

### **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 Shepherdstown, WV

Serving 10 WV Counties\*

\*As of May 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 May 2025)

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

- Fed <u>13,500 people</u>
- in 10 WV counties
- with <u>142,000 lbs.</u> of healthy food
- & put <u>\$367,000</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

- Twice Monthly
- 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





## 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**

- Critical Program for CMI Capacity
- Cut Suddenly April 2025; No Warning



- 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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