



Friendship Donations Network

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To everyone who cares about preventing wasted food,

Thank you for supporting the Friendship Donations Network! **Your donations of time and money help us rescue 1,500 pounds of fresh food every day - food that would otherwise be wasted - and share it with 50 food distribution partners in our community.**

At FDN, we serve as the liaison between food donors and food distribution programs. We never purchase food, and we never sell food. We handle exclusively food donations, primarily food that is perfectly usable but unsaleable. **Our grassroots network of volunteers enables us to be nimble and efficient.** Food donated to FDN often goes from our donors to our distribution partners on the same day.

We value

- A human-centered, equitable approach to sharing the surplus of the community with the community.
- Grassroots, community-led efforts
- Enabling community members to participate in food recovery
- Making it easy for people to share their surplus, whether from their garden, because they are moving, etc.
- Cultivating partnerships and maintaining relationships with a broad network of food distribution partners

In addition, we are also seeking new ways to rescue food. We are currently working on a USDA-funded project with Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management to increase food recovery countywide. The project focuses on capturing prepared food from restaurants, colleges and other donors. The prepared food pilot project has the potential to serve as an example that can be replicated in other communities as well.

As effective as FDN is, we still capture only a fraction of the fresh, nutritious food thrown away in our community, and as a community, we need to do better.

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The good news is **wasted food is a problem we can do something about**. We are all in this together, and we welcome your support in 2025 for redistributing surplus food and reducing food waste. Please help us continue our work with your donation, OR by engaging in some of the following activities to prevent wasted food.

Most people don't want to waste food, but there are a lot of misconceptions and confusion that result in perfectly good food being discarded. You can help spread the word by talking with friends and family about the importance of keeping food out of the landfill. About one-third of all purchased food is discarded. As it rots in landfills, it releases greenhouse gasses, like methane, that contribute to global warming. These and other facts about wasted food and what we can do about it are at refed.org.

It is important to buy just the food you need and to understand date labels. Manufacturers provide best-by dates on labels to help consumers decide when food is of the best quality. However, except for infant formula, dates are not an indicator of the product's safety and are not required by law.

To view some of our favorite resources, scan the QR code with your phone or visit:

friendshipdonations.org/preventing-wasted-food-resources.



Wishing you good health for the year ahead,

Your friends at Friendship Donations Network



Donate to Friendship Donations Network at
friendshipdonations.org/donate
or use the enclosed envelope