

# **RUSSO PRODUCE CO INC**

**JOHN E. RUSSO WAY**

**2100 PARK STREET**

**SYRACUSE, NY 13208**

**(315) 472-4791 fax (315) 472-8818**

Russo Produce Co., a local family run woman owned business, has been in operation in the Central New York area for over one hundred years. We pride ourselves on providing the finest quality at the fairest price, which is our company motto. Our integrity is backed by our trading membership in the Blue Book, which is the highest accommodation that a vendor can receive. Our focus is on food safety, which is supported by our esteemed Primus Global Certification, USDA GAP certification and HAACP certification.

In 1938, our grandfather was among the first produce dealers to take occupancy in the current Regional Market facility on Park Street in Syracuse, NY. Since that time the produce industry has evolved from operating by horse and wagon to battery operated vehicles. Throughout the four generations that our family has been in this business, we have expanded our facility to accommodate the changes in our industry. Currently, we are one of the largest produce dealers in the CNY. We supply grocery stores, both chain and independent, restaurants, schools, and local businesses. Russo Produce Co. has maintained occupancy at the CNY Regional Market since its inception, and our desire is to further expand our business and remain at this facility.

Our presence on the CNY Regional Market has preserved the stability and longevity of the facility as well as its historical integrity. We are and have been, the largest tenant on the Regional Market for the last several decades. We are currently operating out of the same building location that our grandfather operated out of over fifty years ago. Over this time, the building has had one

upgrade in the late 1990s--. Due to the age of the building, the structural well-being has been compromised. The building's antiquated structure has presented challenges for us to continue to meet and exceed our food safety standards.

In order to meet future anticipated sales growth, maintain our safety certifications, become more energy efficient and operate cost effectively, the facility is in dire need of updating. Improvements and renovation to both the interior and exterior are needed. Russo Produce Co. is projecting to increase its work force to expand the capabilities to service the CNY community. We are looking to provide more support to New York State and the farming community through creating a centralized location to aggregate, process, distribute and market local goods. In addition, this would allow us to continue to provide charitable contributions to local food outreach programs.

Our goal is to be a part of the CNY Regional Market renovation, as our family legacy remains loyal to our beginnings. Since the administration has been unable to secure funding for this project, it is questionable as to whether we will be able to endure these conditions. Our business model requires a renovated facility to successfully execute our growth plans and set Syracuse far above the rest.




Mary Paula Russo Prindle



John A Russo



Joseph A Russo



Andrew J Russo