

OG: Created a successful community farmer's market for the 2015 season to provide food access, foster community amongst residents, employees, farmer's, artisans and entrepreneurs of the Greater Reading Area, stimulate our local economic impact and promote educational stewardship for our environment.

NEW: Implemented a successful community farmer's market to: increase residents' access to healthy, local food; create a thriving downtown event; connect Greater Reading and Berks County farmers, artisans, entrepreneurs, students and residents; create a welcoming space for all residents and visitors; and promote stewardship of our environment.

OG: The Food Systems Director is responsible for guiding the Regional Reading Food Policy Action Council, pursuing economic development, and coordinating student, intern and volunteer engagement as well as overseeing the Penn Street Market to extend the market season, increase both consumer and producer participation in the market, foster strong socio-economic community relationships, stabilize future funding streams, and engage and educate local youth in understanding local food systems. Strategic relationships will be fostered amongst Ag, Community, Healthcare, Educational and Entrepreneurial entities that cohesively support regional food systems.

NEW: Directed development and expansion of Local Food Systems initiatives, including and through the Regional Reading Food Policy and Action Council, which hosted projects including Penn Street Market, District 1 Summer Meal Program, a local food co-op and a mobile food pantry.

-Development/fundraising: Led development efforts through grant writing, sponsorship development, online fundraising and events, and strategic partnership development. Secured funding through private & public partnerships to create Penn Street Market incentive programs like Berks Farm Buck and Reading Food Bucks.

-Team recruitment/management: Recruited and managed volunteer, intern, AmeriCorps VISTA and other team members to implement projects/initiatives. Provided professional mentorship and leadership development opportunities.

-Penn Street Market: Directly responsible for implementation and sustainability of Penn Street Market. Brokered strong community relationships in order to facilitate expansion of the market season; increase of both consumer and producer participation in the market; stabilize future funding streams; and engage and educate local youth in understanding local food systems. Fostered strategic relationships amongst Agriculture, Community, Healthcare, Educational and Entrepreneurial entities that cohesively support regional food systems.

SUMMARY

I bring together Reading's community stakeholders to improve our city, through efforts like increasing access to healthy food, improving community health and making neighborhoods more liveable. I work to make sure that the residents of my District, and of Greater Reading, feel that their voices are heard.

I've served as a broker for many community programs and initiatives, connecting residents, city administration and its Authorities, City Council, local businesses and non-profit organizations.

Through efforts as diverse as teaching yoga to serving on local Board of Directors to serving as District 1's City Councilwoman, I bring diverse experience in leadership, sustainability and food systems to my efforts of improving Greater Reading and Berks County. I believe that cross-sector collaboration is key to success and that residents and local business owners are our community's most important stakeholders.

If you feel passionately about making District 1 and Greater Reading an even better place in which to live, work and play, let's connect.