

Healthy Food for All – Report to Madison Food Policy Council, October 2015
Submitted by Chris Brockel

Fresh produce cleaning, aggregation, and timely distribution were identified in the Healthy Food for All School Children community mobilization plan as gaps in the emergency food system. In an effort to demonstrate that adding this piece to the system would improve access to healthy local produce, Chris Brockel partnered with Joe Mingle this summer to operate a project through FEED Kitchens that collected, cleaned, aggregated and distributed fresh produce donations. Thus far nearly 5 tons of produce has been procured and distributed directly to families in targeted low income neighborhoods and through food pantries. With a wink to the original plan, the project is called Healthy Food for All Dane County.

The project also worked with Epic to collect and re-pack leftover food from their Worldwide Users Group meeting in September. Nearly a ton of food was saved from the landfill, re-packed and labeled at FEED Kitchen and distributed to food pantries. Epic is interested in continuing this effort on a year-round basis.

Chris has been meeting with United Way, the Goodman Foundation, and Madison Community Foundation to re-energize the Healthy Food for All plan.

The Goodman Foundation has funded a Fit Youth Initiative (FYI) in east side Madison community centers (Goodman, East Madison, Vera Court, Kennedy Heights) to get elementary kids more physically active, provide healthy snacks and meals, and provide nutrition education.