Our team of five regional food coordinators works across Colorado to develop local food systems centered around equity by placing producers and food access organizations at the nexus of solutions. In addition to the work detailed below, the team also launched numerous pilots and a social enterprise to build food sovereignty in communities, helped found and support the Colorado Farm and Food Systems Response Team, and got dozens of local producers to sign up for the Colorado Proud Program.

**CREATED A DATABASE OF MORE THAN** 100 LOCAL FARMS

**SECURED $165,000 FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**COORDINATED OVER $250,000 IN LOCAL FOOD PURCHASES**

**PANTRY MODEL**

LIFT-UP fundraised and spent more than $60,000 in local purchases from 22 different local farms and producers. By working with Skips Farm to Market, LIFT-UP has committed at least $100,000 to local farms in 2021. The LIFT-UP pantry network operates six food pantries across Garfield and Pitkin counties.

**ROOTS OF HEALTH**

A partnership between Mercy Hospital and The Good Food Collective committed $300,000 over three years to improving healthy food access and supporting local farmers in southwest Colorado. In its first year, more than $100,000 of local food was distributed to community members.

**EAST DENVER FOOD HUB**

Procured and distributed more than 10,000 pounds of local food for food access organizations and other community partners. Coordinated an innovative joint purchase between a Boulder county farmer and nearly a dozen food pantries for 50,000 pounds of beans.
OUR REGIONAL FOOD COORDINATORS

GWEN CAMERON
Palisade

A second-generation fruit grower, Gwen Cameron farms 38 acres of organic peaches, plums, apricots, cherries and melons in the desert canyons of Palisade, Colorado. She believes the best fruit is grown from well-tended soil and is harvested by workers with a deep connection to the land. Gwen is president of her Rocky Mountain Farmers Union chapter. She was named Young Grower of the Year by the Western Colorado Horticultural Society in 2018. As a regional food coordinator at Hunger Free Colorado, she works to provide communities with high-quality, fresh food, while helping farmers and food pantries build more resilient food systems in their communities.

Russell Goodman lives in Steamboat Springs where he works on a regenerative farm as a chef and food preservationist. Russell’s interests focus on the intersection of small-scale farming, human wellness, and food sovereignty. A former career as an epidemiologist provides the health and nutrition background that informs Russell’s work as a Regional Food Coordinator and as a chef. Russell attended Emory University and the Medical University of South Carolina which led to a career in chronic disease research before the change to culinary arts. Now, Russell is an enthusiastic advocate for Farm-to-Food Pantry initiatives, local food systems, and mental health policy.

Rachel Landis’ belief in the power of food systems to act as a near ‘cure all’ for many of our social and environmental challenges started in 2001 during a stint living on a self-sufficient farm, off-the-grid in upstate New York. Off the farm and back in her beloved SW for the past decade, Rachel has sought out opportunities that weave together community-building, sustainability, and food systems. Rachel is also currently the Director of The Good Food Collective and the Project Weaver for the La Plata Food Equity Coalition. Within this work, she has found some of the deepest fulfillment from witnessing the shared joy of farmers, food pantries, and clients as healthy local food makes its way from our farmers' fields to our community members' forks.

Rosalind May is the founder of Rocky Mountain Local Food, a business focused on food systems support, connections and value-chain coordinating. With Rocky Mountain Local Food she works in collaboration with East Denver Food Hub, including initially piloting technical assistance to connect food pantries with farmers. That pilot influenced the development of five Regional Food Coordinator positions across the state, supported by Hunger Free Colorado. Rosalind continues to work on expanding the capacity and impact to connect farms and emergency food providers and transform our local and regional food systems to be more just, transparent and viable. Rosalind is also the Executive Director of the Colorado Farmers Market Association (CFMA).

Robert Meza is the founder of Emerald Gardens, a year-round greenhouse farm in 2017. They currently occupy 35 acres in Bennett, Colorado and operate cooperatively with Sugar Moon Mushrooms and ValueCycle greenhouse farm on the same land. In 2020, Roberto cofounded the East Denver Food Hub (EDFH), which works to create an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system that meets the needs of communities and rural food producers. Roberto is the Chair of Membership and Outreach for Mile High Farmers, the local chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. He is also a member of the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, and board member of the High Plains Food Co-op and the National Young Farmers Coalition.