



Friendship Donations Network, Inc.

1013 West Martin Luther King Jr. / State Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

November 2016

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Dear friend of Friendship Donations Network,

Last Wednesday Sara Pines delivered some donations to the FDN facility in the Just Be Cause Center where I was meeting with a group of students from the Cornell Food Recovery Network. As I introduced Sara to the group of students, and explained that she was responsible for creating FDN, I was struck by the fact that Sara founded FDN years before any of these students were even born. And here she was 28 years later, sharing her passion for fighting waste and feeding people with this new generation of food recovery activists.

Sara had the vision to introduce the concept of food rescue to Ithaca in 1988 and the dedication to work for more than a quarter century to ensure that it was firmly established in our community.

I started working with FDN five years ago and I love serving as FDN's coordinator. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the many people who make up the network: the dedicated volunteers who transport food donations 365 days/year and contribute in countless other ways; the board members –past and present– who guide the organization; the food programs that directly serve people in need; our food donor partners who choose to donate their surplus food rather than throw it away; and the people like you, who sustain FDN with the essential financial support needed to fulfill our mission of rescuing food and reducing hunger.

We all have one thing in common: a shared goal of keeping good, fresh food out of the landfill (or compost heap) and making it available to members of our community who need it most. It just seems like common sense.

I have witnessed significant progress in the five years that I've been with FDN. I no longer get funny retorts or confused responses when people ask what I do and hear the phrase "food rescue." The topics of food waste and food recovery have become much more popular and regularly receive national coverage in the media.

However, we still have a lot of work to do. We know that there is good food that is still being wasted right here in our own community. And sadly, we know that there are many people in each of our communities who do not have enough to eat.

That's why I am writing to you today, to ask for your support to help us continue the work of FDN. Your donation will help us recover more food from additional sources in and around Ithaca, so that we can say, "yes, we have donations to share" when we are approached by community organizations that want to provide food for their clients.

Your donation will enable us to provide education to our whole community about reducing food waste, including understanding date labels (which do not indicate food safety, and are generally unregulated) and tips for using “imperfect” foods. Food waste affects all of us, and together we can make a difference.

Please consider making a donation to Friendship Donations Network today.

With gratitude for your support, and warm wishes for the coming season,

Meaghan Sheehan Rosen

P.S. If you prefer to make your donation online, please visit our brand new website at <https://friendshipdonations.org/>.

