



Dear Friend,

Tell us if you can relate: It's been an unusually tough year. Many of us are feeling the ripple effects of budget cuts and economic uncertainty. **What does it mean for REAP specifically?** Several federal grants that fund the bulk of our work hover in limbo, threatening projects that have taken months or years to plan. Meanwhile, as individuals and foundations make tough calculations about how best to save, invest, and give, we've seen privately funded grants and donations that have previously bolstered many of our programs entirely cancelled. To boot, grants that traditionally support our network of schools and farmers have been canceled, creating uncertainty about how schools can create nourishing meals with local foods from farmers.

The same economic conditions that affect us are destabilizing families and food businesses in Southern WI, making REAP's work more critical than ever to fill the gaps:

- **Farms to Families** in collaboration with Roots4Change Cooperative - As price tags for food and other essentials rise, more families need support to stay nourished. We've responded by **providing more families than ever with healthy, local ingredients at no cost.**
- **Farm to Business** - In a food system that favors large-scale factory farming—most of it devoted to industrial corn and soy—small and mid-sized farmers in Southern Wisconsin often lack the resources to reach consistent wholesale buyers. Many have been further set back by cuts to grants, including \$9 million through the Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program that was slated to go to schools and child care centers to purchase goods directly from local farms. **REAP is supporting more farmers than ever** through programs like Farms to Families and Wholesale Ready.
- **Dane Co. Food Plan** - After the COVID pandemic exposed gaps in the Dane County food system, the Dane County Food Action Plan committee formed to engage voices from every sector to understand the obstacles to creating a food system that serves all. The committee will develop actionable strategies to ensure long-term food security, sustainability, and community health, and REAP will implement. **It is vital that we complete this work even if we lose federal funding.**





Meanwhile, we're working harder than ever to expand food access to all people.

In a first for REAP, we're using our summer food truck to provide food **at no cost** to the neighborhoods we visit. Our team made a deliberate, mission-driven decision to meet this critical community need. **Expanding food access and deepening community relationships are essential to our mission right now.**

What does it all mean? **We're facing a greater demand for our services with less resources, and we won't stop.**

That's why we're reaching out to you now. This year has shown us not only that the landscape can change at any moment, putting our work at risk, but that our services and support are more critical than ever. **Join us today in supporting the farms, families, and individuals who all deserve a food system that nourishes them.**

Our goal is to raise a **minimum of \$10,000** this summer to ensure our vital programs can continue. Your gift, no matter the size, makes a tangible difference.

We're glad you're a part of our community,
Efrat Koppel & Sam Kincaid, REAP Food Group

Give today and help us build a food system that nourishes all!

Visit bit.ly/summerappeal25 or use the attached envelope to make a donation.
Contact Efrat for more information at development@reapfoodgroup.org.



MONTHLY GIVING

Join our REAP changemakers who provide the support needed to operate our programs year-round. In honor of REAP's 25 years, we are looking for 25 monthly donors to reach our goal. Call us or go online to set up monthly support.

EMPLOYER MATCH

Double your impact! Does your employer have a matching gift program? Many employers will match charitable contributions made by their employees. Talk to your Human Resources department to find out what's available to you.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Set up planned giving, and leave a lasting impact on Wisconsin's local food system. Include REAP Food Group as a beneficiary in your will or trust.