

For Immediate Release: October 12, 2021
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SENEFC North Florida Food Rescue
Oct. 12, 2021

Sustainable Events Network, Florida & Caribbean (www.SENFC.org) recently connected the **Center for Nutrition and Food Security at University of North Florida Brooks College of Health with Mr. Greens Produce** for a very successful partnership for food rescue. **SENEFC Board Member, Vickie Corder, CMP**, recounted, "It takes a village to help a community! One in six people in Northeast Florida is food insecure and does not know where his/her next meal will come from. SENEFC is working to help bridge the gap, rescuing food that would otherwise go to waste, and delivering it to charitable organizations in our communities."

Nancy Slatsky, a new staff member of the Culinary Sales team at **Mr. Greens Produce**, quickly noticed that a large amount of produce was being discarded from their warehouse. **Meghan Lynch Niemczyk, Director, Hunger Network, Center for Nutrition and Food Security at UNF Brooks College of Health** advises the student-led **Meals on Wings** program that recovers and repackages unused food into healthful meals for homebound seniors. SENEFC connected the two and the result is an ongoing pick-up of over 240 pounds of produce rescued weekly! "Thanks to Mr. Greens Produce, our seniors are loving the fresh salads and fruit we have added to their weekly meals," Meghan reported. "In the Meals on Wings program, we were sending four or five meals each week to 25 low-income homebound senior citizens pre-COVID, and now we reach over 250 seniors per week," she said.

"So happy for Mr. Greens Produce to be a part of such a positive project for our community," Nancy Slatsky, Culinary Sales, Mr. Greens Produce Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Greens Produce serves a large variety of clients, ranging from restaurants to hotels, to country clubs, to retail stores. As people are becoming increasingly interested in where their food comes from and how it is grown, Mr. Greens has become the go-to source for high quality fresh produce, dairy and much more.

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Dr. Lauri Wright is Founder and Director of the Center for Nutrition and Food Security which serves as a gateway to bring individuals and organizations together to find solutions for food insecurity and to eliminate barriers in order to improve food access and nutritional health. The Center is home to many programs including Meals on Wings, the Jacksonville Community Hunger Network and more.

“SENFEC is excited to be the connection for the two organizations! With a couple phone calls, I was able to get this successful ongoing collaboration in place resulting in repurposing food for our community,” Vickie Corder, SENFC.

The Sustainable Events Network, Florida & Caribbean (www.SENFC.org) is the sustainability resource for individuals, associations, corporations, event planners and event venues in Florida and the Caribbean. Founded in 2017, SENFC strives to lead the meetings and events industry in the advancement of sustainable practices in Florida and the Caribbean. As a member of the SENFC Board representing North Florida, Vickie is building partnerships in sustainability and food rescue.

This connection is also a tribute to the Women’s Food Alliance (WFA), www.WomensFoodAlliance.com, a successful hospitality networking organization which cultivates and advances networking, education, and collaboration for women in the culinary and hospitality industry throughout Northeast Florida and South Georgia. Both Corder and Slatsky are WFA members and credit the network for bringing them together. WFA Founder, Leigh Cort, “It’s so rewarding to support great women in the hospitality industry, and when a successful connection is made by our members, magic happens!” Thanks to Vickie Corder, who is a passionate leader in the meetings industry and Sustainable Events Network, Florida and Caribbean for pursuing this connection.”

