



PROVIDENCE
FARM COLLECTIVE

2022

Annual Report





SUCCESS!

Dear Friends of Providence Farm Collective,

It is with great pleasure that we celebrate with you the success of Plant the Future of Farming, a joint capital campaign with our partners at the WNY Land Conservancy!

In 2022, Providence Farm Collective and the Land Conservancy raised \$2.3 million dollars to purchase 37-acres of prime farmland on Burton Road. The property will be forever protected as agricultural land, and will be the location of a barn hub that will support PFC farmers' and the organization's educational, business, and farming needs. How did we do this? With the love and support of a community! There was no contribution too small as philanthropic organizations, civic organizations like the Junior League of Buffalo, individual donors, and corporate supporters joined together to empower just and equitable access to food and farmland.

PFC also experienced growth in 2022 with new staff additions, including Community Engagement Coordinator Dao Kamara, Administrative Coordinator Maria Guzzo, and Marketing Coordinator Hamadi Mganga. Dao shared his passion for farming and fresh foods with attendees at a luncheon tour. Maria welcomed visitors to the office while managing youth employees' timesheets. Hamadi, with the Marketing Committee, updated PFC's website to highlight the organization's growth. These individuals bring unique skills and passions to support PFC's mission of cultivating farmer-led and community-rooted agriculture and food systems to actualize the rights of under-resourced peoples.

At Providence Farm Collective, we prioritize partnership and collaboration in all that we do. 2022 was an extraordinary year of working together to build a stronger Western New York. As we endeavor to create food and farm systems that are equitable, sustainable, and resilient, we are grateful to have you as friends. Thank you!

Our heartfelt gratitude,

Kristin M. Heltman-Weiss
President & Executive Director

Dao Kamara
Community Engagement Coordinator

VISION

Empowering Just and Equitable
Access to Food and Farmland

MISSION

Cultivating farmer-led and
community-rooted agriculture
and food systems to actualize
the rights of under-resourced
peoples.



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2021-2022

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Staff

Year-Round

Kristin Heltman-Weiss, Executive Director
Beth Leipler, Farm Director
Mahamud Mberwa, Farm Mentor
Isaac Frisina, Farm Facilities & Equipment Manager
Bari Zeiger, Director of Development & Administration
Hamadi Ali, Markets Manager
Maria Guzzo, Administrative Coordinator
Dao Kamara, Community Engagement Coordinator
Hamadi Mganga, Marketing Coordinator

Seasonal

Abdullah Sundi, Farm Crew
Nelson Nagbe, Farm Crew
Sharif Abdi, Chef

Core Volunteers

Gail Cristantello
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John Glenn
Pat Gurney
Bev Halligan

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Rosa Meh, Karenni Hope Garden
Beh Meh, Karenni Hope Garden
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Nelson Nagbe, Liberian Community Farm
Rachel Tarwo, Liberian Community Farm
Ali Macheremo, Somali Bantu Community Farm
Allison DeHoney, Buffalo Go Green
Saw Hla Set, Buffalo Myanmar Indigenous Christian Fellowship Plants
Helen Rojek, Buffalo Myanmar Indigenous Christian Fellowship Plants
Zelalem Gemmeda, Be Emnet Ethiopian Farmer Group

Committee Members

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Laura Hunt, Finance Committee
Tom Petrocelli, Finance Committee
Kelsi Linton, Finance Committee
Emily Karol, Finance Committee
John Glenn, Farm Committee

8 COMMUNITY FARMS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Somali Bantu Community Farm | Karenni Hope Farm |
| Buffalo Go Green | AK'iwacu Farm |
| Liberian Community Farm Project | Buffalo Myanmar Indigenous |
| Congolese Farming Project | Christian Fellowship Plants |
| | Be Emnet Ethiopian Farmer Group |

12 INCUBATOR FARMERS

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Uamani Farm | Mgambo Farm |
| Mitemo Farm | Jamame Farm |
| Mkomeni Farm | Bwedo Farm |
| Mwigwa Farm | Kwachinyika Farm |
| Buliyaga Farm | Boolo Barwaqo Farm |
| Niagara Harvest | Grow Your Own |

NEWEST PFC COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

Ethiopian Community



Program Benefits

- Increased access to fresh and culturally appropriate foods
- Income earned and/or food savings for individuals and community
- Strengthening of the community through participation
- Meaningful exercise through farm work
- Agricultural and business education
- Connecting to agricultural traditions/cultural practices



Skills Learned

- Growing crops for market
- Seeding and transplanting practices
- Crop planning
- Irrigation techniques and practices
- Mushroom cultivation on straw



COMMUNITY FARMER OF THE YEAR
KANDOLO MAKONGO
CONGOLESE FARMING PROJECT



INCUBATOR FARMER OF THE YEAR
ZAINABU SHEGO
MITEMO FARM

“PFC reminds us of home back in Burma, it brings family together, fresh veggies. I really like to go to the farm, fresh air, outside, and a beautiful view. All of us who go, it really reminds us of where we grew up - like home. All of us, we learned a lot. We are going to do better every year!”

BUFFALO MYANMAR INDIGENOUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION



28 workshops provided to farmers covering topics including crop planning, greenhouse production, soil and fertility management, weed management, pest and disease management, food safety, post-harvest, small scale production tools, marketing, financial literacy, budgeting, bookkeeping, business planning, business registration, and farm taxes.

Over 300 hours of technical assistance and mentorship provided to farmers.

When it comes to making a difference, numbers speak volumes. PFC farmers are trailblazers, continuing to drive the creation of a more just and sustainable food system.

275
Farmers Accessed Land at PFC

48
Summer Youth Employees

8,757
Pounds of Produce Purchased from Farmers for Donation to Pantries

\$18,318
Value of Produce Purchased from Farmers and Donated to Pantries

15.5
Acres of Land Farmed

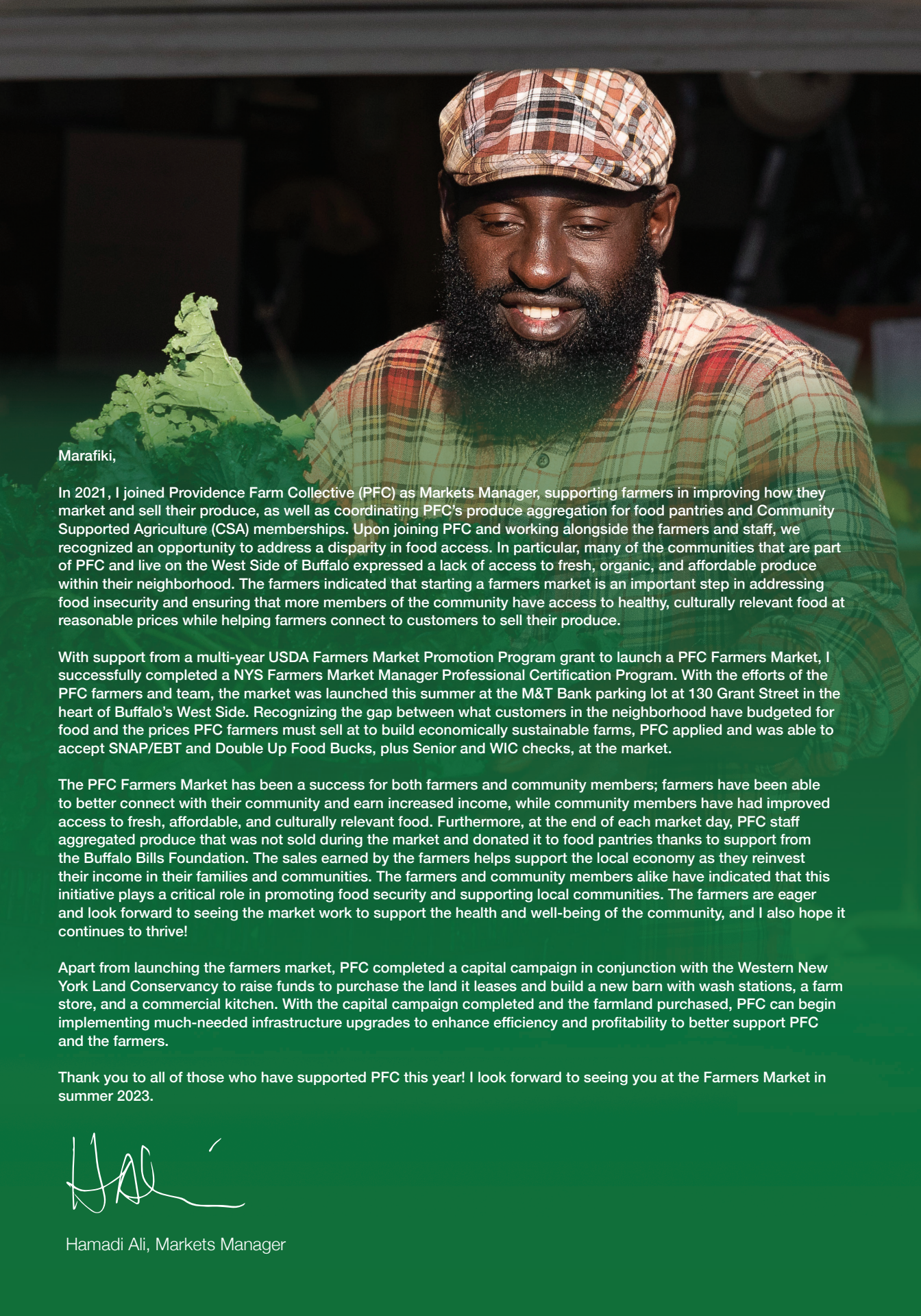
8,000
Individuals Accessed Food Grown at PFC

\$70,845
Total Produce Sales by Farmers

\$24,712
Total PFC Demonstration Plot Sales

“We served approximately 1,000 individuals a month. We’d love opportunities for any year-round produce distribution that may be planned for the future. Everyone LOVES PFC produce. Our customers are so happy to see the variety of produce available each week and are thrilled to be able to cook fresh, seasonal foods they might not be able to find elsewhere.”

CRYSTAL SELK, WEST SIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES PANTRY



Marafiki,

In 2021, I joined Providence Farm Collective (PFC) as Markets Manager, supporting farmers in improving how they market and sell their produce, as well as coordinating PFC's produce aggregation for food pantries and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) memberships. Upon joining PFC and working alongside the farmers and staff, we recognized an opportunity to address a disparity in food access. In particular, many of the communities that are part of PFC and live on the West Side of Buffalo expressed a lack of access to fresh, organic, and affordable produce within their neighborhood. The farmers indicated that starting a farmers market is an important step in addressing food insecurity and ensuring that more members of the community have access to healthy, culturally relevant food at reasonable prices while helping farmers connect to customers to sell their produce.

With support from a multi-year USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program grant to launch a PFC Farmers Market, I successfully completed a NYS Farmers Market Manager Professional Certification Program. With the efforts of the PFC farmers and team, the market was launched this summer at the M&T Bank parking lot at 130 Grant Street in the heart of Buffalo's West Side. Recognizing the gap between what customers in the neighborhood have budgeted for food and the prices PFC farmers must sell at to build economically sustainable farms, PFC applied and was able to accept SNAP/EBT and Double Up Food Bucks, plus Senior and WIC checks, at the market.

The PFC Farmers Market has been a success for both farmers and community members; farmers have been able to better connect with their community and earn increased income, while community members have had improved access to fresh, affordable, and culturally relevant food. Furthermore, at the end of each market day, PFC staff aggregated produce that was not sold during the market and donated it to food pantries thanks to support from the Buffalo Bills Foundation. The sales earned by the farmers helps support the local economy as they reinvest their income in their families and communities. The farmers and community members alike have indicated that this initiative plays a critical role in promoting food security and supporting local communities. The farmers are eager and look forward to seeing the market work to support the health and well-being of the community, and I also hope it continues to thrive!

Apart from launching the farmers market, PFC completed a capital campaign in conjunction with the Western New York Land Conservancy to raise funds to purchase the land it leases and build a new barn with wash stations, a farm store, and a commercial kitchen. With the capital campaign completed and the farmland purchased, PFC can begin implementing much-needed infrastructure upgrades to enhance efficiency and profitability to better support PFC and the farmers.

Thank you to all of those who have supported PFC this year! I look forward to seeing you at the Farmers Market in summer 2023.

Hamadi Ali, Markets Manager



PFC'S FARMERS MARKET LAUNCHES ON BUFFALO'S WEST SIDE

"I farm at PFC to increase my income and benefit my community - whatever I'm farming there I sell to my community and my community gets more fresh food!"

HAWA MCHAMED, BOOLO BAIRWAGO FARM



BY OUR COMMUNITIES



FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



On July 2nd, 2022, the farmers made a dream come true with the launch of the PFC Farmers Market at 130 Grant Street in the M&T Bank parking lot. Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from July 2nd through October 15th, the market brought fresh and affordable food to the diverse neighborhood, which is home to many refugee and immigrant communities. From African maize to Liberian bitter ball, the market offered a wide variety of culturally relevant foods that are often difficult to find. Not only did it benefit the local food system, it also helped increase income for our farmers. The market was such a success that many of our farmers have expressed a desire to continue and even expand it.

\$6,777 in sales by PFC farmers at the market were to low-income customers via Farmers Market Checks, Double Up Food Bucks and Tokens, and SNAP.



“We are happy and get to eat fresh healthy produce. We also get to exercise the body out in the field, it helps physically, mentally. It really makes us happy. PFC really helps us through the whole process, and for free! Plus, we get income out of it, too.”

ROSA MEH, KARENNI HOPE FARM

CSA

Market Stand



The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program has been a significant contributor to PFC’s financial stability. In 2022, we were proud to have 42 members, who were thrilled to have access to locally grown produce take part in our program. This program has provided a sustainable source of income for the organization, allowing us to continue our mission of cultivating farmer-led and community-rooted agriculture and food systems to actualize the rights of under-resourced peoples.

42
Members

FOOD

Pantries



Our Aggregation for Food Pantries Program had another strong year! In-demand fresh foods are reaching those who need it most. Our recipients and partners have consistently praised the program for its effectiveness and simplicity, as it operates on the principle of parity pricing to support our farmers and ensure that healthy food reaches the communities that need it most.

5
Food Pantry
Partners



“ I farm at PFC to learn how to grow and how to produce vegetables and how to help my community and learn about teamwork and building community. As a new farmer I got so much help and am very happy to farm at PFC.”

ALAM MD, NIAGARA HARVEST

INCUBATOR FARM Program



The PFC Incubator Farm Program supported farmers in successfully selling all of their crops through PFC and the Farmers Market, resulting in increased income. Dao Kamara's incubator farm 'Grow Your Own' sold eggplants to customers in 15 different states. Mo Mberwa's enterprise raised and sold 600 heirloom chickens.

\$8,000+
Incubator
Sales

COMMUNITY FARM Program



In 2022, PFC welcomed a new community to the farm: Be Emnet Ethiopian Farmer Group. We're excited to collaborate with another organization that shares our mission of supporting our local food system. Since PFC's inception in 2017, we've seen firsthand how issues of land access and food insecurity affect many different communities. We're proud to play a role in breaking down these barriers and creating a more equitable food system for all.

220+
Workshop
Hours



Youth Workshop Partners

Jewish Family Services
Stitch Buffalo
Second Generation Theatre



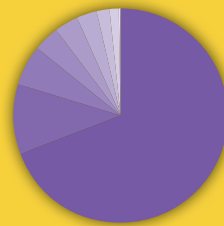
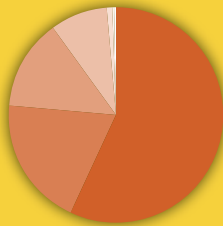
“The Summer Vibe program gave me the chance to feed my family and community, and get paid for it.. Before Summer Vibe, I always thought I had to get an office job after college. But now I realize that I can do the hands-on work that I love when I finish college. I learned I love farming. This year, I helped plant eggplant seeds in our greenhouse, transplant them at the farm, and harvest them this week. I learned that eggplants have thorns. To see the seed I planted become a full size plant is so cool! I learned the really hard and satisfying work of growing food - how late you sometimes have to work, how exhausting it is - and I learned that I like it.” **KUBAN YAO**



SUMMER

Vibe

Fostering Cultural Connection
through Farming with Youth



Operating Revenue

- Foundation and Trust Grants: \$1,088,516.56
- Government Grants: \$297,615.22
- Corporate and Business Grants: \$101,308.49
- Farm Sales: \$70,816.37
- Individual Contributions: \$45,082.96
- Presentations, Farm Tours & Events: \$4,295.64
- High Tunnel Rental & Supplies Resale: \$1,237.50
- Public Support Other: \$1,139.08

*\$654,452.50 of total revenue is from Plant the Future of Farming

Operating Expenses

- Staff: \$529,523.67
- Farm Programs, Supplies and Equipment: \$79,311.52
- Farmer Leadership Stipends and Produce Purchases: \$47,879.05
- Contract Services: \$29,373.71
- Facilities and Insurance: \$27,595.78
- Operations: \$23,370.37
- Mileage and Transportation: \$14,179.04
- Capital Purchases and Improvements: \$10,153.91
- Summer Youth Programs: \$1,319.59

*\$10,153.91 of total expenses is from Plant the Future of Farming

Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

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OF PFC

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PROVIDENCE
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