



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 2, 2012

Dear Friends of the Harvest:

Over the past six years, thanks to your support, we have produced and donated more than 100,000 pounds of fresh produce to hunger relief operations along the south coast. As we celebrate our most successful season at Sharing the Harvest, we continue to realize that none of this would be possible without your support. That's why we are reaching out to ask for your help. Your donations this season will allow us to acquire the necessary tools, supplies, and equipment to ensure that the coming season will be our most bountiful yet. Working together, we can help strike out hunger on the south coast.

In 2011, Sharing the Harvest, through the efforts of more than 1,750 volunteers, provided more than 33,300 pounds of fresh, healthy produce to the Hunger Commission of Southeastern Massachusetts, a program of the United Way of Greater New Bedford, for distribution to area food pantries. This year's crops included beets, broccoli, leeks, onions, scallions, butternut squash, cucumbers, eggplant, kale, sweet peppers, hot peppers, potatoes, summer squash, tomatoes, zucchini, peas and green beans.

In 2012, the Dartmouth YMCA and Sharing the Harvest are instituting a new program, the Harvest Crew, for 13- to 14-year-olds as an alternative to traditional camp. For a few weeks during the summer, the youth participating in the Harvest Crew will gain valuable work and life experience, not only by helping on the farm, but also through varied lessons, tutorials, and off-site visits to local farms and organizations. We're all looking forward to the program very much.

With a still-unsettled economy and continued high unemployment, access to fresh, healthy produce becomes even more difficult for individuals and families on limited incomes. Food pantries and soup kitchens across the south coast have seen continued increases in demand for their services over the past year. In response, we hope to continue to increase production to provide vital nutrition for our neighbors in need.

We know that not everyone can offer a helping hand in the field, but financial support is equally vital to the health of the harvest. As a kickoff to what we hope will be another great year in 2012, we hope you can help us help our community through Sharing the Harvest's *Volunteers Growing Healthy Communities* campaign.

We hope you will offer us your support as we continue to plan for another record-breaking season in 2012.

Sincerely,

Sharing the Harvest Farm Committee

Sharing the Harvest Community Farm Committee:

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