



# Newton Community Farm

## Produce Donation Program 2023

### Who We Are

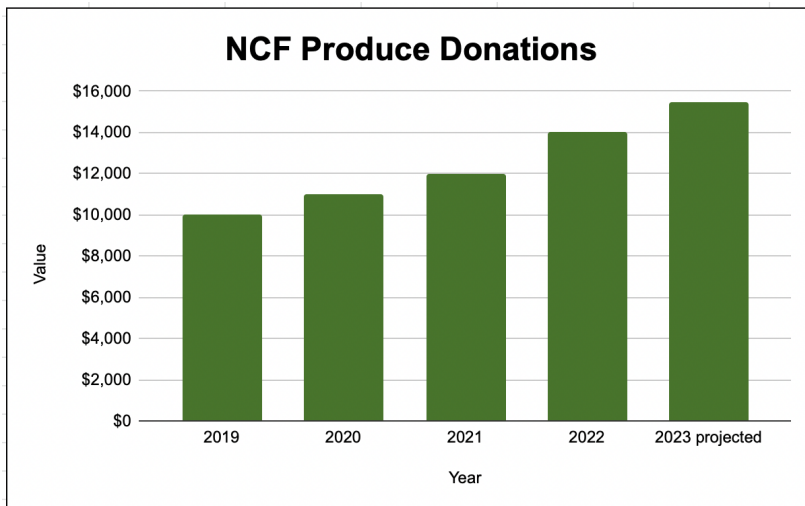
Newton Community Farm (NCF) is located on the historic Angino farmstead and is the last working farm in Newton, MA. Our nonprofit has been in operation since 2006 and is recognized as a community treasure. The mission of NCF is to engage a vibrant community in sustainable agriculture and best environmental practices on the historic Angino farm. We strive to benefit the community by:

- Providing locally-grown produce through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, our farm stand/Healthy Harvest Bags, Newton Farmers' Market, and donations to local food pantries.
- Educating the public about sustainable practices for agriculture, land use, and stewardship of natural resources through programs, events, and volunteer opportunities.
- Preserving Newton's last working farm as a historic site and valuable open space.
- Aiding gardening enthusiasts through our annual spring Seedling Sale.

### Our Produce Donation Program

We grow and harvest a wide array of produce, a portion of which we have donated to local food pantries, Boston Area Gleaners, and other nonprofit organizations since our inception to help mitigate food insecurity in our area. We believe that helping food insecure individuals and families have access to fresh, nutritious, locally-grown produce is an important part of what we do. In 2021, we increased our Produce Donation Program to approximately 3,300 lbs. of food valued at \$12,000 which was distributed multiple times each week over the seven-month growing season. In 2022, we increased donations, primarily to the Newton Food Pantry and their extension of the Newton Community Freeedge for a total of \$14,000 in value. Some of the most popular items we donate include carrots, bok choy, radishes, beets, lettuce and salad greens, garlic, squash, peppers, and eggplant. In 2023, we plan to donate \$15,500 in produce, which is approximately 10% in value of the produce we grow. We will also continue to focus on providing culturally-relevant and high-demand produce.

Covid has increased the prevalence of food insecurity and the need for our Produce Donation Program over the past several years. As the graph below shows, we are increasing our donations at the same time in response to this increase in need. The community will greatly benefit as we add further donations of fresh, local, nutritious vegetables, fruit, and herbs in 2023 to help meet the needs of more people who are food insecure.



### How We Measure Success

The success of our Produce Donation Program is measured by our ability to feed those in need through our partner organization, Newton Food Pantry. We know that our produce reaches those with food insecurity through the staff of the pantry and we receive ongoing positive feedback. We have also had conversations with Freedge clients who have expressed their gratitude for the produce we donate during donation drop-offs.



*NCF Farm Manager Greg Maslowe loading up produce donations for the Newton Food Pantry. (Photo by Margaret Mallory)*