



# The Farm AT ST. JOE'S



We're growing a healthy community by *empowering people* through food, education and relationships.

The Farm has evolved from a discussion about food as medicine among health care professionals into a multi-faceted, regional program. The two operating farms at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and Oakland hospitals serve thousands annually. Through health system support and generous gifts, we are able to empower individuals to care for their bodies, minds and spirits.

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





## Letter from Farm Director

Hello Farm Friends,

As I reflect on 2021, my dominant feelings are gratitude and wonder. I am in awe that not only have we weathered another year of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have come out stronger than before. We now have two locations: St Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor and St. Joseph Mercy Oakland. We are thrilled to have a second location to serve our communities, colleagues, and connect with local farmers. Located in Pontiac, the Farm at St Joe's Oakland is a 1.3 acre space connected directly to the hospital. Generous gifts from local donors, community partners, and Trinity Health have helped us roll this program out in record time!

In Ann Arbor, the new Food Hub building opened, designed to be a vibrant community space to bolster not only our expanding programs, but those of the community as well. The Hub's increased capacity will allow us to grow more food and offer more programming in 2022 like Fresh Friday Markets, a partnership with Packard Health, where produce from the Farm is given out in the clinic's parking lot. Word got out that Packard had beautiful food available and now 50-60 people come weekly.

Thank you all for your deep and abiding support for our efforts. The love and support you give not only to The Farm, but to each other, is our mission in action. We are honored to grow a healthy community with you.

Yours in health,

*Amanda Sweetman*

**Amanda Sweetman**  
Regional Director of Farming  
and Healthy Lifestyles, Trinity Michigan

***Please help us continue to grow by supporting The Farm with a gift of time or money. Learn how to engage with us, see back cover for details.***





**New farm** opens on St. Joseph Mercy Oakland campus - Pontiac



**\$200,000+** to over 12 local farms through purchasing for our programs



**First Food Hub** opens on St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor Campus - Ypsilanti

## 2021 Regional Highlights



## Ann Arbor and Oakland



**800+**

flower bouquets given to community members and colleagues



**90+**

hours in New Lifestyle Medicine rotation for 8 medical residents



**570+**

Full Farm Share Memberships  
\$100,000 *donated value* to 120 *subsidized support households*



**40+**

Events, tours and presentations given to over 1,000 participants



**1,500**

hours of therapeutic horticultural activities  
\$3,400 *Value*



**10,000**

boxes of produce distributed through our Farm Share



**1,437**

volunteer hours helped us grow



**12,000+**

pounds of produce harvested on our sites





Construction is completed and new Food Hub opens on the Ann Arbor campus.

## The Farm at St. Joe's Ann Arbor

We grow food year-round on two-acres at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, Michigan. We provide an accessible, nurturing space that grows and distributes local, nutritious and sustainable food and improves the psychological and social wellbeing of all those who visit.

- **2021:** Finished construction and opened the new Food Hub, including produce wash/pack and storage space and an engagement kitchen/classroom.
- Paid our summer Agriculture and Community Health interns in an effort to create a more just and equitable health care system.
- New virtual education series garnered over 1,000 views.
- Began accepting SNAP benefits through our Farm Share program.

“ I was grateful for the paid internship...(it) helped with my finances tremendously. I was glad to be able to work with St. Joe's for an unforgettable experience for my life and career. ”

- EMILY TEH, AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY HEALTH INTERN



### Producing delicious and nutritious food

- **Over 10,000 pounds** of food grown
- **82%** of the 10k pounds grown at The Farm donated to over 5k patients and health care workers, a \$31k value
- **\$200k** in revenue generated for local farms through our collaborative food programs
- **36% (119)** Farm Share members received financial assistance
- **Over \$27k** to local farms for produce donated to 84 families in partnership with EMU Bright Futures

### Nourishing minds, bodies and spirits

- **Over 700 colleagues** engaged in Farm-to-Unit activities
- **157** clients, colleagues and patients engaged in 64 hours of horticultural therapy activities
- **Over \$3,400** value in hours of horticultural therapy donated to community partner organizations
- **Over 400** flower bouquets from Growing Compassion Garden shared in hospital by volunteers



## Educating at the intersection of health, agriculture and sustainability

- **7** student interns from 5 academic programs gave over 1,500 hours
- **9** youth attended our new in-person Nutrition Buddies Summer Camp
- **7** medical residents spent over 84 hours with us during their Lifestyle Medicine rotation

## Cultivating purposeful relationships

- **25** individual volunteers contributed over 700 hours 16 volunteers came with 3 groups
- **33** events hosted by The Farm for over 300 participants
- **3** events hosted at Farm by others
- **6** tours, presentations and outreach programs for over 100 participants
- **12** participants in Community Garden



“ I felt so much joy and love from the team members and I got directed to community resources that I need to assist me with my life’s adversities. Receiving my box of veggies every week is so exciting. Thank you for feeding me and my family. ”

- EMMETTA “BUNNY” B. JONES  
FARM SHARE ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANT

A huge *Thank You*  
to Trinity Health and  
Saint Joseph Mercy Health  
System for the generous  
support that allowed  
us to build our new  
Food Hub!

Want to use  
our classroom?

Reach out to:  
*thefarm@*  
*stjoeshealth.org*

“ Our clients from Eisenhower Center love coming out to St. Joe’s Hoop House every week since the beginning of Spring. Our clients that typically do not like to participate in traditional PT would ask if we were going out to the Hoop House every week I saw them. They feel like they are making a difference while spending time in nature and working with plants. ”

- KARENA HERDELL, PHYSICAL THERAPIST  
EISENHOWER CENTER





## The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland

When you walk out the doors of St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac, Michigan you will find yourself transported to a 1.3 acre parcel of land that has been transformed into a welcoming farm capable of growing food, educating minds of all ages, nourishing the spirit, and fostering connections between colleagues, patients, and our community.

**2021:** Our inaugural year was a productive one.

- Katelyn Smoger, Manager of Farm Programming, joins us in April and by June we harvested the first crop and hosted a paid intern
- The Farm Share (community-supported agriculture) program was launched
- Created engagement opportunities through volunteering, supported colleagues and community members with fresh produce and flowers

### Producing delicious and nutritious food

- **44** varieties of crops were produced, totaling nearly 3,000 lbs. of food which made its way into the hands of our patients and colleagues.
- **859** boxes out went out to 50 farm share members, half of whom received it at no cost thanks to our generous supporters.
- **\$12,784** revenue was generated for 9 partner farms.

### Nourishing minds, bodies and spirits

- **Over 400** bouquets were donated throughout the season in the hospital. Our cut flower garden became a gathering place for those who wanted to create a bouquet to brighten patients' and colleagues' days.



Katelyn Smoger,  
Farm Program Manager, joined  
The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland







“ I appreciate being able to share these vegetables during my education piece for patients, it turns my nutrition education into a very real experience using many more of our senses as a group. ”

- MARIE SHARP, RDN

### Educating at the intersection of health, agriculture, and sustainability

- **270** hours were worked at The Farm by University of Michigan student, Grace Work

*We believe paid internships help contribute to a more just and equitable health care and education system.*

### Cultivating purposeful relationships

- Pontiac based United Wholesale Mortgage sent over **160** individuals to volunteer with us, resulting in **650** hours of donated volunteer time.



Intern Grace Work

### The Susan Weinstein Alberts Endowed Farming Fund

Created by Dr. Ross Weinstein in memory of his late sister, who loved helping children and the natural world. This incredible gift will support our work to improve nutrition security, responsibly care for the land we tend, and provide educational moments.



## Thank You to Our Donors: The Farm at St. Joe's Ann Arbor and Oakland

### Herbert and Karla Linkner

"We are so happy to contribute to the many unique and outstanding programs of The Farm at St. Joe's. Their programs: giving students the experience of growing, tasting, and learning the benefits of healthy foods, providing the therapeutic benefits and satisfaction of growing to others and to those with handicaps, especially veterans with PTSD, and providing healthy vegetables to others and to those with food insecurities are so inspiring and needed, especially during these trying COVID times."

Herbert and  
Karla Linkner



Lawrence J. Burns,  
President & CEO  
of The Children's  
Foundation



### The Children's Foundation

"The nutritional health and wellness of children and families is an important focus of The Children's Foundation," stated Lawrence J. Burns, President & CEO of The Children's Foundation.

"We are pleased to partner with The Farm in offering free weekly shares of fresh local produce. This food, along with nutrition education, empowers families on their paths toward better health."



**“At Domino’s, we are dedicated to delivering a difference to organizations working hard to nurture the communities we are proud to serve. The hospital and The Farm’s commitments to combat food insecurity and stand with farmers mirror our own, and we believe in the work of The Farm to produce and deliver fresh local food, build on sustainable farming and gardening, and develop innovative education. The Farm’s programs, including its hands-on classes and internships in partnership with local universities, embrace the spirit of community.”**

JEANNETTE SHARP, COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM LEADER, DOMINO'S

The Farm at Oakland's intern, Grace Work (on the left), along with volunteers harvest fresh carrots on the St. Joseph Mercy Oakland campus.





## Additional Donor Thanks and Partnership Opportunities

### The Susan Weinstein Alberts Endowed Farming Fund

Retired St. Joe's Oakland emergency medicine physician and loyal donor, Dr. Ross Weinstein, recently made a gift of \$100,000 to establish The Susan Weinstein Alberts Endowed Farming Fund to honor the memory of his sister.

Dr. Weinstein shared that during her lifetime, his sister worked in facilitating the healthy development of children and loved nature. She would have been thrilled by the good work taking place at The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland.

Support like Dr. Weinstein's is helping to improve food security and access to fresh, local produce; offer outdoor and therapeutic activities; create a more healing atmosphere at the hospital; and strengthen the community.

### Gifts of all sizes support our mission to grow a healthy community

In 2021, 133 individuals, foundations, and corporations invested in The Farm with more than \$350,000 in gifts and grants, with added funding from Trinity Health of \$159,600. 100% of these funds went into programs and projects that benefited the community. Everyone can make a difference.

*Your investment in The Farm will support efforts like these:*

- **Nutrition Security programs**, like Farm Share Assistance, Produce to Patients, and Good Food Box, provide food to underserved communities.
- **Education programs** provide youth with opportunities for summer camp, field trips, cooking classes, and summer internships.
- **Agriculture projects** support farming activities such as planting garden beds, installing new crop growing spaces, and purchasing inputs like organic compost and seeds.
- **Capital projects** procure equipment and build new spaces like a permanent outdoor classroom or community garden.

There are so many ways that you can make your gift to The Farm. Many of our donors choose to give annually through the mail or online, through major gifts and multi-year pledges or providing through their estate. Recognition and naming opportunities are available.

Please contact Jana McNair, Regional Director of Major Gifts, or Melissa Sheppard, Director of Corporate and Foundation Philanthropy, to learn more about the impact your giving can make.

[Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org](mailto:Jana.McNair@stjoeshealth.org) • [Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org](mailto:Melissa.Sheppard@stjoeshealth.org)



**Thank you to the team at Ford Motor Company and their partner Imagination for inviting The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland to participate in Ford's outdoor Motor Bella showcase this year. The event took place September 23-26, 2021. And, thank you to Ford's partner Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights who donated their skills and time. They used the onboard power of one of Ford's newest trucks to build a number of planter boxes, wheelchair-accessible raised beds, and work tables for The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland. Our patients, colleagues, and community will benefit from these in-kind contributions.**



## Donors and Grantors

### ANN ARBOR

*A special thanks to the following supporters for making a commitment to The Farm at St. Joe's Ann Arbor. †*

#### \$40,000 and above

Herbert and Karla Linkner

#### \$10,000 - \$39,999

Children's Foundation  
Domino's

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

DTE Energy Foundation

#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

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DTE Energy

### OAKLAND

*A special thanks to the following supporters for making a commitment to The Farm at St. Joe's Oakland. †*

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Dr. Ross L. Weinstein

#### \$40,000 - \$99,999

Sandra Lyness, PhD

#### \$10,000 - \$39,999

Dr. Hal Learman and  
Charles A. Pokriefka, Jr.  
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The Serra Family Foundation  
Dr. Donald and Elsie\* Overy  
John Bueno

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999

United Wholesale Mortgage, LLC  
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#### \$1,000 - \$4,999

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#### In-Kind Gifts

Imagination The Americas, Inc.  
Michigan Regional Council Of  
Carpenters And Millwrights

*† Recognizing support from  
January 1 – December 31, 2021*

*\*Deceased*

## VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

For sharing hands and hearts



**The Farm at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor:** 5557 McAuley Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 • **Donate:** [giving.stjoeshealth.org/ann-arbor-farm-donation-form](https://giving.stjoeshealth.org/ann-arbor-farm-donation-form)

**The Farm at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland:** 44555 Woodward Ave., Pontiac, MI 48341 • **Donate:** [giving.stjoeshealth.org/oakland-farm-donation-form](https://giving.stjoeshealth.org/oakland-farm-donation-form)

**Come volunteer with us! Ann Arbor:** [TheFarm@stjoeshealth.org](mailto:TheFarm@stjoeshealth.org) • **Oakland:** [OaklandFarm@stjoeshealth.org](mailto:OaklandFarm@stjoeshealth.org)