



# Greenwood Food Policy Council



## MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to collaboratively eradicate food insecurity by advocating for equitable access to nutritious food, fostering sustainable solutions, empowering individuals and communities to achieve food sovereignty, raising awareness, implementing innovative strategies, and creating a resilient and inclusive food system that promotes dignity, nourishment, and well-being for all, envisioning a future where food insecurity is eliminated and everyone has an abundance of healthy, culturally appropriate food.

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The GC3 Community Food Survey and local listening sessions uncovered areas of improvement in our local food system.

-  Healthy food access (transportation, eligibility for benefits, quality food outlet locations)
-  Healthy eating/cooking education
-  Awareness and access to local resources
-  Employment and income opportunities for sustainable food access due to inflation
-  Continued community gardens
-  Funding for local food programs



**“I’ve served on many committees but none as action-oriented as this one.”**

– Sharon Lone,  
Clemson SNAP-Ed

## SUCCESS STORY: Lakelands Community Garden

The United Way of the Lakelands in partnership with the Lakelands Food Policy Council successfully maintained seven community gardens in low-income and underserved areas through a collaborative effort involving faith-based organizations, the city of Greenwood, healthcare providers, community members, and food-based non-profits. These gardens, which supported about 100 individuals and families, included monthly workshops and plant and seedling giveaways for sustainability. One garden notably supplied fresh produce to the Greenwood Soup Kitchen, aiding in the daily meals of 60 to 70 people. This initiative not only enhanced food security but also fostered community cohesion and health, demonstrating the impact of a well-coordinated PSE strategy.

## COMMUNITY ASSETS



### Lakelands Food and Hunger Alliance

This organization identifies assets and barriers to improving food security.

### United Way of the Lakelands

United Way brings together people and resources to fight poverty and strengthen the entire community by changing individual lives.

### Lakelands Community Gardens

These gardens aim to create and utilize community gardens to improve food insecurity in the Lakelands region, especially in underserved and low-income areas.

### Lakelands Counts

This is a comprehensive data platform that offers users a free, dynamic, easy-to-use, one-stop digital resource for access to local quality-of-life data while addressing the issues of data accessibility in our community.

### Greenwood Counts Community Consortium

This consortium is a data-centric, robust multi-sectoral partnership dedicated to finding solutions for our community by connecting leaders from various sectors to advocate and advance policy, systems, and environmental change for a safer, healthier and happier community.

**“We’re not just sending people out the door with suggested resources, we’re referring, advocating, and tracking to make sure they receive the service.”**

– UC3 Resource Connection  
Hub Navigator

**“We really enjoy coming out and seeing the progress of the garden, it looks beautiful.”**

– Lynette  
Soup Kitchen Volunteer



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## COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

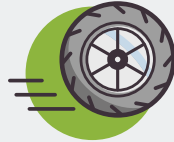
### Unite Us



In FY 2023, our Lakelands Food Policy Council expanded a food program referral process using the innovative platform Unite Us. This technology connects various sectors to ensure community needs are met effectively. Initially setting a goal for 10 local organizations to join the platform, the initiative exceeded expectations, with **32 organizations** now participating. This strategy has significantly enhanced coordination and access to food programs, demonstrating the power of technology in uniting community resources.

As of May 23, 2024, the United Way of the Lakelands alone, navigated **56 individuals and families to food assistance resources** using the Unite Us platform.

### Transportation Route



Our Food Policy Council developed a transportation route for a high-risk community to access quality, affordable grocery stores on the north end of town. The route runs from United Way of the Lakelands to healthcare facilities and grocery stores, allowing participants an hour and a half at each stop. Participants receive insulated grocery bags and are dropped off at their desired locations. This initiative enhances access to nutritious food and essential services.

## SUCCESS STORY

### Launched a Seed Library

United Way in partnership with Clemson Snap-Ed, Clemson Extension, the Greenwood Library, Lakelands Food and Hunger Alliance, Simon Says Grow, the Town of Ware Shoals, and Lakelands Master Gardeners, our local Food Policy Council launched two Seed Libraries in Greenwood, SC—one at the Greenwood Library and one in the Town of Ware Shoals. This initiative aims to empower the community by promoting sustainable agriculture, fostering community engagement, educating on best growing practices, and enhancing food security. As of 5/23/2024, the Seed Libraries have served 350 patrons and distributed 1,552 seed packets, thanks to donations from organizations like GeoSeed, Twilley Seed, Lowe's, and Walmart.



“ I remember when you all did the listening session, I'm glad to hear you went through with our suggestions.”

— Community Member



“ I got my seeds!”

— Trish Buis  
Co-chair of the Greenwood Counts  
Community Consortium

