Food Rescue Alliance

Not wasted, a year in review

2022 Membership Report
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I have really enjoyed getting to know you all, your work, and coming together as a network this year in my new role as the Network Designer.

Working with you has been an honor as we collectively explore how to shift the charitable food system toward community control. I'm lucky to have a front-row seat to the impact your work is having in your communities. We know that grassroots food rescue initiatives are uniquely equipped to address food justice and are too often under-resourced and not centered in national conversations around food justice.

As a generative social impact network, we can amplify individual member’s on the ground work and our collective work as a network through sharing our knowledge and resources and coming together to learn as a network and work towards shared goals.

Our intention for this year was to focus on strengthening member connections and aligning on our direction and intention as a network. This year we collected feedback on resources and projects that help food rescues grow and support on-the-ground work. We used your feedback to iterate on additional opportunities for connection and streamline resource sharing.

Additionally, members and staff participated in strategic planning around FRA’s development strategy, focusing on increasing sustainability of the network.

Looking forward to our work together as we move into the new year.

In Solidarity,

Elizabeth Suttle
she/her/ella
## Membership Benefits in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>bi-monthly workshops</strong></td>
<td>Collective learning through member-led workshops on food rescue related topics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>fra newsletter</strong></td>
<td>Resource sharing and member updates</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>fra slack</strong></td>
<td>Instant messaging platform to connect organizations across timezones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>food rescue connections</strong></td>
<td>Opportunities to connect, and learn from other food rescue members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>bi-monthly member meetings</strong></td>
<td>Network gatherings where members connect and share knowledge, resources, and collective learning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>network listserv</strong></td>
<td>Email group for network updates and questions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>support &amp; regional collaboration</strong></td>
<td>Coaching, guidance, and support for member-led regional projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>robot or rootable</strong></td>
<td>Open source logistics tool for grassroots food initiatives</td>
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Collective Impact
Numbers based on member estimates

- > 4,231,999.5 lbs
- 10 workshops/meetings
- 58 member connections
- 225,000 people
- ~5 weeks/yr
- 30 member comments

[ collective distribution ]
[ member-led ]
[ alignment building ]
[ time saved via resource sharing ]
[ feedback integration ]
Learning
February
From Rescue to Solidarity

New Economy Coalition's Zac Chapman (he/him) shared how a solidarity economy framework can help us address the root causes of hunger. The solidarity economy is a movement to build a just and sustainable economy, prioritizing people and planet over endless profit and growth. Previously, Zac was the ED of Food to Power.

Video Slides

April
Introduction to Participatory Action Research (PAR)

Pinterest’s Chris Schiffbauer (he/him) introduced us to the fundamentals of PAR: direct involvement of those affected, driving towards actions, and equality of knowledge. Previously, Chris collaborated with Boulder Food Rescue on a PAR project.

Video Slides

June
Circular Economy & Food Rescue

CAFE Food Rescue and Boulder Food Rescue collaborated on a workshop explaining the circular economy and why you might want to explore it. A circular economy shares, leases, reuses, repairs, refurbishes and recycles materials as long as possible.

Video Slides

August
Food Rescue in Rural Communities

Seven Valleys Food Rescue shared its opportunities and challenges operating in rural communities. Additionally, they facilitated discussions drawing out other organizations’ experiences. For example, have you ever considered the logistics around hunters as food donors?

Video Slides Summary
November
Generative Social Impact Networks & Collective Action

Network Impacts' Anne Whatley (she/her) and Amanda Welsh (she/her) provided the groundwork for understanding FRA’s organizing model. Our primary goal is to build, strengthen, and maintain ties among members.

Generative social impact networks work well when:
- There’s no clear recipe for success.
- Issues are evolving and require evolving solutions.
- Issues can’t be addressed by a single organization.
- Issues cut across sectors or fields of practice.

Ann Bijur (she/her) from Vermont’s Dept of Environmental Conservation talked about the history and implementation of its recycling law. We could all relate when she shared how education around food waste was not “one and done.” It’s perpetual as there’s a high turnover in the food industry.

October
Expanding Opportunities for Participation—Lessons from a Research Project

Boulder Food Rescue’s Lindsey Loberg (they/them/elle) and CU Boulder’s Lee Frankel-Goldwater (he/him) helped us envision an ideal participatory system. Additionally, they shared tactics and lessons from their own experiences.

December
Participatory Frameworks & No Cost Grocery Programs

Hole Food Rescue’s Iván Jiménez (he/him/el) shared HFR’s experiences implementing participatory frameworks. He helped us understand how HFR went from research to action and how they evaluated their iterative progress.

Throughout 2022
Member Conversations

Dozens of conversations spanning co-ownership models, volunteer agreements, average compost from programs, calculating the value of produce donations, equipment used, unionization, food tracking, job descriptions, Feeding America, sorting food, employee handbooks, freezer guidelines, and training materials.
New Members
Access to Excess rescues wholesome food before it goes bad then make it available to people with little or no access to healthy options. They find extra from the food industry and make it accessible to people that need it most.

Aloha Harvest (AH) was established in 1999 with one administrator, one part-time driver, and a rented van. Twenty-four years later, they have evolved as the largest nonprofit in Hawaii dedicated to food rescue and sustainability.
Potluck Food Rescue is a 32-year-old food rescue organization based in Central Arkansas. They redirect roughly 10,000 lbs of food weekly to 54 area hunger relief agencies, free of charge.

Let’s Be Whole's core program offerings provide a conceptual model of health & wellness designed to:

• Establish health and respectful relationships with others and the world around them.
• Balance and integrate the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of one’s self.
• Make lifestyle choices that promote wellness.
• Participate actively in their health decisions and healing processes.
Financials

Revenue
- Grants $111,777
- Other $7,970

Expenses
- Subscriptions & Operating Needs $2,431
- Taxes & Benefits $11,254
- Outside Consultants $7,000
- Workshops & Participation Stipends $2,350
- FRA Personnel $91,817

Total Revenue $119,747
Total Expenses $114,852

(Membership dues, individual donors)
Rootable

A member-led project from Boulder Food Rescue, Rootable is volunteer logistics software for organizations.

Revenue/Expenses
$150,000
The Colorado Health Foundation funded Rootable development in 2022.

Member Participation
During development, seven FRA organizations received a stipend for participation in user feedback and testing.

Features
Along with many many smaller tweaks, the main features added: scheduling absences, importing data from the Robot, additional data logging options, and scheduling enhancements.

Check it out
rootable.org

Join the project mailing list, contact becks@foodrescuealliance.org

Up Next
Cooperative Ownership
We’ve partnered with Denver-based Center for Community Wealth Building to incorporate as a business cooperative.
Hello 2023

As we move into the new year, we hope to continue to build off the connections we have made as a network, strengthen members’ capacity to lead the network, and develop structures for the network to support member-led projects.

We look forward to implementing your feedback from the end-of-year meeting on ways to increase the sustainability of the network’s leadership.

Credits
Content
Elizabeth Suttle

Design
Inspired by the Design Justice Network’s 2020 Membership Report
Becks Boone

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