

Filling the Gap Advisory Council

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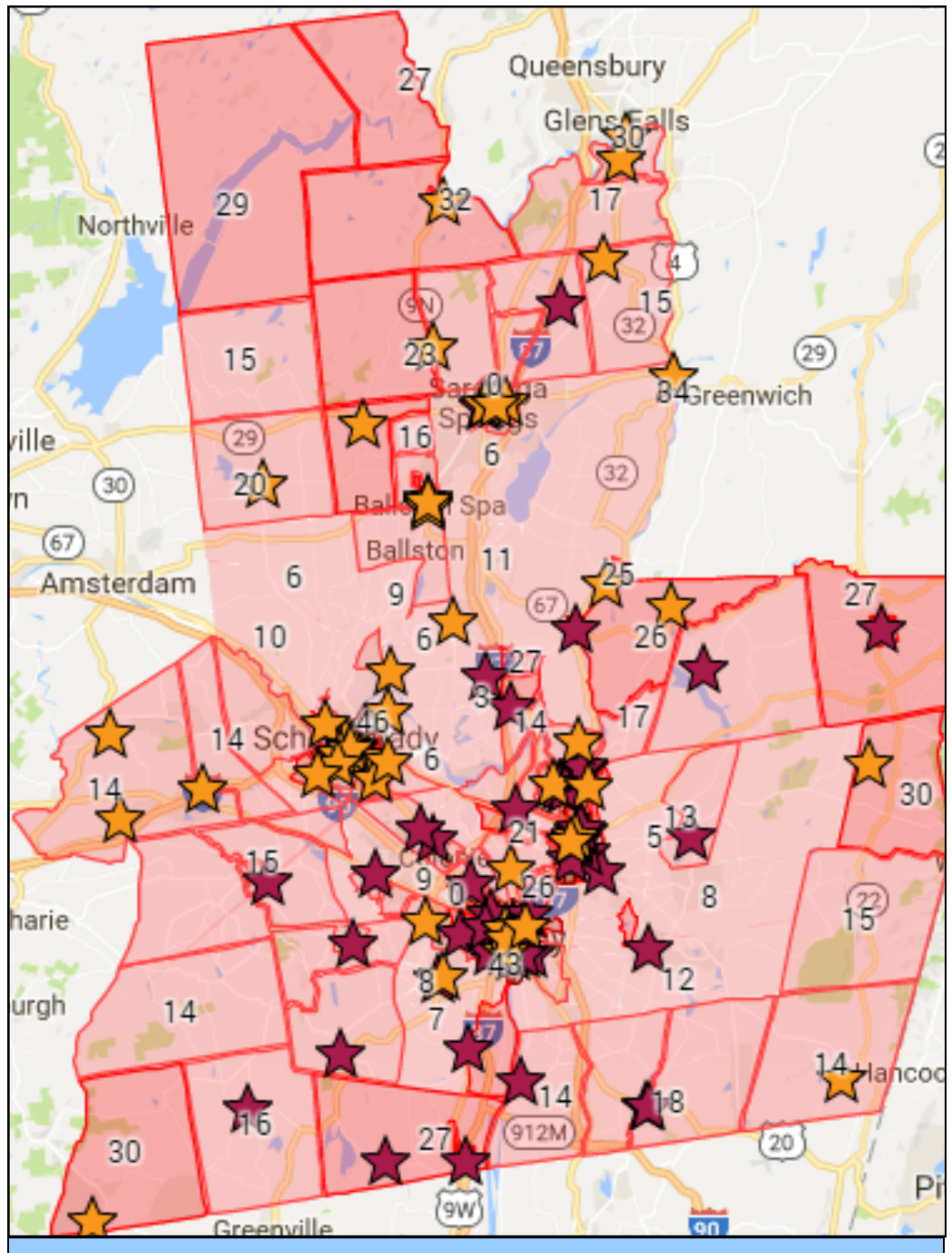
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-CDPHP
-The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
-SEFCU
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-United Way of the Greater Capital Region
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Special Thanks

Cares, Inc.
Bob Yoder, Siena
All of our food pantry coalition members!



Filling the Gap

Food Pantry System and Community Needs Assessment

New York State Capital Region

March 2017 Update

The Food Pantries for the Capital District

www.TheFoodPantries.org

★ Food Pantry (coalition member) ☆ Food Pantry (non-member)





Filling the Gap

Food Pantry System and Community Needs Assessment

The Food Pantries for the Capital District

www.TheFoodPantries.org (518) 458-1167 pantries@thefoodpantries.org

THE NEED: 82,000* people are considered food insecure in Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. **That's more than 1 in 10 people struggling to have adequate nutrition for a healthy and active life!**

47,000 people currently seek food assistance from our coalition of 56 Capital District food pantries. Food for 2.7 million meals was distributed in 2016.

THE GAP: There are 35,000 people struggling with food insecurity who are not utilizing food pantries as a resource to help get food needs met. **We believe all people struggling with food insecurity should have access to food pantries as a resource in times of need.**

*Feeding America

What is Food Insecurity ?

The state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

USDA Food Security

Ranges:

High food security: no reported indications of food-access problems or limitations.

Marginal food security: one or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house. Little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake.

Low food security: reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake.

Very low food security: Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>

"Filling the Gap" Food Pantry System and Community Needs Assessment

The Goal: *Working Together, All People Struggling With Food Insecurity Will Have Access to Nutritious Food Resources in Times of Need.*

We will reach our goal through the following strategies:

- **MAPPING THE GAP:** Identifying geographic areas in the Capital District with the greatest service gaps
 - √ Community food resource asset map
 - √ Hunger heat map
 - Combined analysis of individuals in potential need (185% poverty*) with individual service levels of food pantry resources to identify priority areas of greater need
- **IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO ACCESS:** Why do these gaps exist? What are the barriers preventing people from accessing food pantry resources?
 - √ Analysis of pantry days and hours of operation
 - Transportation barriers
 - √ Pilot mobile food pantry
 - √ Stigma. Do consumers see pantries as a valuable resource, do they feel welcome and respected?
 - √ Consumer surveys
 - Capital District and NY State public opinion polls
- **CONSUMERS WANTS AND NEEDS:**
 - Resource referrals and information
 - √ Online community resource hub
 - Client database with resource referral capacity
 - √ What specific food do people want and need?
 - √ Consumer Surveys
- **WORKING TOGETHER: USING OUR RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY:**
 - Food pantry coalition assessment
 - √ Efficiencies in food pantry operations benchmarking
 - Capital District Food Summit to share innovation, research and best practices
 - Launching and facilitating county hunger relief task forces to bring partners together to work on solutions for geographic areas with greatest gaps in service and access.

