christine Savage
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Ehrin Lingeman ★
Farm Manager

Peter Griggs
Driver and Gleaning
Assistant

Alec Fannin
Gleaning & Food Recovery
Coordinator

Anna Cloutier
Outreach & Development
Coordinator

Sara Cavin
Special Projects Manager

Chris Castles
Operations Manager

Shara Buffington
Gleaning Assistant

Board of Directors

Leslie Rimmer
President

Johanna Miranda
Vice President

Janet Hardy
Secretary

Chuck Wooster
Treasurer

Amanda Charland

Stacey Chiochio

Saranya Loehrer

Suzanne McDowell

Zeb Mushlin ★

Cyndi Scott

Kathleen Sherrieb ★

Sheldon Stansfield

★ = New staff or
board member!

Dear friends,

With rising inflation and economic uncertainty, the need for Willing Hands' work is stronger than ever. I joined Willing Hands as the first ever Director of Programs nearly a year ago. With a background in community health, I understand how critical this organization is for meeting the increasing need for free, nourishing food in the Upper Valley. Every day over the past year I have seen how our work makes a difference for our neighbors. With a mission of recovering, growing, and gleaning food, we are dedicated not only to the fight against hunger but also to tackling the environmental impact of good food going uneaten. When food goes to waste in landfills, it contributes to harmful greenhouse gas emissions. By recovering this food, we help improve public health and the environment.

I am proud to work with an incredible team of passionate volunteers, community partners, staff, and donors. In 2024, this team came together to create two new efforts: a new partnership for gleaning (harvesting food that would otherwise go to waste) at Harlow Farm in Westminster, Vermont and the "Veggies for Vets" initiative, which provides weekly boxes of fresh produce to patients at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, Vermont.

Looking ahead to 2025, I want to emphasize how crucial these and all our partnerships are. Food insecurity is not an isolated issue; it reflects broader inequalities in our society. Although the road to addressing food inequality is challenging, we remain committed to working alongside you as we tackle these issues together.

We're excited to continue nourishing our neighbors and making a difference in the coming year!

Cherry

J. Cherry Sullivan, Director of Programs



Welcome, New Staff & Board Members!

Board member

**Kathleen
Sherrieb**

Kathy has a professional background in nursing and public health. She focused on maternal child health clinical care, and later did research related to disasters and mental health. Since retirement, she has volunteered locally, and founded and continues to manage the Lyme Food Pantry.

Board member

Zeb Mushlin

Zeb is Hypertherm's Finance Director for Global Sales and Marketing. He has extensive experience on Upper Valley nonprofit Boards, including Cover Home Repair.

Staff

Ehrin Lingeman

FARM MANAGER

Ehrin joins Willing Hands with a deep understanding of organic farming and education. Having previously worked at Sunrise Farm, Vermont Garden Network, and most recently Thetford Academy, she's eager to grow in the Willing Hands gardens and nurture our volunteer community!



Impact Spotlights

Community-Scale Climate Solutions

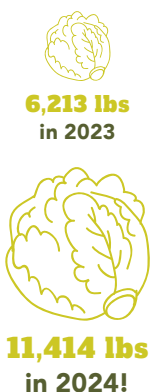
Reducing food waste is one of the most impactful actions we can take to address the climate crisis. Our 2024 food recovery efforts prevented emissions of 1,280,130 lbs of CO₂ by keeping thousands of pounds of food from rotting in landfills. Through our own operations—refrigerating and transporting food—we directly emitted 103,679 lbs of CO₂, a 36% decrease from 2023. This comes to a **net negative carbon footprint of 1,176,451 lbs of CO₂ emissions.**

Read our Climate Action Plan to learn more



Harlow Farm

Willing Hands welcomed a new partner, Harlow Farm, and added a weekly volunteer session to glean lettuce last season. Harlow Farm is a large, organic vegetable farm in Westminster, Vermont. Because of this, we saw an **84% increase in the amount of fresh lettuce** we recovered and delivered to community members.



Veggies for Vets

In partnership with the White River Junction VA Medical System, we piloted a 16-week program to increase Veterans' access to fresh food. Each week, Willing Hands volunteers assembled boxes of produce that were delivered to the VA. About **650 Veterans enjoyed boxes of fresh produce.**



Share a Share

222 generous community members supported local farms and fed the community through the Share a Share program by contributing CSA shares to Willing Hands. Because of this, **we delivered 8,480 pounds** of fresh, locally grown food to neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Grow a Row

We invite home gardeners to grow a little extra food and donate it to us. We also accept eggs from backyard flocks and extra meat from local hunters. **4,037 pounds of garden-fresh goodies** were donated, giving more members of the community the chance to enjoy delicious, fresh food.

2024 By the Numbers

144
food donors

76
recipient sites

942,854 lbs
of food delivered

Willing Hands delivers to food shelves, shelters, and many other social service organizations around the Upper Valley. **We are the primary source of perishable food**—fruits, veggies, eggs, milk, and bread—for most of our delivery sites and the thousands of people they serve every week.

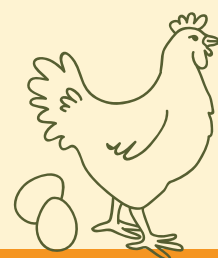
Top foods sourced:

Apples
45,073 lbs

Bread
34,377 lbs

Squash
33,411 lbs

Eggs
27,865 lbs





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

198 Church Street
Norwich, VT 05055
willinghands.org

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US POSTAGE
PAID
WHT RIV JCT VT
PERMIT 86

Grow a Row Donor Spotlight **Eastman Community Gardeners**

The Eastman Community Gardeners have been growing extra produce for Willing Hands since the inception of our Grow a Row program. During the gardening season, David Greenfield of Eastman, leads the effort to organize the Eastman Community Gardeners' Grow a Row contributions and delivers the delicious produce to the Willing Hands facility in Norwich each week. This is no small effort as the Eastman Community Gardeners total about 60 gardeners and, in 2024, collectively donated **529 pounds of their garden goodies!**

PHOTO: DAVID GREENFIELD



Learn more about
donating from your
garden at [willinghands.
org/donate-food](http://willinghands.org/donate-food)