



Willing Hands

Willing Hands

Impact Report

Spring 2026



“We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Willing Hands. Receiving produce, milk, eggs, and other products has helped us immensely in making sure that we are meeting the needs of our community.”

—Orange County Parent Child Center

Increasing Community Reach

85 food recipient sites in 2025, up from 76 in 2024



Behind the scenes

Staff

Shara Buffington
Gleaning Coordinator

Chris Castles
Operations Manager

Sara Cavin
Special Projects Manager

Nicole Ekegren
Bookkeeper

Brant Flint
Operations Coordinator

Pete Griggs
Driver

Ehrin Lingeman
Farm Manager

Christine Savage
Community Engagement Coordinator

Tim Sevigny
Warehouse & Delivery Coordinator

J. Cherry Sullivan
Director of Programs

Beth Svahn-Monroe
Administrative Coordinator

Scott Trombley
Warehouse Coordinator

Dave Yesman
Driver

Gabe Zoerheide
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Stacey Chiochio
President

Leslie Rimmer
Vice President

Janet Hardy
Secretary

Chuck Wooster
Treasurer

Amanda Charland

Brenda Jordan ★

Lizzie King ★

Saranya Loehrer

Johanna Mirenda

Zeb Mushlin

Arundell Robinson ★

Cyndi Scott

Kathy Sherrieb

Lindsay Sturman ★

★ = New board member!

Dear friends,

We are committed to creating food equity by securing and distributing fresh food to the Upper Valley. Our food access partners make our work possible by getting this recovered, gleaned, and surplus food directly to community members who need it. This report includes a profile of our volunteer partners in Cornish, NH, who have created an incredible community resource through their weekly free food market at the Cornish Town Hall. Last year, the volunteer-led team distributed over **17,000 pounds** of food donated by Willing Hands. This fall, we were excited to bring Brenda Jordan, one of the leaders in Cornish, onto the Willing Hands Board. Brenda joins Kathy Sherrieb of the Lyme Food Pantry as Board members that serve on the front lines of food equity in the Upper Valley. Thank you, Brenda and Kathy, for your leadership and support.

In 2025, we were supported by 85 food access partners, the most ever in a year. The Upper Valley Haven and LISTEN Community Services each received more than **100,000 pounds of food** for their critical comprehensive programs. In Claremont, the Soup Kitchen received over **60,000 pounds**, and Baby Steps Family Assistance received **40,000 pounds**.

Many of our partners are organizations that see offering nutritious food at no cost as an essential part of a broader mission. These include Little Rivers Health Care, which, through its Food Farmacy program, received weekly donations from us totaling nearly **30,000 pounds** in 2025. Similarly, the Dartmouth Hitchcock Women's Health Resource Center in Lebanon distributed nearly **5,000 pounds** in 2025.

Willing Hands' impact is only possible because of the hard work of a network of hundreds of volunteers and community leaders. As we reflect on the increasing needs over the past months and years, it is these caring community members who ease the challenges facing many in our neighborhoods. Our deep appreciation goes out to them and everyone who is part of this work.

Sincerely,



Gabe Zoerheide, Executive Director



Welcome, New Board Members!



Brenda Jordan



Lizzie King

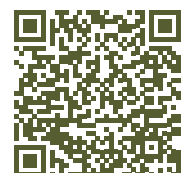


Arundell (Dell) Robinson



Lindsay Sturman

Scan the QR code to read more about them!



Brenda, Lizzie, Dell, and Lindsay began their three-year terms in November and bring extensive experience supporting our community and the Willing Hands mission. We are excited to welcome their collective expertise to our work!

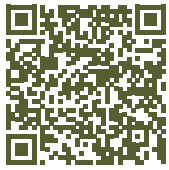
Impact Spotlights

Recipient Organization: Cornish



Every Wednesday morning, a dedicated team of volunteers transforms the Cornish Town Hall into a pop-up food shelf for the community. “Wednesday is the best day of my week,” says Brenda Jordan, a retired nurse, Willing Hands Board Member, and volunteer leader with the Cornish group. Willing Hands delivers fresh food just before opening the food shelf each

week, and Brenda shares that **people are often thrilled to have a variety of quality foods to choose from.** “Willing Hands provides good stuff, like beautiful pears, fresh parsley, and broccoli. These foods are SO expensive,” she exclaims.



Scan the QR code to read more about the community that surrounds this weekly event!

Creative Dairy Partnerships

In 2025, our generous partner, Strafford Organic Creamery, expressed interest in donating more surplus milk, but their reusable glass bottles posed logistical challenges. Thanks to our supporters and partner farm, McNamara Dairy, Willing Hands was able to source plastic bottles for the creamery, enabling them to donate more surplus milk. In 2025, **Strafford Organic Creamery more than doubled the amount of milk donated to Willing Hands**, for a total of more than 1,750 gallons! Combined with McNamara’s generous milk donations, along with donations of cheese from Spring Brook Farm, Willing Hands distributed a total of nearly 60,000 pounds of donated dairy products in 2025.

Giving the Good Stuff

Through our **Give Local Food** program last year, more than **286 community members** supported local farms and increased the amount of food we delivered. By purchasing CSA shares for Willing Hands, an incredible **\$38,195 worth** of fresh, locally-grown produce was added to our regular food deliveries to Upper Valley hunger-relief organizations.

2025 By the Numbers

Overall Pounds Sourced:

1,019,681

— surpassing our one-million-pound annual goal!

Our **total food deliveries** went from 942,854 lbs in 2024 to

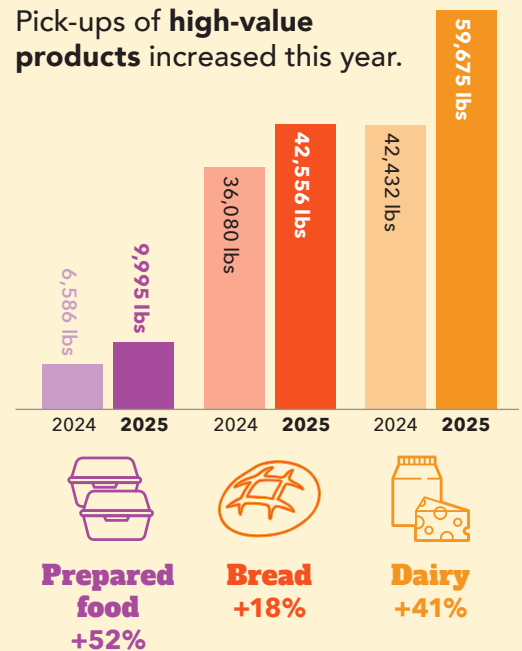
981,840 lbs

in 2025: an additional 38,986 lbs or a 4% increase.

38%

of the food we sourced in 2025 came **directly from local farmers.**

Pick-ups of **high-value products** increased this year.



Recovered **high-value crops** increased from 125,130 lbs in 2024 to

160,699 lbs

in 2025: 35,569 lbs additional or +28%.



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

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Norwich, VT 05055
willinghands.org

Going Beyond Net-Zero Emissions *for a Healthier Upper Valley*

Willing Hands increased our **net negative emissions by 25.2%** from 2024 to 2025. We are well on our way to achieving our goal of reducing CO₂e emissions by 2,000,000 lbs by 2027. Through our food recovery work and other emissions-reduction efforts, our total

negative emissions increased from 1,280,130 lbs CO₂e in 2024 to 1,603,733 lbs CO₂e in 2025.

Progress toward goal: 2,000,000 lbs CO₂e avoided emissions

