

Food Pantries for the Capital District
...a very brief history

1979 - Originally called the Emergency Food Task Force, this group was called together by the Urban Ministries Fellowship, a committee of the Capital Area Council of Churches. The following groups were sponsors of this new organization: Capital Area Council of Churches, Albany County Opportunity, Inc., Uptown Churches, Shared Ministries, Peace and Justice Commission of the Roman Catholic Diocese, Albany Council of Community Services, Albany United Methodist Society, Focus Churches and St. John's Center.

We started with 10 members, then called closet pantries.

1980 - The Emergency Food Task Force was organized under the auspices of the Capital Area Council of Churches.

16 pantries served 15,472 people.

On May 30 and 31, Food Pantries for the Capital District sponsored its first food drive. It was proclaimed "Emergency Food Weekend" by Mayor Erastus Corning. Over 2,500 items of food were collected along with \$135.00.

During the early organization, one goal of the group was to create a food bank in our region. The Emergency Food Task Force then broke into two groups-- the Albany County Emergency Food Task Force, and the Regional Emergency Food Task Force. The latter became the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY.

1981 - In February, we hired a part time coordinator.

1982 - 23 pantries served 55,402 individuals; this was a 118 percent increase over 1981 service levels.

We presented our first budget for \$25,687.

1983 - Dawn Primeau was hired as the first full time coordinator. She remained in that position until October 2001.

1984 - In July, the Emergency Food Task Force rented and moved into offices at 340 First St.

1986 - Our name was changed to Food Pantries for the Capital District.

1990 - The 1st Annual Letter Carriers Drive for the Hungry was held in Albany. 54,000 pounds of food were collected. This is now a national drive.

1993 - FPCD became incorporated as a 501c3.

1997 - Our member food pantries served 219,181 individuals (18,265 people each month).

1998 - Food Pantries for the Capital District provided its members with 443 tons of food. Our budget was \$277,222.00

1999 - We celebrated our 20th Anniversary. As part of the celebration, a dinner was held at the Schuyler Inn. Sr. Madeline Wheeler was recognized for her years of service at St. Mary's.

The first all-day training session was held.

2000 - Food Pantries for the Capital District took on two new projects. The Food Express provides delivery of food orders from the Regional Food Bank and our warehouse to local pantries.

We took over the Food Shuttle project from the Junior League. Day old food products are picked up from local retailers and delivered to pantries.

2001- In April, the Board of Directors developed a Strategic Plan for the organization.

Lynda Schuyler was hired as Executive Director in October.

2002- The number of people turning to local pantries for assistance reached an all-time high.

2004 - Food pantries for the Capital District purchased and moved into 32 Essex Street.

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a grand opening of the building.

2005 - FPCD created a new strategic plan for the organization

2007- Our pantries have grown exponentially over the years and now provide close to 2 million meals each year to our neighbors in need. The budget for the Warehouse is well over \$100,000 each year. The Food Express has grown to 607 tons a year and the Food Shuttle rescued 237,000 pounds of food.