

Vision Statement: Geneva 2030 engages a broad array of community voices by building awareness and information sharing; involving and mobilizing the community toward improving educational outcomes and economic mobility for youth; and co-developing solutions and strategies with community members.

Mission Statement: Geneva 2030 connects and empowers all members of the community to advance equity and support the success of every Geneva child, cradle to career, by creating and transforming the systems that shape opportunity.

Summer 2023 End of Year Report Food Security Action Team

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Executive Summary:

We are just coming up on our first full year convening this action team and it's been a bit of an adventure. We have taken the Strive Together principles of not being siloed, of looking deeply at root causes, keeping equity centered in our discussions, and coupled that with our action team's desire to be sure we are doing things in the present while not losing sight of the broader picture. To that end, we focused on communication and collaboration, with tangible outputs in each category (see below). There is more to do, however. We need to continue to engage organizations that either provide food or assist residents in obtaining food. We also need to continue to encourage collaboration, as sometimes it can be scary for agencies to extend a hand when their own fortunes seem tenuous. The Strive resources can be an excellent guide for this work. We want to engage more fully with some of the available training sessions, and encourage our task force members to do the same.

Highlights/points of success:

Communication: For communication, in addition to conducting monthly meetings, we produced a monthly Food Resource Calendar that was distributed via Geneva2030 social media and also sent out to parents through the school district's ParentSquare app. This calendar is available online and in print form.

Collaboration: We co-hosted the campus visit and community conversations with Chef Robert Egger and Alex Moore of World Central Kitchen/DC Central Kitchen. This event culminated with a community dinner at the Geneva Public Library and lively presentation and discussion.

We heard from the Center of Concern and Salvation Army that they were looking for additional volunteers to offer extended hours at the food pantries. Through a link with workforce development we are exploring options to meet that need.

We also have three successful and one hopeful collaborative grants to report:

1. **Americorps VISTA support.** BluePrint Geneva secured a grant that will allow an Americorps VISTA (recent Hobart grad James Anderson) to provide administrative support to the food security task force and to continue work to expand the Food Recovery Network between campus dining and community partners.

2. **Cooking Matters.** Eileen Cooley, St. Peter's Church, Wayne County Cooperative Extension, BluePrint Geneva, and Finger Lakes Farms are partnering to bring more local food products to students in this cooking education and obesity prevention program. The program will also provide additional food items to supplement the weekly meals prepared by students and an end-of-program basket to allow them to recreate the meals after the program is over. This program is grant funded by two sources working in tandem.
3. **Local Farms, Local Families.** This is a pilot program that will try to provide additional useful food items (meats, eggs, dairy) from local farms to families that might need assistance during extended school breaks. This is an example of a retooled idea based on feedback from the GCSD. The initial idea was a "backpack program" but we heard several potential concerns and issues of paternalism and stigma in this approach. Instead we will work with the school counseling office and local agencies to source items that families directly request.
4. **Culinary Training program.** We submitted a proposal, still waiting to hear back, to combine efforts of the College-Career Readiness and our Food Security task forces to create internships in the community kitchen that would see high school students working under the direction of local chefs to prepare and distribute free evening meals while learning sound kitchen skills and techniques. Our thanks to Heather and Laurie for pulling together this submission. Fingers crossed!

Goals for next year:

- Continue to ask who is not being heard and create space for those voices;
- Keep the monthly resource calendar up to date and easily accessible;
- Reach out to non-participating agencies and make the case for collaboration as mutually beneficial;
- Continue to seek relevant, impactful grant opportunities to support existing programs or new strategies in the food security space;
- Avail ourselves of Strive together resources;
- Continue to look for cross-task-force collaboration opportunities.

Links/photos/other items: