



Childhood Nutrition Collaborative

GreenStar Community Projects, Inc

\$20,000 over two years

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Need & Urgency

Systemic “Big Hunger” proliferates food-induced health crises

- Scale = Tompkins County: 20% *children* under 18 do not have enough food. More are malnourished (measurement issue)
- 30% students (preK – 10th grade) reported overweight or obese
- Ithaca district = 37% *students* eligible Free & Reduced lunch
- Rural districts:
 - Dryden & Groton = 45% students on Free & Reduced lunch
 - Newfield = 55% students
- Academic performance gaps by race & income (Cradle to Career)

Collaborative Goal

Every pregnant woman and young person (ages 0-24) in Tompkins County will be able to access nutritious food every day, without stigma.



Current Collaborating Partners

- GreenStar Community Projects
- Cradle to Career (Collective Impact initiative)
- Building Bridges Initiative
- Food Bank of Southern Tier
- Cornell (Mann Informatics; Public Health; Cooperative Extension)
- Food & Health Network of South Central NY
- TC Department of Youth Services
- TC Health Dept
- Coalition for Healthy School Food
- Youth Farm; Groundswell Center for Farming;
- SouthSide Community Center; Loaves & Fishes
- Friendship Donations Network; Groton Library
- Summer Meals Task Force
- Cornell (Africana; Sociology, Small Farms); Ithaca College (Nutrition)
- Ithaca City School District (LACS, New Roots, Caroline, BJM, Cayuga Heights)
- Community Foundation
 - Park Foundation
 - Engaged Cornell



Communication & Inclusion

- Email, Listserves, Shared documents
- Bi-monthly meetings
- Quarterly Food Networking sessions
- www.hotpotatopress.org less heard voices
- Meet young people “where they’re at”
(Community Cafes, Pantry gardens, schools)



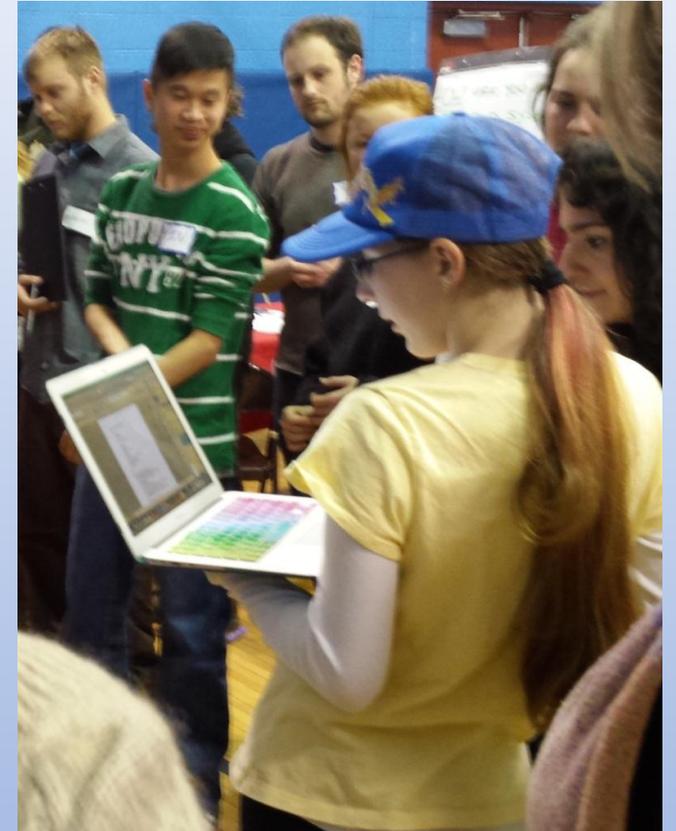
Data Used to Support Collaborative Goal

Quantitative Data:

- KWIC Data; Food Bank of S. Tier;
- Compass II study (UWTC); CCD Public School data;
- Nat'l Ctr for Ed Stats; NYS School report cards;
- US Census Bureau; NYS Dept Health (County Health Assessment); TC Youth Services

Qualitative Data:

- CCE Food Pantry line surveys; GSCP Community Meal reports; SSCC and L&F surveys;
- Anecdotal stories; Groton Community Cafes;
- Hot Potato Press citizen journalism articles, audio spots, FB...)



Shared Measurements & Activities

Shared Measurements

- Free & Reduced price Lunch (FRL) (public school % eligible, % eating)
- Triple Burden of Malnutrition
- Childhood Obesity rates; % Youth self-report “sad most days”
- Economic indicators for systemic food system change

Mutual Activities

- Planning & alignment process thru bi-weekly meetings
- Cradle to Career: Shared Community Platform; Relationship mapping
- Nutrition curriculum: Learning gardens, Kids cooking
- Community Café for cross-sector food conversation

Quick Wins for Childhood Nutrition Collaborative

- Collective investment in shared backbone function
- Steering Group members share data/measurements
- Gov departments on board
- Manifesting City's Plan with learning & pantry gardens
- Local Food Network sessions
- 2017 Farm to Plate Conference
- Hot Potato Press joins Community News Exchange

What have we learned so far?

Barriers:

- Economic exclusion causes hunger, malnutrition (Housing, Transport)

What works:

- Long-term commitment to change childhood nutrition outcomes
- Bi-weekly Steering Group – Collaborators promote shared goal
- Building food advocacy skills with young stakeholders
- Grants that require collaborative work

Challenges:

- Building collaboration with over-committed staff and with under-engaged youth

Building food advocacy (Senator Gillibrand, Food Bank, BJM Elementary)



Strengthen Backbone Function: Urgency to Collaborate

- Systemic efficiency: government, grantors, non-profits, people
- Shared Media Campaign to develop sense of urgency around childhood nutrition
- Support TC Youth Services' food-related goals
- Aspire to support TC Health Dept in setting food goals; Engage DSS
- Engage more youth (citizen journalism; gardening; cafes...)
- Enforce City's Comprehensive Plan thru Food Policy Council
- Integrate food curriculum & community service into school districts
- Support collaborative fund raising for continued collaborative work

If we can't do this in Tompkins County, then where?

