



2023 Strategic Plan and Board Recruitment

In Connecticut, 364,040 people are facing hunger. 109,480 are children... 1 in 8 children face hunger.*

Nobody in our community should go hungry.

Our solution is to provide a continuous supply of fresh, nutritious, and locally grown food to our hunger relief organizations.

You can be part of the solution.

*www.FeedingAmerica.org/hunger-in-america/connecticut



Real Food CT is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Newtown, CT, founded in 2019. We are responding to gaps in our food system that leave too many people in our region hungry and lacking access to nutritious food.

Even in a state as wealthy as Connecticut, there are growing numbers of people living in poverty and in need of food, including the working poor, the elderly and ill, and people living with abuse.

Our Mission

We connect local farms to food pantries and hunger relief organizations.

And it's working! In just four years we grew and collected over 75,000 lbs of locally-grown food, and delivered it to where it is desperately needed, and greatly appreciated.



2 Real Food CT “Giving Gardens”

14 Farm Surplus Partners

13 Recipient Organizations

20 Young Farmer Interns trained

75,000

Pounds of Fresh Produce Donated



Connecting locally grown food to hunger-relief organizations

OUR VISION

We envision a world with a connected network of local food producers with the power to deliver nutritious food, transform food waste, restore our farmlands, and educate our communities, to ensure access to healthy food for everyone.

WHAT WE DO

All of our programs center around getting nutritious food to neighbors in need, and supporting Connecticut's local food economy.

- **We establish "Giving Gardens"**, where Real Food CT grows food and delivers it to local food pantries and shelters. We are developing a 4-season "**Small Farm Model**" that will be replicated in communities throughout the state to directly supply local food pantries with fresh, nutritious food.
- **We collect excess harvest** from local farmers and deliver the food to hunger relief organizations. In doing so we reduce food waste, support our farmers, and feed more people.
- **We train young interns** in regenerative farming techniques and how they can address issues of hunger and food security.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- CT Department of Agriculture
- Fairfield County Community Foundation
- Buck Foundation/United Way
- Aquarion Water Company
- Grass Roots Fund
- Sustainable CT



Real Food CT Strategic Plan

We are looking to build a cohesive team that can help shape a sustainable and impactful future for Real Food CT and its efforts in connecting fresh, nutritious food to hunger relief organizations, and supporting a thriving local food supply chain.

OBJECTIVE #1: Build Out the Board of Directors

Currently our Board consists of the five founding members of our organization that focus a lot of their time on our programs. We would like to appoint a new active Board to drive our organization to the next level. Below are the positions we envision voting on in Q1 2023:

Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

Committee Chairs: Grant Writer, DEI, Fundraiser, Business Development

OBJECTIVE #2: Build Out Operational Staff

We just completed our first year paying a salary for our Executive Director. We are seeking funding to support a dynamic three-person staff (to start) to work full time on executing our current and future goals. Below are the positions we envision:

- Executive Director
- Operations Manager
- Community Outreach/Events/Fundraising

OBJECTIVE #3: Small Farm Model

In the Spring of 2022 we were awarded a matching \$48,000 grant from the State Department of Agriculture to fund the completion of our flagship Small Farm at Sticks and Stones and to create a roadmap for duplicating the model in underserved communities. We need a clear plan on how best to scale this project.

Significant Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Community Investment Fund 2030: Preparing for a possible summer 2023 proposal for 3-5 Small Farms in designated municipalities.

Opportunity Zones (OZ): Preparing for a possible 2023 proposal for ongoing Small Farm development in designated OZ's in Connecticut.

Current Programs Funded

	Budget
Giving Gardens / Newtown Small Farms	\$25K
Young Farmer Internships	\$25K
Local Farm Surplus Pickup	\$15K

Pressing Questions

- Developing revenue streams
- Organizational structure for real estate development for our Small Farm Model in underserved communities.
- Access to presentations for large donor funds

Real Food CT

The Board of Directors

We are seeking 5-7 new Board members that share our passion and dedication for creating equity in our local food system, supporting hunger relief with fresh, nutritious food, and helping develop sustainable farming opportunities in our region.

Functions

Real Food CT's Board of Directors is responsible for defining and upholding the organization's mission, vision, and values and for providing overall leadership and strategic direction to the organization. In addition to setting policies and maintaining the nonprofit's overall direction, the board establishes priorities, crafts strategies, and ensures that plans and programs are implemented. Board members are also involved in RFCT's fundraising efforts, spreading the word about our good work and using their connections to gain access to potential donors, actively participating in fundraising campaigns, as well as making their own personal donations.

Terms

- One year terms to be voted on for re-election at annual meeting
- Responsible for \$25K
- Attend at least 80% of board meetings and board activities
- Participate in and attend our annual Seed to Plate Fundraiser

Responsibilities to Organization

- Ensure that Real Food CT is run in an ethical and legal manner, and implements good governance practices that establish accountability
- Support, provide direction to, and work with the Executive Director to create a strategic direction for RFCT and to set short and long term goals and policies
- Assure that management continuity is properly provided
- Approve appropriate compensation and benefit policies and practices
- Annually evaluate the performance of the Executive Director
- Annually review and evaluate the performance of the Board of Directors and take steps to improve its performance



Real Food CT

The Board of Directors

(continued)

Community Outreach

- RFCT should be at the top of your list when talking about your community involvement with potential donors at any networking event.
- Identify potential funding sources and serve as an ambassador in securing organizational funding.

Financial Oversight

- In consultation with RFCT's Executive Director, set and approve the annual budget
- Review and understand financial statements as they are submitted to the board
- Serve as a member of the board in a manner that promotes the best interests of the organization
- Annually review RFCT's Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax prior to its filing with the IRS.

Committees

As we build out a new Board of Directors, one of our focuses will be to collectively set Committee's and working groups to execute quarterly and yearly goals. Examples could include: Executive, Board Development, Finance/Accounting, Funding, Small Farm Model, Seed to Plate Fundraiser

Time Commitment

- Each director is asked to commit to at least two one-year terms.
- Directors may serve multiple terms.
- Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.
- Each Board Member will have tasks to dedicate approximately 5-7 hours per month.

The Selection Process

Interested candidates should contact Sean Fitzpatrick, Executive Director at seanfitzpatrick@realfoodct.org. Top candidates will be interviewed by the Executive Director and existing Board Members.

