Hope Market guests and nonprofit partners are likely familiar with the delicious Gotham Greens lettuce that passes through We Share Hope every week. This delightful, cleanly grown product is an essential part of our offerings. On the one-year anniversary of our partnership, we sat down with the Gotham Greens team to learn more about the operation and their vision for the communities in which they do business.

Gotham Greens opened its seventh location in Providence in 2019. They reclaimed land in Olneyville on what was once the home of the General Electric Baseworks. This urban location might be an unexpected place to plant a greenhouse; however, the area is part of Gotham Greens’ vision; to repurpose urban landscapes for new ways to farm, produce local food, and revitalize communities.

The 6-8 pallets of fresh greens they donate to We Share Hope every week are a vital part of our mission. We share the greens with guests in both the market and via our nonprofit partners, who make sure a fresh salad gets to individuals and families facing food insecurity. Thanks to Gotham Greens, we can provide the community with nutrient-rich greens that help keep people healthy. “Our product donations currently fill an important need in addressing food insecurity that’s been exacerbated by Covid-19,” says Nicole Baum, Director of Business Development and Partnerships at Gotham Greens, “As Gotham Greens looks to the future, we plan to continue supporting initiatives that advocate for more equitable and resilient local food systems.”

Gotham Greens’ generosity extends across their eight commercial greenhouses in five regions. In 2020 Gotham Greens provided over 300,000lbs of fresh produce to initiatives that addressed food insecurity throughout local communities. “We are so grateful for the opportunity to share clean and healthy food with the community members we serve.” Says Kristina McDonald, Shopper Marketing Manager at Gotham Greens.

We couldn’t accomplish our mission without the support of businesses like Gotham Greens; cheers to the one year anniversary of our partnership!
A Note from Our Executive Director

“I have always believed that hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting.” — Barack Obama

When I reflect on our “why,” the Barack Obama quote comes to mind. I believe we are here to share the spark of hope with the individuals, families, and children we serve. We recognize that “hope” looks different to everyone, and our mission is to serve YOU in the most meaningful way.

To that end, we’ve begun to make some changes. In January, we launched a new website and logo. In February, we added evening hours on Mondays (and started our “First Saturday” open hours). In March, we eliminated delivery fees for all nonprofit partners. We hope that these changes will move us closer to our mission of keeping the spark of hope lit inside the people we serve. More positive changes are coming; stay tuned!

May you stay healthy and hopeful.

We Share Hope is a very special place, with a mission-focused team of staff, volunteers, and board members committed to reducing food insecurity across the state. Over the coming months, the team will be hard at work, moving our mission forward and connecting with our organization’s “why.”

New Fund Keeps Food Flowing

As Rhode Island continues to feel the ripple effects from the Covid-19 pandemic, the call from our neighbors to help fill their cupboards has grown louder. In response to this need, We Share Hope recently established The Hope Forward Fund, an emergency reserve of funds to ensure our nonprofit partners receive adequate and uninterrupted deliveries of food.

Increased demand for grocery items due to the pandemic has impacted the amount of product donated by our generous food partners. Also, our nonprofit partners have seen a significant increase in the number of people they serve. These two factors made it clear that we needed to create a fund to help us continue our deliveries uninterrupted. “The Hope Forward Fund will serve as a safety net for the times our donated items don’t cover the needs of our nonprofit partners,” says Johanna Corcoran, Executive Director. “These funds will enable us to purchase additional pallets of food for our partners. Maintaining the flow of food to our most vulnerable neighbors is our top priority.”

The Hope Forward Fund will become a permanent giving option for donors. All donors will be listed on our new website and will receive special recognition throughout the year. Thank you to the founding donors who have already stepped up to launch this special fund. With your help, we will get through these challenging times together by paying Hope Forward.

For more information regarding the Hope Forward Fund, please contact Wendy King, Development Director, at 401-638-4673 or by email at wking@wesharehope.org.

Nonprofit Partner Spotlight: Thank You for Sharing Hope, Veterans Association of Bristol County!

Founded by Veterans in 1987, the Veterans Association of Bristol County (VABC) began to help Vietnam war veterans process paperwork to receive their VA benefits. Since then, the organization’s mission has grown to provide meaningful and compassionate support to all military veterans and their families, fostering healing and growth during and after active duty. This support includes providing veterans and their families with access to counseling services, career-building classes, community activities, daily lunches for Veterans, and a food pantry.

We Share Hope is proud to support their incredible work with 2-3 full pallets of nonperishable food every week. “We Share Hope supports the VABC with donations to our food pantry, overflow pantry, and daily meals. This allows us to intake and support more veterans than ever before.” Says Executive Director Jim St. Laurent. The VABC currently serves over 5,000 veterans and family members in Bristol County, with a base that continues to grow every year.

“We with the help of We Share Hope, we have also been able to increase our Healthy Food 4 Vets Initiative, which provides a monthly care package of food and personal care products to our veterans and their families.” St. Laurent shared.

We Share Hope is proud to partner with the Veteran’s Association of Bristol County to provide food for our servicemen and women. For more information about the Veterans Association of Bristol County, visit their website at www.thevabc.com.

We Share Hope Celebrated National Canned Food Month for the First Time, With Amazing Results!

February celebrates National Canned Food Month, and contrary to popular belief, canned foods can be a big part of a heart-healthy diet. Canned vegetables, fruit, beans, and lean meat not only provide essential nutrients, but can also be convenient, affordable, help reduce food waste, and ensure people have access to a wide variety of foods throughout the year.

This February, We Share Hope wrapped up our first annual celebration of National Canned Food Month by setting a goal to collect 1,000 canned food items. We are thrilled to share that we surpassed our goal and collected a grand total of 1,429 canned food items!

Many individuals, families, community groups, and companies engaged in the challenge, and we are so grateful for their support. Thanks to you, these canned food items will get out to the community and help keep our neighbors fed. Thank you!
Share Hope
On 401Gives Day!
Join Rhode Islanders on April 1st, and make a donation to your favorite nonprofit.
We hope you will consider We Share Hope!

Scan the QR code to go directly to our 401Gives page!

New Hope Market Hours!

Monday: 3-7pm
Tuesday: 12-3pm
Wednesday: 2-5pm
Thursday: 10am-1pm
The First Saturday of the Month: 9am-12pm

We welcome our last guest 30 minutes prior to closing.

310 Bourne Ave, Bldg 70
Rumford RI
401-638-HOPE