



Feeding Chittenden April 2021 Newsletter



A Note from the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (our parent organization) in Support of the Asian American Community:

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity grieves for and stands with the victims, their families, and the entire community in Atlanta. We feel the burning pain of the intolerance, misogyny, and racism that led to these eight tragic deaths. We stand up in protest to their murders because we cannot bear to see racism, misogyny, or any other manifestation of intolerance exist and spread further fear. This has to stop.

To you, our Asian and Asian-American community members, you are our next-door neighbors; you are our co-workers, your children are our children's classmates. We are each a part of one another. We see you. We see your strength. We see you rise, day after day, to make our community stronger. We see the many ways you contribute to and help lead our community. We see you making Vermont more inclusive and stronger every day.

When someone dies, we are called to remember how important and sacred life is. We must continually recommit to shared values that ensure safety, equity, and a more just society for all. At CVOEO, we strive to help build a diverse, fair, equitable, and unbiased society by providing support to individuals in meeting their needs and reaching their goals. We know that your safety is our safety and your freedom is our freedom. We are all in this life together.

As an organization, CVOEO will continue to take action to move towards a just society. We will continue advocating for policies, education and resources that dismantle racism. To our Asian and Asian-American community members, and our BIPOC and LGBTQ plus community members: We see you! *We believe in your dignity, resilience and strength and we stand with you; you are part of us.*

To people across Vermont we invite you to join with CVOEO as we strive towards a fair, equitable, and just society where each individual, regardless of their skin color, gender, sexual identity, religion, income level, or political affiliation, belongs.

We're so excited to start gardening, and we have a lot planned for this summer. Angela has taken the lead on a new community raised garden bed project. Once these beds are built, she hopes to lead free

community classes on home gardening. (Patrick, our food rescue coordinator, suggested that we call the project "Seeding Chittenden"-- no promises yet, but stay tuned for updates).

We can't get our raised beds off the ground (pun intended) without your help! With an online donation, you can play a role in our new community garden initiative. Any amount is greatly appreciated!



Special Thanks to Nando, Owner of Moon and Stars Arepas!

Nando brought his food cart to Feeding Chittenden last Friday in collaboration with UVM Extension and provided a delicious free meal for our community. There were plenty of tasty, locally-sourced arepas and empanadas for everyone who stopped by! Stay tuned for more events like this as the days get warmer...

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month!

This month, we're celebrating all the awesome volunteers who make our work possible! Stay tuned for updates.

"Volunteers are essential to our work. They support our efforts in so many ways including chopping vegetables for the morning meal program, building bags and boxes full of groceries, assisting our recipients, using their own vehicles for home deliveries and food rescue, data entry...the list goes on! Most importantly, they bring energy, perspective, and life to our daily operations. As an employee, I feel lucky to be able to engage with this incredible group of people who give up their time, resources, and in Covid times specifically, risk their health to support our community. Our volunteers and their generosity are truly an inspiration!"

--Angela, Volunteer Coordinator





Faces of Feeding Chittenden Spotlight: Greta

Our newest Faces of Feeding Chittenden spotlight is Greta, a current Community Kitchen Academy (CKA) student! Greta has been cooking all her life, and is already an expert-- each year, she says she's in charge of not one but Two family Thanksgiving meals.

Last week, Greta made her final project for the seven-week CKA program-- a giant pot of jambalaya with plenty of shrimp, vegetables, and unique spices that smelled almost as good as it tasted. You can read more of Greta's story on our blog and learn about her plan to start a food truck specializing in soul food!

[Feeding Chittenden Blog](#)

Racial Equity in Our Food System

During the Month of April, several members of our staff will be taking part in Food Solutions New England's Annual 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge. We know that we can't have food justice without racial justice, and we're excited to use what we learn in this challenge to cultivate truly just food systems in the community we love.

[Click Here to Sign up for the Challenge!](#)



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