



# Looking back on 2021 at Feeding Chittenden...



## Happy New Year!



Greetings!

As another year comes to a close, we reflect on the challenges and successes of 2021, and what we hope to bring with us to the New Year. We look forward to continuing to grow in 2022, connecting to our community and helping to find solutions to food insecurity in Vermont.

This year, we worked closely with our parent organization, the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, to create our pilot Online Market program, a means of providing greater, more convenient access to food for families and individuals who aren't able to reach traditional food assistance programming. We're thrilled to collaborate with our partners across the state to expand this service through the Champlain Valley Food Network in Middlebury, Burlington, and Franklin/Grand Isle. Emmet Moseley, Food Access Coordinator for Addison county, recently gave [an interview with the Addison County Independent](#) and Chittenden County Access Coordinator, Jenny Carter [spoke last week with WCAX about the pilot program in Chittenden county.](#)

We also sought ways of offering more culturally-relevant foods to our community. Over the course of 2021, we worked with local farms and butchers to provide options for different kinds of diets and preferences. One of the strongest, most vital parts of the community we serve is the diverse set of cultural backgrounds, and we hope to continue an open dialogue about the gaps we can help fill. More than anything, 2021 was a year of learning and listening.

This past week, the Community Kitchen Academy, a seven-week culinary job training program operated in partnership between the Vermont Foodbank and Feeding Chittenden, celebrated its final graduation of the year. Over the last twelve months, Chef Jim Logan and his students have adapted beautifully to another unconventional year, continuing to develop the professional and inter-personal skills needed to find and retain employment in the hospitality industry. **Congratulations to every one of this year's 14 graduates!**

Students learned about safe kitchen practices—including proper knife handling, preventing cuts, burns, handling accidents and fires, managing food allergies—and a variety of skills such as knife sharpening, knife and equipment identification, food safety practices, various cooking methods, food receiving and storage, the preparation of nutritious recipes, and appropriate portion sizes. In addition to honing their craft in the kitchen, students routinely cooked and produced meals that were distributed to the community, as well as successfully catered an event for Feeding Chittenden. We are especially proud of [CKA graduate Raven Antonio, who shared her story this fall about starting her online Filipino bakery, Maritela's Filipino Baked Goods.](#)

Even as our community continues to grapple with COVID-19, forcing us to alter our services for the safety of our clients, staff, and volunteers, we remain grateful for the support we have received this year. Our Morning Meal Program prepares pre-made meals to those in need every weekday morning, and **served 64,150 meals to our community this year.** The Food Shelf at Feeding Chittenden distributes groceries five days a week, providing curbside, low-contact pre-packaged boxes of fresh meat, produce, and perishable goods, along with non-perishable, shelf-stable items, ensuring that everyone has what they need to put food on the table. **Over 2021, this program distributed over 2 million pounds of food and provided groceries to more than 11,000 people.**

We look forward to continuing to evolve in 2022, connecting to our community and helping to find solutions to food insecurity in Vermont. We're so grateful for the support of our friends and neighbors, and we wish you all the best for the new year!

Your support has been critical in creating success during another deeply challenging year. We rely almost entirely on support from donors like you – [every gift makes an impact. With just \\$25, you can feed a family of four.](#)

If you have the means, please consider [giving monthly through our Full Plate Club.](#) As a sustaining giver you will ensure that we are able to offer our programming month after month.

Our thanks,

The People at Feeding Chittenden



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