CARE teamed with the New Haven Food Policy Council and several community partners to write a report that assesses food security issues in New Haven and make policy recommendations for the City of New Haven. Alycia Santilli, MSW, Director of CARE, and Kathleen O’Connor Duffany, PhD, Director of Research and Evaluation at CARE, co-authored the report with community partners. The goal is for the analysis and recommendations set forth in the report to translate into strong policy changes that improve and even eliminate the food security issues many New Haven residents confront on a daily basis. The full report is available [here](#). CARE will continue to work closely with the New Haven Food Policy Council to address hunger.

### Key Findings

- **Across New Haven, 22% of the city's residents are food insecure – with not enough food or money to buy food – much higher than the Connecticut rate of 12% and national rate of 13%.**
- **Food insecurity varies widely in New Haven – impacting 1 in 3 adults in the city's lowest income neighborhoods.**
- **Hispanic and Latinx communities in New Haven reported higher food insecurity in these low-income neighborhoods at 50%.**

### Prevalence of Food Insecurity in 6 Low-Income New Haven Neighborhoods by Race/Ethnicity

- **Latinx:** 50%
- **White:** 30%
- **Black:** 28%
- **Other race:** 25%

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**SCSU Community Garden**

During Summer 2017, CARE and the Office of Sustainability partnered with New Haven Farms to pilot a garden-based health education program to improve healthy food access for low-income neighborhoods. Two MPH interns, Meadeshia Mitchell and Abby Putzer, created the curriculum. Sustainability undergraduate interns Kaelyn Audette (Public Health) and Megan McNivens (Psychology) implemented improved farming methods from New Haven Farms to more than double the seasonal yield of the garden.

**SUCCESSES**

- Launched 6-week pilot program during July and August 2017.
- Reached 20 New Haven residents.
- Offered weekly nutrition lessons, cooking demonstrations, recipes, and gardening seminars.
- Provided program participants with shares of produce from the garden.
- Donated fresh produce to local soup kitchens.
- Distributed nearly 1,000 pounds of produce to program participants and soup kitchens.
- Provided more than 150 volunteer hours at New Haven Farms sites throughout spring and summer.
Health Leaders
CARE has launched a leadership program for New Haven residents and SCSU graduate students to work together on solutions to pressing social and health issues identified by the community. Jacquelyn Pheanious and Makia Richardson are the resident leaders; Meadshelia Mitchell and Cerella Craig are the graduate student leaders for this year. Residents will work alongside the student and faculty partners to build relationships with other neighborhood leaders and community organizations to help implement health activities and initiatives. In the coming months, CARE looks forward to sharing updates about further developments with the Health Leaders program.

C³E: CARE Center for Community Evaluation
Over its 10-year history working with community collaborators, CARE has provided consultation services for evaluation projects nationally and in the local community. Through this experience, CARE has identified that many community agencies have evaluation needs that they are struggling to meet. CARE can help meet these needs in an efficient and affordable way. C³E currently has three evaluation projects, all of which address social determinants of health by improving residents' access to important services.

Working Cities
- The City of New Haven is taking part in the Working Cities Challenge, a grant competition sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank. It is designed to support cross-sector, collaborative leadership to improve the lives of low-income people. Through Working Cities, New Haven aims to improve transportation options for the working-age population of West Rock, leading to a decrease in unemployment and, subsequently, poverty. CARE has conducted surveys and focus groups to incorporate the community voice in the project. It presented a final report to the city in October 2017.

Two Gen
- The United Way of Greater New Haven is working with five local agencies to implement the Two-Generation Approach (2Gen). The 2Gen approach works with families to create a foundation for well-being in these areas: early childhood education; education and job training for parents/caregivers; financial stability; and health and wellbeing. CARE has developed organizational self-assessment tools and a corresponding toolkit to help organizations identify opportunities to move along the 2Gen continuum.

Hamden Partnership for Young Children
- The Hamden Partnership for Young Children (HPYC) has contracted with CARE to conduct focus groups about the parenting education and skill-building needs of caregivers of young children in Hamden. The focus groups explored types of programming parents most need, the best modes for delivering these programs, and the most appropriate outreach methods to promote the programs.

10th Anniversary Fundraiser
CARE hosted its 10th anniversary fundraiser on Friday, June 9, 2017 from 6 - 9 PM at mAActivity in New Haven. We celebrated with old and new friends, delicious hors d’oeuvres, drinks, raffle prizes, and live music! The event was a big success, with many thanks to those who attended, and to the event sponsors: Yale University Office of New Haven & State Affairs; Yale New Haven Hospital; and United Way of Greater New Haven. We are especially grateful to our host and Steering Committee member, Burchell Valldejuli of mAActivity.

From left: Jacquelyn Pheanious, Cerella Craig, Meadshelia Mitchell, & Makia Richardson

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