



# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT

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Waltham Fields Community Farm

240 Beaver St, Waltham MA

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Waltham Fields Community Farm is the business name of  
Community Farms Outreach, a 501c3 organization. EIN 04-3261186

Waltham Fields Community Farm  
cultivates sustainable and equitable relationships between  
people, their food supply,  
and the land from which it grows.

## QUITE A YEAR

On March 1, 2022 the farm land which WFCF and its community had stewarded for more than two decades was sold by the University of Massachusetts Amherst to the City of Waltham. WFCF advanced through enduring vulnerabilities with a new strategic plan, an updated membership program, and established an Advisory Board all while the team of farmers nourished the land and many households. Hearts were abundant in gratitude as we bid farewell to tremendous farmers and friends, Erinn and Dan Roberts. In May, we were pleased to welcome Andy Andrews as WFCF's newest farm manager, just in time to manage a record setting drought and significant deer pressure. In late December, The Waltham City Council voted to close two of the three access points to WFCF. The City additionally restricted access to the Learning Garden and the adjacent farmland during remediation of a dump site along Waverley Oaks Road. While WFCF aligned with the priority to abate a long enduring issue, the timing and process contributes to an even greater sense of insecurity as we enter 2023, without a lease and without use of 35% of our previously cultivated farmland. We remain determined, dedicated and will persevere with support and advocacy from our community.



**STACEY DALEY**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## 2022

### Board of Directors

Colleen McKiernan, President  
Laura Handler, Vice President  
Lisa Schulze, Treasurer  
John Tracy, Secretary  
Debra Burbank  
Rachel Caine  
Robin Doherty  
Becky Evans Mark  
Adrianna Gucciardi  
Reva Haselkorn London  
Tom Innis  
Becky Prior  
Chris Yoder



# FINANCIALS

## FINANCIAL STATUS:

We began and ended 2022 in good financial standing.

### Operating Expenses

Agricultural (non-salary) \$505,264.73  
Wages and benefits \$646,520.46  
Organizational infrastructure \$104,339.14  
Facilities, fees & insurance \$53,076.32  
Supplies \$451,469.25  
Professional Service fees \$40,293.16  
Budgeted contributions to reserves \$19,500.00  
Total expenses: \$1,002,007.36

### Income

Foundations - Grants \$180,744.00  
Government Grants \$79,913.73  
Fundraisers \$56,196.03  
Annual Appeal: \$57,177.63  
Membership \$28,261.45  
Business Donations \$43,938.12  
Education Income \$59,005.74  
Other donations: 37,745.94  
Agriculture Income: \$505,264.73  
Total Income \$1,054,269.75

## Highlights

123,305 lbs of food grown for CSA  
39,452 lbs/\$97,213.52 for food access programs  
We won a \$100,000 Cummings Grant to support VegRx!



# AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

ANDY ANDREWS, FARM MANAGER

This was my first season at the farm and I was very fortunate to find myself in the company of some great farmers. This year's farm staff consisted of three returning farmers: Nadine Dyskant-Miller, Assistant Manager; Tim Cook, Equipment Manager; and Isabella Dibianca, Assistant Grower. With the addition of Susanna, Rabar, Leila, Chelsea, Meg, Cameron, Abby, Brooke, and our Community Outreach Farmer Marie-Ana here at the height of the season, our crew peaked at 13. We farmed all the acreage at the Field Station and the Lyman site, which put our total production at 10.5 acres.

It was a very hot and dry summer. Massachusetts declared Middlesex County a Level 3 (out of 4)-- a Critical Drought Zone-- and the USDA Secretary of Agriculture declared most of eastern Massachusetts a natural disaster area. According to NOAA, this summer was the driest on record in over 100 years, with 20 days at or above 90 degrees F.

Maintaining our irrigation system of pipes, water reel, and pump at the Lyman site, which is all done by hand, became a full-time job. Keeping our plants alive meant running the irrigation into the evenings and on weekends. The drought and heat adversely affected our harvests and yields. We typically lost 10 to 15 percent of our transplants to the heat. Maturity dates for some crops, like lettuce, were delayed by 15 days or longer. Thankfully our new partner farms, like Riverland in Sunderland, provided some relief by supplying us with watermelons, cantaloupes, and peppers in August. >>

**2022 HARVEST**  
**162,757 lbs**  
**\$423,729.71**



# AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS CONTINUED

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>> When it started steadily raining an inch or more a week on Labor Day, all the crops we had been nursing along started coming into maturity. The number of available vegetables to choose from at CSA pickup increased from 10 to 21, and was only limited by the hours in the day that we had for harvesting. Thankfully, we had enough cooler space at peak production, thanks to a new walk-in cooler (our third) paid for by an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant.

Having just arrived in June, I am extremely grateful to have landed with such a great group of people. I thank all of our crew –Nadine, Tim, Isabella, Rabar, Leila, Susanna, Marie-Ana, Chelsea, Meg, Abby, Cameron and Brooke–for their hard work, enthusiasm, commitment, and for showing up every day no matter what the circumstances. And Stacey, Marla, Jess and Anna for running everything else and creating and maintaining a thriving and supportive environment in which to work.

Average weight per Summer CSA Share

17.1 lbs per week

342 lbs total per 20-week share

Total share value \$904.48



Abby, Leila, Nadine, Chelsea, and Cameron

# AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

NADINE DYSKANT-MILLER, ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER

In January and February I worked with Erinn on the crop plan, seed orders, seedling sale plans, and supply orders, and I took the lead on hiring the field crew. In March, we began seeding in the greenhouse, and from there the season quickly ramped up. We hosted our annual seedling sale in May, and the turnout was truly astounding with unprecedented attendance and sales.

June was a month of transition as we said goodbye to Erinn and welcomed Andy to the farm. Andy's hard work and deep agricultural knowledge quickly proved invaluable as he guided us through an incredibly dry and hot summer. July and August passed in a blur of unrelenting heat and sun. We found ourselves working extra-long hours to keep the crops alive and hydrated through the drought. We worked as a team, benefiting from Andy's experience farming in warmer climates, to tighten the flow of harvesting, washing, and packing to keep the crops from wilting in the heat. Our days were filled with transplanting, weeding, rotating irrigation, harvesting, and a good sprinkling of popsicle breaks. It was wonderful to work with Marie-Ana, our Outreach Farmer, who brought so much energy and dedication to developing our food access programs.

Having worked so closely with the field crew throughout the season, I can't possibly express how grateful I am to have shared so much time with this wonderful group of people, who powered through physical and mental challenges with humor, care, and determination. Together we seeded, transplanted, watered, weeded, trellised, watered, weeded, covered, uncovered, watered, weeded, hauled, loaded, unloaded, harvested, sorted, washed, and distributed tens of thousands of pounds of produce to our local community, through our food access programs and the CSA.

Thank you to everyone who makes this organization and community the wonderful place that it is. I'm grateful every day that I get to work with such an incredible group of people!



Nadine and Andy



Special thanks to Tim for keeping our irrigation going!

# FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS

We feed and nourish hungry people throughout our community with our fresh, nutritious, organically grown produce through a myriad of free, subsidized, and easily accessible food distribution programs. This year we surpassed our goal of distributing \$80,000 worth of food by almost 20%, reaching \$97,213.52. Thank you to our WFCF members, grant funders, and our distribution partners for making this possible.

Program	Pounds Distributed
Food for Free   bulk donations	10,545
Mobile Outreach Market   boxed shares	15,085.30
Produce Prescription Program   boxed shares	4306.61
Waltham Public Schools   bulk discounted veggies	2199
Food for All   CSA shares subsidized by other CSA members	6447
Waltham Family School   boxed shares	758.4
48 Pine St   donations	60
Community Fridges   donations	51



Volunteers at the Mobile Outreach Market

# SPOTLIGHT: MOM + VEG RX

MARIE-ANA FOLLET, COMMUNITY OUTREACH FARMER



Marie-Ana

## MOBILE OUTREACH MARKET | MOM

This was the second year that WFCF, in partnership with Waltham Housing Authority (WHA), set up the weekly Mobile Outreach Market (MOM) in two public housing communities. Over the course of 13 weeks we packed and distributed 100 boxes of vegetables for free, alternating between the two neighborhoods. We received much enthusiasm and participation in the market this season from residents, as we saw many familiar faces and youth often visited us to talk about the vegetables, summer fun, or helped us deliver vegetables to their families, friends, and neighbors with limited mobility. We distributed over 14,500 lbs of vegetables through MOM this season, and had fantastic support from volunteers who packed the boxes each week. For next year, we are exploring returning to the market-style model and are gathering feedback from the community and partners. Many thanks to Ann Callahan (WHA), for her energy and support on market days, and Kate, the previous Community Outreach Farmer, who along with Ann laid a strong foundation for the program last year.

*"I want to thank you all for this wonderful opportunity that was given to me and most of all my family. We had the opportunity to try new vegetables never seen in our lives and to learn how to cook them, such as bok choy, white radish, green garlic, and fennel. Also to enjoy the vegetables that sometimes you cannot afford to buy when your budget is tight and need to choose between buying rice, pasta, or vegetables."--AG, client*

# PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM | VEGRX

In its third year, we expanded our food access and health equity program VegRx from 12 families to 16. We continued our partnership with Charles River Community Health (CRCH), and were thrilled to work closely with Jacqueline Caceres again this season. The medical team at CRCH identified low-income patients who were at risk for or had a diet-related disease who would benefit from an influx of nutrient-rich food. Over the course of 20 weeks, we packed and delivered CSA shares to CRCH for pickup, over 4,000 lbs of vegetables total. We complemented the share with healthful recipes in English and Spanish, nutrition facts, kitchenware items and shelf-stable goods donated by our partners. A highlight of the program was hosting 20 adults and children at the farm for pick-your-own crop orientation, and guide them in this aspect of their share.

Thank you to our superstar intern Bethany Borgia from the Forest Foundation.

Thank you to the Cummings Foundation for the \$100,000 grant--\$25,000/year, for four years--to support and grow our VegRx program!

Cummings  
**\$25** MILLION  
GRANT PROGRAM

Jackie (left) and Our Friends Charles River Community Health



# EDUCATION

BY JESSICA HERWICK, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

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Our programs had a productive and successful year! We began January still battling the pandemic with winter-time programming on the farm, and returned to schools for farm-to-school visits March through June. On-farm field trips thrived in our outdoor learning spaces, which were safe for community gatherings in the fresh air. Our summer programs found their new normal, and welcomed over 125 youth for 10 weeks of summer fun on the farm, along with our Rabbit Tea Party Fridays and Little Sprouts Cool Downs, all run with the help of our Teen Corps summer employment participants. Our summer program participants contributed to our local food system by growing produce and herbs for Rancatore's Ice Cream farm-fresh flavors for the third year in a row.

We returned to participating in-person at outreach events, including standing with Waltham Black Future Fund at the Waltham Farmers Market opening day, visting Lamplighter Brewery (Cambridge) attending Earth Day celebrations at the Astrazeneca BioHub (Waltham), and joining fellow organizations at Waltham Day in the fall.

We welcomed the 2022-23 school year in September and rejoiced along with our Community of Learners as members of our after-school program returned for a 'typical' first day of Kindergarten in two years, our Teen Corps members prepared to reengage with high school in-person, and some of our Little Sprouts proudly had their first day of school. Fall programs were extended due to the mild weather and requests from our community. >>



Attendees at Russ Cohen's sold-out Autumn's Wild Edibles walk

# EDUCATION CONTINUED

>> Our college interns returned to support Education Programs. We hosted nine interns in total, from Bentley University, the Yawkey Foundation, and the Forest Foundation. They completed projects that related to their fields of study and contributed many hours, efforts, and ideas to help further our mission in so many ways. Our Spring Yawkey Foundation Intern, Sydney Romagnolo, helped to win the grant that will fund our 2023 Butterfly Rearing Station and bring over 200 youth, including students from the Waltham Public Schools to the farm and the Learning Garden for a special, immersive field trip. >>

**1500 YOUTH+ 300 ADULTS + 300 FAMILIES SERVED**

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS



**4**

Seasons our Little Sprouts, Rabbit Ambassadors, Teen Corps, After-School, and School-Age programs ran in 2021

**10**

Workshops offered for families and adults; most ran at 95% capacity

**25**

On-farm field trips

**45**

Outdoor farm-to-classroom visits, often held outdoors in playgrounds and parking lots, including our first in-person enrichment programming since 2/2020.

**7800**

Views of our free, unique, custom-designed, farm-based YouTube media and content, Waltham-Fields. If you haven't yet, please subscribe to our channel!

**600**

Hours our YouTube content was utilized by remote community members in households, classrooms, and community centers.

Enrichment programs found their new normal.

# EDUCATION CONTINUED

>> In 2022, 150 students from the Greater Boston Area joined us on the farm as the starting point for the Museum of Fine Arts Community Arts Project 2022-23. Youth from over a dozen partner organizations picked carrots, munched on apples, met the English Angora rabbits, and learned about humane, sustainable wool and plant fiber production as an introduction to the materials they will use in their textile art projects. Watch for their completed pieces on display at the MFA in May 2023.

## WALTHAM PARTNERSHIPS

<b>Waltham Public School Administrators</b>	We strengthened our relationships with WPS Administrators as we all worked to reach and educate Waltham youth and families whose school year was so heavily impacted by COVID.
<b>Fitzgerald Elementary School</b>	Children in every classroom took part in our long-standing enrichment program that brings the farm to the students and the students to the farm. Special thanks to Robin Doherty for remaining a staunch advocate and conduit for this program.
<b>McDevitt Middle School</b>	200+ sunflower growing kits distributed to families at McDevitt Middle School
<b>Waltham Recreation Department</b>	75 Waltham families were serviced through the Waltham Recreation Department during all four seasons



Little Sprouts  
Toddler & Caregiver Program

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO NURTURE OUR LEARNING SPACES AND LEARNERS

- Jennifer LaTourneau + her right-hand lady, Katie, Amanda Smith + her assistants Hazel and Maeve, Learning Garden Workshares
- Susan Busheme-Folkins, Mary DiMaggio, Helen Germyn, Cathy Miner-Hartenstein, Sydney Romagnolo, Amanda Smith, Supervisory + Lead Educators
- Sofia Ayala, Sam Shea, Matthew Swift, Frankie Worman, Teen + Asst. Educators
- Sydney Romagnolo, Yawkey Intern in Partnership with Bentley University
- Zoë Ragland-Haines, Dally Tran, Javier Wu, Mira Welches, Jibin James + Sadie Caccia, Bentley Service Learning Interns

# SERVICE LEARNING & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

BY MARLA RHODES, VOLUNTEER & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

WFCF is funded by the income we earn from our CSA and education programs, donations in the form of membership fees, individual/household donations, and corporate contributions, and grants from the government and private foundations. Funds raised from foundations and corporations provide unrestricted support for our organization, and offset expenses of our Learning Garden, education programs, and low-income food access programs.

In 2022, we surpassed our foundation and corporate group fundraising goals. A major highlight was our \$100K Cummings Foundation grant for our Produce Prescription/Veggie Rx program. This grant ensures that this program has four years of funding in place to serve people who are low income and have medical issues that could be helped with an infusion of fresh food into their diets. We were also very pleased to be one of a handful of groups to receive funding from the Mount Auburn Community Health Grant, also to fund Veggie Rx, as well as a larger grant from the Middlesex Savings Bank Charitable Foundation for our food access work.

We have held a walk in collaboration with Project Bread's Walk for Hunger on the first Sunday in May ever since the pandemic began and Project Bread decentralized this event. We had a great group of walkers come out this past year. The proceeds we made were half the amount from the year before, largely due to a few long-time walkers who happened to raise a lot of funds not participating this year. We are so grateful for their past participation.

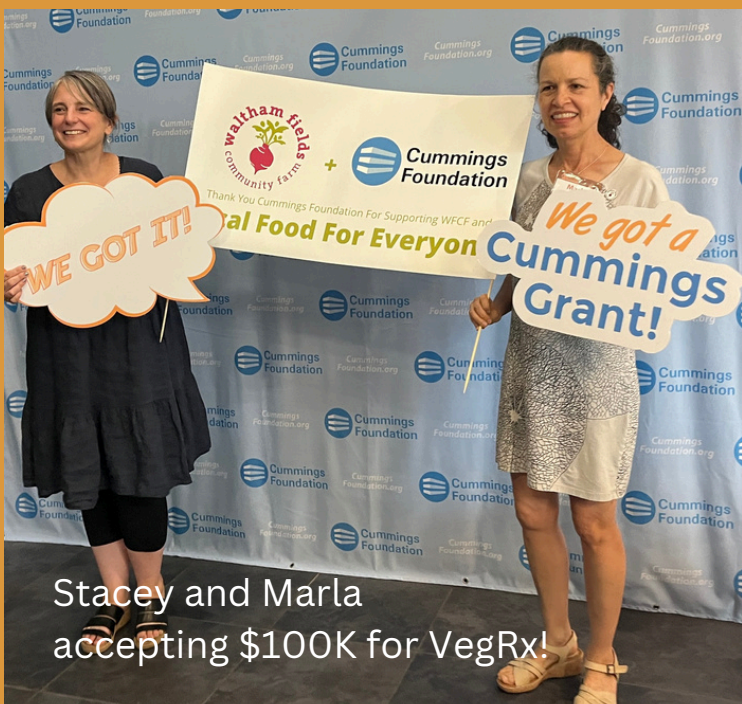
We are thankful for the support of our Local Business Hero sponsors. A special shout out to our top sponsors Reynders McVeigh Capital Management, Fresh Pond Capital, Symetra, and Robin Doherty Realtor at KellerWilliams. Please take a look at all of our sponsors for this year and if you frequent their business tell them you notice their support of your favorite nonprofit farm!



Farm Day Volunteers



Walk for Hunger's Executive Director Erin (2nd from left) + walkers on a bunny break



Stacey and Marla accepting \$100K for VegRx!

# SERVICE LEARNING & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

BY MARLA RHODES, VOLUNTEER & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Volunteers were instrumental in pulling off three of our annual events, all very well attended and smoothly flowing this year. Our evening fundraiser Sprout in April, held for the first time at Lyman Estate, went fantastically well. This was followed not long after by two weekends of extraordinarily busy Seedling Sales and our annual Farm Day. These events absolutely would not have gone as well as they did without lots of volunteers, both familiar faces as well as many new community members signing up. This includes groups from Bentley and Brandeis, as well as the Girl Scouts, and all the bakers who made the Farm Day Bake Sale so tasty! Our all-volunteer Board of Directors also helped at these events, and everyone worked to make each event truly shine.

We rely on growing all our bountiful produce each year with a mix of year-round professional staff, seasonal field help, and hundreds of volunteers. Helping out in the fields began in the spring led by our Outreach Farmer Marie-Ana. This included drop-ins on Friday and Saturday mornings, Crop Mobs on special Saturdays (we held 3 this year), and mid-week groups, which are usually corporate employees or university students. They schedule visits from Earth Day in mid-April through the last week of October.

Special shout-outs to the volunteers who helped to re-skin our hoop house, which we had to keep rescheduling because of wind, but were third time lucky! And a big shout-out to volunteers-slash-family members of farm staff who came out one afternoon to build all our new sturdy picnic tables you see on the front lawn! We deepened our relationship with Boston Cares, who sent groups throughout the season. They helped upgrade the Learning Garden area in many ways, including prepping for a new fence and chicken coop, building a dozen benches and storage benches, finishing our raised beds, and doing other work to begin to make the gardens more accessible to people with limited mobility. They also helped prep the property for our annual autumn Farm Day.



## 2022 Volunteers

32 groups

600 people

1,600 hours

Field Crew member Rabar and volunteers working together to reskin the greenhouse

# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

For over a decade now we have honored someone with our Volunteer of the Year award. This year we honor two women:

## MARIAN FRIEDMAN DAISY GRANDT

The first has been a solid presence in farm fields on the weekends for many years, and who contributes each year in other ways as well: Marian Friedman. Marian was volunteer of the year at WFCF well over 10 years ago! This year she also worked at our seedling sales, and each year requests a donation to the farm from her employer, even though she doesn't even work there anymore.

Our second volunteer was a new volunteer, Daisy Grandt. She came to drop-in volunteer sessions many times over the course of the season, during a year when the weather and weeds were especially fierce. She had never pulled a weed before this year, but by the end of the season she had become really, really good at it. She helped Marie-Ana so often on those Saturday mornings, coming at least a dozen times.



Marian



Daisy

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR HALL OF FAME

Cynthia Kagno 2021  
All Volunteers during Covid 2020  
Alana Antonellis 2019  
Malcolm Tolbert 2018  
Diane Genereux 2017  
Deb and Saul Blumenthal 2016  
Jim and Evan Cuthbertson 2015  
Cam Gordon 2014  
Leo Keightley 2013  
Leah Albert 2012  
Wendy Singleton 2011  
Dan Melnechuk 2010

# THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS HEROS



WAVERLEY OAKS  
NUTRITION SERVICES



To become a Business Hero, email [marla@communityfarms.org](mailto:marla@communityfarms.org)



# FARM STAND & CSA HIGHLIGHTS

ANA STRAYTON, FARM STAND & CSA DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

## WORK SHARE PROGRAM

I'd like to start first by highlighting our work shares in the barn this season: Joy, Yuki, Nick, Luna, Siria, Yan, and Sarah. They were all incredible additions to our farm team and it was a joy working with them. For those of you who are shareholders, I'm sure you enjoyed talking to them during CSA distributions about recipe ideas and happenings on the farm. The work-share program in the barn continues to be a strong way to incorporate members of the community into the farm while providing staffing for the CSA distributions. Sometimes we are lucky to have work shares come back for multiple years, like Joy who has been a workshare for over 10 years now! While it's great to have work shares come back, there are always a few new additions each year and it is always wonderful to welcome them into the WFCF community. I could not have been happier with our team in the barn this year, we had a great time each week and everyone worked so hard. Thank you all!

## FARM STORE

### PRODUCTS AND PRODUCE

Over the past three years, we have been working on expanding the products we offer in the barn as well as adding fresh produce. This year, I feel like I was really able to expand our product line and offer a more diverse product selection in the barn all from local producers across New England. I am continuing to search for gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian products to accommodate our community's needs and always working to create a diverse price range so that the store is accessible to all. A new addition to the Farm Stand this season was consistently >>

Our farmstand, full of goodies!

# FARM STAND & CSA HIGHLIGHTS

ANA STRAYTON, FARM STAND & CSA DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

WFCF mint + Rancatore's ice cream = pints of perfection, available to-go!



>> fresh produce for sale. I was able to work primarily with Langwater Farm in Easton, MA to source weekly produce for the barn but also brought in seasonal extras from other farms when possible. We've maintained our relationship with Autumn Hills Orchard to source early-summer fruit and apples through the fall and worked with them to offer a Fruit CSA to our customers again this year. We have also maintained our partnership with Rancatore's to create farm fresh ice cream flavors with produce from WFCF fields and the Learning Garden, which has been a really fun process and great addition to the store for our guests. In the barn we had orange fennel ice cream and raspberry basil sorbet, then butternut squash ice cream and cranberry sage sorbet for the holidays.

During the season we were able to coordinate with Waltham's women and senior centers during Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupon distribution days to promote the Farm Stand as a place to use their coupons and received quite a few through that initiative. I look forward to working with them more and continuing to expand those partnerships in our community. Finally, I'm excited to announce that WFCF has been selected in the most recent round of funding to become a HIP-certified vendor for the 2023 season. HIP stands for the "Healthy Incentives Program" and is connected to the SNAP program. When a customer uses their SNAP benefits at a HIP certified market when purchasing fruits and veggies they automatically receive that money back onto their SNAP card. There has been limited funding and a competitive application process in past years so I am thrilled that WFCF is now able to be part of this program. >>

Apples from Autumn Hills Orchard



# FARM STAND & CSA HIGHLIGHTS

ANA STRAYTON, FARM STAND & CSA DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

Finally, I wanted to speak briefly about accessibility to the store and what we are doing to create a place for folks outside of our immediate CSA community to shop with us. As I mentioned before, increasing the range of prices in the products that we offer is an ongoing goal for us, since buying from small producers can often be expensive. Offering fresh produce is also part of this goal. Mainly though I wanted to talk about SNAP and other coupon and stipend programs. WFCF has been a SNAP-certified vendor for several years now, SNAP is the supplemental nutrition program through the state where low-income families and individuals can receive a monthly stipend toward food. Most recently, this season, the Farm Stand has become certified to accept Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons, a coupon program through our neighbors at Mass Farmers Markets. The coupons cover the WIC (Women, Infant & children) and Senior coupons. These are coupon booklets that are distributed during the summer through women's and senior centers and are valid for fresh produce.



Our farmstand proudly accepts SNAP + Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



Fresh. Canned. Dried. Frozen.  
It's **KIP** to be healthy!

# Waltham Fields Community Farm Staff

## Year-round

**Erinn Roberts | Andy Andrews**  
Farm Managers

**Stacey Daley**  
Executive Director

**Nadine Dyskant-Miller**  
Assistant Farm Manager

**Tim Cook**  
Equipment Manager

**Jessica Herwick**  
Education Director

**Marla Rhodes**  
Volunteer & Development Coordinator

**Ana Strayton**  
Farm Stand & CSA Distribution Manager

## Seasonal ADD NAMES!

**Isabella**

**Rabar**

**Leila**

**Chelsea**

**Meg**

**Cameron**

**Abby**

**Brook**

**Marie-Ana**



