

## **Food Programs at the Library – 2026**

### **Overview**

The library's food programs are a vital component of our community outreach, addressing food insecurity while strengthening relationships with local partners and volunteers. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to meeting essential community needs in a welcoming and accessible environment.

### **Healthy Tuesdays**

- Established in 2012, this program provides weekly food distribution every Tuesday and has operated continuously, including throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The program is supported through an informal partnership with Friendship Donation Network (FDN), developed approximately one year after its inception.
- During the pandemic, the program expanded through food donations from Wegmans, increasing its reach and impact.
- Operations are primarily volunteer-driven, including:
  - Drivers who pick up food donations
  - On-site setup teams
  - Volunteers who assist with food box distribution and deliveries

### **First Saturdays**

- A monthly food distribution held on the first Saturday of each month.
- Food is provided through partnerships with Ithaca Bakery and Tops Friendly Markets, coordinated in collaboration with FDN.
- Volunteers manage pickup and delivery to the library.
- All food is distributed efficiently, typically being fully utilized by the following Healthy Tuesdays program.

### **Impact**

- Provides consistent, reliable access to food for community members
- Strengthens partnerships with regional organizations and businesses
- Engages a dedicated network of volunteers
- Reinforces the library's role as a trusted and responsive community resource

