

Spirit

Our Mission: We empower people in our community to rise out of poverty, move toward self-reliance, and reach their full potential.



Volunteers of America®

UPSTATE NEW YORK

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA UPSTATE NEW YORK NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2024

Making Mother's Day Special for Seniors

On Mother's Day, many of us honor a special woman in our life with a gift of appreciation. Sadly, many mothers find themselves forgotten on this very special day.

For 35 years, Volunteers of America has remembered mothers in our community by delivering gift baskets to those in senior housing to recognize and honor them. These gift baskets are filled with cards, flowers, and treats for the women to enjoy.

With your support, VOA will deliver more than 200 special gift baskets over Mother's Day weekend. You can sponsor a senior mother for \$45, two women for \$90, or 10 women for \$450 to guarantee a special gift for a woman in our community this Mother's Day. Your donation can be made to honor a special woman in your life, such as your mother or grandmother. VOA will send that person a Mother's Day card informing them of your contribution.



THIS CELEBRATION IS SUPPORTED BY:



Ursula Burns



Please make your donation prior to **Saturday, May 4**, to ensure your card arrives by Mother's Day.

To Donate by Check:

Please mail your complete form with your check payable to:
Volunteers of America, "I Remember Mama"
214 Lake Ave. Rochester, NY 14608

To Donate by Credit Card: Please visit

voaupny.org/iremembermama
or scan the QR code

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Gift Amount \$45 \$90 \$450

To Donate by Phone:

Please call **Domenic Argentieri** at (585) 736-2487

THE FARM

powered by  Volunteers of America®



ADAM J. BELLO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Farm: Providing Produce from an Unexpected Place

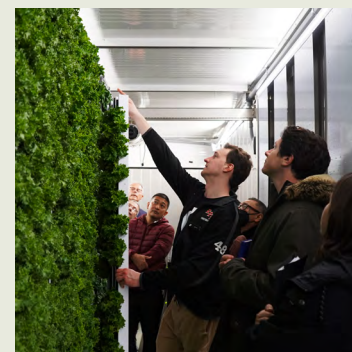
This past November, Volunteers of America launched a new program: The Farm! The Farm is a sustainable program, funded in large part by an American Rescue Plan grant from Monroe County, that helps to combat food insecurity by growing and distributing fresh produce to low-income households. Operating from two repurposed shipping containers, this innovative program utilizes vertical hydroponic farming techniques to grow produce efficiently, compactly, and year-round.

The Farm grows a wide variety of leafy greens, lettuces, herbs, microgreens, and root vegetables. In addition, we offer education and workforce development programs, agri-therapy for veterans, and volunteer opportunities.

The Farm can produce between two and four tons of food each year to assist more than 2,500 people, including children who attend the VOA Children's Center, families staying in our Guest House Emergency Shelter, local food pantries, and other people served by non-profit service providers. We rotate our crop, cultivating fresh produce while conserving water, minimizing our environmental footprint, and enabling urban food production in the heart of Downtown Rochester.

How you can help:

Purchase fresh produce grown from The Farm through our online store! You can purchase small bundles from our selection of greens or a weekly subscription box. Our most popular items include arugula, butterhead, romaine, collard greens, Swiss chard, basil, spring mix, and microgreens. Every purchase helps provide produce to low-income households facing food insecurity in Monroe County. Tours of The Farm are available upon request.



Shop The Farm at voafarm.org

We proudly serve the public fresh, locally grown produce that nourishes our community and our mission. Visit our online store to see what we currently have available.



Welcoming New Leaders to VOA



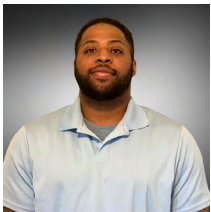
Dr. Nate Sheppard is VOA's new Regional Vice President of Site-Based Housing. Dr. Sheppard is a veteran with more than 20 years working for non-profit agencies supervising facilities and operations. As Regional VP, he is responsible for VOA's permanent supportive housing programs and the Residential Reentry Center.



Jannie Hill was named our Vice President of Children & Family Services at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Hill has more than 20 years of experience in early childhood education, and she is responsible for the VOA Children's Center in Rochester which includes child care programs for infants and toddlers and Universal Pre-K.



Dottie Burgess has been promoted to Director of our Residential Reentry Center. This program provides housing and supportive services for men and women who are exiting incarceration from federal prisons. Ms. Burgess has served as Senior Case Manager at the RRC for more than 20 years.



Antonio McIntyre Cruz joined VOA in February as Assistant Controller. He brings a wealth of experience from working with non-profit and educational clients. In his role, Antonio is responsible for ensuring the accurate recording of revenue and expenses across the organization and manages internal and external reporting.

Wendy Dettmer Receives RBJ Women of Excellence Award

Wendy Dettmer, Volunteers of America's Vice President of Community-Based Programs, has been recognized as one of Rochester Business Journal's 2024 Women of Excellence Honorees.

This accolade is awarded by the RBJ's editorial staff and an independent panel of judges to recognize women for their commitment to encouraging change within their community.

Wendy joined VOA in 2022, and she was promoted to VP in 2023. Her division includes VOA's Senior Housing, Community-Based Housing, and programs within Monroe County Jail and Albion Prison. She also heads one of VOA's newest initiatives, The Farm. Wendy attributes much of the success of these initiatives to the dedication and collective effort of her team, emphasizing that staying committed to their goals is the key to their success.



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SAVE THE DATE



VOA'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 Locust Hill County Club

We look forward to you joining
us for a great day of golf
for a great cause!

To learn more, visit
voaupny.org



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Strike Out Poverty

Join VOA and the Rochester Red Wings as we #StrikeOutPoverty at every home game throughout the 2024 season. Every time a Red Wings pitcher strikes out an opposing hitter this season, a donation is made to VOA. All funds raised through our Strike Out Poverty campaign directly support VOA's life-saving services.

Text the word **STRIKE** to **366283** to donate to this campaign.

A special thank you to

 **Citizens**™

for being this year's season sponsor.