

IT'S OFFICIAL: WE'RE TAX EXEMPT!

ITHACA, NY — Friendship Donations Network was granted 501(c)3 status as of July 2012 and is legally and officially a tax-exempt organization. We can now accept monetary donations directly in our name.

“Many thanks to Social Ventures for hosting and carrying FDN under its umbrella for the past three years,” says Judy Dietz, current FDN board president.

Friendship Donations Network

Sara Pines, Founder
Meaghan Sheehan Rosen, Program
Coordinator

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Check out our new logo!
Created by artist Brian Dunn



friendship donations network

rescuing food, reducing hunger

Contact us at:
607-216-9522
info@friendshipdonations.org
http://friendshipdonations.org
P.O. Box 4854
Ithaca NY 14852-4854

Greenstar to Partner with Friendship Donations this August An Interview with Brandon Kane, the Cooperative Market's GM

Concern for the community, a value that drives Ithaca's Greenstar Cooperative Market, is the reason its members chose to partner with Friendship Donations Network in a special promotion this August.

Brandon Kane, Greenstar's general manager, says: "Many of the leaders of this organization, myself included, have been continually impressed with Friendship Donations Network's abilities to meet the needs of the community. Our membership strongly supports that."

Kane says Greenstar has been regularly donating food that's still fresh but no longer saleable, to Friendship Donations for years. "We also call them periodically when there's a larger amount of food that needs to be moved out quickly," he says.

Kane, who was hired as Greenstar's general manager about a year ago after a national search, says: "After I really got solidified into my new role, one of my largest prerogatives was to increase Greenstar's level of community involvement and donations and also raise the profile of those activities." Friendship Donations was high on his list, because of its mission to rescue food that would otherwise be discarded and sent to landfills and instead use it to relieve hunger in the community.

Throughout this August Greenstar members and customers will be invited to make monetary gifts to FDN at the cash registers of the organization two stores. "There'll be a sign that says: 'Would you like to donate to FDN? Just name the amount and the

cashier will ring it through'," Kane says.

In addition, there will be a story about FDN and its importance to the community in Greenstar's newspaper, Greenleaf. FDN's goal is to raise \$5,000 and GreenStar will match a portion of its customers' donations.

"We have the ability to do that because of great participation and success," Kane explains. "The business is doing well. We have close to 9000 members and a really committed membership who support an initiative like this. It's great to lead an organization with that level of buy-in. It's not about the marketing; it's about the value that you can give back to the community." ♦

Linda Myers

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Return Service Requested



The Good Food Exchange



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Why Friendship Donations is Essential to Our Community An Interview with Meaghan Sheehan Rosen

What Friendship Donations Network does “seems like common sense,” says Meaghan Sheehan Rosen, FDN’s program coordinator. “We’re providing food for neighbors in need in our community while at the same time rescuing food that would otherwise be thrown away.”

That’s one reason why she was instantly attracted to the job when it was advertised last August. “As I read about what Friendship Donations does and what they were looking for in a program coordinator, it sounded like a really good fit,” she says.

FDN collects up to 1,500 pounds of fresh, perishable donated food daily from area supermarkets, stores, farms and other places, including individual vegetable gardens, and distributes it to 29 local food pantries, soup kitchens such as Loaves and Fishes and a range of programs. These places and programs, in turn, provide healthy meals and after-school snacks to as many 2,100 people weekly in Tompkins County and five surrounding counties. For many of these groups, Friendship Donations is the sole provider.

The food, which includes fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, pastries, and often eggs and other dairy and deli items, would be headed for landfills if not for Friendship Donations’ efforts, Rosen says.

Social justice and helping those in need has been “a thread throughout my life,” she says. “When I was growing up it was a central part of what we did as a family.

Rosen first came to Ithaca as a student at Ithaca College, then stayed on after graduation, holding jobs in the community with social justice components. She also spent time in Latin America observing inequali-

ties and asking what might be done.

“Meaghan was a memorably inspiring student and advisee,” said Professor of Anthropology Emerita Barbara Johnson. “She showed tremendous commitment to everything she did, honoring her own values of social justice and fairness.”

Rosen moved with her husband to Hawaii in 2005 after he got a job there. She went on to earn a master’s degree in social work at the University of Hawaii and held jobs reflecting her interests: people’s well-being and sustainability.

“My focus shifted to what was happening in the communities where I was living,” she says, “seeing that people just down the road had trouble making ends

meet and were relying on food pantries to supplement their groceries.”

Returning to Ithaca last August with her husband, who now teaches at Ithaca College’s Park School, she says: “We’re very happy to be back here, and I’m so pleased be working with FDN.”

Friendship Donations was founded by Sara Pines in 1988. “She recognized the hunger that existed in our community, as well as the tremendous amount of good food being wasted, and wanted to do something about it,” relates Rosen. “She convinced area stores to donate what they were throwing away, and then organized a network of volunteers to do the pickup and distribution. She was a one-woman show. Much of why this organization exists is because of Sara.”

Pines turned over the reins of the volunteer organization several years ago to a board she sits on that includes ten other people [see list].

FDN has a storage facility for surplus foods. “We have non-perishable grocery items available to help supplement the pantries on light days.” Rosen notes.

Most important, she says: “We’re the only call center in this region that does food pickup seven days a week, and our call number, 607-216-9522, is available every day. We’re always available to pick up a food donation, whether it’s from a store or an individual with a small garden. It takes a lot of commitment and dedication from the receiving end to do that,” Rosen says, “but we think it is important to have that continuity and consistency.”♦

Linda Myers



Meaghan Sheehan Rosen

Attention Home Gardeners!

Do you grow more fruits and vegetables than you are able to use? Please consider donating to FDN. Your home grown produce will be much appreciated at the pantries.

Contact FDN to find out more:

216-9522 or

info@friendshipdonations.org.