



# Friendship Donations Network

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November 15, 2018

## FOUNDER

Sara Pines

## COORDINATOR

Meaghan Sheehan Rosen

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dear Friendship Donations Network friends and supporters,

We invite you to *join us* in celebrating our 30th anniversary and how the community has benefitted since Sara Pines founded FDN in 1988. What an exciting year it's been!

In January, FDN was named Not-For-Profit of the Year by the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce. That recognition raised community awareness about our work: rescuing nutritious food to support hunger-relief programs in the Tompkins County area. Visit [www.friendshipdonations.org](http://www.friendshipdonations.org) to see a video produced to mark the occasion.

Our mission is simple—rescuing food and reducing hunger—and we have held it as a point of pride, consistent with the values of our founder, that we use minimal resources to accomplish our mission. We are a frugal organization, and we like it that way. The financial support we receive goes directly to the coordination of food recovery and redistribution, made possible through a dedicated network of 200+ volunteers.

FDN is operating in a different context now than when we started in 1988 or even in 2011 when I joined FDN as Coordinator, and of course we continue to evolve. We just marked 5-years in the Just Be Cause Not-for-Profit Development Center, thanks to the generosity of Jerry Dietz and local donors such as you. Food waste is now recognized as a significant issue environmentally, economically and socially, especially when paired with the reality of so many people who are food insecure. *No one should go hungry in the presence of such abundance.* New York State is poised to ban food waste in the coming years—joining many of our neighboring states as well as several countries—and is promoting food recovery and donation as one of the solutions.

We have been successful for 30 years because of people like you! Thank you for considering making a donation to Friendship Donations Network today, which will propel us to meet local needs with local human helping hands for another generation.

Sincerely,

Please read our thoughts about the challenges and opportunities ahead, on the reverse, as we seek to address the root causes of food waste and food insecurity in our community.

As we look at the year ahead, we are considering how we can use our success and decades of experience to be a leader in our own community.

3 key priorities for the next era of FDN:

1. We are well aware of the intersections of our work with the movements fighting for a living wage and addressing the epidemic of poverty facing our nation. It's impossible to justify the fact that 40 percent of food is wasted in this country, while 140 million Americans are considered poor or low-income, or 43.5 percent of the population living in poverty (Supplemental Poverty Measure), and people of color are disproportionately affected. I find inspiration from the Poor People's Campaign and encourage you to check out [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org).

2. We desire for our leadership team to better reflect the community that we serve. The FDN board and I participated in an intensive webinar this past summer titled Whiteness at Work, facilitated by Desiree Adaway of The Adaway Group. Adaway says "The work of social justice starts with us waking up and prioritizing the education, tools and relationships needed to become a force for change." We are committed to prioritizing equity and inclusion in our work at FDN and will continue to seek guidance to help us in this process. We welcome ideas and participation from you. This is important to us as an organization and it is equally important that you—our community of supporters—are included in this process.

3. I am planning to take a sabbatical in the fall of 2019. I am proud of FDN for having the long-term vision and commitment to join other non-profits in adopting this type of benefit. We have an opportunity to join a movement in the non-profit field and help to set a healthy precedent our community, which is fortunate to have many non-profits.

Research shows that sabbaticals decrease employee turnover and encourage longer tenure among employees. Sabbaticals are an asset to organizations enabling capacity-building and organizational development. We are in the midst of planning for this creative disruption, which is enabling us to ensure the strength of the organization and foster the institutional knowledge that is essential for any organization.

I will share more in depth about the nature of my sabbatical in the future. It will be an exciting opportunity to reflect on the future direction of FDN and my own leadership within this organization and the broader community. I will also learn about and investigate food rescue in a diversity of communities, as well as establish a network of interaction and mutual support with these communities. It is a valuable opportunity to adopt best practices to the work we are doing at FDN, and adapt to changes yet to come.

P.S. Check out [savethefood.com](http://savethefood.com) for some great tips and resources for reducing food waste, including the Guest-imator, a dinner party calculator that estimates how much food you need to keep your guests full and happy. Try the Guest-imator tool for your holiday gatherings: [savethefood.com/guestimator](http://savethefood.com/guestimator)