



2024 *impact report*



GROW. GIVE. SERVE.



Dear Friends,

With heartfelt gratitude, we are thrilled to share the profound impact First Fruits Farm has made this past year, thanks to your unwavering support. Our community of over 20,000 volunteers has been the backbone of our mission, tirelessly working in faith and compassion to serve our neighbors in need, doubling our impact in one year. Your selfless dedication is a testament to the power of collective effort and divine providence.

This year, we have been blessed to donate over 4.7 million pounds (18.8 million servings) of nourishing food, reaching countless families and individuals facing food insecurity. The impact we made is truly a reflection of the love and care each volunteer has sown into this ministry and the generous support provided by our donors. You have helped us transform fields into a sanctuary of hope, where seeds of kindness grow into abundant blessings that model the love of Christ every day.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2025, cultivating hope, and nurturing the seeds of a brighter, more compassionate world.

With deepest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMB'.

Richard Bernstein
Executive Director



"The Church of the Nativity loves our partnership with First Fruits Farm. Volunteering at First Fruits allows us to step outside of the walls of our church and into God's beautiful creation in service of others. Our serving opportunities at First Fruits Farm allow our small groups to continue to grow in fellowship and faith together, through planting seeds, harvesting crops or packing bread for those who are hungry and facing food insecurity. This work brings into focus the reality that many in our own backyard are living in and reminds us of the call Jesus gave us to do for Him through doing for the least."

- Amy Rogers
Missions Director, Church of the Nativity

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

the harvest

This year we grew **2 million pounds of fresh, healthy produce** on 223 of the Farm's acres—despite facing drought conditions during the peak growing season. Our four greenhouses allowed us to extend the growing season, producing 86,700 lbs. of tomatoes and lettuce. We added 60 tillable acres which produced 621,110 pounds of produce this year.

In addition to the millions of pounds of produce, the Farm's flock of 500 hens produced 13,000 dozen eggs.



distribution

The tremendous impact of the Farm's distribution center was realized in 2024, making it possible for us to accept **2.7 million pounds of 3rd-party donated food** this year. Combined with the fresh produce grown in the Farm's fields, we distributed a record-breaking total of 4.7 million pounds of food through our network of partners to those struggling with hunger in the Mid-Atlantic region in 2024—more than doubling our impact in one year!

Our network of dedicated distribution partners, who are the critical link between the Farm's food and those struggling with hunger, continued to grow by leaps and bounds with more than 300 organizations (a 30%+ increase since 2023) relying on us for fresh produce and 3rd-party donated food staples such as bread and milk.



outreach

Our two annual outreach projects, Operation Holiday Blessings and Project Pumpkin—which are spearheaded by our distribution team and a core group of dedicated volunteer staff—both had record-breaking numbers in 2024.

We provided 136 local organizations with **461,000 pounds of food**—including turkeys, cabbage, apples, potatoes, and bread—for the holidays as part of our Operation Holiday Blessings project. Project Pumpkin **distributed 40,028 pumpkins** to 328 partners (mostly Title I schools) for children who typically do not have access to this festive fall staple.

volunteers

Volunteers are the lifeblood of First Fruits Farm. **Over 20,000 individuals** of all ages joined us to help harvest and package food for distribution this year. More than 560 groups from schools, churches, businesses, individuals, and families came together and served a total of 49,000 hours in 2024.

Of these volunteers ~70 of them make up our core volunteer staff (our “regulars”) who spend countless hours routinely giving their time and talents to support the ministry. We are so grateful for their selfless efforts and immeasurable commitment so that we may **GROW MORE - GIVE MORE - SERVE MORE.**

From those who have been with us from the beginning to those who came for their first harvest this year, all volunteers are truly a blessing to the Farm, making a tangible impact through service.



“We are incredibly grateful for our longstanding partnership with First Fruits Farm. Their commitment to providing fresh, nutritious food has made a significant difference in the lives of those we serve at the Maryland Food Bank.”

- Carmen Del Guercio
CEO & President, Maryland Food Bank

2024 by the numbers...

2
million pounds of produce
grown at the Farm



2.7
million pounds of donated
3rd-party food received



4.7
million pounds of food
distributed in 2024



the top 5
crops grown
at the Farm



1. POTATOES
725,225 lbs.



2. SWEET CORN
338,092 lbs.



3. GREEN BEANS
326,260 lbs.



4. CABBAGE
166,750 lbs.



5. ZUCCHINI
125,694 lbs.

In addition to the top 5, the Farm
grew hundreds of thousands of
pounds of bell peppers, broccoli,
collards, onions, pumpkins,
watermelons, and zucchini.



223
acres farmed



13,000
dozen eggs

86,700



pounds of tomatoes + lettuce
produced in our greenhouses



20,238

volunteers

49,576 volunteer hours

563 organizations

top 3rd-party food donors

SHARING EXCESS: 1,125,376 lbs.
FARM LINK: 400,848 lbs.
H&S BAKERY: 228,722 lbs.

top 3rd-party food

PRODUCE: 1,005,305 lbs.
DAIRY: 487,894 lbs.
BREAD: 228,722 lbs.



300+
distribution partners

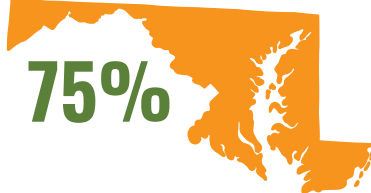
top 5 partners

MARYLAND FOOD BANK: 470,125 lbs.
SO WHAT ELSE: 371,686 lbs.
WVA FOOD BANK: 243,779 lbs.
FOOD ACCESS COALITION: 210,839 lbs.
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH: 159,175 lbs.

where the
food goes...

MARYLAND

75%



PENNSYLVANIA: 17.4%

WEST VIRGINIA: 5.4%

OTHER*: 2.2%

*Other states include Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and North Carolina.

2024 financials

Annual Fund: \$2.36 million
Expenses: \$2.14 million

Types of Funding

39% major gifts
20% annual gifts
20% grants

16% Cornerstone partners
5% food cost share

Charitable Gift Sources

34% foundations
31% individuals
23% businesses

5% nonprofits + schools
4% food banks
3% churches



Looking ahead to 2025

As we begin our 27th season of blessing the hungry, the Farm aims to:

- Increase crop yield to 3+ million pounds.
- Increase our 3rd-party "Food Rescue" to 3 million pounds.
- Drill a new well to increase crop irrigation.
- Continue to serve our ever-growing network of distribution partners.



Cornerstone COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

Cornerstone Community Partners generous philanthropic support enables the Farm to fulfill it's mission to **GROW MORE - GIVE MORE - SERVE MORE.**

Their commitment is crucial in helping us provide relief to communities facing food insecurity. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the following 2024 Cornerstone Partners for their steadfast dedication to our mission!

Legacy Partners

Archdiocese of Baltimore ♦ Bunting Family Foundation ♦ Catholic Charities of Baltimore ♦ Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
The Dresher Foundation ♦ The Kahlert Foundation ♦ United Way of Central Maryland ♦ The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Mission Partners

M&T Bank ♦ Sinclair Broadcast Group

Harvest Partners

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield ♦ Ellin & Tucker | Aileen and Chad Eskildsen ♦ First Financial Federal Credit Union
Kelly Benefits ♦ Dave & Oachia Lanphar ♦ Manekin Construction ♦ Natural Concerns (Arbor Dog Foundation)

Hope Partners

The Ann & Frank Cahouet Foundation ♦ The Campaigne Family ♦ Fuchs North America
Harford Mutual Insurance Group ♦ RELI Group

