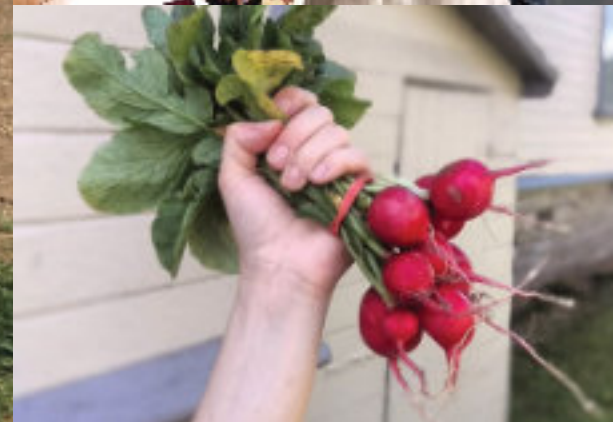
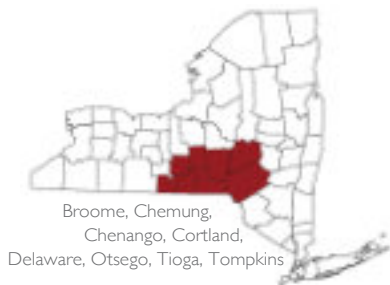




Year in Review

2016





Our Mission: Since 2005, the Food & Health Network (FaHN) has united diverse stakeholders in an eight county region to develop a thriving, healthy and food-secure regional food system.

2016 has been a year of growth and innovation at the Food and Health Network. Through our farm to school initiatives, assessments of the summer food program, partnerships with healthcare, and education programs, we are working to connect the dots across our complex food system to improve the health of individuals, communities, and the environment. This year we welcomed our second staff member, embarked on a new initiative to connect volunteers with community food security programs, and are advocating to build links between healthcare and food access in the community. We extend heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all of our members and sponsors and invite you to join us in 2017!

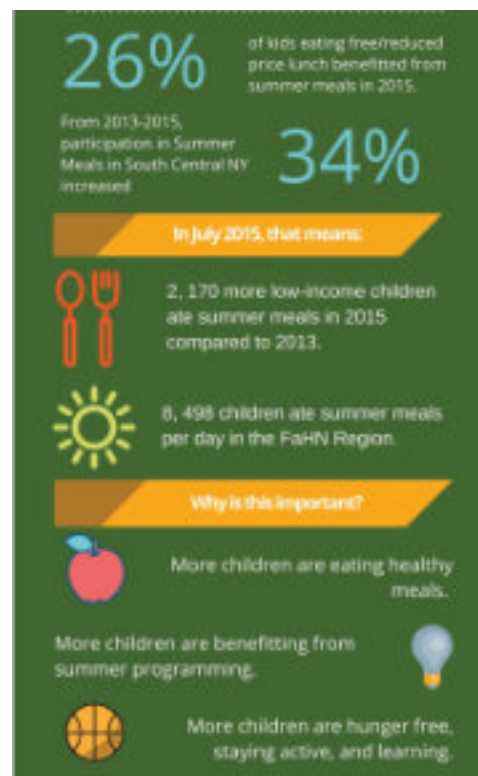
SUPPORTING YEAR-ROUND ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Summer is a time of bounty in our agricultural region, yet it is also a time of heightened food insecurity for nearly **1 in 4 children** in our 8 county area. During the school year over 50% of students are eligible for free and reduced price meals, and when school is out the summer food service program is there to fill the gap. Over the past year FaHN has worked with partners to conduct the first regional assessment of the summer food service program, **"Closing the Gap on Childhood Food Insecurity,"** and to increase the number of children with access to the healthy food that is critical for their growth and success. Now, we're taking the next step to bring local produce and farm to school education into summer meal programs.

Annual Community Garden & Urban Agriculture Report

Each year, FaHN conducts an inventory of regional garden activity. This year, we found that gardening projects **70% of gardens and urban farms donate produce** to community meals, food pantries, summer meals and other programs. Of the gardens surveyed for the report:

- 41% are **Community Gardens**
- 50% are **Educational or School Gardens**
- and 9% are **Urban Farms**



FOSTERING REGIONAL LEARNING



Launched in 2016, our new series of Growing Health Forums bring local, state and national leaders together for learning and networking on key health, food security, and local food issues.

Spring 2016: Healthy Food, Healthy Communities

Over 90 people gathered in April to learn how worksites, community groups, institutions and government organizations can improve community wellness through purchasing healthy, local food.

Fall 2016: Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Programs

Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Programs enable innovative partnerships between healthcare, retail, and community-based organizations to increase access to fruits and vegetables. In November, FaHN and VINES will host a workshop with Wholesome Wave to explore this innovative model and local opportunities.

Strengthening regional food security by cultivating knowledge, building networks, and catalyzing collaboration.

FAHN BY THE NUMBERS

8 COUNTIES SERVED

11 YEARS OF COLLABORATION

83 MEMBERS & SPONSORS

550 CHILDREN EDUCATED

GROWING FARM TO SCHOOL

Farm to school is a win for students, farms, and communities. That's why FaHN is involved in a partnership to build thriving farm to school programs across the region. Partners include Broome-Tioga BOCES Food Service, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, Cortland and Marathon School Districts, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Main St. Farms, Reisinger's Apple Country, North Windsor Berries, the Broome County Health Department, and more! *In 2016, we are working with 17 districts across 3 counties.* Partners are working on:

*Purchasing more local food
Increasing the capacity of farms to sell to schools
Equipping school kitchens and staff to work with local produce
Student taste tests and education*



Students participated in taste tests of local versus non-local pears as part of 2016 Farm to You Fest. The tasting was a collaboration of Broome-Tioga BOCES Food Service, school districts, FaHN and CCE-Broome.

More than **550 children** have benefited from our farm to school education program, led by the FaHN AmeriCorps member in partnership with Promise Zone, and afterschool and summer meal programs. In 2017 we will also work on linking farm to school activities, community gardens, and the summer food service program.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Throughout the year, we work with partners to advocate for policies that intersect health, agriculture, and food access.

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act: FaHN supports an act that removes barriers to participation in the Summer Food Service Program and strengthens the Farm to School program.

NYS Farm to School Procurement Incentive: FaHN supports an increase in school meal reimbursement and resources for schools to develop and expand local purchasing programs.

Physicians screening for hunger: FaHN supports screening tools to prevent the impacts of hunger on child development, student achievement, and worsened health conditions.



This summer, Binghamton Farm Share hosted its first rural distribution site right next to our office in Whitney Point. Throughout the season FaHN AmeriCorps and VISTA members distributed weekly shares of produce from Main Street Farms (Cortland, NY) at the Saving Grace Arts Center & Meeting Place.

PARTNERING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Food & Health Volunteer Corps: In collaboration with the Rural Health Service Corps, FaHN is working with partner organizations in Broome, Tioga, and Delaware Counties to develop a network of volunteers for projects that increase community food security.

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities: Through the Broome County Health Department, FaHN worked with 10 community based organizations to develop policies that make healthy foods the easy choice. From healthy meetings and events, to vending machines and worksite cafeterias, there are many opportunities to offer nutritious food at the workplace!

FAHN'S IMPACT: FROM OUR MEMBERS



Members of the FaHN Steering Committee at Stone Horse Farm in Marathon, NY.

"FaHN has demonstrated the power of collaboration by connecting resources and developing strategies that impact the entire region."

"FaHN is a highly proficient coalition that excels in supporting partnerships to help attain a strong regional food system."

"Assessments, opportunity to participate, networking, grants."

"Networking, Relationship-building, Learning about the food system."

"FaHN has done an outstanding job of supporting our organization. The partnership we have is critical to our continued success in promoting health."

2016 Grants that Supported our Work: Conrad & Virginia Klee Foundation, Roger Kresge Foundation, Taren Family Fund and the Dick and Marion Meltzer Fund and Community Fund of the Community Foundation for South Central New York, Broome County Health Department Creating Healthy Schools & Communities Grant, Broome-Tioga BOCES NYS Farm to School Grant, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets USDA Farm to School Grant, NYS Volunteer Generation Fund.

MEMBERS

Organizational Members

Broome County Council of Churches
Broome County Health Department
Broome Tioga BOCES Food Service
Cayuga Lake Food Buyers
Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE)
Chenango County Health Department
Chenango County United Way, Inc.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County
Delaware Opportunities Inc.
Family Enrichment Network
Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Hatherleigh Foundation
Healthy Lifestyles Coalition (United Way)
Rural Health Network of South Central New York
Seven Valleys Health Coalition
Tioga County Hunger Coalition
Tioga Opportunities
Tompkins County Food Distribution Network
United Health Services (UHS)
Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments (VINES)

Individual Members

Susan Adair
Diane Albrecht
Richard Andrus
Donna Bates
Mark Bordeau
Jeanne M. Darling
Ann Denniston
Ray Denniston
Nancy Eckstrom
Matthew Griffin
Kathleen Horner
Kevin Millar
Diane O'Hora
Peaceful by Nature Farm
Jeffrey Piestrak
Tony Preus
Amy Shapiro
Lauren Tonti
Rose Zonetti

SPONSORS

Farm & Food Business Sponsors

Blackbird Bakery
Chobani, LLC
Closer to the Heart Farms
Creekside Acres Farm/The Creekside Cook
Dutch Hill Creamery
Engelbert Farms, LLC
FarmHouse Brewery
Galaxy Brewing Company
Larry & Denise Moore
Peaceful by Nature Farm
Regional Access
Slope Farms
Shared Roots Farm
Stone Horse Farm
The Kitchen Store
The Owego Kitchen

Organizational Sponsors

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield
Fidelis Care
Lourdes Hospital
United Health Services (UHS)

Individual Sponsors

Diane & Jerry Albrecht
Connie Barnes
Susan Beaudoin
Mark Bordeau
Elizabeth Bossong
Christina Boyd
Diane Crews
Ray & Ann Denniston
Nancy Eckstrom
Matthew Griffin
Johan Jelsma
Kate Miller-Corcoran
Glenda Neff
Janice Parker
Jeffrey Piestrak
Charles & Mary Place
Maggie Reeger
Jack Salo
Bob & Linda Seeger
Doris Summerlee
Lauren Tonti
Shawn Yetter
Greg Albrecht & Victoria Zeppelin

STAFF & AMERICORPS

Erin Summerlee, Director
Christian DiRado-Owens, Program Coordinator
Thomas Lewis, AmeriCorps VISTA

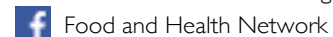
STEERING COMMITTEE

Diane Albrecht
Ray Denniston
Nancy Eckstrom
Matthew Griffin
Susan Williams
Jack Salo
Lauren Tonti



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FaHN is administered by the non-profit Rural Health Network of South Central New York, based in Whitney Point, NY.