

COMMUNITY HARVEST PROJECT
ANNUAL REPORT
Rooted in Community
2022



COMMUNITY
HARVEST PROJECT

Staff

Executive Director:

Tori Buerschaper

Volunteer Programs

Wayne McAuliffe

Renata Aylward

Farm Team:

Dave Johnson

Helen Rhines

Michael Graves

Evan Owen

Grants

Alicia Cianciola

Administrative Support

Sandi Wilichowski

Board Members

Evan Soderstrom

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Kristin Bafaro

Vice President

Laura Coughlin

Second Vice President

Bob Paulsen

Treasurer

Marybeth Campbell

Clerk

David Guarino

Past President

Jeannie Hebert

Melanie Gnazzo

David Nicholson

David White

Dear Friends of Community Harvest Project,

In 2022, our 20th year of farming, we hit a huge milestone - we reached the fundraising goal to secure an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on our orchard in Harvard. The APR was made possible through strong partnerships with Sudbury Valley Trustees, the Town of Harvard, Harvard Conservation Trust, and Massachusetts Department of Agriculture. With the official APR closing in 2023, our 70-acre property will now be farmed in perpetuity, ensuring access to local food and continuing the rich tradition of New England apple growing. This project embodies our theme for the year: Rooted in Community.

We farm on preserved land, open to all, and run our programs with thousands of volunteers. Our volunteers come directly from the communities in which we are rooted, working towards our vision of connected communities ensuring access to healthy food for all. Together we grew, harvested, and donated 323,530 pounds (1,487,209 servings) of produce to 60,251 food insecure individuals in 2022. 6,026 volunteers contributed 19,209 hours of their valuable time to make this happen.

Food prices continue rising, eroding what people can afford even if they receive government aid. Prices for other necessities also continue to rise, increasing pressure on household budgets. Food insecurity persists at 2x the pre-pandemic rate in Massachusetts, and more economic challenges are predicted in the coming year. These conditions force people on severely limited budgets to choose between necessities like food or medicine, which can compromise their health and success.

To address this continued need we are working to extend our growing season, make our farming practices more resilient in the face of climate change, expand our volunteer opportunities, and speak up for systematic changes to reduce hunger. Our doors are always open, and we hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



Tori Buerschaper
Executive Director



Evan Soderstrom
Board President

Community Harvest Project is dedicated to providing fruits and vegetables to the hunger relief network. Food insecurity is considered one of the social determinants of health [US Department of Health and Human Services]. It has been associated with higher rates of obesity, chronic diseases, developmental problems in children and can also affect mental health. We believe everyone should have access to high quality, locally grown produce. If you need to utilize emergency food services, the quality of your diet shouldn't suffer.



Mission

Community Harvest Project engages and educates volunteers to grow fruits and vegetables for hunger relief.



Rooted in Community

We are humbled by, and dedicated to, the communities who participate in our mission. From the over 6,000 volunteers who visited us in 2022, to the specialty crews, Team Leaders, interns, faith groups, corporate groups, and hunger relief partners who help us do what we do, our roots run deep.

2022 Crops

Apples	Kale
Asparagus	Lettuce
Blueberries	Okra
Beans	Peaches
Broccoli	Peppers
Cabbage	Spinach
Celery	Sweet potatoes
Collards	Summer squash
Cucumbers	Tomatoes
Eggplant	Winter squash

Farmer Dave Johnson

"2022 was a unique and fruitful year full of strong harvests across the growing season. This means not only large crop yields, but an increased variety of available fresh fruits and veggies. With the help of our amazing community of volunteers, we have been able to provide greater choice to our partners and in turn, the recipients of our food."

**323,375 pounds
distributed**

**1,486,496
individual servings**

FRUIT:

209,800 pounds
distributed

VEGETABLES:

113,730 pounds
distributed

Crop Corner

CHP grows 44 varieties of vegetables, blueberries, 2 dozen varieties of apples, 7 varieties of peaches. CHP adapts each season to the changing needs of our clients as well as the challenges of climate change. We use regenerative farming practices to maintain and support soil health and to help us grow the best produce possible.



Partner Highlight

Our distribution partners ensure our produce gets from farm to fork. Our partners span Central and Eastern MA and vary from large aggregators and distributors of food like the Worcester County Food Bank, to small community pantries and free fridges.



"At Stone Soup Kitchen, we have two main goals. The first is to get nutritious, healthy food into people's hands when they are having a hard time making ends meet. Community Harvest Project plays a really important part in meeting that goal by providing us with gorgeous locally grown fruit each year. Our second goal is to foster a sense of belonging and to help our guests build relationships in the community. Knowing that volunteer-driven organizations and individuals are working together to help them can be a life-changing experience for our guests. Many have been inspired to pay it forward and become more involved locally because of what CHP and others have done for them."

**Cyndi Lavin, Director
Stone Soup Kitchen**

Distribution Partners 2022

Acton Community Supper and Food Pantry
Boston Area Gleaners
Catholic Charities North County*
CENTRO, INC*
Clear Path for Veterans
Community Servings
Family Health Center
Fountain of Life*
Grafton Food Bank
Hector Reyes House
Jeremiah's Inn*
Kylie's Kare Kits for Kids
Loaves & Fishes
Lovin Spoonfuls
Sharing is Caring
Stone Soup Kitchen
Townsend Ecumenical Outreach
UMASS Memorial Health - Benedict Family
Medicine
Virginia Thurston Healing Garden
Visitation House
Worcester County Food Bank
Worcester Community Fridges
You, Inc.

*Direct distributions to Worcester County
Food Bank partners



All Hands on Deck

CHP's volunteers are the steam in the engine that makes everything work from seeding in the greenhouse in February to getting the food out the door during the months of harvest - sometimes as late as November.



Our Greenhouse crew gets the seeds in the trays. Our Farm Team and Volunteer Programs Department work together to schedule and manage the volunteers that support farming operations.



From daily "drop in" volunteers, to specialty crews to corporate and faith groups - in 2022 it took 6000 plus mighty and dedicated volunteers (many of whom volunteered several times a week) to get 323,530 pounds of fresh produce ready to donate.



Community Harvest Project is also grateful to have passionate volunteers who serve on our board and committees. These positions guide and support our staff in governance, finance, fundraising, operations, and programs, and ensure the organization has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission.

If you would like to contribute your time and talents outside the fields, please contact Executive Director Tori Buerschaper at tori@community-harvest.org.

Volunteers

Volunteers are our engine and inspiration. 6,000+ volunteers got their hands in the dirt and helped us donate 323,530 pounds of food throughout Massachusetts.



30 Team Leaders
19,109 volunteer hours
6 Interns
Specialty crews: Pruning,
Greenhouse, Tuesday, Wash station
TOTAL: 6,076 volunteers in 2022

Team Leaders

Team Leaders are specially trained volunteers who are the smiling faces visitors see and who lead their teams in the fields and in the orchard. Team Leaders are responsible for the world class experience our visitors get each time they come to CHP. They are knowledgeable about our work and mission, and their time and talent is a big reason why CHP can do the work we do.



Interns

6 interns from, Wheaton, Boston College, Clark, and Lewis and Clark College helped us in the field and in the office in 2022. Their experience at CHP farms supported their fields of study.



"My favorite part was probably team leading. Helping other like-minded individuals make an impact in the community was one of the coolest and most rewarding aspects of this internship." - Summer intern 2022

Adopt-A-Row / Adopt-A-Tree

Each spring community members adopt full rows of crops at our farms to fund seeds, irrigation, row covers, and fertilizing crops so we can grow the best possible produce for hunger relief. In 2022 72 full rows were adopted raising \$36,000

Harvest Home

Each November our community gathers at our Harvest Home Fall Festival to chuck pumpkins, and shoot apples from a cannon. Good food, live music a fun run, and gathering together to celebrate the end of harvest. 58 volunteers contributed their time and energy to support this event which raised funds earmarked for critical administration needs. We are grateful to our Harvest Home 2022 sponsors!



Plantapalooza

Plantapalooza is the official kickoff of garden season! CHP volunteers and farm staff plant hundreds of trays in the greenhouse in the ultimate act of optimism and when those pots sprout after hardening in the hoop house, they are sold at our annual Plantapalooza sale. Sales of gorgeous heirloom tomatoes, specialty hot peppers, hanging pots of juicy strawberries and other plants, raised over \$20,000 for administrative costs to provide hunger relief.



Monthly Donors

Our Monthly Givers donated more than \$29,000 in this year. These funds support the planting, tending to, harvesting, donating, and distribution of over 87,000 pounds of fresh produce.

Year End Appeal

A CHP volunteer Team Leader matched the first \$12,500 in donations because **“sharing time with volunteers of ALL ages for such a meaningful purpose continues to be a truly unique and rewarding experience.”** Together 236 donors raised over \$80,000 to support our hunger relief operations.

Giving Tuesday
We set out to raise funds to fill 10 apple bins, and raised enough to fill 26 thanks to 63 generous donors!

- Kristen Albright
- Caroline and Eric Alper
- Victoria Amodio
- Marykate Aung
- Steven Backhaus
- Elizabeth Bafaro
- Kathleen Baker
- Edward and Julie Baldwin
- Annette Berry
- Krista and Matthew Blome
- Pamela and Bill Bohlen
- Richard and Carol Boulanger
- Alyssa and Ruben Brito
- Vittoria Buerschaper
- David Burns
- Elliott and Elizabeth Calamari
- Jesse Chang
- Steve and Norma Chanis
- Simone, Dan and Liam Clinton
- Kalina Cloutier
- Elizabeth Colognesi
- Sharon Corazzini
- Michael and Lisa Cozzolino
- Ken Crater and Peg Ferraro
- Jeremy DiTullio
- Darlene Dube
- Nathaniel Eckman
- Beth Farwell
- Jon Flood
- Beth Foley
- Frank and Caroline Gaetano
- Christine Gaspar
- David Gillerin
- Kathleen and Michael Grim
- Marybeth Hans
- Emily Herzfeld
- Marie Hickey
- Margaret Hurley
- Samuel James
- Cordelia Kaminski
- Alexander Keeler
- Paul Keohane
- Pamela Kosiba
- Paula and Anthony Krumsiek
- Christine and Gregory Laporte
- Scott Leavitt
- Paul, Elissa and James Lindsay
- Leigh Linsley
- Jeffrey and Lisa Lyon
- Ross and Lawrence MacDonald
- Kay Malloy
- Jeremy Martin and Natalya Atlasevich
- Cathleen and Sam McElligott
- Sreelochana Mitta
- Douglas Muzzy
- Nancy and Peter Hartshorne
- Jennifer O'Connor
- Cynthia Orejola
- Max Orejola
- Meghan Pavasaris
- Melissa Peloquin
- Jessica Pizzo Brix
- Kristin Pliakas
- Margaret Pruitt
- Nancy Riggs
- Julia Rissmiller
- Jennifer and Timothee Rodrique
- Manuel Rodrigues
- Scott and Mary Rogers
- Jennifer Rudolph
- Jochen Salfeld
- Judith Savageau
- Anna Scott and Steve Chwiecko
- Elizabeth Spinney
- Patricia Stoico
- Christian, Paula and Lisa Sulmasy
- Jonathan Toman
- Rajesh Velagapudi
- Maria Vokes
- Seng Lai Voon
- Jennifer Weyler
- Olaug and David Wheat
- Kathleen Wynne
- Christina Zarobe

Corporate and Foundation Donors

\$25,000 and Up

Fred Harris Daniels Foundation
Hermann Foundation Inc
Ludcke Foundation
The Stoddard Charitable Trust
Yesod Foundation, Inc.

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Bemis Associates
Fallon Health
Fields Pond Foundation
The White Companies Charitable Trust
TJX Foundation, Inc.

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Albert W. Rice Charitable Foundation
Analog Devices
Bank of America
Charles River Labs
Digital Federal Credit Union
DCU for Kids
George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Fund to End Hunger
Reliant Foundation
Ruth H. and Warren A. Ellsworth Foundation
UniBank
Wegmans

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Foundation
Dell Technologies
Esler Family Foundation
French Family Foundation

Hanover Insurance Group Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
Mildred H. McEvoy Foundation
Target

\$1,000 - \$4,999

AAA New England
Abbvie
Avalon Bay Communities
Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
Avidia Bank
Bay State Savings Bank
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Central One Federal Credit Union
Cornerstone Bank
Eversource
Intel
Liberty Mutual
MathWorks
New England Apple Products
Nypro - A Jabil Company
Rockland Trust Bank
Schwartz Charitable Foundation
Takeda Pharmaceuticals
Tufts
Walmart
Webster Five Foundation
Workers Credit Union

\$500 - \$999

Access TCA
FM Global Foundation
Hometown Bank
Microsoft Matching Gift Foundation
National Grid
Point32 Health

\$100 - \$499

Amazon Smile Foundation
Bristol Meyers Squibb
CISCO

Danaher aka Cytiva
Depository Trust and Clearing Corp.
EBay
Hewlett Packard Enterprise Foundation
Intuitive Foundation
KPMG
Olympus
Robert Half International
S&P Global
Sales Force
ServiceNow
Stop & Shop Supermarkets
The Hartford Insurance Group
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Omidyar Group
UMass Med Cares Campaign
United Way of MA Bay and Merrimack Valley
Walgreens

In Honor of Robb Ahlquist

Richard Ahlquist

In Honor of Grafton High School

Luke Herren

In Honor of Mom and Dad

Connie and Michael Woolcock

In Honor of AJ McLucas

Andrew Holland

In Honor of Michael Bebko

Maline Miller

In Honor of Eliza Sharrah

Sandra Smith

In Honor of Aritro

Sucharita Saha

In Honor of Joseph DePalo

Michael DePalo

In Honor of Jill Denker

Ann Golub-Victor

In Honor of Chuck and Mary Jane Miller

Larry Miller

In Honor of Nelle's 77th Birthday

Jeannie MacDonough

**In Honor of Jill Kaufman, a remarkable
5th grade teacher**

Dena Snyder

**In Honor of Colleen Zaloga and William
Heptig**

Maureen Flynn

Donations in honor

**In Honor of Your Wonderful Farmers and
Orchardists**

Nancy and Peter Hartshorne

In Honor of All Volunteers

MaryAlice Worden

In Honor of all the Team Leaders

Scott and Lois Rossiter

In Honor of Susan Conant

George Watkins

**In Honor of MaryHope Gardner and Nick
Sears**

Michael Capozza

In Honor of Paul Soter

Thomas Miele

In Honor of Mickayla and Teddy

Jerry Callaghan

In Honor of George Hensel III

Heidi LaFleche

In Honor of Hannah Kilroy

Maureen Rogers

In Honor of Grace M. Gorman

Marie Hickey

In Honor of Simon Gregory

Sandra Gregory

In Honor of Jackson and Lisa Urie

Diane and David Libbey

In Honor of David and Diane Libbey

Luanne and John Libbey
Christopher and Lorraine Libbey

In Honor of Kevin Patrick Scott

Mary Scott

In Honor of Albert Martone

Christopher Martone

In Honor of Ann Victor

Joshua Victor

In Honor of The Nipmuc Nation

Paige Johnston

In Honor of my grandparents and parents

Christine Garvey

Donations in Memory

In Memory of Thomas Glockner

Joyce Holroyd-McGuire
Holly Knoll Eddy
Jennifer Campbell
Dorothy Glockner
Dorothy Graves
Kathleen Moreau

In Memory of Phil Victor

Ann Golub-Victor
Jacquelin Grant
Jack Dennerlein
Daniel Bruns
Mark Modrall
Scott and Lois Rossiter
David Nolan
Karen Brown
Sarah Harkins
Sarah Clayman
Northeastern University PB DPT Class of 24
Carolyn Truant
Wayne McAuliffe and David Nowell
Juliet Hoinkis
Susan Morris
Karen Brown
Jodie Diamand
Donnalee Shain
Hortense Magerowski
Judy Shriber
Sara Jane Victor
Dean's Office at Northeastern University's
Bouve College of Health Sciences
Beth Rabkin
Elizabeth Downie
Frederick Cohen
John Finedore

Janet Ruboy
Sally Krissman and Ed Benson
Beth Berman
Stephanie Golub-Simon
Jenni and Paul Grady
Regina Odryna
Sandra Mazur
Debra Billet

In Memory of Alexandra Valoras
Stacey and Jose Albuquerque

In Memory of Marie R Monahan
Janette Racicot

In Memory of Hunter Kissam Jr.
Benjamin Kissam
Leslie Berghahn

**In Memory of Volunteer Team Leader
Bruce Tobey**
Wayne McAuliffe and David Nowell

**In Memory of Roger Vasas, educator and
backyard orchardist**
Richard and Susan Whitehead

**In Memory of Roger and Lorraine
Lafreniere**
Suzanne and Michael Gillman



2023 Events Calendar

Saturday, April 22 Volunteer Open House

Friday, May 19 and **Saturday May 20** Plantapalooza

July 15 through August Pick Your Own Flowers

Sunday, November 5 Harvest Home Fall Festival & 5K

Orchard
115 Prospect Hill Rd
Harvard, MA 01451



Farm
37 Wheeler Rd
Grafton, MA 01536