Dear Friends,

I can’t help but feel a bit of excitement as I anticipate warmer spring days just around the corner, when all of Western New York begins to welcome new life, and growth.

Thanks to friends like you, I’m also looking forward to our own growth as we seek to meet the increased demand for food across our community. The pandemic is still very much affecting the people we serve, and we must continue to grow to meet the need.

That includes the growth of several FeedMore WNY programs that were created in the last couple of years, like our Companion Call Program. Through this program, FeedMore WNY’s homebound clients receive wellness calls to determine if they have needs beyond nutrition and are provided with resources to help meet those needs.

For someone who lives alone, this program can be life-changing and even life-saving.

In this issue of More to Share, I’ve chosen a few stories to share with you that highlight the difference your gifts are making every day through your support of programs like these, and through the critical gift of food.

I hope you’ll enjoy hearing from older adults like James (page 7) who says the food you provide is saving his life.

Thank you for making sure our neighbors of all ages have reliable access to nutritious food. The need for food remains high — please continue to stand up for Western New Yorkers through your partnership.

Warmly,

Tara A. Ellis
President & CEO

For the last 10 years, Richard has given his time each week at the New Covenant Food Pantry. Thanks to you, he also happens to receive food there.

“It’s great here,” Richard says of the food pantry, a FeedMore WNY partner agency.

“Don’t ever discount small beginnings,” he urges. “Every little bit helps.”

The combination of SNAP benefits and visits to the food pantry have given Richard the ability to pay off his medical bills and stay within his budget.

“I now have the cushion I needed,” he says.

Thank you for joining Richard to make sure more Western New Yorkers have nutritious food on the table.

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you help students RISE

CherRita had never even driven a car when she started FeedMore WNY’s Readying Individuals for Success — or RISE program. Now, she has numerous new warehouse and logistics skills under her belt, including driving a forklift!

CherRita recently graduated from the free 10-week warehouse and logistics skills training program. She is now OSHA certified and is a Certified Logistics Technician. She also was just offered a job to utilize her training.

That means CherRita will be better equipped to provide for her two daughters.

Empowering people to work and earn enough to cover essential living expenses moves us closer to our shared goal: ending hunger in Western New York. Thank you for making vital programs like RISE possible and giving our neighbors the tools to succeed!

sweet expectations

Spend an evening with us and help provide food for our neighbors who are facing hunger.

Join us, virtually or in-person, on Wednesday, May 18 at Seneca One as we celebrate a night of food, fun and sweet treats in support of the mission of FeedMore WNY. Sweet Expectations is proudly presented by James Desiderio, Inc. and Wegmans.

Proceeds from this annual, signature event benefit FeedMore WNY programs, helping us meet the ongoing need for food in our Western New York community.

For more information on tickets or sponsoring the event, please Marinda Frazier at mfrazier@feedmorewny.org or 716-822-2005 ext. 3082. Visit www.feedmorewny.org for tickets and additional event details.
The Cold Spring Community Foundation Soup Kitchen earned its nickname as the ‘Plate of Love’ because of “what we serve and how we do it,” according to its director, Penny Beckham.

“Our numbers are picking up more and more each week,” Penny says of visitors to the soup kitchen, which is one of FeedMore WNY’s partner agencies.

The soup kitchen had to close its doors temporarily at the height of the pandemic, and Penny says it’s only through its partnership with FeedMore WNY that the soup kitchen can continue serving food in the community — now all served as take-out.

“That’s why Penny and fellow soup kitchen volunteers are so grateful for your support. “This is something we love doing and the need for it is huge,” she says. “Buffalo is a city of good neighbors and because of [you] and [your] donations we are able to do what we do.”

Food is very expensive now,” Penny says. “If it wasn’t for FeedMore WNY and their donors, we would not be able to serve the community.”

James has great memories of climbing mountains and cycling from across several states in his youth. He may not be able to move as freely now, but he’s grateful for friends like you who are giving him more energy and better health in his golden years.

At 79, James is a retired English teacher and Navy veteran. He says he first learned about FeedMore WNY’s home delivered meals program when he was hospitalized following spinal surgery.

“FeedMore WNY is a lifesaver,” James says. “I love them.”

For the last two years, James has received home delivered meals through FeedMore WNY five days a week, Monday-Friday, and weekend meals delivered each Thursday.

“The food is great, and I think it’s helping me live.”

“The food is great, and I think it’s helping me live,” he says.

James lives alone and says his decreased mobility makes it especially challenging to get out and buy groceries, but your support gave him the solution he needed. He wants you to know what a difference it makes, and he encourages other people in the community to get involved with FeedMore WNY, too.

“If you’re able, why not join us and help,” he says.

Thank you for helping fill the tables of older adults who made Western New York what it is today. Your generosity is building a healthier, happier community for all ages.
This spring, Brady is thanking you for not only filling his plate with warm, nourishing meals, but also for the opportunity to fill his soul through fellowship and friendship.

“It’s nice to sit down and eat and be surrounded by good people,” says Brady, 50.

We met Brady at the Cold Spring Community Foundation Soup Kitchen, a partner agency of FeedMore WNY. Brady says he was initially reluctant to go to the soup kitchen because of how he might be perceived by people around him, but one visit was all it took to change his mind — and propel him to spread the word.

“You’re making healthy food accessible to our Western New York neighbors of all ages this spring. Thank you for your partnership!”

“People should know about it and how great it is here,” he says.

Brady doesn’t consider himself a good cook, so he says he especially appreciates that the food from the soup kitchen is not only nutritious, but also so delicious — so much so that it reminds him of his grandmother’s good cooking.

“They cook us food that they would want to eat and serve a very generous amount,” he says.

When Brady first went to the soup kitchen, he was one of just five people who came to eat. Thanks in part to his willingness to share about his experience there, many more neighbors now know about the soup kitchen and show up for a warm, well-balanced meal.

“It’s nice to sit down and eat and be surrounded by good people.”
Dear [Salutation],

Right now, thousands of older adults are struggling to make ends meet across Western New York. With a small, fixed income to cover monthly expenses, many people face tough choices — like whether to buy medicine or go to the grocery store.

Your support of hunger relief makes a real difference for older adults living check to check. **Will you help more people access vital meals by making a generous gift today?**

When you give, our neighbors of all ages will have the chance to live with dignity and hope. Thank you for your compassion!

Warmly,

[Signature]

Mr. John Q. Sample
Brad Cecil & Associates
2115 Arlington Downs Rd.
Arlington, Texas 76011

[Ask 1] [Ask 2] [Ask 3] [Ask 4]

thank you for sharing nutritious food!
Credit Card Gifts

Donation Amount $ ______________________

Email Address ____________________________________________________________

Phone Number ____________________________________________________________

Card Number ______________________________________________________________

Exp Date ___________  Signature ________________________________________________

Cardholder Name ____________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________

City_________________________ State _______ Zip_______________________________

☐ Yes, I’m ready to do even more!
   Sign me up for monthly donations to the FeedMore WNY Foundation.
   My monthly pledge will be: $_________ charged to the above credit card.

I understand that a confirmation letter will be sent to me with more details about this program.

Signature ______________________
   Date ________________________

☐ I’ve given a gift through my donor-advised fund or IRA in the amount of $__________.

You may obtain a copy of the latest financial statement filed with the NYS Department of Law Charities Bureau by contacting the department at 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271, visiting www.charitiesnys.com or calling (212) 416-8686. It is also available on our website, www.feedmorewny.org.