



“Strengthening Families Through Collaboration”

Arc Wayne • Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes • Child Care Council, Inc. • Clyde-Savannah CSD • Common Ground Health
Cornell Cooperative Extension • Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes • Delphi Rise • Evalometrics Research
Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes • Family Promise of Wayne County • Fidelis Care • FLACRA • Finger Lakes Community Action
Finger Lakes Community College • Finger Lakes Community Health • Finger Lakes Community Schools
Finger Lakes Problem Gambling Resource Center • Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board • Gananda Schools
Geneva/Finger Lakes Salvation Army • Bryan R. Harrison, PhD • Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County • Lyons CSD • Marion CSD
Monroe BOCES • Newark CSD • Newark-Wayne Hospital • North Rose-Wolcott CSD • OWWL Library System • Palmyra-Macedon CSD
Person Centered Services • Real Life Counseling • Red Creek CSD • Scarlet Thread Ministries • Sodus CSD
Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes • United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes • Wayne Action for Racial Equality
Wayne Behavioral Health Network • Wayne CSD • Wayne County Board of Supervisors • Wayne County Dept. of Aging & Youth
Wayne County Dept. of Social Services • Wayne County Pre-Trial Services • Wayne County Public Health • Wayne County Rural Health Network
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES • Wayne M.O.S.T. • Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center • Williamson CSD • Youth Advocate Program

It has been my pleasure to coordinate the drive-through food distributions throughout Wayne County for more than two years now. It is a remarkable operation that we built upon the foundations started by the Wayne County Department of Social Services at the start of the pandemic. Credit for this successful project goes to our team of dedicated and wonderful volunteers, without whom we could do nothing. They have taken any suggestions I've had for improving our efficiency, ignored the bad ones and run with the good ones. They've made this community service into something truly wonderful! What used to take two hours, we now accomplish in 45 – 50 minutes. I'll release official numbers in a future post, but we average around 130 cars and serve around 250 – 300 families at every distribution event.

There are a few things I would like the community to know about these food distributions:

Foodlink provides the food, but this is not a Foodlink event. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the food, or the manner in which you receive it, please do not contact Foodlink. We partner with Foodlink to get food, which they have, into the hands of people who need it. We are the Wayne County Partnership for Strengthening Families. You can find us at www.waynepartnership.org or contact us at info@waynepartnership.org.

We have no control over the food items we receive. Foodlink sends us what they have.

Foodlink has very little control over the food items they send us. Most of the food they have comes from donations from grocery stores. The donors give what they have in abundance and what will outdate before they have a chance to sell it. There was a period this spring when Foodlink purchased items to send to us. That was potatoes, onions, cabbage, and apples for the most part. Thank you, Foodlink, for looking out for us!

Given the previous point, if you attend two food distributions a few days apart, you will likely receive the same items each time.

Wayne County Partnership
4 East Main Street, PO Box 27 • Sodus, NY 14551
Info@waynepartnership.org • www.waynepartnership.org

Information on the distribution dates and locations is provided to every Town and Village Clerk in Wayne County. If you can't access the Internet, or forget who we are, please call any Town or Village office in the county.

The most up-to-date information can be found on our website: www.waynepartnership.org/food.

Each distribution event takes between 16 and 24 volunteers who give freely of their time and energy. Most of our volunteers try to be at every event. Why? Because they love giving you food!

Many of our volunteers came to us because they came through the line to pick up food for themselves, or others that couldn't be at the event. They appreciated what we were doing and joined the team. Each and every one of them still take food to neighbors, community members, and shut-ins who cannot make it to our distributions. Many of them spend the rest of each distribution day making deliveries to those in need. If you see volunteers loading food into their vehicles before the distribution opens, this is why. They are taking food to those in need, not for themselves.

We have a few agencies in the county that do the same thing: come collect food for people and families in need who cannot attend our distributions in person. You may notice a truck or van that we load up with a quantity of food before the distribution starts. Rest assured that this food is going to senior living centers in Wayne County. You may also notice an occasional car in line that picks up for more than two or three families. These have also been cleared beforehand to get food to needy families without transportation. Since we've estimated how many families will be served, each of those families are getting what the families in line are receiving.

We've gotten pretty good at anticipating how many families will be needing food at any given event, but there's always one or two stragglers that come as we're cleaning up. We make up and hold to the side between six and twelve "overflow boxes" that we hang onto until the bitter end to accommodate the late comers.

Even though we've gotten good at anticipating numbers, and we make adjustments based on the number of cars in line at any given time, we do make mistakes sometimes and we inadvertently

run out of certain items, or we end up with leftovers. We feel bad when we run out of an item (although, it's usually because we had very limited quantities from the start). The leftovers always go to food pantries or churches who can make use of the items.

We hold one distribution each month in Newark since it is the geographic and population center of the county. The other three are held mostly in the eastern portions of the county. This is because a person born in eastern Wayne County has the same life expectancy of a person born in North Korea. Food insecurity and poor nutrition are major causes of this. That is why our focus is largely to the east.

It has been – and continues to be – a pleasure serving the community in this way.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish that extends upwards and to the right.

David