



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

FEEDING COMMUNITY THROUGH CRISIS



WHO WE ARE

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Roderick J. MacLeod, Esq.

OUR TEAM

Brian Riddell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tara Whalen

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Sarah A. Salem

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Nyhissha T. Gibbs

MANAGER OF VOLUNTEERS

Delia Vasquez

CASE MANAGER

Atticus Lanigan

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Rich Oszip

DISHWASHER

Amy Lipman

LUNCH BOX MANAGER

Stacy Dedring

FARM MARKET MANAGER

Danielle Bakst

LUNCH BOX PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Teresa Brennan

RECEPTIONIST

OUR PROGRAMS

BEVERLY CLOSS FOOD PANTRY

provides food for individuals and families.

THE BRIAN RIDDELL LUNCH BOX

serves free, midday, after-school, and evening meals six days a week.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CLOSET

provides free, gently used clothes for children.

DUTCHESS OUTREACH FRESH MARKET

distributes affordable locally farmed fruits and vegetables to the community.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

provides advocacy and referral services as well as one-time grants for prescriptions and utility payments.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

works with social service agencies to provide clients with household items.

SUSAN DEKEUKELAERE MEMORIAL COAT DRIVE

collects and distributes thousands of warm winter coats to those in need in Dutchess County.

THE FARM STAND

provides free produce one Friday a month.

DUTCHESS OUTREACH WORKS TO WIDEN COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, INCREASE ADVOCACY, AND PROVIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF BY OFFERING A RANGE OF VITAL PROGRAMS FOR THOSE IN NEED TO ENSURE THAT EQUITABLE PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS TO SAFE, NUTRITIOUS, CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE, AND SUSTAINABLY GROWN FOOD IS AVAILABLE AT ALL TIMES ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY, REGARDLESS OF INCOME OR ZIP CODE.



Brian Riddell

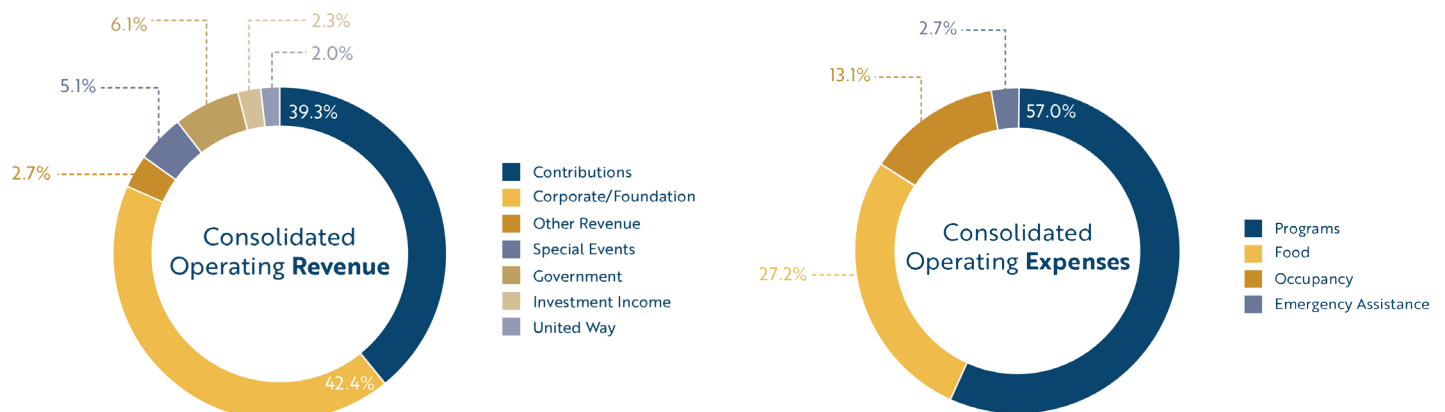
Call it Fate.

On the way to a camping trip back in the late 80's while at a rest stop, I just had an inkling to call back about a few jobs I was seeking. My first and only call was to Dutchess Outreach. I spoke with Executive Director Caroline Morse who after telling me I was overqualified for the Case Manager/Volunteer Coordinator position, she asked how long I thought I would stay. I told her I could give her a few years.

Thirty-one years later, twenty-five as the Director, I guess you could say I kept my word. With the pandemic upon us and now what appears to be a more virulent second wave on its way, there has been little time for reflection as I near retirement. But I want to say thank you to all the volunteers, supporters, donors and the extraordinary staff with whom I was able to share this journey.

I'm proud of what we were able to do together and what Dutchess Outreach will be able to accomplish in its 47th year helping people in Dutchess County. As it should be, my leaving has nothing to do with anything ending.

FINANCES AT A GLANCE (19/20 AUDITED)



DUTCHESS OUTREACH 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

Dutchess Outreach served 150,993 meals in 2020



MEALS



Lunch Box

LUNCH meals	37,004
DINNER meals	18,217
SCHOOL meals	8,076
Total Lunch Box Meals	63,297



Food Pantry

Total Food Pantry Meals 87,696

150,993 meals total

COVID RESPONSE

In the months of March and April alone:

The Lunch Box served more than
12,000 lunch-time meals to-go

The Food Pantry provided
17,478 meals

The Food Pantry delivered over
**1,750 meals to 350 households all
over Dutchess County**



CLIENTS



Individuals 6,760



Children 2,984



Seniors 824

New Food Pantry
Clients 1,027



Produce Donated by Local Farms

*This food went out through the pantry,
market, and was prepared in the Lunch Box*

Poughkeepsie Farm Project	8,965 lbs
Hudson Valley Farm Hub	3,149 lbs
Roosevelt Home Garden	5,060 lbs

Total Fresh, Local Produce 17,174 lbs



Emergency Assistance

Utility Grants	\$9,261.00
Medication Grants	\$14,953.00

7,813 lbs of food were received from New York State Farms thanks to Governor Cuomo's "Nourish New York" initiative as a direct response to COVID-19, our food system supply chain failings, and the increased number of people experiencing food insecurity.

IN DUTCHESS COUNTY, MORE THAN 40,390 INDIVIDUALS, OR 13.7% OF THE POPULATION ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY. THAT'S A 58% INCREASE FROM 2019.

CARING FOR COMMUNITY THROUGH A CRISIS

OUR TEAM ROSE TO THE OCCASION AND, THANKS TO THEIR WORK, DUTCHESS OUTREACH WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NEEDED FOOD AND EMERGENCY RELIEF DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.



Tara Whalen
Associate Director

"Face coverings, social distancing, and quarantining. 2020 has been a year like nothing we have experienced before at Dutchess Outreach. When the COVID-19 pandemic first arrived in Dutchess County in March of 2020, we were prepared to carry out our mission with minimal interruption to our operation.

We continued to provide food to those in need and did so at a fast pace. As businesses and governments shut down around us, our focus narrowed to focus on food distribution to those impacted by the pandemic. Many new faces arrived at Dutchess Outreach to obtain necessary food items to help feed their households. The financial impact created by the pandemic has been devastating. Thousands of people lost their source of income when their jobs were paused or, in some instances terminated, as businesses were forced to close. Those people became our clients - almost overnight."



Nyhisha T. Gibbs
Manager of Volunteers

"Annually, our Volunteer Committee hosts our Recognition Reception, where we thank our volunteers; our heartbeats. However, for 2020, the Coronavirus Pandemic rendered us unable to host this auspicious occasion.

In March 2020, we recognized the reality and impact of the Coronavirus. Amid numerous uncertainties, our volunteer pool dwindled. As an essential business, we were challenged with providing our services safely, and with securing volunteers. As the need for essential items increased, a core group of volunteers emerged. We marveled at their support and are grateful for their service.

While these efforts were on-going, our Executive Director and Staff assessed our programs. With an 'all hands on deck' approach and with our volunteers, we were able to continue to provide the services our clients need. We are grateful to each of our volunteers for their extraordinary service. Our volunteers are Caring Outstanding Volunteers In Dutchess County!"



Amy Lipman
Lunch Box Manager

"When Covid-19 reached Dutchess County, the number of meals served through the Lunch Box jumped overnight. While implementing new protocols to keep staff, volunteers and clients safe, we worked to meet the growing demand for fresh and nourishing meals through our lunch and dinner services. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, the Lunch Box team has enjoyed incorporating local produce into our menus. No matter what's being served, it's a group effort, and the dedication of our volunteers is what makes our work possible."

**WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.
YOUR DONATIONS, GIFTS, YOUR TIME, AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR
CAUSE IS WHAT KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY FULL.**

**JUST \$3 CAN PROVIDE ONE MEAL TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.
WE CAN REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER.**



BRIAN RIDDELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF 25 YEARS, RETIRES

BROOKLYN BORN AND BRED, BRIAN RIDDELL CAME TO DUTCHESS OUTREACH IN 1989 AS A CASEWORKER. LATER HE SERVED AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR FIVE YEARS AND WAS HIRED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN 1995. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, OUR PROGRAMS HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY. FOR BRIAN THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT, HE SAYS, IS TO ALWAYS KEEP FOCUSED ON OUR MISSION; TO EXTEND AVAILABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO ADDRESS INEQUALITY IN ALL ITS FORMS. AND, HE ADDS, THIS COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS RESPONDED.

BRIAN HAS BEEN A STABLE FORCE OF POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COMMUNITY AND HAS SOLIDIFIED THE ORGANIZATION'S SPACE IN FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY RELIEF, WORKING WITH COUNTLESS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, COALITIONS, AND POLICYMAKERS ALONG THE WAY IN ORDER TO DO SO. MOST RECENTLY, BRIAN SAW OUR ORGANIZATION THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, AS THE NEED FOR FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF INCREASED.

BRIAN WILL CONTINUE TO CURATE THE POUGHKEEPSIE SADIE PETERSON DELANEY AFRICAN ROOTS LIBRARY, WHICH HE CO-FOUNDED, AND WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH POUGHKEEPSIE ENJAN, END THE NEW JIM CROW ACTION NETWORK, OF WHICH HE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER, A GROUP FORMED TO COMBAT RACISM IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THE MASS INCARCERATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE TEAM AT DUTCHESS OUTREACH ARE SAD TO SAY GOODBYE TO BRIAN, HOWEVER, ARE INCREDIBLY HAPPY FOR HIM AS HE ENTERS HIS RETIREMENT AND WE WISH HIM HAPPINESS AND ENJOYMENT AS HE ENTERS THIS NEW ADVENTURE.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER JACOBSON
PROVIDING NEEDED PPE

THANK YOU TO OUR "TAKE-OUT TUESDAY" PARTNERS:

FARMERS & CHEFS, ESSIE'S RESTURANT, ROSSI'S DELI, SAVONA'S, NOSHI'S CONEY ISLAND, EMILIANO'S PIZZA, HUDSON VALLEY HELPING HEROES AND MORE WHO PROVIDED HOT MEALS FOR DISTRIBUTION IN OUR LUNCH BOX COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.



WELCOMING DR. RENEE FILLETTE TO DUTCHESS OUTREACH

THE DUTCHESS OUTREACH BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS PROUD TO APPOINT DR. RENEE FILLETTE AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ORGANIZATION.

RENEE FILLETTE IS AN EXECUTIVE BRINGING OVER 16 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN CHILD WELFARE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PEER SUPPORT, AUTISM, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, HOMELESSNESS, FOOD INSECURITY, CARE MANAGEMENT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, HEAD START, AND EDUCATION. AT AN EARLY AGE, RENEE FOUND HER PASSION WHILE VOLUNTEERING IN SOUP KITCHENS, FOOD PANTRIES, AND SHELTERS FOR THE HOMELESS. IN 2003, SHE FOUNDED THE FIRST NEW FOSTER CARE AGENCY TO BE LICENSED IN NEW YORK STATE IN OVER 30 YEARS. SEVERAL YEARS LATER SHE SERVED AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT GRACE SMITH HOUSE, A DUTCHESS COUNTY-BASED AGENCY FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IT WAS UNDER HER TENURE THAT THE AGENCY EXPANDED ITS SERVICES TO OFFER A TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM IN ALL 13 SCHOOL DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY. IN 2014 RENEE EARNED HER DOCTORATE IN PUBLIC SERVICE: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-PROFITS AND MOVED INTO A NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AT ASTOR SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. DURING HER TIME AT ASTOR RENEE LED THE RESTRUCTURING OF A \$65M AGENCY, MAJOR SERVICE EXPANSIONS IN THE BRONX, AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF CARE PROVIDED AND THE FISCAL HEALTH OF THE AGENCY.

RENEE'S CAREER HAS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN THE MOST RESPECTFUL, EFFECTIVE, AND EFFICIENT WAY POSSIBLE. HER WORK AND TRAVELS HAVE INFORMED HER ABOUT THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF POVERTY, HOUSING, AND FOOD INSECURITY, AND THE MANY SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES THAT PREVENT PEOPLE FROM ACHIEVING THEIR GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS. SHE FEELS DEEPLY ALIGNED WITH OUR MISSION AT DUTCHESS OUTREACH AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BUILDING ON OUR STRONG LEGACY WHILE SUPPORTING OUR STAFF TO FURTHER THEIR UNIQUE TALENTS AND HONOR THEIR REMARKABLE DEDICATION.



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US POSTAGE PAID
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PRINTED BY: MAAR PRINTING