

2018 Year in Review

Mission

The Locker Project connects food-insecure children with nourishing food to improve their learning capacity, health and future.

We take a whole-family approach to child hunger with programs that strive to be low barrier, stigma-free and environmentally responsible. Our programs include school pantries stocked with core staples and recurring on-site events that offer access to fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs and bread, donated by local markets, that would otherwise go to waste.

Our Impact in 2018

Locker Project volunteers donated more than **2,700** hours of their time. With their help, our staff

- stocked **20** school pantries with healthy meal items
- collected **10,089** healthy meal items for our school pantries from **37** community food drives
- rescued **137,724** pounds of fresh produce, meats, dairy, eggs, and bread from going to waste
- distributed fresh, healthy food at **244** school and neighborhood events
- connected **12** schools serving families in need with **36,123** pounds of food from Good Shepherd Food Bank
- provided a total of **188,425** pounds, or **157,021** meals, to **2,300** hungry students and their families!



Child Hunger in Maine

Maine has the highest child hunger rate in New England and one of the highest in the nation.

One in five Maine children regularly experiences food insecurity. One in three students in Cumberland County and more than half in the Portland schools are at risk of going hungry.

These statistics mean that thousands of students in Greater Portland lack both adequate amounts of food and the nutrients essential for health and well-being. The data show that children from low-income families are less likely to be reading at grade level than their peers and have higher rates of chronic absenteeism. Key avenues through which poverty hinders student achievement and life outcomes are poor nutrition, diet-related illness, and stress related to food insecurity - all are factors in chronic absenteeism, behavioral issues, and impaired capacity to focus on and learn in school.

We're Feeding the Future



Healthy food helps students thrive.

Learning capacity, school absenteeism, behavioral problems, and serious health issues among students can be addressed in large part simply by helping kids access the nutrition they need to grow, learn and develop.



We're addressing key gaps in access to food.

Schools are one of the most convenient places for children to get nutritious food that might not be available at home. With federal school meals programs providing children from low-income families with school breakfast and lunch, children are most likely to go hungry in the evenings, during weekends and over school breaks, including the summer months.

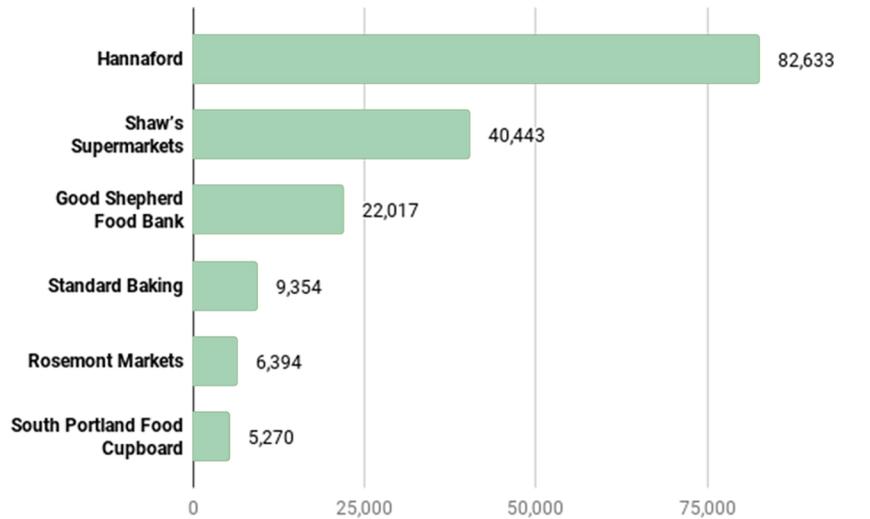


Partnerships make our programs successful.

We work with Good Shepherd Food Bank, Hannaford, Shaw's, Rosemont Market, Standard Baking Company, farmers, gardeners, local businesses, and numerous community groups to provide thousands of pounds of nutritious food to children and their families every week.



2018 Major Food Donations (in pounds)



Fundraising

How do dollars make a difference? Just \$50 provides 200 nourishing meals to children and families in need. A gift of \$2,500 stocks one school pantry for a whole year. A gift of \$5,000 provides a school with healthy snacks, a stocked pantry, and fresh food distributions.

We rely on the generosity of individuals, local businesses, and foundations to cover the cost of staff, dry goods and cold storage, and transporting and distributing nutritious food to kids and families.



2018 Top Corporate and Institutional Funders

Allagash Brewing Co.
Anonymous
Bidu Sayao Memorial Children's Trust
Bissell Brothers Brewing Co.
Lunder Foundation
Maine Community Foundation, Beane Family Fund
Maine Community Foundation, Francis Hollis Brain Foundation
Maine Community Foundation, Undapassawanna Fund

Parish of St. Anthony, Portland
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Scout Fuller Fund for Social Justice
Sam L Cohen Foundation
Maine Marathon
Wilkinson Foundation
World of Change



Our Program Sites

Portland

Bayside Learning Academy
Center for Grieving Children
Deering High
East End Community School
Head Start*
King Middle
Lincoln Middle
Lyman-Moore Middle
Lyseth Elementary
Ocean Avenue School
Presumpscot Elementary
Reiche Community School
Riverton Elementary
Rowe Elementary
Southern Maine Children's Academy

Saco

Margaret Murphy Center for Children

Westbrook

Westbrook High
Westbrook Middle*

South Portland

Brown Elementary
Kaler Elementary
Skillin Elementary
Memorial Middle
South Portland High

**Pantry location added in 2018*

Staff

Kathryn Sargent, Interim Executive Director
Stephen Phillips, Operations Manager
Stephen Perazone, Distribution Manager
Kayla Halloran Buckley, USM Food Studies Intern

Board of Directors

Brenda Peluso, President
Dietel & Partners

Kathryn Sargent, Vice President
Food Security Advocate

Sarah Daignault, Treasurer
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Amanda Atkinson-Lewis, Portland Schools

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Maureen Fitzgerald, Food Security Advocate

Justine Johnson, Bowdoin College

Naomi Neville, Allagash Brewing Company