



Food Oasis Partners At a Glance

NACHC interviewed some of the national, regional and local organizations leading the way to address food insecurity in the United States. The purpose of these interviews was to learn about promising practices and identify mechanisms for collaboration between food security programs and community health centers. Programs were selected based on literature reviews, health center recommendations, media coverage and word of mouth. Nine programs are highlighted here. Thank you to these organizations for providing NACHC with the information below.

AMPLEHARVEST.ORG

www.ampleharvest.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

A web-based organization to encourage and enable fresh food donations from local gardens

REACH

Serves all 50 states

Sharing about 277 pounds of food per gardener per year

Almost 20% of US gardeners know of AmpleHarvest.org for donations

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

» AmpleHarvest.org connects food pantries and feeding programs together so that area gardeners can share their food programs to be recognized locations where area gardeners can share their food

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Food waste in home and community gardens exceeds 11 billion pounds annually — this could be shared!
- ✓ Reducing waste can also reduce hunger

*partners with health centers

ARCADIA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD & AGRICULTURE: ARCADIA MOBILE MARKET

www.arcadiafood.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

Non-profit dedicated to creating a more equitable and sustainable local food system in the Washington, DC area

REACH

Clients are mainly African American (8,000 - 10,000 households)

Now in its fifth season, it serves 14 regular weekly stops and sold nearly \$450,000 in fresh, wholesome, local and sustainably raised food

Arcadia's Mobile Markets serve about 30% of all SNAP transactions and 15% of all Produce Plus Program benefits (a \$10 free fruit and veggie voucher from DC)

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

- » Brings farm food to low-food access neighborhoods
- » School bus fit with refrigerators, freezers and racks for produce
- » It doubles the value of SNAP, WIC and Senior FMNP credits

HIGHLIGHT

- ✓ They hope other retailers will compete for their customers' business so they can move to new food deserts and begin the process again

CANSTRUCTION*

www.canstruction.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

Canstruction combines art and food security by hosting free events in communities where donated cans of food are fashioned into imaginative sculptures

REACH

Events have helped raise over 40 million pounds of food to local foodbanks since 1992

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

- » Events include youth focused efforts as well as community-wide competitions to build the best sculpture
- » Some Citywide Can Art Exhibition participants compete to win titles for the best structures

HIGHLIGHT

- ✓ Recognized for commitment to art, innovation and hunger relief and art exhibitions

**partners with health centers*

FEEDING AMERICA*

www.FeedingAmerica.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

The nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization

REACH

Serves over 46 million Americans each year

- Provide over 4 billion meals
- Work with 200 food banks and 60,000 plus partner agencies nationally

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCSESSES

- » Source foods from large food manufacturers for food banks
- » The Washington DC office works with Congress to support hunger relief programs

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Addressing the meaning of living with a comprehensive approach
- ✓ Closing the “map the meal gap,” (a research project examining state and county food insecurity rates)

MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA*

www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

The oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based senior nutrition programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation

REACH

Coordinates more than 2.4 million meals annually to homebound adults age 60+ through home delivery or by congregate meals to senior centers and other senior gatherings

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCSESSES

- » Coordinate health activities like immunization campaigns into their meal events
- » More health organizations are starting to get involved, and NACHC's survey shows that health centers are indeed partnering with them

HIGHLIGHT

- ✓ More integration with the health care community to show the health impact of this social and nutritional service



NORTH RISING, PILLSBURY UNITED COMMUNITIES

www.puc-mn.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

A chronic disease community-based program in Minneapolis, MN that incorporates access to food and nutrition as part of a focus on wellness

REACH

North Minneapolis (mostly African Americans)

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

» The work includes community gardens, family meals at a community center, a grocery store and community health worker engagement

HIGHLIGHT

- ✓ Social determinants of health must be addressed to change long-standing chronic diseases within communities

SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

www.2harvest.org

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

One of the nation's largest, most efficient and most innovative food banks

REACH

Over 500,000 lbs. of food distributed

Somali immigrants, Hispanics, Caucasians, African Americans and other urban poor in southern MN and western WI

Serves about 530,000 people per year, with 1500 food Rx referrals

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

- » Expanded to include food resource referrals (Food Rx)
- » Patients are screened for food insecurity in the Hennepin County Medical Center electronic medical record
- » Staff can order a food Rx to Second Harvest, which intakes patient food needs and triages them to sign up for SNAP, food pantry resources and other available programs

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Also known as Food Rx
- ✓ Interventions must be patient-centered and individually tailored but also easy on the health system workflow



**partners with health centers*

SHOP HEALTHY NYC*

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/neighborhood-health/shop-health.page>

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

Increases healthy food options and engage residents and organizations to support sustainable food retail in the community

REACH

Serves 86,468 residents in Brownsville, 83,268 in East Tremont and 120,511 in East Harlem

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

- » Works with the community, stores and food distributors so healthy food options are optimized
- » Helps retailers display healthy options well, assist distributors in identifying healthy options and work with community members to promote those options

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Putting healthy items into corner stores in underserved areas
- ✓ An implementation guide is available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/pan/shop-healthy-implementation-guide.pdf>

TOP BOX FOODS*

www.topboxfoods.com

DESCRIPTION/MISSION

Offers fresh produce and frozen meats to fill the gaps in food deserts

REACH

Serves 8,000 people, mostly working poor elderly who raise grandchildren

Primarily targets Chicago but are expanding to New Orleans and Atlanta

About 3,000 produce and protein boxes are sold each month

KEY ACTIVITIES/SUCCESSSES

- » Sells affordable fresh produce and proteins to people living in food deserts through a network of local partners
- » Sells fresh produce and high quality frozen meats which are difficult to find in food deserts. Most food banks have limited supplies.

HIGHLIGHT

- ✓ Use market-forces to address a societal problem at the root
- » Local partners coordinate monthly distributions. People order at 40% of retail prices, and food is delivered to central pickup locations.
- » Top Box processes the payments, accepts SNAP benefits and gives 5% of sales back to their community partners