

COMMUNITY MARKETS INC.

Locally grown. Locally connected.

Food Security & Local Food Access in West Virginia

Community Markets Inc. Basics

Legal Status: 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Founded on March 1, 2021

Located in Charles Town, WV

Serving 10 WV Counties*

*As of March 2025



Mission & Vision

Mission:

 CMI exists to connect locally grown food to families in need.

Vision:

 West Virginia grown food is on every West Virginian's plate.





Why Community Markets Inc.?

- Feeding Underserved Appalachian
 Families
- Supporting WV & Local Farmers
- Increasing Access to Healthy
 WV-Grown Food
- Building Wealth & Wellness in WV





Poverty in WV

West Virginia is one of the most economically impoverished states in the nation with an overall poverty rate of **17.9**%.

Poverty Rates in Eastern Panhandle:

- Jefferson County: 9.3%,
- Berkeley County: 11.1%
- Morgan County: 15.7%.

The ALICE Threshold: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed.

Households below the ALICE Threshold:

- Jefferson County: 33%
- Berkeley County: 39%
- Morgan County: 40%



Remember This?



We are ALL Vulnerable to Food Insecurity!



7485 Shepherdstown Pike, Ste 146, Shepherdstown, WV 25414

Impact Summary (as of March 2025)

In 2.5 years, **Community Markets Inc.** has:

- Fed <u>12,300 people</u>
- in 10 WV counties
- with <u>134,100 lbs.</u> of healthy food
- & put <u>\$321,500</u> back in to local farmers' & small business owners' pockets





CMI's Initial Programs

- Food Box Giveaway Program
- Local Food Access Program





COMMUNITY MARKETS INC.

Food Box Giveaway Program

- Once a month (current capacity)
- Donations/Grants used to buy healthy staple foods at a fair price from local farmers
- Distributed free of charge to needy
- In Food Deserts & Low Income Communities
- Underserved families, children, elderly, lacking healthy food access
- Volunteer Friendly!





Local Food Access Program

- 2 Mobile Farmers Markets in Jefferson County
- Weekly Online Pre Orders
- Over 25 Local Vendors
- Healthy & Affordable Groceries made EASY!
- Staple Foods: High Quality Low Price
- Mobile Cold Storage Key





St. Isidore Market

- Weekly Year-Round Mobile Market
- Charles Town, WV
- Thursdays 5:00-6:30 pm
- April 2023 CMI took over
- Pre Order Online Fri-Tues
- Walk Up Sales too!
- Money Goes Back to FBG

www.saintisidoremarket.com







Union Market

- Weekly Seasonal Mobile Market
- Harpers Ferry & Bolivar, WV
- Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm
- Pilot Year Aug-Nov 2023
- Pre Order Online Fri-Tues
- Food Truck, Music, Local Food
- Money Goes Back to FBG

www.unionmarketwv.com







Mobile Markets: Economic Development

- Business Incubator
- Provides nearly-free eCommerce store
- Diversify Direct to Consumer
 Marketing Channels
- Test Demand for New Product/Business Concept
- Businesses Scale Up
- Case Study: Joan + Joe Coffee





AmeriCorps VISTA Program

- CMI is Recruiting Year Long VISTAs!
- Join the Local Food Movement!
- Serve WV Families & Farmers!
- Bi-Monthly Stipend
- Healthcare
- Education Award
- Host Site Benefits









Community Partnerships

- JCS Backpack Program
- Bushel & Peck Partnership
- Greater Impact Through Collaboration
- Leverage Existing Infrastructure
- Impact Multiplier
- Stronger Together!
- Filling in Gaps in Service







We Love Our Partners!





Stay in Touch!

Monthly Newsletter, Upcoming Events, Volunteer Opportunities

www.communitymarketsinc.org



Follow CMI on Facebook!





Can You Help?

- Donate
- Become a Monthly Donor
- Volunteer
- Shop at Mobile Markets
- Tell a Friend!



www.communitymarketsinc.org/donate



Become a CMI Monthly Donor!



www.communitymarketsinc.org/donate

ANY Amount Helps!





Thank You!



COMMUNITY MARKETS INC.

Questions? Comments?



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