



≡ 2021 ≡

IMPACT Report



Dear Friends,

What an amazing year 2021 turned out to be...First Fruits Farm was blessed to grow, give, and serve more than ever before! We produced a record amount of wholesome produce, brought on important new distribution partners, and safely hosted an unprecedented number of volunteers—all during the second year of a global pandemic.

The year brought stresses and strains, of course. Our food bank partners added additional packaging requirements as part of their COVID safety protocols, and like many others in the supply chain, we experienced our share of challenges along the way. Despite the obstacles, we persevered and with God's grace were blessed to feed more struggling families and individuals both near and far, including sending disaster relief to the affected communities in and around Louisiana following Hurricane Ida as part of the Convoy of Hope.

The Farm was excited to host new events last year which brought hundreds of people to the Farm who participated in the first Farm Fun Run, toured the Barn Quilt Trail, and experienced Journey to Joy—our drive-thru Live Nativity which was the Farm's gift to the community and the perfect end to 2021.

The first year of the Farm's 2021-2025 strategic plan included the continued expansion of our staff and support team with the addition of a Director of Development, a public-facing volunteer manager, and an outside bookkeeper. We were also busy finalizing the plans and fundraising for the construction of a packaging and distribution facility to help the Farm meet the needs of our partners, as well as provide new volunteer opportunities. We are excited to see this project come to life in 2022—stay tuned for more updates on our progress.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our many benefactors and funding partners for which we are truly grateful. The Farm is blessed by so many, and we are especially thankful for our volunteer community and distribution partners who are instrumental in our calling to feed those in need. We pray for God's continued guidance as we strive to grow more, give more, and serve more.

Our work to bring the light and love of Christ to all is at the center of all we do, and we hope to see you at the Farm this year!

Blessings,

Richard M. Bernstein
President & Executive Director

2021 Highlights



GREENHOUSE INITIATIVE

The Farm's three state-of-the-art, commercial greenhouses continue to produce the highest-quality vegetables which our partners love! **Our greenhouses produce 3X the amount of tomatoes**, extend the growing season, and provide a sustainable, eco-friendly model for continued production expansion. Three more greenhouses are in our plans with one scheduled for construction in 2022 thanks in part to a generous grant from **First Financial Federal Credit Union**.



EDUCATION

Even as COVID restrictions continued to impact field trips and presented other obstacles for schools in 2021, **800+ students participated in specialized educational programs** either in-person at the Farm or in a virtual setting as far away as Seattle! The Farm continued to focus on meeting student and educator needs while providing a unique, hands-on learning experience for students of all ages including programming designed for students with disabilities. Special thanks to our friends at **M&T Bank** for their generous support of this initiative.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Farm hosted new events to bring together the community:

Convoy of Hope: joined with 25+ MD farms and **Mountaire Farms** to send 4 tractor trailers full of produce and protein to Louisiana communities devastated by Hurricane Ida.

Barn Quilt Trail: come and enjoy this self-guided tour which features quilt blocks depicting the "Glory of God's Gifts" located throughout the Farm.

Journey to Joy: our drive-thru Live Nativity was the Farm's gift to the community and ushered in the spirit of peace, love, and joy of Christmas.



PROTEIN MINISTRY

Our animals are not only **providing protein** to those in need but are a **valuable educational resource**. Chickens, pigs, and cows provide wonderful interactive experiences for the children visiting the Farm.



FARM FUN RUN

Our 1st fundraising event welcomed 150+ participants of all ages and **raised \$20,000 for the Farm's annual Thanksgiving Dinner project** for Park Heights families. Together with **Jimmy's Famous Seafood**, we teamed up to support the **Ed Reed Foundation's** annual *Thanksgiving Blessings* program which provided healthy, holiday dinners for 10,000+ city residents.

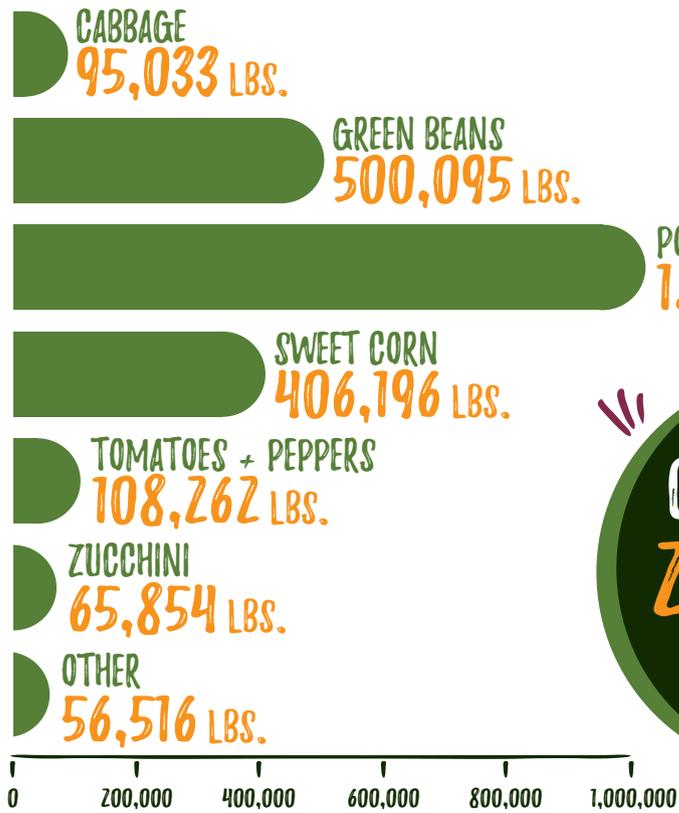
"T. Rowe Price looks to advance the communities where our associates live and work. Part of that work is locking arms with our community members to help them reach their own self-determinations. That's why our work with First Fruits Farm is so important because, like us, they believe in the power of community. We are proud of our partnership with First Fruits Farm and look forward to seeing what their important work brings to Baltimore in the years to come."

**- John Brothers, President
T. Rowe Price Foundation**



2021 Totals

YIELD BY CROP



Thank You!

The generous support of our benefactors, partners, and volunteers enabled the Farm to have a record-breaking year. The funding we received in 2021 bolstered our ability to grow more, give more, and serve more. We are truly grateful for your generosity and the collective impact of your efforts to move the Farm's mission forward allowing us to donate 100% of everything we grow.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

- Matthew 25:35



2022 Goals

FOOD

Grow and distribute 2.6 million lbs. of produce. Complete construction of 4th commercial greenhouse. Begin construction on the packaging and distribution facility.

EDUCATION

Re-introduce the Farm's Education Initiative for 2022-23 academic year to provide 1,000 students with hands-on, learning experiences.

VOLUNTEERS

Engage with 15,000 volunteers of all ages to offer meaningful service experiences.

SUSTAINABILITY

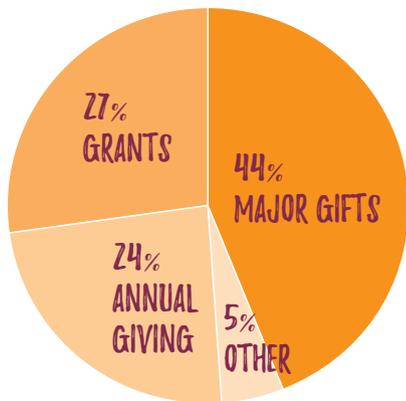
Secure \$2.5 million to support the Farm's growth, strengthen its infrastructure, and prepare for the next generation.

COMMUNITY

Embrace diversity and build real community in service to God and those in need.

ZOZI CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2.25
MILLION



A 39%
INCREASE
FROM 2020



"I love volunteering at First Fruits Farm because I get back so much more than I give."

-Jeff Pierce, Volunteer