

# About Community Harvest Project

## *It's a very simple idea*

...with profound results for our community. There are tens of thousands of people in Central Massachusetts who cannot afford enough to eat. Each year, thousands of individuals, families, classes of schoolchildren, church groups and civic organizations come to the Brigham Hill Community Farm in North Grafton to grow vegetables to feed them.

## *We're a volunteer-based farm*

...working in close cooperation with the Worcester County Food Bank. The Food Bank is a major distribution center,



providing nearly 5 million

pounds of food annually to over 200 programs through Central Mass. However, because much of their food comes from supermarkets and food producers, who donate processed foods nearing their date code expiration, very little fresh produce is available.

## *That's where we come in.*

We work with the Food Bank to determine what to grow each year, then plant our crops accordingly. Volunteers help plant seeds in our greenhouse, transplant into the fields when the weather allows, tend the crops through the spring and summer, then harvest, wash and pack tens of thousands of pounds of vegetables for the Food Bank.

## *But we have a second crop, too!*

The second crop is a harvest of learning, of goodwill, of community, among the many people who come to help. Whether it's the sense of community service learned by kids coming to the farm, or the spiritual values of using one's own

hands to help your fellow humankind, or the unity of purpose that knits together the fabric of community, people leaving our farm take something of value with them. It's hard work, but ultimately rewarding, and we take this second crop very seriously, too!

## *Your turn...*

We invite you to find your place at the farm. Whether it's helping for an hour or a day, planting peppers or picking zucchini, your work makes a difference. We also need financial contributions to meet the needs of our modest budget -- our small paid staff, potting soil and seeds, tractor fuel and irrigation supplies, even such mundane necessities as insurance and phone bills, all need to be taken care of for our program to work.

But with whatever you can do, you'll become part of a community of warm-hearted, compassionate people taking care of their neighbors, and we think you'll be glad you did.



**Community Harvest Project, Inc. • 37 Wheeler Road • North Grafton, MA 01536**

**for more information: [www.community-harvest.org](http://www.community-harvest.org) • (774) 551-6544 • [volunteer@community-harvest.org](mailto:volunteer@community-harvest.org)**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is CHP's mission?

At Community Harvest Project farms, local communities come together as volunteers to grow high quality produce for local food banks. Through this work we provide opportunities for people to learn and experience the value of agriculture and community service while helping their neighbors.

### 2. Where does CHP get its plants?

Community Harvest Project starts all of its plants from seed in our greenhouse.

### 3. Where does CHP produce go?

One hundred percent of CHP's produce is donated to the Worcester County Food Bank. The food bank then distributes CHP's produce through its 180 partner programs located throughout Worcester County.

### 4. What vegetables does the CHP grow and why?

Currently, CHP grows tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, eggplant, summer squash, winter squash, zucchini, green peppers, and yellow wax beans. CHP collaborates with the Worcester County Food Bank in determining which crops to grow. This ensures that we serve the community to our best capacity.

### 5. Is the Brigham Hill Community Farm organic?

The Brigham Hill Community Farm is not a "certified organic farm." This is due to the prohibitive cost of obtaining organic certification. However, CHP only uses sustainable farming methods. Our fields are fed with composted manure, the plants are watered with drip irrigation and pest management is achieved through companion planting. We do not overspray our crops with pesticides or fertilizers. We want to keep our volunteers and our produce safe and chemical free!

### 6. How can I help?

#### **By volunteering!**

CHP is a community based organization. With only three part-time staff people, we produce tens of thousands of pounds of produce that are donated toward hunger relief. But we do not do it alone! Almost all of our farming is done by over 3,000 volunteers that visit the farm each year. You can volunteer by contacting our volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@community-harvest.org](mailto:volunteer@community-harvest.org) or by phone at (774) 551-6544.

#### **With a donation!**

CHP relies on the community for donations to fund our modest operating budget. If you would like to make a monetary donation please contact our Executive Director at (774) 249-2578 or by email at [amy@community-harvest.org](mailto:amy@community-harvest.org).

### 7. Who are CHP volunteers?

CHP volunteers are members of the greater Worcester community. They are families, individuals, religious organizations, civic groups, corporations and schools. Many of our volunteers visit the farm in large groups. Others come with just a few, by themselves or with their families.

### 8. Can my kids help out at the farm?

CHP welcomes all children at the farm! Our farming methods are broken down into simple steps so that children of any age can make a contribution. Children under the age of 16 ½ are required to be accompanied by an adult.