

The 2024 CCAG Nancy Benedict Social Justice Award Honoree

Reggy Saint Fortcolin



Reggy Saint Fortcolin is a dedicated community leader, conservationist, and food justice advocate whose work bridges the gap between nature, food security, and equitable land access. As the founder and Executive Director of Sovereign Land Trust, Reggy leads efforts to dismantle land ownership disparities and promote sustainable agriculture across Connecticut. His vision is rooted in creating pathways for marginalized communities to access farmland, ensuring that future generations can thrive through land stewardship.

In his quest to address food insecurity and curb food waste, Reggy has been instrumental in organizing community fridges in New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury, and Bridgeport under a

community focused initiative called Fridgeport. These community fridges, serving roughly 1,200 people each week, provide fresh produce and perishable goods 24/7, empowering individuals with the autonomy to select the food they need without barriers. Each fridge is paired with a pantry offering shelf-stable items, further broadening access to reliable, nutritious food. Reflecting on his philosophy, Reggy has said, “Mutual aid is showing love for your community without asking anything in return,” underscoring his commitment to helping people without expectation.

Reggy’s passion for food justice also extends to legislative work. He spearheaded the writing of a food policy bill that established a state Food and Nutrition Policy Analyst position to centralize food access information while increasing investment in food rescue infrastructure and tax incentives for grocery stores in food deserts. Working alongside organizations such as the CT BIPOC Food Network and over 60 mutual aid groups, his coalition has strengthened the movement for equitable food access across the state.

Beyond just food, Reggy’s creation of Sovereign Land Trust builds avenues to land ownership and generational wealth for those facing systemic and social barriers to land stewardship. Through initiatives like the Liberated Land Cooperative, of which he is a founding Steering Committee member, Reggy continues to support BIPOC farmers, fostering education and resilience within the agricultural sector. His holistic approach is summed up in his belief that “food is the unifier, a universal language,” reflecting the power of food and nature in building stronger, more inclusive communities.