



Spartanburg Food System Coalition



SPARTANBURG
FOOD SYSTEM
COALITION



MISSION STATEMENT

To strengthen all aspects of the local food system and address food-related issues in Spartanburg comprehensively. Our purpose is not to duplicate efforts, but to **facilitate communication between organizations and grow capacity for addressing food-related issues** in Spartanburg County. We want to communicate with one voice within our region and our state.

VISION

We **eliminate food deserts** so that every neighborhood has access to healthy foods. Together we will **defeat food insecurity** through addressing transportation barriers, creating successful partnerships, establishing equitable food resources and offerings, and policy and advocacy outreach.



As a Wofford student, I was very overweight and unhealthy. I was always self-conscious about exercising in public. But one day, I walked on the rail trail and saw people of all sizes running and walking. I told myself if they could do it so could I. I began running at a 12:30 pace having never run before. I spent my junior and senior year running more and more on this trail. Whenever I passed people, they never judged. They encouraged, smiled, and high-fived me. I looked forward to running. The rail trail provided a safe flat space for me to run and using it I lost over 100 pounds and cut my pace down to 7 minutes, a loss of 5 minutes and 30 seconds. I owe the rail trail so much for giving me a new life basically.

— Wofford Student



We actually had four parents participate with six middle schoolers. They had so much fun, tried new foods, including cabbage and guacamole and loved it! They can't wait for the next session. One young man remarked about how he loved the smell of the garlic sautéing. Another said this was the most fun he had ever had! Yesterday, I talked to our one young lady who participated and she said she shared the leftovers with her family when she went home and now her mom wants to join us next week."

— Lesa Banks, The Bridge at Green Street

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Play. Advocate. Live Well. (PAL)

PAL improves health and wellness throughout Spartanburg County by creating a culture and environment that fosters physical activity and healthy eating.

Ruth's Gleanings

Ruth's Gleanings is the Spartanburg FoodShare resource that breaks through barriers of access for struggling families, with more than 50% of those served being on SNAP benefits (food stamps). Bringing nutritious food to those in need, operating in the Spirit of the Law of Gleanings.

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare Systems

One of the largest healthcare systems in South Carolina that has a large presence in Spartanburg and surrounding areas.

Hub City Roots (formerly known as Hub City Farmers Market)

Hub City Roots focuses on agriculture and access, closing the food equity gap in Spartanburg county. The Hub City Farmers Market, Mobile Market, Youth Crew, Seed to Table Program and possible future projects all exist as projects under the Hub City Roots parent organization.

Clemson SNAP-Ed

Clemson SNAP-Ed provides nutrition education, healthy eating tips, and budget-friendly recipes to families and individuals throughout South Carolina.

Spartanburg Housing

Government-assisted housing including apartments for rent for veterans and low-income families in Spartanburg, SC.

Live Healthy Spartanburg

Develops data-based strategies for building a community of health. They utilize both quantitative and qualitative data after engaging with the community and their partners. They also measure outcomes, evaluate disparities, and identify barriers to health.

American Heart Association

The AHA is a global force for longer, healthier lives committed to driving equitable health impact in South Carolina.

Mary Black Foundation

An independent grantmaking organization focused on improving the health and well-being of the people and communities of Spartanburg County, SC.

City of Spartanburg

The City of Spartanburg operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Council and Mayor appoint the City Manager, who manages the day-to-day functions of the City and carries out the City's vision as defined and directed by the Council.



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COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



We have helped Ruth's Gleanings to expand FoodShare boxes throughout Spartanburg in 2023.

6,902

boxes were distributed.

17,807

people were impacted.



In 2023, three local healthcare groups distributed Produce Prescription boxes.

713

boxes were distributed.

1,839.54

people were impacted.



Through 2023's nutritious Cooking Up Confidence class:

142

people participated.

366.36

people were impacted.



We provided **\$5,000** from Wholespire for EBI Budget. The **Bridge at Green Street** launched their first class in October 2023.

Freshstops



There are **two small refrigerators** located in our community centers in the City of Spartanburg that are replenished once a week with local produce **free of charge** for the community. Our goal is to provide access to nutritious foods to communities who are food insecure.

PAL Food Hub



PAL (Play. Advocate. Live Well.) is an emerging food hub that provides 100% local food. We work with over **30 farmers**.

\$30,012.90 has been made in sales from August 2023 through May 2024.

We also donate to families with children, First Steps and Spartanburg Community College's food pantry.



After speaking with a few of the seniors that participate within the 50+ group that we house here at the facility, all that I spoke with stated how much they love having access to the fruits that we have available. It gives them not only the opportunity to have a quick snack but the chance to also have fresh produce to take home with them and share with spouses and grandkids.

Mrs Shirley Oden stated, 'She takes it right home and eats it right away, so continue to add more.'

Once Ben comes by and restocks the fridge by the day's end, the staff typically replenish it with the extras that he leaves us to place things inside as the week goes on.

As staff, we sometimes sit back and observe how each age group, ethnicity and background utilize having access to the fresh produce. Our open gym crowd that varies in ages from as young as three to the adults love to take advantage of the apples after they have played a pick-up game or day.

Overall, as the director of the facility, I enjoy seeing the excitement of everyone's face when they hear we provide fresh and FREE fruits and vegetables. They are quick to grab the produce bags we provide and fill them as we have to constantly remind them to save some for all others who would likely be coming in following them. I would love to see this program continue to grow and expand. As I have watched it start from the delivery of the fridge to the last apple or orange being removed from the supply we have. Some of our youth come by not having the chance to have an immediate meal at home after-school but they know they can come by and have access to our Fresh Stops fridge for the day, which provides a sense of fulfillment knowing that collectively the City of Spartanburg, Hub City Roots, and PAL provided a small service that made a huge change in a few lives."

— **Shaquille Lamar**
Dr. TKG Community Center Director
City of Spartanburg



The donation of broccoli and blueberries helped us to impact 15 families. The donations went out to families that could be reached immediately and were greatly appreciated by the families and the Early Head Start team. Thank you for the partnership to help us to continue to impact the lives of the families we serve with healthy food donations."

— **Rosalyn E. Splawn**
First Steps of Spartanburg County Early Head Start
Health/Nutrition Program Specialist