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December 2023 Newsletter

Notes From the Field

Winter is here! Our fields, once teeming with life and activity, now lie still. With the onset of cold weather we have an opportunity to embrace the quiet of the season. This is our chance to pause and take a breath before the planning for the new season starts.

The Needham Community Farm has had a successful year. We opened our Community Garden Beds, were the recipient of a grant from the Healy-Driscoll Administration to purchase a new electric van, and received three awards. The most notable of the awards we received was the Impact Award from the Charles River Chamber of Commerce. All of this was accomplished on top of our yearly operations which include: donating produce, hosting hundreds of volunteers of all ages, and educating our community about sustainable growing practices.

Running a small nonprofit farm is a team effort. We could not have accomplished our work without the dedication and passion from our farm staff Allie Comet and Ceilidh Peden-Spear, our Development Director; Courtney Sodano and many volunteers. Our Board of Directors continue to provide strategic guidance and hands-on involvement with projects and programs.

I anticipate a bright and exciting 2024 growing



It's Annual Appeal Time: Support NCF into 2024!

It has been a year of growth for Needham Community Farm. We welcomed hundreds of volunteers to the Farm, grew nearly 10,000 pounds of vegetables for our CSA shareholders and the Food Donation program, and were happily were the recipient of a few new grants and sponsors.

There are many challenges ahead for our Farm and community. From increasing food insecurity, to rising supply costs, to crop damage from climate change, we are vulnerable at a time when support is needed most.

Your donation will help us continue growing local food for hunger relief, in addition to providing educational programming to youth and families and practicing sustainable

season. We are on-boarding new Farm employees, refreshing our crop plan, ordering supplies and preparing curriculum for educational programming. We have also started the process of developing our 3-5 year strategic plan.

As you consider organizations for your end of the year giving, please prioritize the Needham Community Farm! We are a small - but mighty! - nonprofit, and we truly rely on the generosity of our friends and supporters to continue to operate. You can make a donation to our 2023 Annual Appeal campaign [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support of our Farm.

With gratitude,

Susan Shaver
NCF Board President
sshaver@needhamfarm.org



NCF Special Volunteer Opportunity

Starting as soon as the snow falls we will need volunteers on stand by to help us remove snow near and on top of our high tunnel. This is a great volunteer opportunity for an adult or a responsible high school student looking to earn community service hours. If you are interested, please email info@needhamfarm.org and put "High Tunnel Shoveling" in the subject line.



farming methods to ensure the health of this land. We are grateful for your support - of any amount - today!

Donate Now

Registration for a 2024 Community Garden Bed: Coming Soon!



After a successful first season, we will be opening 2024 Community Garden Bed registration in January 2024!

Registration includes:

- Season lease of a raised garden bed. All beds are 4' x 12'. 135 beds have a height of 22" and 15 beds have a height of 30" to accommodate those with accessibility issues.
- Use of supplies, including hose, tools, and wheel barrow.
- All beds come complete with compost/soil from Black Earth Compost.
- Unlimited access to Community Bed area, including picnic tables.

Stay tuned for registration opening day soon!

Community Events



NCF is thrilled to announce that we are the recipient of a \$9,0000 grant on behalf of Whole Foods Whole Cities Foundation! The Whole Cities Foundation partners with communities to increase access to healthy foods and nutrition education.

This grant will be utilized to strengthen our Farm, including supplies, growing space, and more. Thank you Whole Cities for supporting NCF!



December Farm view



New Year Yoga Nidra with Crystal Bowls

Bring in the New Year and experience the profound effects of a guided Yoga Nidra session + Reiki energy during December's Full Cold Moon!

Date + Time: Saturday December 30, 4:30-6:30pm

Location: Blue Lotus Healing Arts

More details [here](#).

Donations always accepted!

Donations can be made by clicking on the button below, by visiting our website at needhamfarm.org or by sending a check made payable to the Needham Community Farm and mail to P.O. Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492.

Donate Now!

Thank You to Our 2023 Food Donation Program Sponsors





Needham Community Farm



Needham Community Farm | PO Box 920877, Needham, MA 02492

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