



PROVIDENCE
FARM COLLECTIVE

2025

Annual Report





Finding Joy in Community, Even in Challenging Times

Dear PFC Community:

2025 was a challenging year for Providence Farm Collective.

January began not with the promise of hope and possibility that a new year often brings, but instead it emerged with uncertainty on the local front: Would PFC be granted a certificate of occupancy to move into and use the new barn? Would we be permitted to connect to public drinking water? By the end of April these issues were resolved, thanks to the tenacity and commitment of our courageous PFC community network. From across the state and in Western New York, farmers, volunteers, donors, community leaders, and neighbors attended months of Orchard Park Town Board meetings, spoke as part of the public record, wrote letters, showed up at government offices, and made phone calls, all in support for the important work PFC does and the legacy of agriculture we are carrying on in Erie County. In May, PFC farmers were elated to launch the 2025 growing season from our beautiful new barn!

The challenges that emerged on the national front, however, proved to be far more difficult for Providence Farm Collective and nonprofits and farms across the United States. Nonprofits like PFC have historically stepped into spaces and situations to provide America with innovative solutions to some of our most intractable problems, with a goal of minimizing harm across our communities. This is the role of not-for-profit organizations in their social contract with federal, state, and municipal governments, corporate America, and philanthropy. Each of these sectors plays a unique role, with agreed upon responsibilities, that when working as intended, strengthens our social fabric.

Just as our local challenges were resolved, PFC received a grant termination letter from the USDA on April 25, immediately cutting off funds for a Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP) grant in the middle of a 3-year cycle. With the unexpected loss of a significant federal grant, PFC immediately experienced the splintering of this cross-sector commitment and the fraying of our nation's social contract.

Yes, 2025 was a challenging year for Providence Farm Collective. Yet, it was also a year filled with acts of courage and mobilization that grew from our community's rootedness. The community of care we have nurtured, coupled with our unwavering commitment to PFC's mission and values, are what sustain us and drive the farm's success: Year after year, 200+ farmers grow over 100,000 pounds of produce, feeding more than 14,000 Western New Yorkers. Dedication, commitment, and love for community are at the heart of our work. We will continue to innovate solutions to farmland and fresh food access, to find joy amid adversity, and to celebrate our shared accomplishments along the way. Through our steadfast commitment to one another, all of us at PFC are building the Western New York we want to live in. We dedicate the 2025 Annual Report to you, our beloved community, and to the power of community-rootedness!

Kristin Heltman-Weiss
Executive Director

Hamadi Ali
Deputy Director

OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

Zelalem Gemmeda
Co-President
Karen Prendergast
Co-President

Mike Szymkowiak
Treasurer
Rebecca Redwood
Secretary

Halima Muhina
Tamar Rothaus
Kristin Heltman-Weiss
Tom Petrocelli

Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah
Bijoux Bahati
Asiya Mambo

Staff

Kristin Heltman-Weiss
Executive Director
Hamadi Ali
Deputy Director
Elizabeth Leipler
Farm Director
Laura Sweat
Finance & Operations Director

Mahamud Mberwa
Farm Mentor
Murjan Issa
Facilities & Equipment Manager
Hamadi Mganga
Marketing Coordinator
Deanna Garwol
Community Impact Coordinator

Elizabeth Thida Htway
Community Engagement Coordinator
Heather Martin
Farm Crew Lead
Abdullahi Sundi
Farm Crew
Sharif Abdi
Chef

Ohnmar Kyaw
Kitchen Assistant
Loc Tran
Markets Manager
Somo Somo
Markets Assistant

Committee Members

Farmer Advisory
Elizabeth Thida Htway
Faz Niyigaba
Rosa Meh
Ali Macheremo
Saidi Lugendo
Asiya Mambo
Kandolo Makongo
Allison DeHonney
Zelalem Gemmeda
Halima Muhina

Benneta Togba
Teyisir Abajobir
Sawhla Set
Helen Rojek

Organizational Governance
Kristin Heltman-Weiss
Hamadi Ali
Elizabeth Thida Htway
Tamar Rothaus

Karen Prendergast
Emmanuel Frimpong
Boamah
Ndanga Ramazani
Susan Czornyj

Farm
Elizabeth Leipler
Mahamud Mberwa
Murjan Issa
Hamadi Ali

Loc Tran
John Glenn
Matt Agle
Tim Bartlett

Marketing & Community Engagement
Hamadi Mganga
Cody Switzer
Deanna Garwol
Rebecca Redwood

Paul Maurer
Maria Testa

Finance
Laura Sweat
Mike Szymkowiak
Karen Prendergast
Tom Petrocelli
Bijoux Bahati
Hamadi Ali
Kristin Heltman-Weiss



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.





OUR FARMERS



COMMUNITY FARM OF THE YEAR
B.M.I.C.F. Plants



INCUBATOR FARMERS OF THE YEAR
Nurta Abdullahi & Chantal Ingabire

8 COMMUNITY FARMS

- Somali Bantu Community Farm
- Liberian Community Farm Project
- Ak'iwacu Farm
- Congolese Farming Project
- Karenni Hope Farm
- Buffalo Go Green
- BMICF Plants
- Ethiopian Community

20 INCUBATOR FARMS

- Kwachinyika Farm
- Bwedo Farm
- Jamame Farm
- Mgambo Farm
- Uamani Farm
- Mitemo Farm
- Bulyaga Farm
- Niagara Harvest
- Mkomeni Farm
- Kandolo Family Farm
- Kilozo Farm
- Boaz Farm
- Adam's Farm
- TJ Farm
- Maendeleo Farm
- Thu's Farm
- Abeka Family Farm
- Eva's Farm
- Popular Farm
- Ferme Asiya

"I've been farming here with the community for over five years now. The impact is very positive and it's BIG! My family, we are farming. We are getting fresh food. The community is getting bigger and more people are interested. So we hope to access more (land) so we can include a lot more farmers."

-Faz Niyigaba, Ak'iwacu Farm

“PFC gives me the opportunity to learn about farming and get started. It’s a good program for a lot of people who don’t have land and want to get farming experience. If I didn’t get into this program, I wouldn’t be comfortable getting my farm started... (now), I am looking for land and working with PFC, then I will launch onto land of my own.”

-Thu Dinh, Incubator Farmer



PFC farmers collectively earned \$185,586 for selling their produce, feeding over 17,798 Western New Yorkers.



“I learned a lot! A lot! I know the second year will be better than the first year. This year was my first year so it was really about gaining experience. I have worked on building my markets and connections and have opportunities even in Chicago and Ohio for selling my crops next year.”

-Ndanga Ramazani, Incubator Farmer



STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

BUFFALO BILLS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY MVP AWARD



The Providence Farm Collective community was honored with the Community Honors Foundation MVP Award by the Buffalo Bills Foundation and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York Foundation. We are so grateful for this recognition of our farmer-led and community-rooted work to provide food with dignity across our region. Together we are building the Western New York we want to live in — a community of care where Everybody Eats!

THE NEW YORK FARM BUREAU STATE ANNUAL MEETING



On December 4, at the New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, Executive Director Kristin Heltman-Weiss and Deputy Director Hamadi Ali witnessed the adoption of two policy planks proposed by PFC to expand the legal definition of “farm operation.” These planks, now in the 2026 NYFB Policy Book, explicitly include nonprofit farms, urban agriculture, hydroponic and aquaponic systems, and cooperative ownership models such as worker co-ops, nonprofit-held land with long-term farmer leases, and multi-member farming partnerships.

PFC COMMUNITY AT TOWN BOARD MEETINGS



PFC AT BORDERLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL



PARTNERING WITH PANTRIES DURING SNAP FUNDING PAUSE



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY AT WEST SIDE CHOPS



Providence Farm Collective's ability to protect farmland here in OP is essential.

Food is fuel and when locally sourced food is available, it is altogether better food.

Orchard Park's very name came from all the orchards growing in our region and the rolling hills and farmland surrounding them. It is encouraging to see the land on Burton and Powers Road being brought back to life with veggies, flowers, and honey. Farmers who are able to feed their families, neighbors, and communities around them are critical to sustaining our future.

I support PFC because I believe in their mission to support under-resourced farmers who need access to the ways and means to feed their families and earn a living doing what they know and from what I've witnessed — what they love! If you visit the Farm Store you will see the small incubation farmers working with such focused diligence & JOY!

What if PFC no longer existed? I think it would be a tragic loss.

The wider community benefits so much from the quiet, back breaking and necessary labor which is the work of farming. PFC does that work on the daily, tucked away on a corner of OP that few people even know is there. I'm lucky enough to live around the corner and drive by frequently to witness their work. I often drive by during the summer just to see the kaleidoscope of colors of people, produce, and flowers and to smell the earthy smell of growth leading to prosperity. The hum of the bees that make the delicious honey and the laughter of the people moving about the fields and farm store warms my heart. The focus and energy of the farmers and volunteers who care so passionately about the land and feeding people is inspiring.

The many food pantries and their clients who are recipients of PFC's products are so grateful for the delicious, nutritious, and locally sourced food they deliver direct to their doors.

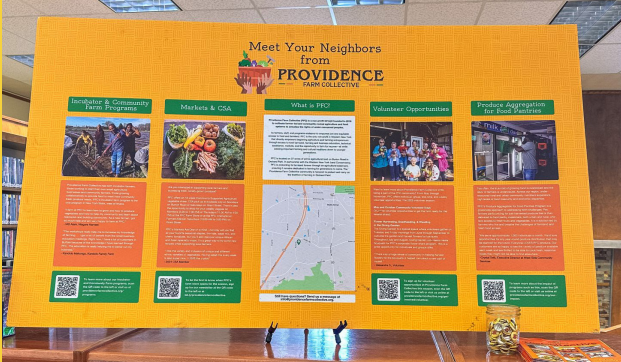
PFC uses the land in creative and sustainable ways that gives me a glimmer of what true community working together for the sustainable greater good for everyone actually looks like.

PFC gives me hope for a better future for humankind.

Linda Babcock
PFC Supporter



BUILDING COMMUNITY NETWORKS



For PFC farmers, navigating the complex world of agriculture would be nearly impossible without strong partners. Language barriers, unfamiliar systems, and different farming practices all create challenges — yet through meaningful partnerships, Providence Farm Collective and its farmers have been able to purchase 37 acres, build a state-of-the-art barn, and establish programs for long-term success.



As an organization, we also have a responsibility to help the wider Western New York community reflect on the kind of region we want to build together. When people understand what PFC farmers contribute — and why their work matters — they begin to see that supporting them isn't charity; it's an investment in a healthier, more equitable future for all of us. Knowing where our food comes from deepens connection to the land and to the people who feed us. Farmers deserve to be paid fairly, and every person deserves access to fresh, healthy food.

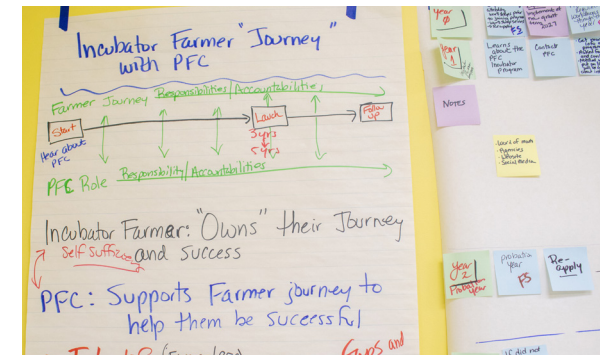
Partnering with PFC means working for a vision of our Western New York food landscape that is rooted in dignity, opportunity, and shared abundance. Because at the end of the day, Everybody Eats.

At PFC, we're all about creating opportunities for our farmers to have the knowledge, networks, and access to resources needed to launch thriving agricultural businesses. At the same time, we also know that accessing farmland is a major hurdle for all new-entry farm entrepreneurs. That's why our dedicated team – Beth, Mo, Kristin, and Hamadi – collaborated with Shari Rife to create a strategic plan for farmland access.

Working with farmers, partner organizations, and other stakeholders, the team generated innovative pathways to access farmland in our region.



LAND ACCESS STRATEGIC PLANNING



"The farm that I have in the city makes me happy! I feel free at all hours to work when it's most convenient for me. I can irrigate whenever, and it's close enough that my kids can walk over and work with me. I'm trying to build a fence to keep pests and critters out, and I'm hoping to get plastic for a high tunnel to extend my growing season."

-Kandolo Makongo, Incubator Farm Graduate



GROWING OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

A Special Thanks to Our Donors

Anonymous
Jim Abramson
Emily Altschul
Christine Ambrosone
Deborah Andrasco
Linda Babcock
Richard Baer
Bijoux Bahati
Sarah Baird
Sheila Balke
Danielle Balling
Tim Bartlett
Diane Bassanello
Melissa Garman Baumgart
Bartholomew Bella Jr.
Ellen Beltz
Steph Benang
Robe & Susan Besancenev
Hugh Best
Ann Bischof
Mary Bisson
Michele Bjella
Joshua Bond
James Bonito
Kathleen Boone
Donna O. Border
Brooke Bottoni
Paula Branam
Bruce Bronnenkant
Nellie Brown
Janet E. Brunner
Chloe Cabrera
Jerry Callaghan
Mary Cammarano
Barbara Carr
Dan & Kathy Castle
David & Lorrie Castle
Chris Cavarello
Timothy Chen
Lyn Chimera
Amy Choboy
Nancy Cimbale
Martha & Jim Cipriani
James Clark
Barbara Clayton
Janet Coletti
Elena Colman
Anne Constantino
Abigail Cooke
Sarah Daviau
Tonya Davis
Warren Davis
Maryann Didas
Joe DiPasquale & Tanya Zabinski
Jonathan Doerr
Joseph O' Donnell
Andrew & Teresa Dorn
Shelly Drake
Mark & Maria Ebersole
Mary & Edmund Egan
Suzanne English
Marie Evans
Judith Evoy
The Deck Vukelic Family
Patricia Farrell
Wendy Fechter
Marissa Felser-Gilbert
Theodore & Deborah First
Margaret FitzGibbon
Peg Fletcher
Anne Z. Floyd
Catherine Schrauth Forcucci
Geoff Franks
Ron Gaglione
Greg Garten & Eileen
Watson
Niki Gernold
Joanne Giglia-May
Jessica Gilbert-Overland
Katherine Gillette-Cockerill
PJ & Paula Glauber
Kathleen Gleason
James Glogowski
Caroline Goff
Jeff Good
Gail Goodman
James Granville
Adamaah Grayse
Kimberly Greenfield
Eileen F. Grimaldi
Barbara Gunderson

Maria Halperin
Lisa Hansen
Martha H. Haveron
Linda Hedley
Donna Heine
Katrina Heinen
Robert & Norma Henderson
Thomas & Kathy Herrmann
Dru Hites
Amy Holt
Laura Houghtaling
Carl Huckins
Ronald Huefner
Jean & John Hughes
Alison Hyde
Don & Cindi Ingalls
Ryan Inge
Rachael Ireland
Gwen Baggs Ito
John Jablonski
Judy Jackson
Karin Johnson
Linda Johnson
Diane Almeter Jones
Katherine Jordan
Dillon Joseph
Linda & Kenneth Kahn
Grace Karambizi
Barbara Karrer
Brittany Kaszuba
Arlene Kaukus
Kevin & L. Adair Kearney
Kelly Kerl
Bryce Kershner
Gina & Robert Klick
Bethany Kloc
Deborah Kocieniewski
Judith Kohlhas
Erin & Louie Kopf
Sarah Koritz
Veronica Kraus
Darlene Krawczyk
Charles Kristich
Mike & Andrea Kuettel
Annette Kurzdorfer &
Elizabeth Casciani

Patricia J. LaFalce
Kimberly Learn
Jack & Mary Lou Lemkuil
Maria Leon
Micheline Lepine
Terry Lerch & Polly Pritchard
Dawn Lewis
Ann Lieberman
Lorna Lippes
Michele Lipuma
Laura Loehr
Doug & Kathy Lum
Jeffrey Mahon
Jeff & Mia Markello
Jennifer Marthia
Brad Mazon
McAllister Household
Judith McClelland
Mary McCutcheon
Scott & Ethel McFarland
Jean McKeown
Martin McPherson
Lynette Mende
Lisa Metzger
Sarah Metzger
Susan Meyer
Hamadi Mganga
Amanda Mikels
Phillip A. Miller & Faith Koch
Kathleen Miller
Carol Milliron
Denise Mills
Elaine & Bryan Mitchell
Todd Mitchell
Christopher Montgomery
Jeanne Moog
Kathleen A. O'Connor
Mullen
Elizabeth Murphy
Matthew Nagowski
Ellen Neumaier
Gary & Barbara Neureuter
Kristin O'Connor
Barbara & Wally Ochterski
Keith & Kathleen Pace
Elizabeth Parke

James Parker
Joan Parks
Michelle Parrish
Kathleen Patterson
Robert Pedersen
Laura Penberth
Karen Penfold
Alan Pergament
Phyllis Wendt Pierce
Catherine Pilarz
Joe Pitzonka
Karen Plowe
Agnes Plunkett
John & Betty Preble
Karen Prendergast
Cynthia Pristach
Gail Proctor
Rebecca Redwood
Elaine Reichmuth
Thomas J. Reigstad
Michelle Roberts
John & Helen Rojek
Pamela Rossotto
Jennifer M. Ruh MD
Carol Sabatino
Carol & David Schuster
Kitty Scott
Crystal Selk
Kyle Semmel
Leonardo Sette-Camara
Margaret Shafer
David & Elizabeth Simons
Susan Siwlec
Emma Smalley
Scott Smith
Nancy Solon
Virginia Spaeth
Michael Stark
Anne Staver
Thomasina Stenhouse
Judith Stenroos
Carol Lynn Stevens
Lily Stewart
Stephen Still
Amy Stoll
Francine Giumento &

Theodore P. Swiatek
Cody & Laura Switzer
Claire Szymkowiak
Charlotte Tay Tahk
Steve & Sarah Tasker
Maria Testa
Robert L. Thomas
Suzanne Thomas
Mary Thompson
Paige Thompson
Michael V. Toner
Thomas Torrisi
Jenine Trzewieczynski
Kristina Twentyfive
Jay Van Marter
Barbara Van Wicklin
Sandra Voss
Elizabeth Waddell
Heidi Walling
Ruth Walsh
Kerry Waring
Eileen Watson
Ann Wegrzyn
Kristin Heltman-Weiss &
Paul Weiss
Ellen Weissman
Dorothy Weitz
Mary Whitcomb
Lisa Wiles
Amanda Wilson
Alan & Carol Lynn Winship
Karen Wood
Nina Wright
Henry Wylegala
James & Kathleen York
Brenda Young
Freda Zecher-Tropp
Elizabeth Zeiner
Sally Zelasko
Katie Zilberman

IN MEMORY OF JUDY JACKSON

It was in the summer of 2021 that the joy-filled, faith-filled, love-filled, energetic, and brilliant Judy Jackson attended a tour of Providence Farm Collective with a group of her neighbors from Fox Run, where she lived. From the moment she arrived, she was all in: She understood what we were trying to do at PFC, why we needed to do it, and most remarkable of all, she committed to joining the work – and work she did. After the tour that summer, Judy became PFC's founding Flower Gal. The Flower Gals are a dedicated group of women across generations who come together to tend PFC's Giving Garden.

Every year, Judy brought people to PFC, and she also brought the farm to Fox Run. She selflessly gave of her time, resources, and energy. Judy was an integral member of our Providence Farm Collective community and losing her has hit us hard. It is in the spirit of all who loved her that we remember the light-giving life of Judy Jackson.

Anonymous
Donna O. Border
Paula Branam
Alice Bucheit
Patricia J. Gurney
Marian R. Halperin
George Herbert
Karen Kellogg
Mr. & Mrs. Dan C. Jackson
Gary & Barbara Neureuter
Kathleen M. & Gerald E. Patterson
John & Betty Preble
Ruth Shoemaker
Nancy Solon
Marie Sorrentino
Anne Staver
Karen Washburn
Norma Weaver

Grantors, Foundations & Partner Organizations

Anonymous
 Alice L. Say Family Foundation
 American Farmland Trust
 Bartlo Hettler Weiss & Tripi Law: Paul D. Weiss
 Borderland Festival 2025
 Buffalo Bills Foundation
 Buffalo Immigrant Leadership Team
 Buffalo Sunrise Rotary Club
 Carner Family Trust
 Charities Aid Foundation directed by Key Bank
 Cliff Family Foundation
 Cohen & Company Community Foundation

Conor J. Casey Foundation
 Daniel C. Jackson Charitable Fund
 David Rivera: City of Buffalo
 Dedrick Family Foundation
 EarthJustice
 East Hill Foundation
 Erie County Department of Social Services
 Farmers Justice Center
 FarmSTAND
 Genesee Land Trust
 Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY Foundation
 James H. Cummings Foundation

Jewish Family Services
 Josephine Goodyear Foundation
 Junior League of Buffalo
 Ken & Amy Shuman Fund via CFGB
 KeyBank Foundation
 LaFalce Foundation via CFGB
 League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Inc.
 M&T Charitable Foundation
 Northeast SARE
 NRCS EQUIP
 NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
 Paul & Helen Ellis Charitable Trust

Providence Fund
 Rich Family Foundation
 Second Generation Theatre
 Spread Compassion Foundation
 Stronger Together East Aurora
 USDA NIFA
 United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
 Vanguard Charitable
 Wegmans
 Western New York Foundation
 Zausmer-Guitterez Philanthropic Fund
 Zonta Club

Faith-Based Partners

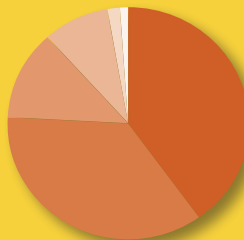
Agape United Methodist Church
 United Women in Faith
 Churches in Action
 Niagara Frontier United Methodist Women
 Orchard Park Presbyterian Women
 Orchard Park Quaker Friends

Orchard Park United Methodist Women
 Presbyterian Women - First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora
 St. Gregory the Great Ladies of Charity
 St. James UCC
 SS Peter & Paul Church

United Methodist Women
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
 United Women in Faith - Churchill Memorial United Methodist Church

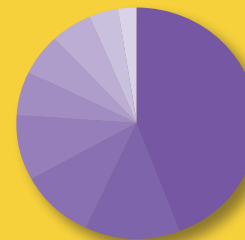


Operating Revenue



- Foundation Grants \$841,858
- Government Grants \$751,113
- Individual Contributions \$261,546
- Farm Sales, Tours & Events \$186,888
- Earned Interest & Other Revenue \$33,910
- Corporate Contributions \$22,500

Operating Expense



- Program Staff \$728,436
- Other Program Expense \$211,953
- Admin Staff \$164,295
- Operating Expense \$150,734
- Capital Expense \$102,572
- Earned Revenue Staff \$94,339
- Fundraising Staff \$88,864
- Other Earned Revenue Expense \$66,713
- Other Fundraising Costs \$38,458

“The foundation of every PFC accomplishment is a commitment to partnership and collaboration within our greater community. All of us at PFC are truly grateful for the support we have received from foundations, donors, businesses and our Western New Yorker neighbors. As PFC changemakers continue cultivating farmer-led and community-rooted agriculture and food systems, we do so for the purpose of empowering just and equitable access to food and farmland.”

-Elizabeth Liepler, Farm Director & Kristin Heltman-Weiss, Executive Director

PROVIDENCE FARM COLLECTIVE
5701 BURTON ROAD
ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127



PROVIDENCE
— FARM COLLECTIVE —

For more information, visit providencefarmcollective.org
Email: info@providencefarmcollective.org