

Roche Bros. Food Rescue Program

Presented by Artie Kroese May 29, 2025 / MassDEP
Organics Subcommittee Meeting



Welcome & Introduction

- Artie Kroese, Director of Operations, Roche Bros. Supermarkets
- Family-owned supermarket chain focused on quality, service, and community
- Honored to contribute to MassDEP's Organics Action Plan



Why Food Donation Matters

- Retail sector plays a crucial role in reduction efforts
- Reduces landfill waste, lowers emissions, and feeds people in need
- Supports our mission to be a responsible, community-minded grocer
- 1 in 3 people have food insecurities
- Compared to 1 in 9 eight years ago

Roche Bros. Food Donation Journey

- Began structured food donations in 2017
- Partnered with Spoonfuls for professional food rescue services
- Weekly scheduled pickups from 14 store locations
 - Cambridge, Medfield, Weston, DTX, Millis, Natick, Needham Roche and Suds
 - Watertown, Wellesley, West Roxbury, Westborough, Westwood, Sudbury

Partnership with Spoonfuls

- Spoonfuls rescues and redistributes healthy, perishable food
- Accepts produce, dairy, meat, bakery, grocery, kitchen and deli items
- Staff trained in food safety and sorting
- Real-time tracking of donations for accountability and impact



Delivering Food with Purpose

Volume and Impact

- 2019 through 2023
- Average of 750,000 pounds of food recovered
- 2024 – they picked up more stores
- 2024 – Almost 900,000 pounds of food
- 2025 – on pace to do over 1 million pounds
- Diverted from landfills, reducing methane emissions
 - Minimum of 100 standard 30 yard dumpsters
- Supported dozens of hunger relief organizations across Massachusetts
 - Churches, Schools, After School Programs, Group Homes, Shelters, Senior Centers

Operational Integration

- Store teams trained to identify and separate suitable items daily
- Items stored safely until pickup
- System integrated into store routine with minimal disruption
- Emphasis on food safety and freshness

Success Stories & Testimonials

- "We're proud to know our surplus food is helping families in our own communities." – Store Manager, Needham
- Increased associate engagement and morale
- Positive feedback from local food pantries and nonprofits



Challenges & Opportunities

- Planning to expand to all Roche Bros locations
- Spoonfuls is a nonprofit organization
- Their mission requires funding and resources to sustain food rescue efforts

Future Goals

- Continue reducing food waste at the source
- Have Spoonfuls go to all 20 stores
- Share the model with other retailers

Thank you

- Thank you to MassDEP and Spoonfuls for the opportunity and support
- Questions Welcome