

## Miss Kate, Food Pantry Volunteer and GreenHouse Worker

Kate says her job is simple, to help feed the Hungry of Manchester New Hampshire. She is a member of a collaborative that operates the NH food pantry, and she volunteers in the greenhouse which provides food for that Pantry. Not only is she a volunteer - she was a key player in getting the greenhouse donated and structuring this program. There was a vacant lot next to the pantry. Kate and another volunteer with greenhouse connections began to dream. Kate was a former teacher and really wanted to find a way to bring kids - students - into the project. She began going to her former school to talk about the Hunger Project and working with the students to grow plants from seed, maintain vermiculture compost bins, and even host small hydroponic gardens.

Her favorite part is working with people who also have a passion for growing food for the hungry of our city. Her least favorite part is pest management. "The only stressful part of the job is pest management. You have to be two steps ahead of those little critters that would love to destroy your crops." When asked about how fulfilling this job is, Kate says "Fulfilled for sure. Working in the Greenhouse is part of the continuum of growing plants for food. I grew up on an Iowa farm working the land to help feed my family and I still get to do it here in this urban environment. It's an honor and privilege in joining my fellow gardeners to help provide food for people who for whatever reason cannot supply enough for themselves."