 Constellation



2025

IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2025, we are in awe of what God has done. This year has been extraordinary—through abundant harvests at First Fruits Farm and the generosity of partners and friends, the Lord continues to reveal His faithfulness. Every relationship, every act of service, every gift has been a reflection of His provision and grace.

As the Farm's Executive Director for its first 27 years, one of the greatest joys for me has been seeing the next generation of our Leadership Team rise up—fully engaged in roles of farming, distribution, volunteers, maintenance and development. Their passion and commitment remind us that the ministry is maturing, and God is raising up leaders to carry His work forward.

As we enter our 28th season, we are blessed to welcome Jordan Martin as the new Executive Director. I am deeply encouraged by his heart for the mission and look forward to serving alongside him as the Farm continues to grow in its calling.

At the same time we recognize the growing uncertainty faced by those struggling with food insecurity. In the midst of these challenges, First Fruits Farm remains steadfast in its calling to say "yes"—yes to feeding bodies and souls, yes to expanding programs like The Flourish Project, yes to increasing yields, distributions, volunteers and partnerships—all for the glory of God.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this mission. Together, we are answering a need that is greater than ever, and we give all praise to the One who makes it possible. May He continue to bless this work in the year ahead.

Blessings,

Richard Bernstein
Co-Founder and Chairman



**"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
- Matthew 25:35**



In 2025, *your support* made it possible for the Farm to...

distribute

a record-breaking **7 million pounds** of healthy food—including **3 million pounds** of our farm-fresh produce.



welcome

more than **22,000 volunteers** to the Farm from **885 groups** to help harvest + package food for distribution.



partner

with **380 organizations** who distributed the Farm's healthy food + fresh produce to **thousands of families + individuals** who struggle with hunger.



GROW - GIVE - SERVE

First Fruits Farm is a nonprofit, Christian ministry dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious food for the hungry through volunteer service and community partnerships.

100% of everything the Farm grows and receives is donated.

2025

SUSTAINABLE FARMING



Our 27th harvest season was bountiful as we were blessed to grow and give **3 million pounds** of farm-fresh produce from the Farm's 242 acres. Sustainability and responsible stewardship of the land are at the heart of our farming philosophy, guiding every decision we make to care for the soil, crops, and surrounding ecosystem.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

We practice regenerative agriculture by rotationally grazing the Farm's small herd of cattle and 465 chickens on cover crops throughout our fields. In the spring, prior to planting, we applied 170 tons of chicken manure to enrich the soil naturally. In 2025, we expanded our cover crop acreage from 100 to 184 acres—an 84% increase over 2024—further strengthening soil health and resilience.

SPLIT FERTILIZER APPLICATIONS

We utilize split fertilizer applications—smaller, more targeted dressings—to better match nitrogen and phosphorus availability with each crop's needs throughout the growing season. This approach significantly reduced nutrient loss from leaching and runoff while improving crop yield and quality. We also participate in the Maryland Nutrient Management Program and the Cover Crop Cost Share Program.

REDUCED TILLAGE

More than 140 acres of sweet corn, butternut squash, green beans, and zucchini were planted using no-till methods. Sweet corn was planted directly into crimped rye, which helped suppress weeds, retain soil moisture, and create more comfortable footing for harvest volunteers. This marked our first year planting corn into crimped rye, and the results were highly successful, producing an excellent yield.

To further improve soil conditions, we invested in a rock picker to clean fields following potato harvests. This enhancement will support smoother harvesting in future seasons while reducing strain on tillage, planting, and harvesting equipment.



2025 FARMING *by the numbers*



3
MILLION POUNDS
OF PRODUCE
HARVESTED



84,020
POUNDS OF TOMATOES
+ LETTUCE GROWN IN
OUR GREENHOUSES



7,100
DOZEN EGGS FROM
OUR FLOCK OF
465 HENS GIVEN TO
OUR PARTNERS



242
ACRES FARMED

TOP 5 *crops*

1 POTATOES
1,277,920 LBS.

2 GREEN BEANS
484,070 LBS.

3 SWEET CORN
473,465 LBS.

4 CABBAGE
351,700 LBS.

5 BROCCOLI
89,130 LBS.

“As farmers, we see the land as a gift from God. Through regenerative farming, we work to restore the soil, renew the land, and grow food with gratitude—trusting that when we honor His creation, we can continue nourishing those facing hunger for years to come.”

— Jamison Hunsberger
Director of Farm Operations



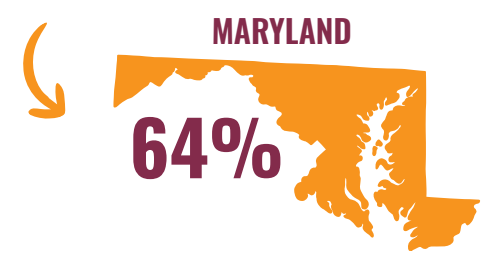
“Distributing food is more than meeting a need—it reminds those struggling with hunger that they are seen and not alone. Every pound of food we share is a seed of hope for someone facing hunger. We are deeply grateful to our food partners, whose generosity and dedication make this work possible.”

– Jeff Pierce
Director of Food Outreach

GROWING OUR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In 2025, our food distribution increased dramatically to **7 million pounds** as more partners turned to us to help feed individuals and families struggling with hunger in their communities. We were blessed to meet this growing need by collaborating with regional organizations that donated first-quality surplus food to the Farm through our food-rescue program. This record-breaking year concluded with an extraordinary holiday food distribution to partners at the Farm and meals in Baltimore City. Following are highlights from our most impactful year to date.

WHERE THE FOOD GOES...



- PENNSYLVANIA: 26%**
- WEST VIRGINIA: 6%**
- OTHER*: 4%**

*Other states include: Delaware, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Washington D.C.



HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

Our annual holiday food distribution provided hundreds of local organizations with 511,288 pounds of food—including turkeys, cabbage, potatoes, and bread—for the holidays in the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving as part of our Operation Holiday Blessings project.

“We’re proud to stand with First Fruits Farm to help bring joy and nourishment to our neighbors. In our community, Thanksgiving isn’t just about a meal—it’s about showing love, lifting spirits, and reminding families that they’re not alone. Operation Holiday Blessings is a powerful example of what happens when we serve together.”

- Coach G’ Garrick Williams
Leader of the Park Heights Avenue Saints

2025 DISTRIBUTION *by the numbers*



7
MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

4
MILLION POUNDS OF HEALTHY FOOD RECEIVED FROM 30+ THIRD-PARTY FOOD DONATION PARTNERS



380
DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS—INCLUDING 100 NEW PARTNERS

TOP 5
distribution partners


- SO WHAT ELSE INC.:** 937,835 lbs.
- CENTRAL PA FOOD BANK:** 479,350 lbs.
- BLESSINGS OF HOPE:** 419,118 lbs.
- 4MYCITY:** 371,245 lbs.
- MARYLAND FOOD BANK:** 361,146 lbs.

food donation partners

- SHARING EXCESS:** 1,707,548 lbs.
- H&S/SCHMIDT BAKERY:** 594,210 lbs.
- BLESSINGS OF HOPE:** 408,522 lbs.
- MIDWEST FOOD BANK:** 160,100 lbs.
- MCCORMICK:** 154,094 lbs.

types of food received

- PRODUCE:** 2,293,014 lbs.
- BREAD:** 580,363 lbs.
- BEVERAGES:** 429,208 lbs.
- PACKAGED FOOD:** 405,085 lbs.
- DAIRY PRODUCTS:** 130,445 lbs.



VOLUNTEERS THE HEART OF THE FARM

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Farm. In 2025, a record number of individuals of all ages joined us to harvest and package food for distribution. Hundreds of groups—including schools, churches, businesses, families, and individuals—contributed a remarkable total of **60,313 hours of service**.

At the center of this incredible effort is our core team of 95 individuals who regularly volunteer their time, energy, and talents to support the Farm’s mission. Their work embodies our mission to GROW MORE – GIVE MORE – SERVE MORE, and their commitment inspires everyone who joins them. Through their hands and hearts, our work comes to life, making a real difference in the communities we serve.

2025 was also the inaugural year of The Flourish Project, the care farming expression at First Fruits Farm as well as Journey to Joy, the Farm’s biennial drive-thru live nativity celebrating the birth of Jesus.

From long-time volunteers to those joining us for the first harvest, every single person is a blessing to the Farm.

INTRODUCING THE FLOURISH PROJECT

The Flourish Project began its first full season in 2025, expanding inclusive opportunities for marginalized individuals of all abilities to learn, serve, and grow at First Fruits Farm—empowering them to flourish physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

We collaborated with individuals and organizations such as Trellis School, Transformation Academy, Shepard Pratt School for Autism, Blooming Hearts, Penn-Mar Human Services, Target Community & Educational Services, and Helping Up Mission to provide meaningful volunteer experiences for individuals with disabilities and those participating in recovery programs.

3,450 Flourish Project volunteers participated in hands-on learning in harvesting, gardening, animal care, seed starting, and food distribution as well as skill development connected to educational and vocational goals.

JOURNEY TO JOY: CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND BIRTH OF JESUS AT THE FARM

Every other year, First Fruits Farm is blessed to host Journey to Joy, our live drive-thru Nativity experience that celebrates the miracle of His birth. As guests travel through the Farm, they encounter beautifully staged scenes from the life of Jesus—brought to life through the peaceful backdrop of the Farm and the joyful spirit of the season.

Volunteers are at the heart of Journey to Joy. They help create this immersive experience by acting in the scenes, building sets, making costumes, and providing food for the cast and crew. Their creativity, dedication, and generosity make it possible for thousands of visitors to witness the hope, wonder, and love expressed through Christ’s story.

Journey to Joy is our gift to the community: a moment to pause, reflect, and rejoice in God’s greatest gift. It has become one of the Farm’s most cherished traditions and a meaningful way to share the love of Jesus with all who visit.

2025 VOLUNTEERS *by the numbers*



22,192
VOLUNTEERS
SERVED A TOTAL OF
60,313 HOURS AT
THE FARM

885
GROUPS
VOLUNTEERED
AT THE FARM—
INCLUDING **28 NEW**
GROUPS



TOP 5+

volunteer groups

- 1. PENN-MAR HUMAN SERVICES: 44 visits**
- 2. CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY: 22 visits**
- 3. BGE/EXELON: 12 visits**
- 4. GILMAN SCHOOL: 8 visits**
- 4. MARYLAND FOOD BANK: 8 visits**
- 4. OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH: 8 visits**

business volunteer groups

- 1. BGE/EXELON: 12 visits**
- 2. MARYLAND FOOD BANK: 8 visits**
- 3. UNDER ARMOUR: 7 visits**
- 4. CAREFIRST: 6 visits**
- 5. BECTON DICKINSON: 4 visits**



“The Flourish Project helps people grow through discovering their purpose, serving others through meaningful work, and building transformative relationships. Like the plants we nurture from seed to harvest, we grow, give, and serve together so all can flourish. It’s a privilege to be part of a program where every person is invited to use their God-given gifts for the good of others, regardless of ability, and whose unique gifts are essential to the flourishing of our world.”

– Carissa Mortenson
Director of Programming



“Our volunteers are the hands and hearts of the Farm. Every hour they give, every seed they plant, and every box they pack creates a ripple of hope that reaches far beyond our fields—feeding not just bodies, but communities and spirits alike.” ,
First Fruits Farm ”

– Ben Mortenson
Volunteer Manager

2025

Cornerstone Community Partners

A tremendous **THANK YOU** to the following individuals and organizations whose generous philanthropic support enabled the Farm to **GROW MORE - GIVE MORE - SERVE MORE** in 2025!



Individuals

LEGACY PARTNERS \$50,000+

- Anonymous (3)
- The Churchill Family
- Grant Grasmick
- Richard and Lita Hughes
- Earl and Darielle Linehan
- Jack and Susie Luetkemeyer
- Gail and Jim Riepe
- Bill and Lisa Stromberg

MISSION PARTNERS \$25,000+

- Anonymous (3)
- Terry and Anne Beaty
- Rick and Carol Bernstein
- Jack and Cynthia Cavanaugh
- Gertrude Cavanaugh
- Molly and Dean Cottrill
- Susan Shuey
- Robert and Terri Smith

HOPE PARTNERS \$5,000+

- Michael and Maria Baird
- Ernie and Jennifer Brittingham
- Trish Carroll
- Gerald and Susanne Dearnorff
- Duncan and Deidre Forsyth
- Greg and Anita French
- Thomas and Erin Graff
- Alec and Lauren Graham
- Ben and Wendy Griswold
- Robert and Jean Hopkins
- Erik and Carla Howard
- Liam H. Kane
- James Kennedy
- Jordan and Rachael Martin
- Michael and Beth McClean
- Pat O'Brien
- Barbara L. Richard
- Lucy and Markus Rutishauser
- Steve Salem
- David and Beale Saul
- James and Francine Sellinger
- John Shano
- J. Stephen and Denise Simms
- Joel Snook
- Jeff and Betsy Squires
- Dot A. Tucker-Houk
- Susan and Hutch Vernon
- Jeffrey and Valerie Wetstone
- J. Bruce Whelihan

LEGACY PARTNERS \$50,000+

- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Bunting Family Foundation
- Campbell Foundation
- Catholic Charities of Baltimore
- Central Church of God
- Coca-Cola Consolidated
- Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
- The Dresher Foundation
- The Kahlert Foundation
- The Kinsley Foundation
- Middendorf Foundation
- Sherman Family Foundation
- Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation
- State of Maryland
- United Way of Central Maryland
- J. William Warehime Foundation
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Organizations

MISSION PARTNERS \$25,000+

- Anonymous (2)
- BGE
- Chimes Foundation
- Church of the Nativity
- Huether-McClelland Foundation
- M&T Bank
- Sinclair

HOPE PARTNERS \$5,000+

- Bergey's Auto Group
- The Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation
- Elias & Sultana Foundation
- Ellin & Tucker
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ellicott City
- Fuchs North America
- The Good Neighbors Family Trust
- Grace Community Church of Howard County
- Harford Mutual Insurance Group
- Heritage Financial Consultants
- The Heuer Foundation
- Marshall Financial Group
- RELI Group
- St. Barnabas Malankara Orthodox Church

HARVEST PARTNERS \$10,000+

- Anonymous
- B'More Ag
- CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
- Clayton Baker Trust
- First Financial Credit Union
- The Arthur J. & Lee R. Glatfelter Foundation
- Kelly Benefits
- Manekin Construction, LLC
- Natural Concerns (Arbor Dog Foundation)
- Thomas Wilson Foundation
- William Blair
- Philip A. Zaffere Foundation, Inc.



"First Fruits Farm embodies what it means to be a community anchor—bringing people together, inspiring service, and advancing food equity across our region. We are proud to stand with them and are grateful for the measurable and meaningful difference they make every day."

- Tamla Olivier
President & CEO
Baltimore Gas and Electric



Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this list. We apologize for any errors or omissions. If you notice an error, please contact us and we'll gladly make any corrections to digital versions.



2025 REVENUE FUELED BY PHILANTHROPY

First Fruits Farm depends on the generosity of our community to sustain and grow our mission. Nearly all of the Farm's annual harvest—and the operations that make it possible—are funded through philanthropy. Revenue supports three distinct areas of our mission:

- **Operating Revenue:** Supports planting, harvesting, packaging, distribution, and mission-driven programs such as the Flourish Project.
- **Capital Projects & Equipment:** Funds infrastructure, equipment, and facilities.
- **First Fruits Farm Foundation:** A long-term endowment ensuring sustainability for future generations.

Together, these three pillars enable First Fruits Farm to **GROW MORE – GIVE MORE – SERVE MORE**—all for the glory of God.

2025 TOTAL GIFT REVENUE

Operating Revenue

Major Gifts	\$982,852
Annual Gifts	\$543,867
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$1,544,090
Food Cost Share	\$59,112

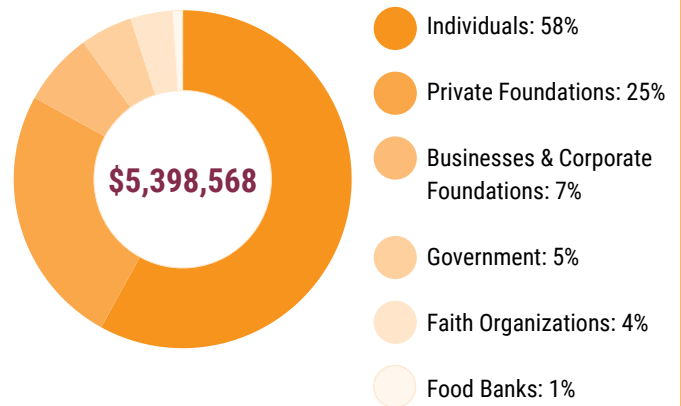
Total Operating Revenue \$3,129,921

Capital Project Revenue \$389,006

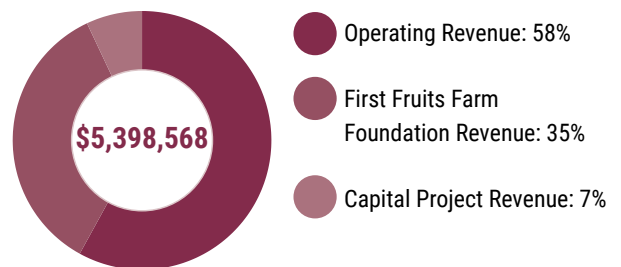
First Fruits Farm Foundation Revenue \$1,879,641

TOTAL GIFT REVENUE \$5,398,568

2025 CHARITABLE GIFT SOURCES



TOTAL GIFT REVENUE



TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE

