

Spotlight on **SARATOGA COUNTY**

NEED

Saratoga County Public Health Services (SCPHS) and key partners formed the Saratoga County Prediabetes Coalition (SCPC) with the intent to create awareness, and prevent the onset of diabetes through the creation of a social and physical environment that encourages healthy lifestyles. The coalition identified that during the summer months, our local food pantries are low on healthy food options for families and individuals. Taking into consideration the importance of food access in our county and the promotion of healthy eating, the coalition partnered with Saratoga County Wellness Committee to initiate a Nourish Your Neighbor food drive. Saratoga County Wellness Committee consists of members from the county departments, working to promote health and wellness in the county for employees and their families.



ACTIVITIES

The **Nourish Your Neighbor Initiative** promotes healthy food drives, evaluates donated foods, and provided free marketing materials. The Saratoga County Prediabetes Coalition has a goal of running 3 Nourish Your Neighbor food drives each year. This food drive was the first Nourish Your Neighbor Initiative of 2019 for the Coalition.

OUTCOMES

Over 200 food items were collected. These food items were distributed across 4 food pantry's in Saratoga County, which were Corinth Churches Community Cupboards, Karyl's Kupboard of CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services, First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa, and EOC Food Pantry. All of the food collected was donated by Saratoga County employees.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Saratoga County employees had the ability to vote on which food pantry's received a portion of the food, this may have encouraged them to donate more if they were passionate about the cause. The Nourish Your Neighbor food drive was implemented over a month's time frame, we learned allowing for a shorter amount of time to donate may inspire people to donate sooner.



GOAL

The Saratoga County Prediabetes Coalition (SCPC) will incorporate the Nourish Your Neighbor Initiative within at least three food drives by the end of 2019.

SUCCESSSES

One Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive was held so far by the Saratoga County Employees as an initiative of their Wellness Committee. They collected over 200 food items and donated these items across 4 food pantries in Saratoga County.

CHALLENGES

Contacting food pantries to find hours of operation and donation drop off times was sometimes difficult.

