This year, FareStart is focused on two interconnected priorities: 1) Enhance and expand on-the-job training opportunities for youth and adults. 2) Grow and re-launch social enterprise businesses. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we’re off to an incredibly strong start.

From our kitchens to our cafés, students are learning new skills that will prepare them for career pathways in and beyond the food industry. In particular, we’re seeing significant growth in our Food Pathways Program, enrolling 66% more adults than we were this time last year. We also launched a new external training pilot project with Echo Glen Children’s Center, a security facility for young people, to help residents prepare for jobs when re-entering the community.

We introduced a new Box Lunch social enterprise with made-to-order sandwiches and salads prepared by FareStart students and chefs. Please keep FareStart box lunches in mind for your next meeting or event. We also did a soft relaunch of Guest Chef Night in January and February, celebrating our students and enjoying an incredible meal.

A big part of our focus these past few months is the reopening of the FareStart Restaurant later this spring. The restaurant is currently under construction so we can provide more grab-and-go offerings for breakfast and lunch and better utilize the space for private events. Fully reopening our restaurant is a critical step toward our shared support model --- balancing donations and earned revenue from our businesses — to support our mission and create more impact. And we can’t wait to welcome back our community!

“I’m just so thankful for all of FareStart—for the training, the encouragement, everything they do. They go above and beyond.” — Jody, FareStart Graduate
JANUARY - MARCH 2024

64 ADULTS AND YOUTH enrolled in job training programs.

148,122 MEALS produced for mostly food-insecure communities.

13 INDIVIDUALS graduated from job training programs.

20,709 POUNDS OF FOOD recovered, gleaned, redistributed or upcycled into meals.

12 JOB PLACEMENTS or promotions facilitated for students and graduates.

5 ORGANIZATIONS across the country supported with consulting and resources.

I believe in FareStart. I believe in the work that we do. I believe that we do transform lives, disrupt poverty, and nourish our community. I believe we provide a safe place to discover who you are, to find your greatness and to make mistakes with no judgments.”
— Laura, FareStart Sous Chef and Graduate

JOIN US IN OUR WORK

FareStart is continuing to evolve and grow our job training programs, reimagine our social enterprise businesses and promote food security. We rely on partners, donors, volunteers, staff, students and other supporters to help us make the transition that will position us for growth and increased impact in a new, post-pandemic employment landscape.