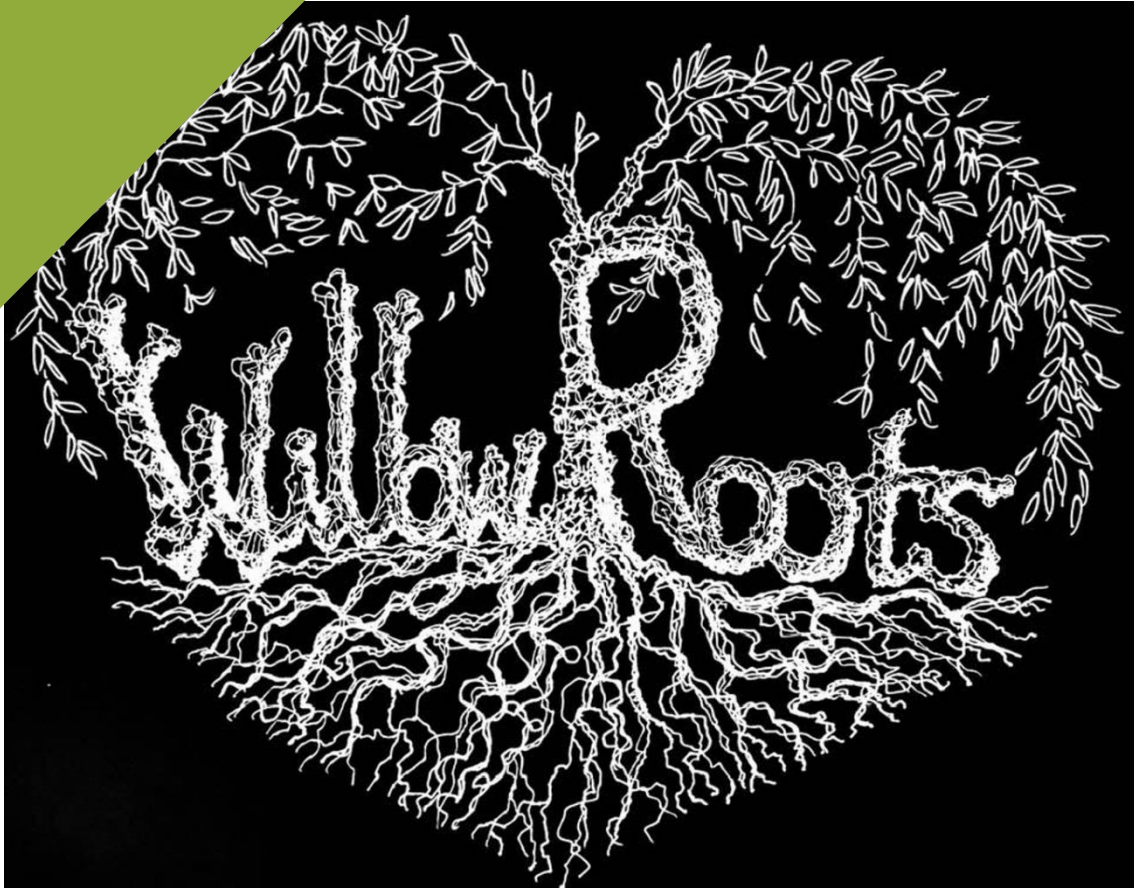


2020

Annual Report



Willow Roots



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

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Message from Lisa & Nelson

Dear Willowers,

Wow, what do you say to a year that began as a simple endeavor and turned into a pandemic? Willow Roots was born out of a yearning to help others and became a necessity in the truest sense. When March 2020 rolled in, we literally rolled up our sleeves and realized we were grateful to be able to have had almost a year under our belt. This has been a very trying time for our community and yet it has proven to be a rewarding one as well. We have shared tears and joy while we kept ourselves 'social distanced' from the ones we have grown to love.

Our volunteers have given countless hours to help collect, distribute, deliver, and organize food, clothes, pet supplies, and toiletries. We have shown that the backbone of a community is truly selfless acts of caring and consideration to all members of our community. We have been able to gather troops to help in the most basic, to the hardest tasks which included, but was not limited to getting bicycles to those who needed transportation; to getting stoves; refrigerators; washers; and dryers to those in need. To our donors whether monetary, items, food, or meals, we greatly appreciate all you have done. We could never have completed the wish lists without you.

Our networking skills have been tested and we have seen the community rise time and time again to the occasion. There has been an outpouring of recycling items that otherwise might have been discarded and are now finding homes for those who asked. We are becoming an island unto ourselves. An island which is using our resources within the community to make people feel safe, secure, loved, and most importantly, giving members a sense of belonging.

We have seen those that have received, become those that give. The cycle continuing as we pass it on and become a stronger community. We have seen the outpouring of love and support which comes when we are doing things for the greater good.

I am so proud to be a part of this great group and community. I thank you for your trust and belief in Willow Roots and I hope that we will continue to meet your expectations and surpass them.

Best Regards,

Lisa Zayas, Co-founder & President

Nelson Zayas, Co-founder & Treasurer

Nelson & Lisa Zayas

Co-founders of Willow Roots, Inc.



Mission

Willow Roots, Inc. seeks to improve the well-being and self-sufficiency of neighbors in need, in the Pine Plains community by providing food, clothing, necessities, programs, and other resources. We are committed to treating all with dignity and respect. We encourage broad involvement and participation by residents and organizations in the community we serve.

Vision:

Willow Roots, Inc. continually identifies and assesses the changing needs and resources of the community, modifying our programs accordingly to meet the needs of our community in the best possible way. Our goal is to help our neighbors in need.

Programs



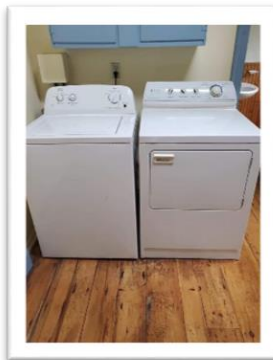
We Care Food Pantry

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.



Thrift Shop

The Willow Roots Thrift Shop offers gently used clothes and home furnishings for free. Donations accepted.



Community Network Services

Willow Roots staff and volunteers work tirelessly to identify community needs, and networks to fulfill those needs. Some of things we were able to accomplish in 2020 include: finding employment; providing bicycles so clients could get to work; connecting people to needed social services, provide appliances such as stoves refrigerators, washers, and dryers; home visits for the elderly, and a place for high school students to fulfill their required community service.

Program Impact

In 2020 Willow Roots has distributed food to over **5,000 individuals** .

Includes: **550 unique (unduplicated) individuals**

comprised of **190 children, 297 adults, and 63 senior citizens**

Includes **193 unique (unduplicated) households**

- For Thanksgiving we were able to distribute turkeys with dry goods to 57 households.
- For Christmas we were able to distribute turkeys/chickens with dry goods to 64 households.
- We paired up with the Stissing House (efforts led by Dani Nicholson) to distribute Christmas dinners at the Stissing House parking lot. Even Santa was there!!!
- Willow Roots' volunteers Ray Christiansen and Victoria Baluk teamed up to collect and distribute Christmas gifts to more than a dozen children.
- 32 individuals were able to watch a live performance of the Nutcracker at Wethersfield for free thanks to coordination between Willow Roots and Tara Kelly from Millbrook and Patricia Keeler Jean (from the Stissing House).

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

Financial Data: [Complete 2020 Form 990EZ can be found on our website](#)

Category	1/1/2020-12/31/2020
INFLOWS	
1-Contribution-Grant	
Contribution	40,358.16
Corporate Donation	19,500.00
Grant	7,500.00
Restricted- Rent	4,200.00
Restricted-Xmas Day Meal	500.00
TOTAL 1-Contribution-Grant	72,058.16
non-cash contribution	
Books	35.00
Center Equipment	100.00
Clothes	1,075.00
Clothes equipment	250.00
Food	34,125.00
Freezer	1,250.00
Refrigerator	5,025.00
Thrift Store items	1,230.00
Toiletries	410.00
TOTAL non-cash contribution	43,500.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	115,558.16
OUTFLOWS	
14-Occupancy, rent, utilities, mainten	
Cell phone	349.02
Electric	360.00
TOTAL 14-Occupancy, rent, utilities, ma...	709.02
15-Printing, publications, postage, ship	
Postage	7.10
TOTAL 15-Printing, publications, postage...	7.10
16-Other expenses	
Clothes Equipment	118.92
Food	20,015.42
Restricted-Xmas Day Meal	1,100.00
TOTAL Food	21,115.42
PayPal Fees	344.98
Supplies	582.82
Toiletries	884.43
TOTAL 16-Other expenses	23,046.57
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	23,762.69

Testimonials

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

My husband has a terminal diagnosis, and the government has not helped very much at all. With the recent events of the corona virus our financial situation has worsened. All that being said, I found Willow Roots the best food pantry with no judgement- just kindness and love. They not only offer needed food, health and beauty aids but emotional support as well...Linda

...non-profit food distribution organization Willow Roots, here in Pine Plains. Its creators, Lisa and Nelson Zayas are residents whose social consciousness is without question and beyond the call. They distribute food to those in need of food. In these horrendous times in our nation, there should be no questions proffered about this volunteer organization; no fees, no questions asked. You need food for whatever the cause; they are there...Thom

I'm a 67 year old man living in Pine Plains since 2014. I live alone without transportation, and a bunch of medical problems. Nelson and Lisa are my link to people. Not only do they bring fresh vegetables, fruit, and drinks to my home, but they stay long enough to chat and that is so important to me...Ken

I have received weekly food, clothes, love and encouragement from Willow Roots. I know their dream was and is to let no one in Pine Plains or anywhere go to bed hungry...Bruce

When my husband and I settled in Pine Plains a few years ago the first people we met were Nelson and Lisa Zayas. They welcomed us with gifts of food and open arms....Laura

Looking Forward

As we look forward to 2021, we realize that we need a bigger boat. What started out as a place for farms to have a place for their surplus quickly grew into a pantry and now, we want more. We asked our members what they wanted to see for Willow Roots, and they had a lot to say. Some of the replies were an after-school program, tutoring center, senior center, and a grief center. We listened and we were happy and grateful to see our volunteers ready to move into more areas of service. Thus, begins our quest for a commercial building. We have always believed that Willow Roots belongs to the community. The response and support have showed us that there is more work to be done, and we are ready. If there is an idea you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to contact us. May your new year be blessed with joy, peace, love, health, and abundance.

Meet Our Board of Directors



Lisa Zayas

Co-founder & President



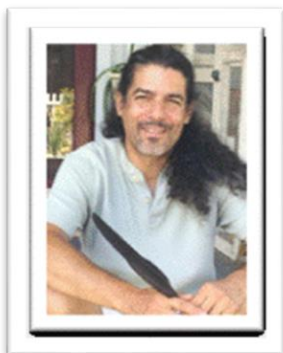
Brett McCormack

Vice-President

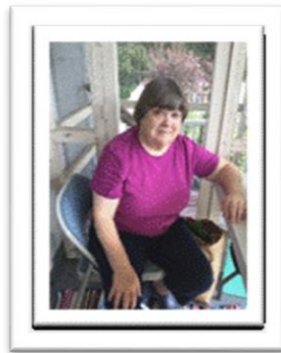


Anibal Garcia

Secretary



Co-founder & Treasurer



Thrift Store Manager



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 our team and help accomplish our 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

For Financial Donations

Checks can be mailed to:

Willow Roots
23 N Main St
Pine Plains, NY 12567

Or PayPal: WillowRootsInc@gmail.com

Thank You to All of Our 2019-2020

Donors & Volunteers

Due to the overwhelming support we have received this past year, we are unable to list everyone here, however, they are listed on our website.

To view the complete list, please visit our website:

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

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Connect With Us!

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www.WillowRootsInc.wixsite.com/wecare

