WE WORK TO IMPROVE FOOD ACCESS, PROVIDE LOCAL FARM AND FOOD EDUCATION, AND DEVELOP ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT FARM VIABILITY - ALL OF WHICH DIRECTLY IMPACTS THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR NORTHWEST VERMONT COMMUNITIES.

ABOUT HEALTHY ROOTS

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation
Franklin Grand Isle Office of Economic Opportunity
Northwestern Medical Center
South Hero Land Trust
The Abbey Group

WHO WE SERVED IN 2020

133 Growers & Makers
14 Buyers
25 Food Sites
5,500 Community Members
12 Schools
32 Volunteers
GLEANING

“Gleaning is the act of harvesting food post commercial harvest and donating that food to people that need it.”

Healthy Roots Gleaning Program has been active since 2016, with the goals of increasing food access and education, building volunteerism, partnering with local farms, and reducing food waste.

32,000 POUNDS
A 33% increase from 2019.

25 SITES
50% served weekly. 45% report HRC provides 75% or more of their produce.

32 VOLUNTEERS
45% increase in individual volunteers from 2019.

“The families are excited when there is extra produce. Fresh produce is usually one of the first things they cut from their budgets.”

~Kaight Althoff, Food for Thought

“People enjoy shopping for the produce. We have some guests who only come for that.”

~Donna Gaffney, Fairfield Community Center
“RiseVT was thrilled to partner with Healthy Roots to distribute seeds to families at the start of the pandemic. It provided a way for us to maintain connection to the students during a time of uncertainty, while continuing to educate them about local foods, nutrition and science. Healthy Roots is a valued and essential partner to RiseVT.”

~Jessica Frost, RiseVT

“Our team would not be in the position we are in today without the guidance and support we received from Healthy Roots Collaborative. Rachel is a wealth of knowledge and encouraged our team to think of partners in our community and how best we could connect with them. We have a diverse FTS team and, with Rachel’s coaching, became enthusiastic enough to apply for a grant which we received!”

~Kim Atkinson, Richford Elementary

$10,000 GRANT FUNDING
We supported schools in securing direct funding to advance farm to school.

3,000 SEED PACKETS
To bring hope and unity to our schools, we delivered seed packets and educational resources across the region.

9 SCHOOLS
Coached in building a resilient farm to school program.

Healthy Roots works with school teams to develop integrated farm to school programs that reach school cafeterias, classrooms, and communities.

We provide training and match making for food service staff to ensure local in the school meal programs.

We host curriculum trainings for educators and provide student activities including gardening and cooking skills and farm field trips.
BUSINESS SUPPORT

“2020 brought the challenge of keeping us connected to our customers during a time where our u-pick business was closed. Healthy Roots connected us with Anna and NOFA-VT to help us develop a website for our blueberry business. The website allowed customers to order and prepay online and schedule a pick-up time. It also kept track of orders and inventory. We acquired many new customers and many repeat customers.”

– Kathy Vandevord, Island Blueberries

55 GROWERS & MAKERS
Engaged in In Good Taste and virtual events, business development and market access facilitation.

12 BUYERS
Engaged in new buying partnerships.

5,500+ EATERS
Are accessing local food through Healthy Roots programming such as In Good Taste, gleaning, emergency food and farm to school.

Supporting our Network

Healthy Roots maintains a network for 180 growers & makers in Northwest VT. We offer them direct service in business and infrastructure development and new market access.

The pandemic created a great deal of uncertainty. We were able to respond with finding replacement markets, enabling online purchasing for businesses and farmers markets, and connecting growers and makers to valuable state announcements and resources.
“In this year of the pandemic, the critical work of Healthy Roots cannot be overstated. When the state of Vermont asked The Abbey Group to be involved with the Farmers to Families program, we turned to Healthy Roots for assistance. Not only did they play a vital role in securing local produce for emergency food boxes, they distributed food boxes to our most vulnerable populations.”

~Nina Hansen, The Abbey Group

“Everybody Eats is one of the few silver linings to come out of the pandemic; it supports local farmers, restaurants and citizens by bringing them together. It is providing financial stability to our restaurant; an oasis in unstable times. The best part about Everybody Eats is the way that it empowers our business to follow our mission and reach new members of our community.”

~Tessa Hill, The Drake

Healthy Roots became a vital player in the movement of emergency food during the pandemic. As the only program with an established distribution route in the region, our community partners relied on us to react to the increased demand and supply of emergency foods.

We moved 275% more food than in 2019 and added dairy, milk and prepared meals to variety of foods moved. All of this was possible because of our shared van with Franklin and Grand Isle Community Action.
FUNDING

2020

THANK YOU!

FED. GOVT. 47%

NON PROFIT PARTNERS 16.8%

FOUNDATIONS 9.5%

CORPORATE 4.2%

STATE AGENCY 20.7%

EARNED INCOME 1.8%

THANK YOU!

HIGH MEADOWS FUND

GRAND ISLE HEALTH COUNCIL

FOUNTAIN FUND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION