



**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 December 2024



203 S George St. Charles Town, WV 25414

# 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.



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# Why Community Markets Inc.?

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



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# 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?



March  
2020:  
Pandemic!



We are ALL Vulnerable to Food Insecurity!

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# Impact Summary (as of December 2024)

In just 2 years, **Community Markets Inc.** has:

- Fed over 10,000 people
- in 10 WV counties
- with 120,000 lbs. of healthy food
- & put \$263,000 back in to **local farmers'** and **small business owners'** pockets



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# CMI's Initial Programs

- Food Box Giveaway Program
- Local Food Access Program



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# 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!



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# 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



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# 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](http://www.saintisidoremarket.com)



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# 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](http://www.unionmarketwv.com)



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# 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



West Virginia's Promise  
The Alliance for Youth



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# 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!



COMMUNITY MARKETS INC.



# Stay in Touch!

Monthly Newsletter, Upcoming Events, Volunteer Opportunities

[www.communitymarketsinc.org](http://www.communitymarketsinc.org)



Follow CMI on Facebook!



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# Can *You* Help?

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



[www.communitymarketsinc.org/donate](http://www.communitymarketsinc.org/donate)



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# Become a CMI Monthly Donor!



## Feed Hungry Families. Support Our Farmers. Increase Local Food Access.

Your donation ensures that Community Markets Inc. can continue connecting locally grown food to families in need.

Community Markets Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible.

The [Board](#), staff, and volunteers of Community Markets Inc. thank you for your generosity!

Free forms by [zeffy](#)

### Your donation

|                   |         |                  |          |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
| One-time donation |         | Monthly donation |          |
| \$10.00           | \$25.00 | \$75.00          | \$150.00 |
| 25                |         | \$               |          |

will provide a family with a food box every other month

[www.communitymarketsinc.org/donate](http://www.communitymarketsinc.org/donate)

**ANY Amount  
Helps!**



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*Thank You!*



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# Questions? Comments?

Mark Peiffer, RPO  
Operations Manager

(703) 789-1879

[mark.peiffer@communitymarketsinc.org](mailto:mark.peiffer@communitymarketsinc.org)

[www.communitymarketsinc.org](http://www.communitymarketsinc.org)



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