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Nonprofit The Common Market aims to raise \$20,000 in Food Access Funds to fuel healthy food access in its communities

The Food Access Fund is an incentive that expands the value of local food purchases for qualifying communities working to mitigate food insecurity in their neighborhoods.

PHILADELPHIA, PA – November 17, 2021 – Lunch menus at The Caring Center, a nonprofit child care center located in West Philadelphia, typically embody healthy, fresh, diverse options: Spanish chicken drums, brown rice, rainbow carrots, and peaches were offered to students earlier this month—primarily scratch cooked and inclusive of locally sourced ingredients.

“Receiving the **Food Access Fund** discount means everything to my community,” shares the center’s food service manager, Erica Lewis. Lewis is a longtime partner of The Common Market, a nonprofit regional food distributor that connects communities to sustainable family farms throughout the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and Texas regions.

As part of its mission, The Common Market offers community organizations, schools, and other qualifying nonprofits, like The Caring Center, with a fresh food incentive—a 25% **Food Access Fund** discount—expanding the value of their healthy food purchases as a means to foster food security in their communities.

“It allows us to serve local produce so our children, the majority of whom live in a food desert here in West Philadelphia, have access to fresh fruits and vegetables every day (instead of canned),” Lewis continues. “It gives my children access to new things – things they likely would not have access to at home.”

The Common Market has intentions of distributing 400,000 healthy meal equivalents in 2022 through Food Access Fund partnerships.

The nonprofit is looking to the community to help fill its Food Access Fund—donations from individuals and groups looking to increase healthy food access in their regions. The Common Market hopes to raise \$20,000 before the start of the new year.

“The need for fresh, healthy food access continues to exist in our communities, especially as COVID-19 continues to impact the livelihoods of so many across our regions—and we know, collectively, we have the power to make a difference,” shares Haile Johnston, co-founder of The Common Market.

Individual donations will be paired with recent philanthropic support made by the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation who formally announced The Common Market as a [2021 Healthy Communities grantee](#) earlier this fall, and [The Kroger Co. Foundation](#), who awarded The Common Market Southeast's chapter a grant to fuel Food Access Fund partnerships earlier this year.

"The Food Access Fund allows us to really magnify our commitment to getting families quality fresh food on a regular basis," says Jeremy Lewis, executive director of Urban Recipe, a Food Access Fund partner based in Atlanta, GA.

To learn more about The Common Market's Food Access Fund and to make a donation, visit: www.thecommonmarket.org/donate/fill-the-food-access-fund.

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For more information about The Common Market, visit www.thecommonmarket.org.

About The Common Market

The Common Market is a national nonprofit with a mission to connect communities to good food from sustainable family farms. The organization builds the infrastructure to support local and regional food systems. The Common Market is particularly focused on health and wealth outcomes for the most vulnerable—low-income communities, communities of color, children and seniors.