

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services regarding:**

**Resolve 2015, Chapter 81**

**Resolve, To Facilitate the Distribution of Food Harvested in Maine to Residents  
with Food Insecurity**

**I. Executive Summary**

Good Shepherd Food Bank applied for the funding from the Fund for a Healthy Maine made available through Chapter 81, Resolve, To Facilitate the Distribution of Food Harvested in Maine to Residents with Food Insecurity. These funds were administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) through an RFP process. Good Shepherd Food Bank was the winning bidder for the funds. Our proposal focused on Good Shepherd Food Bank's Mainers Feeding Mainers program. This report outlines the Mainers Feeding Mainers program and the ways in which funding has been allocated during the period of July 1 – November 30, 2016.

**II. Mainers Feeding Mainers**

Mainers Feeding Mainers is Good Shepherd Food Bank's local food purchasing program, which we established in 2010 in order to supplement the donations our organization receives and grow our distribution of nutritious food. In the first year, the Food Bank acquired and distributed just over 350,000 pounds of nutritious, locally grown food. In 2016, the Food Bank purchased 1 million pounds of product from our farm partners and these farms donated an additional 900,000 pounds, for a total of 1.9 million pounds of local food distributed. Funding from this law was utilized to purchase fresh produce, fresh frozen produce, and frozen fish, as per the statute. In addition, the Food Bank worked with local farms to acquire dairy and grain products, funded by charitable dollars. See Attachment A for a list of Good Shepherd Food Bank's current farm partners, including new farms that were added in 2016.

**III. Statewide Network**

Good Shepherd Food Bank partners with a network of 400 local agencies across Maine to distribute nutritious food to Mainers who face food insecurity. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 15.8 percent of Maine households are food insecure, meaning they lack access to adequate food. Nearly one in four Maine children is food insecure. Our statewide network of local agencies that serve this population includes food pantries, community meal sites, schools, and more. See Attachment B for a map of Good Shepherd Food Bank's statewide network of partners.



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## IV. Funds Expended

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	YTD Total
Cost of Produce/Seafood	\$42,783	\$96,726	\$84,319	\$110,316	\$78,400	\$412,544
Storage/Distribution Cost	\$5,347	\$27,175	\$27,082	\$33,465	\$29,858	\$122,927
Driver Salary/Truck Lease						\$0
4% Indirect Allocation	\$1,925	\$4,956	\$4,456	\$5,751	\$4,330	\$21,419
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$50,055</b>	<b>\$128,857</b>	<b>\$115,857</b>	<b>\$149,532</b>	<b>\$112,588</b>	<b>\$556,890</b>

Notes – The Food Bank has hired an additional driver and leased a new tractor-trailer truck as part of our expansion of the Mainers Feeding Mainers program. Both of these expenses started in December 2016, therefore they are not reflected in this report. The storage/distribution cost reflects handling fees that are normally paid by the Food Bank's partner agencies, but are being waived for this product and covered by the funding we received from FAME.

## V. Products Purchased

Product	Weight Lbs.	Product	Weight Lbs.	Product	Weight Lbs.
Apples	31,385	Fish	3,370	Radish	634
Applesauce	13,687	Garlic	195	Raspberries	112
Beet Greens	1,966	Green Beans	21,574	Salad Mix	133
Beets	24,290	Green Peppers	18,651	Spinach	1,177
Broccoli	2,519	Kale	6,594	Summer Squash	24,882
Cabbage	41,942	Lettuce	4,106	Tomatoes	24,970
Carrots	42,837	Melons	1,380	Tomato sauce	520
Cauliflower	2,430	Onions	24,013	Turnips	9,834
Corn	57,288	Parsnips	375	Winter Squash	129,173
Cucumber	40,840	Peas	999	Zucchini	29,336
Eggplant	4,379	Potatoes	124,114		

## VI. Increase in Availability & Accessibility

Resolve Chapter 81 requires Good Shepherd Food Bank to report on how access and availability to nutritious foods were increased for Mainers facing food insecurity. There is a meal gap – a certain number of meals that are needed by food insecure residents – in all Maine counties. In addition, many regions of our state, especially the more rural areas, lack sufficient access to fresh, nutritious foods. Simply by increasing the amount of fresh, healthy food distributed to hunger relief agencies throughout the state, Good Shepherd Food Bank is increasing availability and accessibility for Mainers with food insecurity.



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Year to date (July-Nov 2016), Good Shepherd Food Bank has grown its distribution of all produce (including produce not acquired through the use of these funds) by 5 percent, from 3.8 million pounds in fall of 2015 to 4 million pounds in fall of 2016. The following charts show distribution of products purchased with the FAME award specifically.

## Distribution Method of Product Purchased

Distribution Method	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
	<b>Weight in Lbs.</b>					
Direct To Pantry	11,652	79,155	75,808	87,973	53,711	308,299
GSFB Warehouse	16,488	63,873	66,769	88,556	103,515	339,201
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28,140</b>	<b>143,028</b>	<b>142,577</b>	<b>176,529</b>	<b>157,226</b>	<b>647,500</b>

## Distribution by County

County	Weight Lbs.
Androscoggin	50,492
Aroostook	50,094
Cumberland	109,537
Franklin	12,620
Hancock	16,655
Kennebec	73,594
Knox	11,452
Lincoln	15,921
Oxford	21,894
Penobscot	91,311
Piscataquis	12,740
Sagadahoc	5,580
Somerset	22,403
Waldo	42,314
Washington	39,737
York	71,156
<b>Total</b>	<b>647,500</b>

## VII. Further Action Needed

Build farm partnerships – Good Shepherd Food Bank will continue to grow our partnerships with farmers across Maine to reach our goal of 80 farm partners by 2019. Our focus will be to work with farms in geographic areas where we don't currently have relationships with farmers. Farm-to-pantry relationships will be prioritized, so that fresh product can move directly from the farm to the local food pantry in the most efficient manner.



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Focus on Geographies of Need – Good Shepherd Food Bank will focus efforts on geographic areas that have the greatest need, both in sourcing food from farms and distributing food to hunger relief agencies. By mapping the meal gap numbers across the state and layering on the Food Bank’s current distribution figures, we can determine what regions we are serving adequately and where we need to increase service. This type of analysis will be used to help the Food Bank prioritize new farm partnerships and augmented distribution efforts.

<b><u>Attachment A: Good Shepherd Food Bank Farm Partners</u></b>		
<b><u>Farm</u></b>	<b><u>City/Town</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
Bell Farms	Auburn	Androscoggin
Berry Fruit Farm	Livermore	Androscoggin
Cultivating Community	Portland	Androscoggin
Little Ridge Farm	Lisbon Falls	Androscoggin
R. Belanger & Sons Farms	Lewiston	Androscoggin
Farm 4 ME/ Catholic Charities	Caribou	Aroostook
Friends of Aroostook	Houlton	Aroostook
Irving Farm	Caribou	Aroostook
Carlin Family Farm	Windham	Cumberland
Jordan's Farm	Cape Elizabeth	Cumberland
Cozy Harbor Seafood	Portland	Cumberland
Mayberry Farm	Sebago	Cumberland
Wolfe's Neck Farm	Freeport	Cumberland
*Sandy River Farm	Farmington	Franklin

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Beech Hill Farm	Mt. Desert	Hancock
*East West Farm	Verona	Hancock
Horsepower Farm	Penobscot	Hancock
King Hill Farm	Penobscot	Hancock
*Maine Coast Heritage Trust/Babson Creek	Mt. Desert	Hancock
*Emery Farm	Wayne	Kennebec
Field of Greens	Albion	Kennebec
*Wild Miller Farm	Palermo	Kennebec
Erickson Fields Preserve	Rockport	Knox
Spear Farm	Nobleboro	Lincoln
Cooper Farm	W. Paris	Oxford
Middle Intervale Farm	Bethel	Oxford
*Weston Farm	Fryeburg	Oxford
*Fisher Farm	Winterport	Penobscot
Gardiner Farms	Stacyville	Penobscot
*Jordan Farm/Greg Jordan	Chester	Penobscot
Lakeside Family Farm	Newport	Penobscot
Rowe Orchards	Newport	Penobscot
The Lion's Farm	Corinth	Penobscot
*Checkerberry Farm	Parkman	Piscataquis
Frog Hollow Farm	Woolwich	Sagadahoc
Turning Wheel Farm	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc

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*Moore Farm	Madison	Somerset
Dasher Farm	Fairfield	Somerset
Sweet Land Farm	Starks	Somerset
*Chase Stream Farm	Monroe	Waldo
North Branch Farm	Monroe	Waldo
True North Farms	Montville	Waldo
Maine Farmland Trust/ Veggies for All	Belfast	Waldo
Folklore Farm	Columbia	Washington
*Anderson Farms	Dayton	York
Spiller Farm	Wells	York
Tibbetts Family Farm	Lyman	York
*New farm partner in 2016		

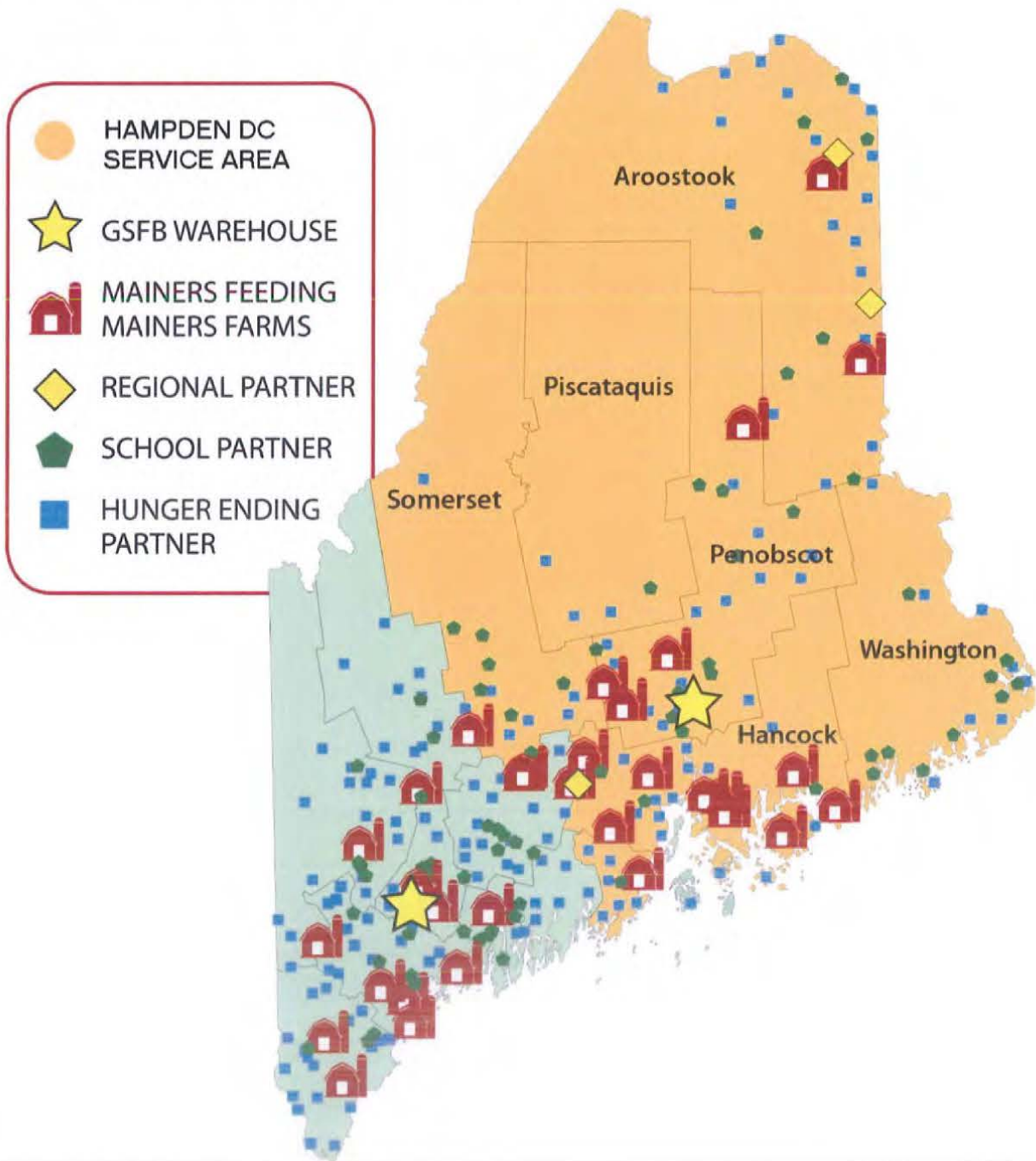
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**Attachment B: Statewide Hunger Relief Network**







STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN

S.P. 569 - L.D. 1471

**Resolve, To Facilitate the Distribution of Food Harvested in Maine to  
Residents with Food Insecurity**

**Sec. 1. Finance Authority of Maine to select entity to provide food harvested in the State to residents with food insecurity and to administer funds. Resolved:** That the Finance Authority of Maine, through the request for proposal process, shall select and contract with an appropriate statewide entity to purchase, process, store and transport fresh and fresh frozen fruits and vegetables and seafood harvested in the State in order to increase access to fresh and fresh frozen fruit and vegetables and seafood to residents of the State with food insecurity. When selecting the entity, the authority shall consult with and accept assistance from experts in the areas of agriculture, food security and public health. The entity selected must be qualified in the safe handling of food products by adhering to all local, state and federal food safety regulations, by participating in an annual 3rd-party food safety audit performed by a nationally certified auditor and having experience in the distribution of food to low-income populations. The authority shall administer the funds allocated for the purposes stated in this section until they are finally disbursed and may retain a portion of those funds for the reasonable costs of administering this section; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That the Finance Authority of Maine, as a condition of the award of the contract pursuant to section 1, shall require the entity selected to submit a report by December 1st of 2016, 2017 and 2018 to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters and over health and human services matters. Each report must contain information regarding the entity's progress on meeting the purposes of section 1, including how funds were expended, types and amount of fruits, vegetables and seafood purchased and how access and availability were increased, and the efforts needed, if any, to achieve the purpose of providing food harvested in the State to residents with food insecurity; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

**Maine Harvested Food Products for Residents with Food Insecurity N222**

Initiative: Allocates funds on a one-time basis to provide fresh and fresh frozen fruits and vegetables and seafood harvested in the State to residents of the State with food insecurity.

<b>FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
All Other	\$0	\$3,000,000
<b>FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,000,000</u>