



Spring 2019 Newsletter

...a food bank farm program at Scatter Good Farm

Update from Patty

Cheers to you as we settle into spring! On a snowy and cold January morning, Growing to Give's board of trustees and staff kicked off the new year by gathering at one trustee's home to plan, vision, and reconnect to our mission. There was much great discussion and deep reflection about what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what is next to come. Through one exercise led by a member, the board generated these value words of what Growing to Give embodies to them:

hope
sharing

respect
basic needs

stewardship
comfort

justice
dignity

community
equality

These values give our work clarity, inspiration, and focus.

In addition, over the past couple of months, several board members and staff attended the Morris Farm/Chewonki Annual Food Security Forum, the Community Food Council Summit in Belfast, two Slow Money Maine meetings, and volunteered together at the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program. John had the opportunity to present on Growing to Give's work at both the Food Security Forum at Chewonki and a Slow Money Meeting.

If you know of a group that would like to hear more about Growing to Give, let us know - we are happy to spread the word and the mission of Growing to Give!

We ❤️ Our Community!



Several board and staff members volunteering at the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program preparing winter vegetables for use in the soup kitchen.



The event committee hard at work.

Growing to Give's Wish List

We could use donations of seaweed, wheelbarrows, organic seeds, spades, shovels, metal rakes, trowels, gorilla buckets, 4-wheel dump wagons, black weed barrier plastic, organic fertilizers (Neptune's Harvest), seedling lights, jiffy pots, row covers, work gloves, printer paper, printer ink, printing services, letterhead, envelopes, and stamps. Thank you!

Call for Volunteers!

We'd love more field volunteers on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. Call 207-837-4670 or email patty@growingtogive.farm to sign up!

Greens, Greens, Greens!

As of May 23 (and due to the addition of two new hoop houses that were generously funded by the Bowdoin Common Good Grant and The Agnes M. Lindsay Trust and erected late last fall) we have already harvested and delivered over **425 pounds of produce** to local food pantries. Thanks to Growing to Give volunteers and our treasured partners, the Merrymeeting Gleaners and the Androscoggin Gleaners, we started picking spinach and lettuce in early March that had wintered-over in the greenhouse. So far in 2019, we've delivered 142 pounds of delicious spinach, 244 pounds of glorious lettuce, and 39 pounds of rosy, spicy radishes to our partner food pantries. Just think, if a head of lettuce weighs a half a pound, that's 488 heads of lettuce!



Jeff Newell, volunteer with the Androscoggin Gleaners

Funder Highlight:

Mark Baumer Sustainability Fund

Growing to Give thanks the Mark Baumer Sustainability Fund, which generously funded organic compost for the fields for 2019! On a rainy, wet April day thirty student and faculty volunteers from the Maine Coast Waldorf High School joined several Growing to Give volunteers to spend all day helping us clean up the fields from last year and spread compost on 32 50-foot beds for spring planting. We are so grateful for their help, their amazing attitudes, and their strong backs!



Maine Coast students with Mark Baumer Sustainability Fund board member, Paul Scalzone.

Thank You for Your Support!

We'd also like to thank the following foundations for their support for our 2019 season:

- ✳ The Alfred M. Senter Fund
- ✳ The Davenport Trust

Each will be highlighted in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events

July 28: Open Farm Day

September 7: 2nd Annual Farmyard Jam!

September 27: Harvest Party for Donors and Volunteers

September 28: Moderation Brewery Event - Details TBA!

Climate-Friendly Practice: Organic Boxes

During the long slower months of winter, and in the spirit of being as "green" as possible in our practices, we collected organic-grade boxes from local stores to deliver our produce this year. (Thank you to Bow Street Market and Royal River Natural Foods for donating them!) To keep our MOFGA certification, our produce needs to be packed and delivered in either food grade plastic bags or organic boxes. Last year, we had not collected boxes so we had to rely on bags, but because of more forethought and hearty winter volunteers, who drove around each week and collected boxes for us, we have a robust collection. Thanks especially to Sue Elsaesser, in particular for her help with this task.

New Hire

We are so excited to announce the addition of Sandi Konta to our team as our first ever Development Assistant! Sandi moved to Maine from Colorado about 6 months ago and has jumped into her new community in many different ways.

Sandi will be focusing on social media outreach and assisting the fundraising committee with events, grants, and appeals. We are thrilled to have her and she says, "like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram (@growingtogivemaine)!" Welcome to marketing circa 2019 at Growing to Give!

