

Creating Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems



GREATER HIGH POINT FOOD ALLIANCE FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

September 13, 2023

empower - unify - sustain

THE GREATER HIGH POINT FOOD ALLIANCE



OUR VISION

GHPFA will create just and sustainable supplemental food systems for Greater High Point by fostering unity, developing responsibility and empowering communities.

OUR MISSION

GHPFA will strive to coordinate and improve the effectiveness of entities in Greater High Point focused on alleviating hunger by creating and executing citywide and neighborhood-focused initiatives to develop more just and sustainable food systems.

GHPFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Eli Saavedra	Board Chair
Rishaunda Moses	Vice Board Chair
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Wendy Brosnan	



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the Greater High Point Food Alliance works to fulfill its mission of developing “more just and sustainable food systems,” we feel that each of our past Food Summits have been building up to this year’s focus. Last year we explored the impact of poverty on health, education, seniors, housing, and food security. In prior years we learned about the impacts of food insecurity on our overall well-being.

During each Food Summit, we create action items and then share the outcomes of the Food Summit to both community partners and city leaders. This year’s Food Security Summit is focused on developing a local, sustainable food system. This is only possible when a community recognizes the needs, and then works across disciplines to begin to develop a plan. Creating a just and sustainable food system is a long-term goal that is only possible with the input from the community. Today is another step towards achieving the mission of the GHPFA. Thank you for your participation and input.

Peace and Grace,

Carl W. Vierling, *Executive Director*





PRODUCTION & PROCESSING



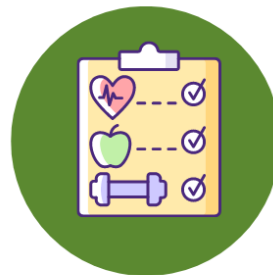
MARKETS & CONSUMPTION



FOOD RECOVERY & WASTE



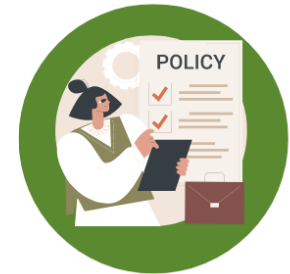
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT



WELLNESS



EQUITY



POLICY & ADVOCACY



FOOD SYSTEMS

are the interconnected agricultural systems and processes that influence nutrition, food, health, community and economic development, and the environment.



COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS & COLLABORATION



EMERGENCY FOOD

FOOD SUMMIT AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00	Registration and Arrival
	Welcome
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and launch of the 2023 Food Security Summit
	Keynote Speaker – Dr. Kathleen Liang
9:30 – 10:15	Sustainable Food Systems
10:15 – 10:30	Tabletop Discussion
10:30 – 10:45	Break
	Speaker – Laura Oxner
10:45 – 11:15	Food Recovery
11:15 – 11:30	Tabletop Discussion
	Speaker – Marianne Weant
11:30 – 12:00	Advocacy
12:00 – 12:15	Tabletop Discussion
12:15 – 12:30	Lunch Pickup
12:30 – 1:00	GHPFA Awards/Highlights
1:00 – 2:15	Panel Discussion – All Speakers
2:15 – 2:30	Questions from Attendees
2:30 – 2:45	Close up and Takeaways

Dismiss for Networking



UNDERSTANDING FOOD SYSTEMS



The term **Food System** describes the interconnected systems and processes that influence nutrition, food, health, community development and agriculture. A food system includes all processes and infrastructure involved in feeding a population: growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, distribution and disposal of food and food-related items. A food system operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic, technological and environmental contexts. https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Food_system

Transitioning to sustainable food systems is critical for addressing local and global challenges such as climate change, hunger and food insecurity, biodiversity loss and deforestation. Addressing issues at each stage in the system, can have system-wide effects, for 30-40 percent of food produced is lost from post-harvest up to retail and the consumer. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_system

An **Equitable Food System** is one that creates a new paradigm in which all – including those most vulnerable and those living in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color – can fully participate, prosper, and benefit. It is a system that, from farm to table, from processing to disposal, ensures economic opportunity; high-quality jobs with living wages; safe working conditions; access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food; and environmental sustainability. <https://www.policylink.org/food-systems/equitable-food-systems-resource-guide>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR.
KATHLEEN
LIANG



Ph. D. Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, 1996
M.S. Agricultural Economics, Purdue University, 1991
B.S. Agriculture, National Taiwan University, 1987

Dr. Liang is an award-winning scholar who has developed a community entrepreneurship curriculum and service/experiential learning programs that integrate science-based research and innovative teaching into outreach. She is an expert in multifunctional farm research, food insecurity issues, food system and network analysis and community entrepreneurship.

Her research analyzes the opportunities and challenges for sustainable food systems and food networks regarding small-scale farmers, mixed style farming operations, rural/urban interface, and innovative opportunities and resource equilibrium. Her work has been published in *Agricultural Finance Review*, *Agricultural Research and Technology* and the *Journal of Business and Entrepreneurship*.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Kathleen Liang as the keynote speaker for today's Food Security Summit. Dr. Liang is a highly regarded speaker, with a wealth of knowledge about all things concerning sustainable food systems.

MEET THE PANELISTS



Joséluis Abreu **Superior Foods & Growing High Point**
Joséluis Abreu is the owner of Superior Foods Supermarket & Director of Operations for Growing High Point. Jose has over 20 years of experience in the grocery industry working in small bodegas in NYC to now owning for Supermarket. He is the owner/manager of Superior Foods, the largest independently owned grocery store in High Point.

Jose took his passion for food and community transforming into a Urban Farmer assisting Growing High Point in empowering and engaging budding entrepreneurs to create agribusinesses.



Lolita Watkins **Saint James Presbyterian Church, Social Justice Advocacy Ministry**
Lolita Watkins has lived in Greensboro, North Carolina since receiving her undergraduate degree in Sociology, a teacher certification in social studies and MPA degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her professional work experience has been varied, including employment with Big Brothers & Big Sisters, a teacher of middle school social studies and the academically gifted in Guilford County Schools. She has also served as a museum program planner. Since 2021, Watkins spends much of her time in local efforts in the African American faith community in addressing hunger/food justice issues and supporting African American farmers.



Nena Wilson **City of High Point**
Thanena (Nena) Wilson currently serves as the Director for Community Development and Housing with the City of High Point, where she has been employed since November 2015. Her responsibilities include department administration and office management, oversight and management of affordable housing programs, as well as oversight of programs and funding providing public services to the community. Since beginning work with the City of High Point, she has been a participant in Leadership High Point (Class of 2017), currently serves on the Guilford County Continuum of Care Board, Small-Scale Manufacturing Task Force, and various committees representing her department and the City.



MEET THE SPEAKERS



Rishaunda Moses **EMCEE**
Rishaunda Moses earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Howard University, with minors in Business and Spanish. While working full-time with the child welfare system in Washington, DC, Rishaunda worked toward a law degree with a Certificate in Law and Public Policy in the evening division of the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Rishaunda serves as a board member with the Greater High Point Food Alliance and Growing High Point and is an active member of the Alpha Art Club, a civic organization in High Point, NC that will be celebrating 100 years in 2024.



Laura Oxner **A Simple Gesture**
Laura Oxner is the Director of the food recovery initiative of the nonprofit A Simple Gesture. Laura researches businesses that have leftover wholesome food to give and redirects these resources to 38+ vetted partner nonprofits in Guilford County, North Carolina. The program is a distinct model among North Carolina food councils and across state lines. The mission is to feed those in need all while keeping wholesome food from unnecessarily entering the landfill. This work has assisted in the development of North Carolina's Standard Operating Procedures, being released in fall 2023. Over 2 million meals have been recovered; and counting. Laura is guided by the core value of: Feeding not Wasting through connection and collaboration; leading to a more sustainable community.



Marianne Weant **North Carolina Alliance for Health**
Marianne Weant, MSPH, MA, CHES joined the North Carolina Alliance for Health in 2018 after almost nine years on staff with North Carolina PTA. Marianne completed her BA in anthropology and history at George Mason University, her MA in anthropology and development at the George Washington University, and her MSPH in community health from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is currently a DrPH candidate in Health Policy and Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Marianne lives in Cary with her husband, six kids, senior dog, and a tiny flock of chickens.



Eli Saavedra **Guilford County Division of Public Health**
Eli Saavedra (He/Him) completed the BS in Human Nutrition program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He later obtained his master's degree in nutrition from The University of Alabama (Roll Tide!). He is a Registered Dietitian overseeing the Healthy Communities Program at the Guilford County Division of Public Health. He oversees the Minority Diabetes Prevention Program and provides leadership to the Health Equity Core Team working to implement internal health equity initiatives. He works with community organizations in the development and implementation of collective grassroots efforts to address food security and provide nutrition education. He currently serves as the Board Chair of the Greater High Point Food Alliance.

GHPFA Accomplishments/Success Stories

Food Security Fund

In 2018, the Greater High Point Food Alliance created a fund that would help enable a food secure Greater High Point community. A group of volunteers review all grant applications for sustainable projects, making visits, as necessary, then submit their funding recommendations for GHPFA Board approval. Dollars donated, up to \$250,000, are matched by The Earl & Kathryn Congdon Family Foundation.

Since its creation, we have awarded over \$225,000 to the recipients.

Food Finder App

In 2023, the Greater High Point Food Alliance launched an expansion of the food finder app to provide resources beyond High Point. The June publication of the Community Resource Guide contained the greater Guilford and the greater High Point areas. To match the expanded printed rollout, the Greater Guilford Food Finder App provides access to resources in each city and town. Since July 7, 2023, there have been:

975 user engagements
1776 screen views
238 new users

Formation of the Healthy Guilford Coalition

Atrium Wake Forest Baptist was awarded a \$100,000 planning grant as part of the Duke Endowment's Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas grant to address nutrition and physical activity across Guilford County. The GHPFA worked collaboratively with Atrium Wake Forest Baptist High Point Medical Center and the Foundation for a Healthy High Point to form the Healthy Guilford Coalition which includes Moses Cone Hospital, Cone Health Foundation, Guilford County Division of Public Health, NC Cooperative Extension - Guilford County Center, and Senior Resources Guilford, Inc. The Healthy Guilford Coalition is joining 24 existing coalitions across North Carolina and South Carolina in the Duke Endowment's Healthy People, Healthy Carolina initiatives.

Growing Towards Leadership

The Growing Towards Leadership classes are designed to improve the capacity and efficiency of local food providers and others that are working in the food security space. The sessions include topics such as Organizational Assessment, Succession Planning, Trauma Informed Patron Relations, Financial Integrity, Communications/Social Media, Board Development, Grant Writing and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

To date, this awesome program has graduated 19 leaders for the greater High Point community!



2023

COMMUNITY AWARDS



These awards are meant to recognize individuals and organizations whose work has meaningful affect and impact to the issue of food security, in the greater High Point area. They are given to individuals/groups that live/operate in the Greater High Point area, which includes High Point, Archdale, Jamestown, Trinity and the areas around these communities.

Rooted in the Community Award

Awarded to an organization, nonprofit, government agency or business that through creative solutions has led to the development of innovative solutions to food insecurity resulting in sustainable community impact.

Food Security Advocate Award

Awarded to the individual who has been a leader in advocating for those struggling with food insecurity, who has been proactive in addressing food insecurity and who has been a catalyst for change and sustainability.

EVENT SPONSOR

Special thanks to...



THE FOUNDATION FOR A

HEALTHY HIGH POINT

Leadership for change

LET'S CONTINUE
THE
CONVERSATION
& THE WORK



PRODUCTION
& PROCESSING



FOOD SYSTEMS



COMMUNICATION
SYSTEMS &
COLLABORATION



MARKETS &
CONSUMPTION

are the interconnected
agricultural systems and
processes that influence
nutrition, food, health,
community and
economic development,
and the environment.



EMERGENCY
FOOD



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RECOVERY &
WASTE



SUSTAINABILITY
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WELLNESS



EQUITY



POLICY &
ADVOCACY



GREATER HIGH POINT FOOD ALLIANCE

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GHPFA Website



GHPFA App



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