

2022

Impact Report





Dear Friends,

The Farm's 24th season was filled with an abundance of blessings and another record-breaking year to meet the ever-growing needs of our communities. Hunger and food insecurity continue to affect far too many in our region with the demand exceeding our expectations in 2022.

Last year, First Fruits Farm provided nearly 2.4 million pounds of healthy food to support more than 130 distribution partners of all sizes from Pennsylvania to Florida and even out to Oklahoma who relied on the Farm for fresh produce and protein (this network has grown rapidly by more than 300% since 2020). Because of the generous support of our benefactors, volunteers, and partners, the Farm has the resources needed to advance our efforts to **GROW MORE – GIVE MORE – SERVE MORE**. Your time, talents, and treasure make an immediate and substantial impact on our operations, and we are truly grateful for your faithful support of our mission and ministry.

This year we celebrate the Farm's 25th anniversary of feeding the hungry, and it is exciting to see God's plan for the Farm continue to unfold. The Barn Expansion Project is expected to be completed in April 2023 and will transform all aspects of our operations from field to fork. This facility will be a real game-changer bringing us ever closer to meet the goals of our strategic plan and ultimately, feed more people in need.

Our commitment to bring the light and love of Christ is at the center of all we do. We cannot do this without you...together, we will follow His guidance to feed those in need, improve access to healthy food, and reduce hunger in Baltimore and beyond.

Blessings,

Richard M. Bernstein
President & Executive Director





2022

Food, Faith & Friends



Greenhouse Initiative

Constructed in May 2022, the Farm's 4th commercial greenhouse was ready in time for tomato planting season. Made possible by the generosity of First Financial Federal Credit Union and an anonymous benefactor, this growing method produces the highest quality tomatoes which our partners love. Our greenhouses provided over **100,000 POUNDS OF TOMATOES** last year.



Protein Ministry

The Farm invested in our first Mobile Chicken House (funded by another generous benefactor) which gave our Protein Ministry a huge boost. Over 250 hens produced more than **4,000 DOZEN PROTEIN-PACKED, NUTRITIOUS EGGS** to share with our partners. Our animals also offer hands-on learning experiences for students visiting the Farm.



Volunteers

In 2022, our dedicated volunteer community continued to grow in record numbers with **16,000 VOLUNTEERS** of all ages who graciously gave their time to serve others. The Farm was thrilled to welcome families, individuals, and 500+ groups from churches, schools, businesses, and others in support of our mission and ministry to **GROW MORE - GIVE MORE - SERVE MORE.**



Education

Of the thousands of students who visited the Farm last year, more than **1,200 STUDENTS** (PreK -12) participated in hands-on educational classes focused on cooking nutritional meals and growing their own food. Expanding our "All-Abilities" programs as well as growing **80 VARIETIES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** in our Discovery Garden were just a few of the many highlights.



Community Engagement

The Farm plants pumpkins every year to share with schools and organizations who serve children that cannot always access this festive Halloween staple. Last fall, we were blessed to share **5,000 PUMPKINS** with the community. Every November, we partner with organizations in support of their efforts to feed communities during the holidays. Nearly **100,000 POUNDS OF POTATOES AND CABBAGE** were donated to 40+ churches and nonprofits.

Planting Seeds in 2023



FOOD

Grow and distribute **2.8 MILLION POUNDS** of healthy food to meet the increasing needs of our partners. Complete the Barn Expansion Project to support our strategic plan goals.



VOLUNTEERS

Engage with **18,000 VOLUNTEERS** by building new relationships and connecting with more businesses, churches, schools, and other organizations via volunteer service and community partnerships.



EDUCATION

Increase participation in our educational classes to serve at least **1,600 STUDENTS** in the coming year. Expand efforts to reach more educators, students, and schools throughout the area.

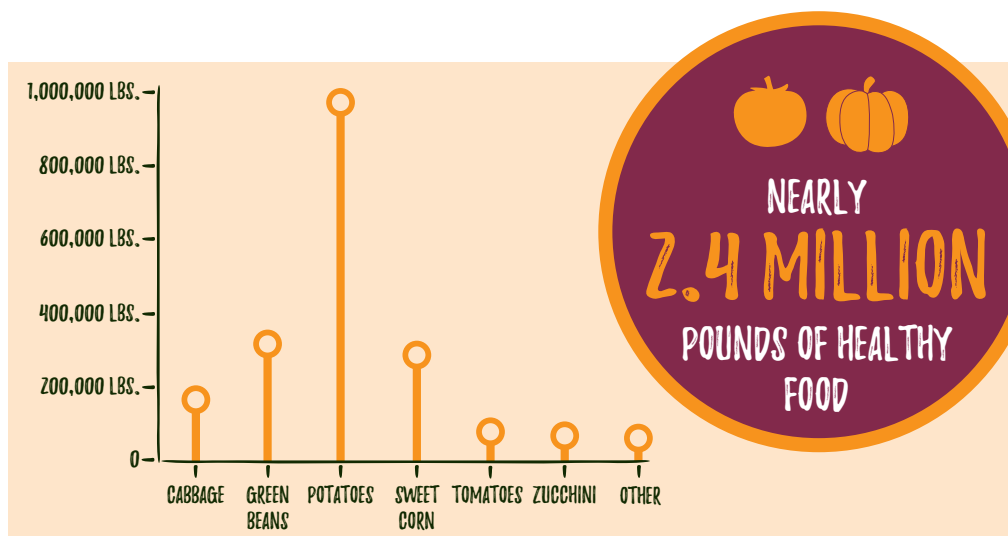
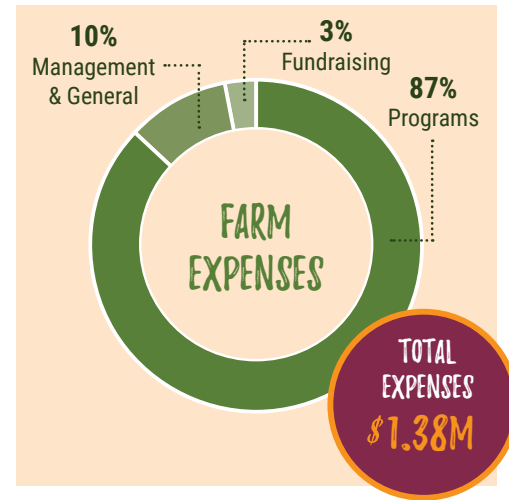
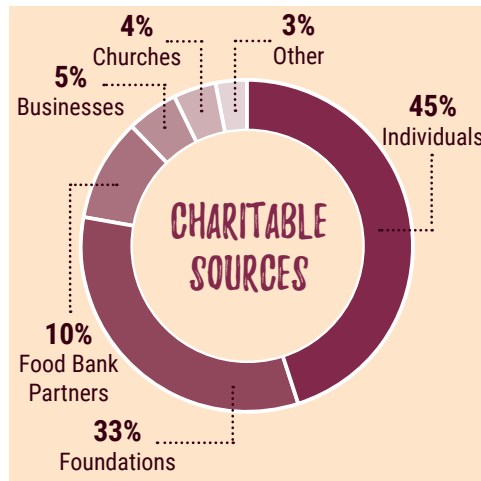
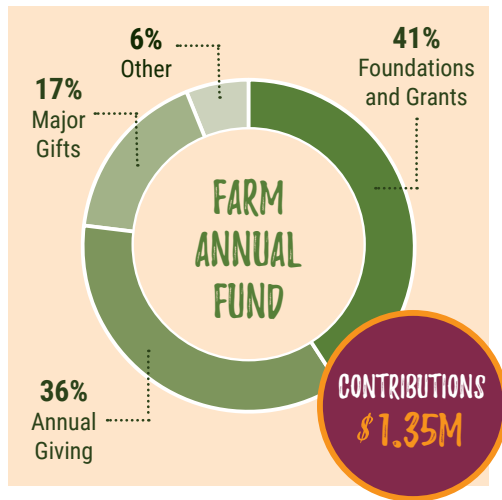


"I wanted to thank First Fruits for partnering with MedStar's Food Rx program at Good Samaritan Hospital in 2022. Because of this partnership, patients who struggle to access and afford healthy foods could regularly receive fresh produce at their clinic appointments. This unique approach to treating chronic disease in a clinical setting would not have been possible without your support. I look forward to continuing our partnership in 2023 and helping more of our patients find better health in a healthier diet."

- Angela Roberson, RD, LDN
Population Health Dietitian
MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital-Food Rx

Funding the Farm to Feed the Hungry

As a nonprofit Christian ministry, the Farm relies on financial support from a variety of sources to maintain our operations 365 days a year, so contributions to the Farm's Annual Fund are critical to our efforts. The tremendous support we received in 2022 enabled the Farm to produce and distribute our healthy food to those in need impacting hundreds of thousands of lives.



Thank You!

The collective impact of your generosity is profound and exemplified through our faithful efforts each year to **GROW MORE - GIVE MORE - SERVE MORE**. With His guidance and this amazing community, we blessedly continue on this journey to feed the hungry in body, mind, and spirit as we begin our 25th season.

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

Distribution Partners

MARYLAND

4MyCity
Access Art
Beans and Bread
BMore Community Food
BIT Center
Boys and Girls Club of Westminster
Breathe379
Calvary Morning Light
Calvary UMC (Gamber)
Catherine's Family & Youth Services
Cecilton Senior Village
Central Baptist Church
Christ Church of Living Waters
City of Hope International Worship Centre
Community Assistance Network (CAN)
Community Crisis Center
Community Impact, Inc.
Cool Kids Campaign
Crossroads Church of the Nazarene
Crossroads Community Center
Ed Reed Foundation
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Feeding the Flock (Episcopal Church of the Messiah)
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (Baltimore)
Ferndale UMC
Fifth District Elementary School PTA
First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church
Food Access Coalition
Forest Park Community Church
The Foundry
Fragrance of Faith Ministries
Franciscan Center
Freedom Temple AME Zion Church
Ft. Washington Food Pantry
Gallagher House
GCT (Arnold)
Gina Ministries
Girl Scout Troop 1500
Gospel Spreading Church
Grace Baptist Church
Grace Fellowship Church (CARES Ministry)
Grace UMC
Hampstead Senior Center
Heaven on Earth
Helping Up Mission
Hereford Food Bank
Hereford 2x2 Preschool
Holabird Academy
Holy Nativity Lutheran Church
Hope City Church
The Hope Center
Iglesia Evangelica Apostoles Y Profetas El Siloe
Iglesia Evangelica Internacional
Kreative Influence
Leading by Feeding
Hope and Freedom Pantry (Life Source Church)
Little Sisters of the Poor
Logan Elementary School (Dundalk)

Love and Cornbread
Manna Bible Baptist Church
Maranatha Adventist Fellowship
Maryland Food Bank
MedStar Health
Morgan State Food Resource Center
Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church
Mt. Olives Church
Mt. Zion Church Food Pantry
Nancy Kennedy Community Health Fair
NESAP
New Antioch Holiness Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, Inc.
New Life Center for Mothers and Children
New Psalmist Baptist Church
Oakland Church
Our Daily Bread Ministries
Overlook Elementary School
Owings Mills Senior Communities
Parkville Middle School Community Committee
Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion
Pine Grove Food Bank
Potomac Health Care Foundation/New Horizon
Safe Harbor
Ray of Hope Baptist Church
Rebirth Tabernacles of Glory
Reisterstown Crisis Center
Reisterstown Elementary School
Reisterstown UM Nursery School
Repairers of the Breach Deliverance Ministries
Rippling Woods Elementary School
RISE
River Church
Riverview Elementary School
Rock City Church
Scott's Branch Elementary School
Smith Chapel UMC
South Broadway Baptist
South Carroll Food Pantry
Somebody Cares Ministry
Southeast New Life for Girls
St. Francis Neighborhood Center
St. James Church
St. John's Towers
St. Joseph School of Fullerton
St. Joseph Pantry of Carroll County
St. Paul's UMC in Sykesville
Strong Tower Church
Student Support Network
Trinity Life Church
True Gospel Apostolic Faith Church
The United Covenant Union
Unintentional Purpose
Union Church
Union Bethel A.M.E. Church
United Way of Central Maryland
We R Us
Weinberg House
Westminster Rescue Mission



DELAWARE

Catholic Charities (Delaware)

FLORIDA

Feeding NE Florida

OKLAHOMA

Catholic Charities (Eastern Oklahoma)

PENNSYLVANIA

Central PA Food Bank
Garden of Health
Grace Fellowship Church (Shrewsbury)
Lord's Lunch
Mason-Dixon Community Services, Inc.
New Hope Ministries
Philabundance
Power Packs Project
Stewartstown Food Pantry
The Well (Emmanuel UMC)
Union Community Care
Water Street Mission
York County Food Bank
York Suburban Impact Foundation Pantry

SOUTH CAROLINA

Lowcountry Food Bank

VIRGINIA

All Saints' Church
Catholic Charities USA
Church of the Pentecost
Healthy Harvest Food Bank
Mobile Hope

WEST VIRGINIA

Cabwaylingo Appalachian Mission
Mountaineer Food Bank
West Virginia Food Bank (Catholic Diocese)



Barn Expansion Project

COMING SPRING 2023



The major renovations and expansion of “The Shop” building creates a new facility which will be a game-changer for the Farm and our mission. Serving as the heart of the Farm and the center of our production efforts, this pivotal capital investment will greatly expand our volunteer and distribution opportunities.

This transformational project will impact all aspects of our operations for years to come providing the Farm with the necessary infrastructure to **GROW MORE – GIVE MORE – SERVE MORE**, ultimately enabling us to reach more people and communities in need throughout the region.

The project nearly doubles the existing building footprint and includes:

- production lines for packaging
- large open and enclosed storage areas with refrigeration
- a new loading dock to accommodate vehicles of all sizes
- equipment/repair shop, additional offices, and restrooms



Learn More:

firstfruitsfarm.org/barn-expansion