

In this Issue: Volunteer Updates, Upcoming Events, Volunteer Appreciation Recap



Trying limes for the first time at the Boys and Girls Club of Springfield

Hello amazing volunteer community of Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts!

In this mini version of Highlights of the Season, we focus on what is important – **you!** We share who has joined the volunteer community since July 1, how much you've helped to keep western Massachusetts food secure, what's down the pike, and a photo recap of the sweetest Volunteer Appreciation event we shared with you on September 24th.

Our four programs are in full swing – rescue, purchase, glean and grow – and our Teen Board has begun its year on a great note with its first service activity. Fall is the time for taking stock and harvesting our work together. Thank you for your phenomenal dedication to service. We acknowledge, thank and appreciate you!

If you celebrate, we wish you a happy and sweet new year!!!

Best,

Jodi Falk

Executive Director

Volunteer Updates *July – August*

Summer Poundage Update

From July 1 - August 31, RTWM has rescued...

165,615.4 lbs

with rescue and gleaning efforts



A van full of donations from Agawam Schools and Sarah Bluestien, gleaning coordinator for RTWM

New Volunteers

This summer we welcomed 24 new volunteers! Welcome Daniel Berlin, Cameron Boylan, Esther Burson, Jack Chachkes, Jacqueline Charron, Izze Clark, Lynn Dashevsky, Maureen Etchells, Cary Fleisher, Karla Furrer, Jean Gordon, Arthur Haselkorn, Carole Hirshberg, Elizabeth Howard, Devora Klionsky, Julie Kraus, Liana Nichols, Gerald Pohner, Angela Pudlo, Bill Rafferty, Lino Seni, Maria Toniai, Jane Wolfe, Anthony Worden.

New Affiliate Agencies

Easthampton Community Center, Hilltown CDC have joined us as Agency Affiliates. These are agencies with which RTWM does not have a formal Rescue or Purchase partnership, but which we support as we can through gleaning distribution, food drives, and other seasonal or one-time initiatives led by volunteers.

Volunteer Appreciation Evening 2024

On September 24th, Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts held the annual Pamela S. Finer Volunteer Appreciation Evening, celebrating the contributions of our dedicated volunteers. Attendees were inspired by speeches from Karen Blanchard, Executive Director of the Michael J. Dias Foundation, and program residents who shared their stories of resilience. Jodi Falk, Executive Director of Rachel's Table, and Judy Yaffe, Vice President of the Executive Board, also spoke, offering their gratitude and reflections. The evening was beautifully enhanced with musical accompaniment by Lewis White and Barry Kriger was our esteemed MC. Thank you to all who joined us!



Volunteer Updates

Have you signed the Waiver and Code of Conduct yet?

Our Volunteer Task Force has been hard at work for quite some time creating a Volunteer Handbook. The important thing for now is that we are asking you to read it and sign both the code of conduct and waiver of liability forms that you'll see on our new [volunteer resources webpage](#). We thank you for taking the time to help us out by reading and signing. We want to heartily thank the Volunteer Task Force, led by Jan Dickstein, with members Marla Adelsberger, Donna Shea and Rosalind Devine, who spearheaded this effort.

Upcoming Gleans

Gleaning is in full swing! Sign up for [gleaning alerts](#) to receive emails with information about upcoming gleanings! Check the [calendar](#) for upcoming events and bookmark our [Gleaning SignUp](#) to register for a glean. Peruse the [Gleaning Handbook for FAQs](#) about what to wear and bring, background information about gleaning, and more!

We are hiring for Growing Gardens!

To provide consistent support to participating agencies and to focus more on stewardship of garden volunteers, we are hiring a [GG Site Steward](#)! Please share this opportunity with your networks.

Annual Meeting Report - coming out on November 12th, 2024

A comprehensive look into RTWM's progress this year will be available as the Annual Meeting report, coming out this November. Be sure to check it out!

**Best,
Jodi, Kathy, Cara, Chana, Sarah, Sarah
and Jay**