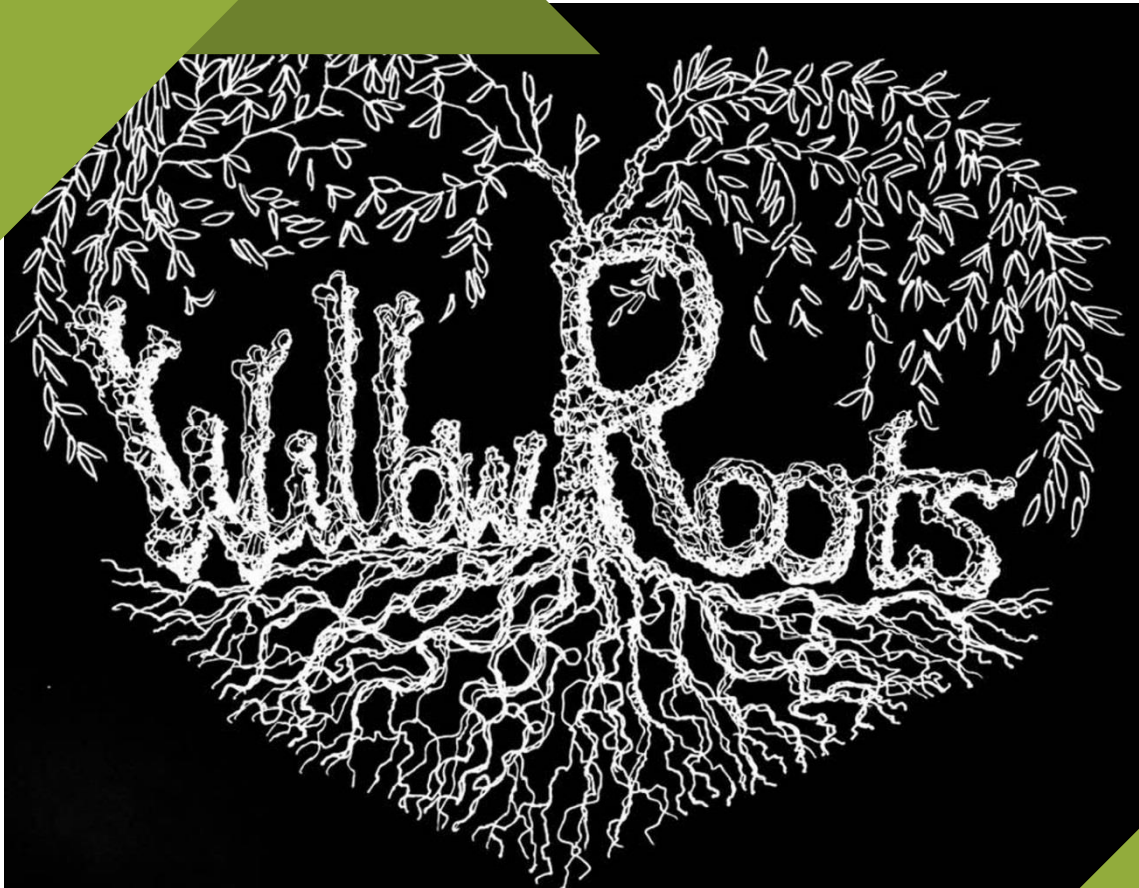


# 2020

## Annual Report



**Willow Roots**



<https://willowrootsinc.wixsite.com/wecare>

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## Message from Lisa and Nelson



**Lisa Zayas: Co-founder & President**  
**Nelson Zayas: Co-founder & Treasurer**

**Willow Roots, Inc.**

Dear Friends and Family,

It is with a humble heart that I am writing this letter just six months young. Yes, Willow Roots was incorporated in June 2019. In just a short time Nelson and I have had the good fortune of networking with amazing people and businesses who saw something in two people and trusted them.

What started out as a simple gesture to our neighbors soon became something bigger than we ever imagined. I was often told you can't change the world, Lisa. Well, maybe not the world, but I can change my corner, my community. And, so it began.

The amount of support we have received has touched our hearts deeply. There are so many people that I would like to thank who are behind the scenes. These are the true spokes of our wheel. They are ones that keep our engines going. Whether baking, cooking, transporting, gifting, donating, troubleshooting, or designing logos, without them Willow Roots would not exist. Willow Roots has grown in a very organic and natural way because we are all part of the same team, we care.

Right now, we are in the process of finishing our walk-in refrigerator to store vegetables over the summer. This will allow us to accept larger donations from our local farms. We could never have done this without the donations and the volunteer hours needed to complete this job.

I want to offer my deepest gratitude for those that have become part of our family whether you have given or received, you are part of Willow Roots. Blessings from Lisa and Nelson.



## Mission

The mission of Willow Roots, Inc. is to alleviate hunger and prevent food waste by identifying the resources and opportunities available to individual and families, in the Pine Plains community to enhance their self-reliance.

Our vision is of a peaceful and sustainable world based on communities living in harmony with nature; to halt and reverse environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources; nurturing the Earth's ecological and cultural diversity and securing sustainable livelihoods.

We are committed to bringing and creating a desirable, safe, and productive environment that allows and fosters positive and creative efforts to better the lives of all people regardless of race, religion, economic status, or sexual orientation. We fully embrace the diversity, complexity, and the uniqueness that all people should be allowed to express safely and without judgement. Our mission is to bridge these elements into a cohesive and acceptable manner that brings wellbeing for our planet and all those in need in the Pine Plains community by using available resources for all.

## Programs



### Food Pantry

Willow Roots Food Pantry provides a combination of options that make us unique. In addition to weekly distributions, we also deliver to those who are unable to make it to the pantry. We also announce mid-week distributions using social media which allow recipients to pick up food items from “the front porch” at their leisure. Finally, we are available 24 hours a day/7 days a week for emergencies.



# Program Impact and Financial Data

From July-December 2019, Willow Roots has distributed food to **2,656 individuals** .

Includes: **889 children, 1,391 adults, and 376 senior citizens**

Includes: **395 unique (unduplicated) individuals**

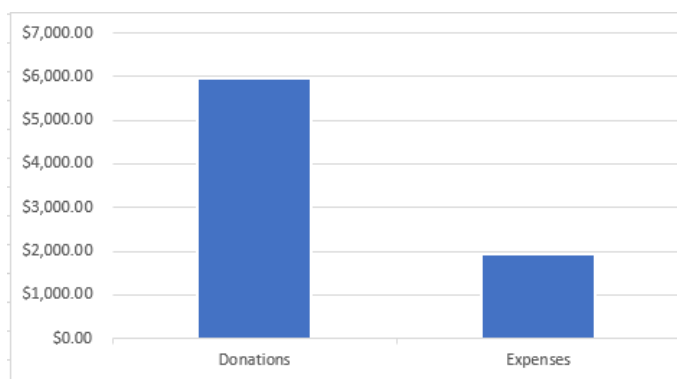
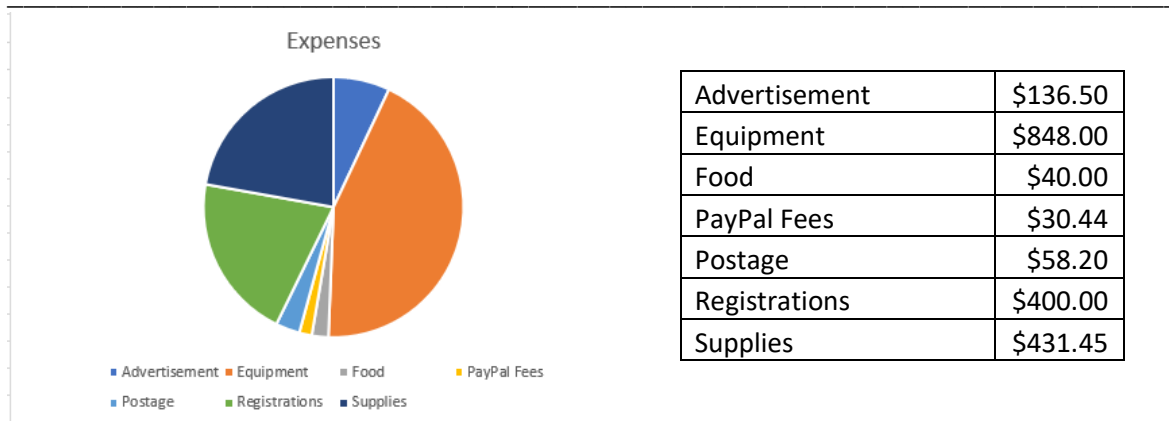
comprised of **134 children, 201 adults, and 60 senior citizens**

Includes **136 unique (unduplicated) households**

From November-December 2019 Willow Roots has distributed **4,452.8 pounds of food**.

- For Thanksgiving we were able to distribute turkeys with dry goods to 36 households.
- For Christmas we were able to distribute turkeys with dry goods to 50 households and chickens with dry goods to 6 households.
- On Christmas Day we were able to hold a Christmas Day dinner at the Stissing House for anyone who could use some company. Even Santa was there!!!

This was all possible due to the generosity of donors and volunteers.



Donations	\$5,950.80
Expenses	\$1,944.59



## Testimonials

### THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE KIND RESPONSES WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE COMMUNITY:

You absolutely are! Betty and I just had a conversation about you today and what a blessing you are to so many, and what incredibly pure hearts you have. Thank you for teaching us all about the true meaning of the Golden Rule. We will be giving thanks for you this Thanksgiving!  
-Luane Ballantine

You guys are amazing! It's a privilege to know and love you both! And nothing but gratitude for all that volunteer to assist you in working a million miracles for needy families. -Laurel Welch Martinez

Wow! I can't say enough about how amazing, kind & generous these beautiful souls are! Getting food to hungry people! And even to those who don't have transportation is stellar! We love you guys! Thank you so much ! And thank you to the farms & other businesses that donate!! ☺❤ From Laurie, Chris , Becky & JT 🍷❤- Laurie Cutler Kalanges

amazing non judgemental people. will help any way possible. 🍷🍷 keep up the great work- Pam Miller

Between these volunteers, and Nelson and Lisa Zayas, who founded Willow Roots in order to use all the food they produce and feed people in Pine Plains, pounds of fresh produce were distributed to people who needed it and loved "shopping" the Zayas' porch. Other farms got into the act and a movement was born in Pine Plains to help end food insecurity here.- Darrah Cloud

Thank you so much Lisa and Nelson. We couldn't be more thankful to have made such a great friendship. Life can be a struggle at times and it's incredibly refreshing to know that there are still some wonderful people out there who are willing to go the extra mile. Not for any other reason than it's the right thing to do. I'm at a loss for words lol- Chris Kalanges

These two are the most caring and devoted people to see and recognize and take time out of their lives to help our community that is in need of fresh and healthy foods and are always there to help...thank you for all that you do!- Adria Couse

Nelson and Lisa are the kindest, most genuine people who sacrifice their time for the good of the community. I stopped by today to pick up some fresh fruit and veggies for my five children and me. It's so helpful and I know my children are eating healthy, garden grown foods. Thank you both for all that you do. ❤ - Shayna Rothenay Kapple

You guys are amazing, thank you for all you do!! -Patricia Hurley

Great job! -Lonnie Vater

Beautiful!!! -Barbara Gulan

Wonderful! -Marilyn Bialousz

So awesome – Doreen Brown

## Looking Forward



As we look forward to 2020, we will complete our first year. While our first six months centered on networking and infrastructure, in this next year we are looking to optimize our pantry to be able to deliver a diverse array of healthy food options.

### Meet Our Board of Directors



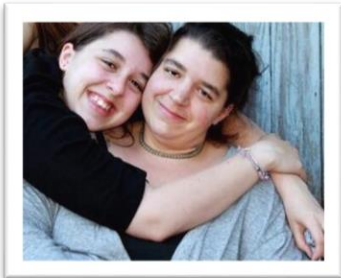
**Lisa Zayas**

Co-Founder/President



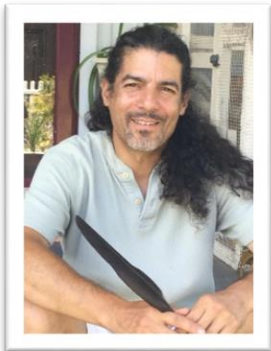
**Brett McCormack**

Vice-President



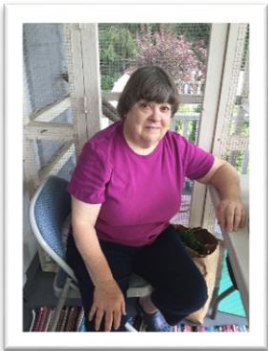
**Cris Smith-Hedges**

Secretary



**Nelson Zayas**

Co-Founder/Treasurer



**Diana Moore**

Board Member

### We Need Your Help



Willow Roots is based on a network of people working together to build a stronger community by using the unique strengths and talents of volunteers. In doing so, we all help to transform Pine Plains into a community that enables everyone to feel that they are contributing in whatever way they can. We are Pine Plains Strong!

If you would like to join us in this mission, here are some options:

## **Volunteer and Help Make a Difference**

If you are a high school student who needs community service hours or are just looking to help;

If you like to cook;

If you like to bake;

If you like to grow your own vegetables and would like to donate a portion of your harvest;

If you can spare an hour a week to drive;

If you are interested in joining our glean team (i.e. picking blueberries);

If you are interested in fundraising;

If you are aware of food donation opportunities;

If you are aware of grant opportunities,

Please contact us at:

Call 518-592-1298 or Text 518-751-0164

Or email: [WillowRootsInc@gmail.com](mailto:WillowRootsInc@gmail.com)

## **For Financial Donations**

Checks can be mailed to:

Willow Roots  
23 N Main St  
Pine Plains, NY 12567

Or PayPal: [WillowRootsInc@gmail.com](mailto:WillowRootsInc@gmail.com)

# **Thank You to All of Our Donors**





<b>Food Donors</b>	<b>Donors</b>	<b>Financial Donors</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>
Cathy Bartles	Advantage Insulation	Janine Babcock-on behalf of PPCSD PPS Dept.	Jane Aire
Campbell Family	Laurann Beliveau	Church of the Regeneration: Pine Plains	Alyssa & Paula from Sky High Farm
Lillian Cedeño	Carol Lee Bell	Lisa Costa	Anna, Fred, Talia & Chiara
Cub Scout Pack 2130 Den 1	Dale Boyles	Dyson Foundation	Holly Bart
Farm Hub	GE Construction	Helen Fuss	Catchia
Food of Life: Amenia	Cris Smith-Hedges	Gallery & Goods	Cesaltine & Charlotte
Feed HV.org	Joanne Keeler	John Giordano/Terry Felper	Ray Christiansen
Full Circus Farm	Brett McCormack	Tomas Baibramael Gonzalez	Lena Clanahan
Jennifer Funk	Beth McLiverty	Herrington's-Millerton	Nicole Clanahan
Ginocchio Electric	Diana Moore	Victoria LoBrutto	Darrah Cloud
Barbara Gulan	Josh Nathanson	Carol Lombardi	Emery Cloud
Erin Haab	Jim Wilber	Maxine Marone	Jordan Ettari
Pete and Dora Hage		David McGill	Karen Ettari
Emily Hay		Josh Nathanson	Miranda Ettari
Clara Kemmerer		Mirocles Guatu Iri Ortiz	Brandon Falco
Kathleen Lounsbury		Iris Silva	Jonathan Falco
Angela McCarthy		St. Anthony's Church: Pine Plains	Helen Fuss
Moose On The Loose		Vivian Walsh	Debbie Gardner
Rosie Morrisen			Barbara Gulan
Ron & Cathy Osofsky		Woman's Association Presbyterian Church: Pine Plains	Jen (from Ireland)
Suzanne Ouelette			Richie "Santa" Jewett
Dave Owens			Liza, Matthew, Henry & Sarah
Pine Plains Community Food Locker			David Ouelette
Pine Plains Platter			Suzanne Ouelette
Presbyterian Church: Pine Plains			Dave Owens
Danielle St. Pierre Prezzano			Tina Pierce
Reilly Family			Jeanie Prager
Julie Roberts			Greta Preston
Seymour Smith ILC PTA			Tobey Preston
Sky High Farm			Annette Prezzano
Stissing Mountain HS Honor Society			Danielle St. Pierre Prezzano
Sunday In The Country			Carolyn Scarponi
Bart Tenore			William Stanley
The Giving Box			Susan & Karma
Trotwood Farm			Cody Wendover
Penelope Wheeler			



# 2019

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### **Connect With Us!**

(518)592-1298 | Email: [WillowRootsInc@gmail.com](mailto:WillowRootsInc@gmail.com)

[www.WillowRootsInc.wixsite.com/wecare](http://www.WillowRootsInc.wixsite.com/wecare)

