



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

www.growingtogive.farm
30 East Coxon Rd, Brunswick, ME



Our Mission

We harness the power of our community to grow organic vegetables and give them to those in need while practicing, teaching, and promoting climate-friendly farming.

As we enter our 10th growing season, we celebrate a journey that began in 2017 with a simple but powerful vision: to care for the land, support our community, and address hunger in a meaningful way. Thanks to the dedication of our founders, staff, volunteers, and supporters, that vision has grown into an organization that has donated nearly 125,000 pounds of certified organic produce and welcomed thousands of people to the farm. This growth has only been possible because of the people who have nurtured it along the way.

We are especially grateful for the leadership of Ellen Rodgers, who has served as Managing Director since 2023. Through her steady guidance, strong organizational skills, and deep commitment to the mission, Ellen helped build the systems and structure that position us for long-term success. As she transitions to a well-deserved retirement, we are deeply thankful for all she has given to this work.

And now, we are stepping into an exciting new chapter! We are proud to welcome our **first paid Executive Director, Molly Cooper**; a milestone that reflects both the strength of this organization and a bold vision for our future.

Molly is a nonprofit leader who believes big impact starts with strong teams, clear vision, and purpose-driven strategy. Known for her steady leadership and ability to navigate change, she brings both heart and strategic focus to her work. As Growing to Give's Executive Director, Molly will guide the organization into its next phase, strengthening its foundation, deepening community connections, and supporting thoughtful, sustainable growth.

With more than a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership, outdoor and agricultural education, and community programming, she has led initiatives, expanded programs, guided teams, and strengthened organizational capacity. Passionate about food access and community health, Molly is committed to expanding equitable access to nutritious, locally sourced food while supporting Maine's small farm and community food networks.

This moment is more than a leadership transition—it is a reflection of what this community has made possible, and an investment in what comes next. Please join us in warmly welcoming Molly and celebrating this exciting new time for Growing to Give!

Patty Carton, Board Member and Co-Founder



Please join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Molly Cooper!

Volunteer Spotlight: The Fix-It Crew

-contributed by Bob Black

We tend to equate farming with the expertise needed to cultivate a crop from seed to harvest. However, maintaining a farm's physical infrastructure is essential and often requires special skills usually attributed to mechanics, plumbers, and builders.

That's where the Growing to Give Fix-It Crew comes in. This small cadre of dedicated volunteers maintains sheds, water systems, and machinery that Growing to Give needs to meet its mission. The crew's contributions range from major construction projects (e.g., new storage buildings) to mundane but critical repairs (e.g., fixing irrigation system leaks, installing fencing to repel vegetable-loving pests, and reinforcing greenhouses to withstand severe wind and heavy snow).

For most of the year, the Fix-It Crew convenes at the farm one morning per week to tackle projects, but much more happens offsite as the team develops plans, builds smaller structures, and acquires tools and materials.

Here are some examples of the Fix-It Crew's projects:

- New wooden shed doors to replace vinyl flaps, fortifying the structure and improving access for mowers.
- Weather-proof kiosk to let visitors and volunteers know what's up at Growing to Give.
- Cold frames with automatic vents to protect sensitive seedlings from extreme temperatures.
- A customized vegetable washing station that captures nutrient-rich water and soil for re-use.
- Overhead irrigation systems in greenhouses for precise water application to conserve water.

"Surprisingly, there's a place on a farm for someone who can't tell a parsnip from a rutabaga.

The Fix-It Crew members have years of experience making sure that the farm runs smoothly.

That institutional knowledge is critical to Growing to Give's mission and it's gratifying to be a part of it."



- Bob Black



ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!

We have a new volunteer management platform and are asking all new AND returning volunteers to create an account on the new platform to sign up for shifts this season.

Sign up here!



Fill out the form for a chance to win a homemade pie!

Questions? Email Meghan at volunteer@growingtogive.farm





Volunteer Workshops

Opportunities to learn, connect, and help us grow!



A Successful Winter Sowing Party

Lindsay led our first ever winter sowing workshop, and it was attended by everyone from complete beginners to master gardeners. Participants left with their own winter-sown jug to get a head start on their gardens!



Our Annual Paper-Pot Party

We hosted our Paper-Pot Party in February, where participants made hundreds of paper seedling pots using only newspapers and wine bottles! The paper pots are used in the spring to transition seedlings into the ground.



To stay up to date and see what events we're offering this season, visit growingtogive.farm/events/

From now until the Farmyard Jam on July 25th, our goal is to raise \$25,000 to allow us to meet the growing need in our community.

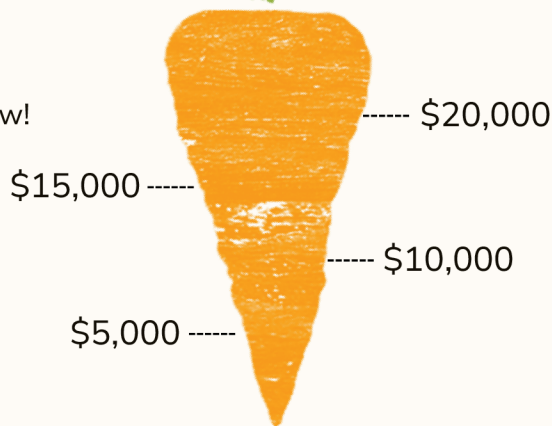
Help us "Fill the Carrot" by visiting growingtogive.farm/donate/

- or scan the code below!



Donate here!
Every little bit helps!

FILL THE CARROT
\$25,000



SAVE THE DATES!

Open Farm Day
Farm tours and more!

Saturday, May 16th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

The Farmyard Jam
Community Music Festival

Saturday, July 25th, 4:30 - 8:30 PM

Both events will be at
30 East Coxon Road
Brunswick, Maine

Learn more at
www.growingtogive.farm/events/



We are proud to be an environmental partner!



growingtogive.farm
info@growingtogive.farm
30 East Coxon Rd, Brunswick, ME

Follow our journey
@GrowingtoGiveMaine



See How We've Grown!

2016

Patty Carton, John Newlin, and Theda Lyden decide to start a grow-for-donation farm called Growing to Give (G2G).



2022

G2G becomes the main host site for the Farm Skills Training Program, supporting the next generation of climate-friendly farmers.



2018

G2G's donations reach a broader area including Durham, Lisbon, Auburn, Lisbon Falls, and Lewiston.

2020

The farm remains open during the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a way for people to socialize and build community safely.



2024

G2G reaches the milestone of 100,000 lbs of organic vegetables grown and donated since its launch.

2017

G2G is formally launched as a nonprofit and grows 3,600 lbs of vegetables in its pilot season with the help of 10 volunteers.



2021

Volunteers contribute over 2,000 hours of labor, a new record!



2019

G2G grows 15,000 lbs of vegetables in its third season.

2025

The farm grows more than 18,500 lbs of vegetables (a new record) and has 2,700 contact hours with nearly 700 students!



2023

The farm adds a 22' by 32' seedling greenhouse, lengthening our growing season and providing shelter for volunteers during inclement weather.



Bright future!