

2022 Annual Report

Gratitude and Impact

Dear Friends,

Thank you for giving so generously in 2022 and for being part of the effort to relocalize and democratize our food!

Together we launched new local food access programs, added more growers, sold more local food, refreshed our campus grounds and greenhouse, and prepared for the renovation of our buildings in the heart of Rutland.

Here are some high points from 2022 you made possible:

Farmacy enrolled more participants than ever before

Everyone Eats program ended and you, our generous community, helped us continue to serve free meals through Rutland County Eats

Eat at Home pilot project delivered ready-to-cook meal kits to rural seniors

Online Market helped beginning farmers sell through our new platform

Heart of Vermont Agriculture now has a refrigerated transport van for on-farm pick up, countywide delivery, and regional distribution

And because of you, our staff and dedicated volunteers were able to deliver local food to more sites across Rutland County and care for our campus grounds.

Know that you are making Rutland healthier, more food secure, and more resilient. Together we continue to do the good work of strengthening our local food web!

Thank you sincerely!

The Board and Staff of the Vermont Farmers Food Center

Here's what you made possible

Together we made local food more accessible to more people in our region and increased sales for more Rutland County farmers and food producers.



Farmacy: Food as Medicine increased participants to **225** and has reached over **2600** people and their households since 2015. Farmacy food shares were distributed for **15** weeks to **seven** sites in Rutland County.

This year the Farmacy Project collaborated with **22** healthcare clinics, **nine** for profit farms, and **four** non-profit farms. Over **33,750** pounds of local food were packed into

Farmacy bags in 2022. [Learn more about Farmacy](#)

"I've lost over 45 pounds, gotten off diabetic medication and learned how to eat better. I also learned about new vegetables I would never have tried. And I save a ton of money!" - 2022 Farmacy participant



Everyone Eats pandemic relief funding ended in December 2022 but still had a tremendous community impact on hunger and the local economy.

Sales to **22** area restaurants and caterers totaled **\$1,502,974**. Of the food bought for Everyone Eats, **38 percent** was locally grown or produced and then purchased through VFFC. **21** community partners helped to distribute meals across Rutland County. **153,111** meals went out into the community in 2022. But hunger and hardship persist.

In November 2022, VFFC made plans to continue the program just for our area under the name, *Rutland County Eats*.

(Sometimes it is hard for people to find the words for what this program means to them.) [Learn more about Rutland County Eats](#)



Eat at Home was piloted in late summer/early fall through the partnership and support of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging.

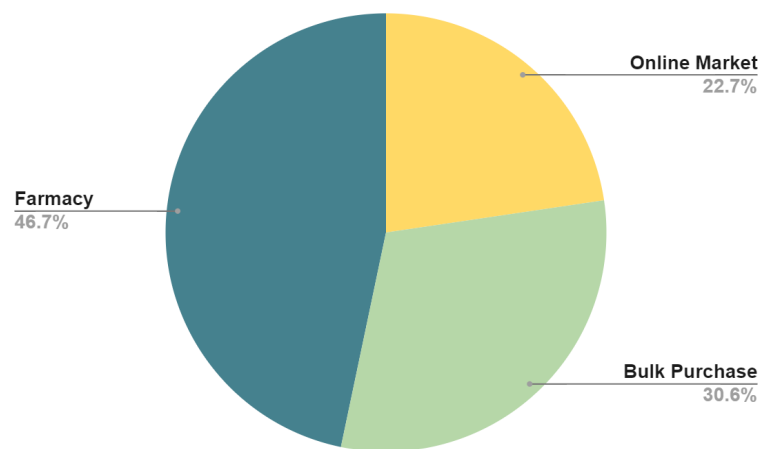
Eat at Home delivered chef-prepared ready-to-cook meal kits to **15** rural Rutland County seniors and the members of their households.

Over **90 percent** of the food in each meal kit was grown and produced locally. Plans are being made to continue the program in 2023. [Learn more about Eat at Home](#)

"Loved it all, I'm not used to such great quality food. Such a treat!" - 2022 Eat at Home participant

Online Market added 15 new farmers and food producers in 2022 and sold **\$23,028** in local food and products to individual consumers and **\$32,393** in bulk sales. In 2022, we began using the *Local Food Marketplace* platform making it easier to coordinate with other Vermont food hubs, track purchase orders, and make payments to our growers and food producers. [Visit the Online Market](#)

Through our **Farmacy, Online Market, and Bulk Purchase** programs, we generated **\$120,624 total sales for 35 local farmers and food producers.**





VFFC's Heart of Vermont

Agriculture program added a new service for farmers and partners. We now offer on-farm pick up allowing growers and producers to spend less time on the road and more time on their farms and businesses.

Last year, we began delivering employees' online orders at three Rutland businesses through their [Workplace Wellness](#) programs.

The VFFC refrigerated transport van is expanding markets by connecting Rutland area produce and value-added products to distributors in other regions of Vermont and New England.

Volunteers make all the difference

From bagging Farmacy shares, and delivering to homes and distribution sites, to caring for the campus grounds and tending our community gardens, our **volunteers make it happen at VFFC.**

For 2022, the national value of each volunteer hour was \$29.95. Last year, our volunteers dedicated around **1960** hours of their time making the value of VFFC's volunteer efforts worth **\$58,702!**

Stafford Technical Center

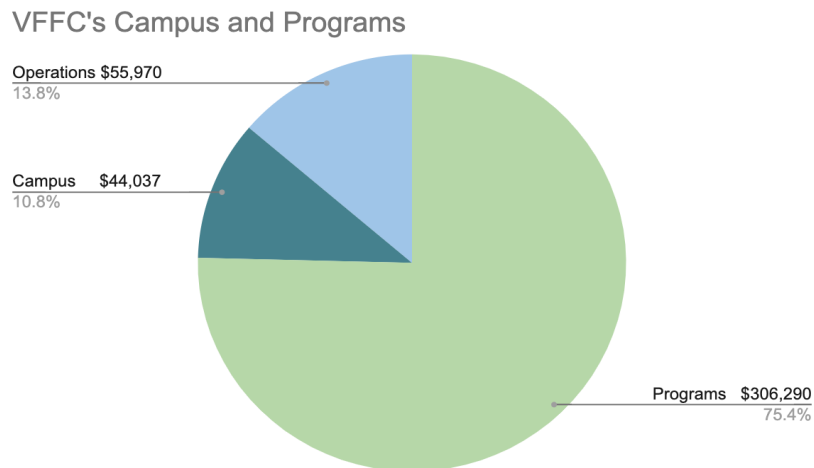


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Our wholehearted thanks to each of you!

Your generosity in action in 2022.

We value your gift and we're making sure it goes as far as possible for the local food community.



The chart above represents VFFC's program and campus operations budget. VFFC's full organizational budget, including the federal Everyone Eats Program and VFFC's campus expansion project are included in our 2022 IRS Form 990, available on GuideStar.

Where funds come from

- Corporate Grants (4%)
- Federal Grants (4%)
- Private Foundation Grants (45%)
- Fees for Program Services (29%)
- Individual/Corporate Donations (15%)
- Fundraisers (3%)

In 2022, we received a final disbursement of \$1,805,481.51 to coordinate the federal pandemic relief program, Everyone Eats, for the Rutland region. In combination with our other revenue sources, this grant represented 81% of our total revenue for 2022. The balance of funds not expended in 2022 carried over into March 2023 when the program served its last meals.

*Your generosity powers so much good work for local food
and we can't thank you enough.*