



Harvest of Hope community gardens hosted 27 families in the Hart Street and Harmar gardens during the 2020 season.

Gardeners chose from a variety of in-ground and raised beds, large and small, according to their abilities – and ambitions!

Despite the challenges of late frosts and Covid, hard work was rewarded with bounty – tomatoes, green beans, squash, cabbage, spinach and more.

Extra produce was shared with friends and neighbors, many of whom are not able to garden themselves or may not be able to afford fresh, quality produce. Both gardens also donated produce to local food pantries and a ‘free produce’ stand delighted neighbors of the Hart Street garden.

Thanks to site managers: Dee Fouss, Teresa Efaw, Marsha Ward, and all of our gardeners for keeping the garden sites operating and in good repair. Special thanks to Thomson’s Landscapes and Huddleston Enterprises for donating soil and water to help make our gardens flourish!



Jeff Waite and Julie McCauley accept food basket donations for the Gospel Mission Food Pantry.



WASHINGTON COUNTY

Harvest of Hope

Fall/Winter 2020 Newsletter

**Glean.
Grow.
Give.**

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A native of Belpre, Ohio, Rick Hastings has traveled 27 times and lived in ten different states after leaving the area at age ten. His father was in construction, so the family traveled all over the USA. Rick attended five different grade schools and three different high schools. In 1972, as a junior in high school, he was a part of the historic school desegregation movement in Florence, South Carolina.

Rick and his wife Andrea have been married 20 years and have two sons and six grandchildren. He has been pastor of both the Barlow Presbyterian Church and Pioneer Presbyterian Church for the past 11 years, having trained at Ashland Seminary in Ohio, and at the Vision International Seminary in California.

When invited by board member Mark Nutter, Rick joined the Harvest of Hope Board of Directors in 2020. To Rick, “It’s a wonderful way to encourage others without just enabling them. I love the idea of rescuing food and helping food pantries more than just giving them money. It’s empowering for both the pantries and the volunteers to know food is going directly to hungry families.”

Rick enjoys volunteering for HOH because, “Harvest of Hope has raised the level of capacity in Washington County to help those who are food insecure. We are always looking for ways to find more food resources and increase the volume of our rescue and delivery activities to feed more and more people.”

Looking to the future, Rick believes that in five to ten years Harvest of Hope will be “more essential than we are today and more efficient.” He also sees “increased capacity and increased impact” as the level of food insecurity in Washington County historically continues to grow.

His favorite memory of volunteering on the delivery van is “meeting the folks at the Gospel Mission. Their level of appreciation for what we do and what we are providing is amazing.”

So, what does Rick say to anyone who may be thinking of volunteering with Harvest of Hope? “Enjoy it!”

CHALLENGING TIMES – INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

COVID 19 has been the most devastating worldwide pandemic of recent memory. It has changed lives, altered daily activities, and created a level of food, employment, and emotional health concerns not seen in over a century.

The impact has been felt by more than those living through the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic, the 1957-1958 H2N2 pandemic, the 1968 H3N2 virus pandemic, and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. Food shortages are typically one of the first signs of deprivation among those who have the least resources to stay healthy with nutritious, accessible, cost effective food.

We are grateful to all the foundations, agencies, food donors, orchards, farm markets, groceries, and individuals who have made it possible for us these past seven months to increase our food supply, keep our van on the road, and equitably distribute nutritious food throughout the county.

Our unusual mid-summer appeal for funding was heartwarming in its generosity. It made it possible for us to continue to recover and distribute food to our hungry neighbors, to keep our van on the road, and to support partnerships with other community organizations and foundations eager to feed families in outlying areas of the county over the summer months, including children's feeding programs.



The Marietta Community Foundation staff stepped up immediately to help out when it wasn't safe for some of our regular volunteers. Here are Amy Arnold and Mason Beuhring from MCF out making deliveries.

- Added three additional rescue destinations to the van run to rescue food from new donor resources.
- Received a \$5,000 grant from the Sisters Health Foundation for about 4,000 pounds of chicken breast, or more than 100 pounds for each food pantry.
- Received a \$5,000 grant from the Marietta Welfare League and purchased 1,600 pounds of ground beef, or 80 pounds to each food pantry.
- Gained several new volunteers who took the places of those who were at high risk for COVID infection.
- Made an unusual, and rewarding, special appeal for funding to keep our van running through the end of the year.

We are volunteers, supporting those who are unable to feed their families fresh, nutritious food by rescuing that food before it becomes a part of a landfill. No one in this country should go to bed hungry. We can't do it without our generous food donors and the community.

Harvest of Hope found several ways to meet the challenge:

- Added extra shifts to the van runs to support the efforts of the Marietta Community Foundation and Peoples Bank's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to supplement area food pantries inventory.
- Accepted an anonymous gift of \$2,000 to purchase 2,500 dozen eggs for food pantries.
- Made additional trips to Broughton's Dairy to rescue more milk, yogurt, and cottage cheese for food pantries.



Cyndi Grammer and her daughter, Sofia, stepped up to volunteer during the pandemic. Here they are delivering over 1,000 pounds of food to several Washington County food pantries.



Nathan Lord and Larry Hiser volunteered on our delivery routes when several of our regular volunteers were unable to go out due to the pandemic.



Mason Beuhring from MCF partnered with HOH volunteer Joe Baker, to deliver several hundred pounds of food to Washington County pantries.

Washington County Harvest of Hope is a faith-based organization founded in 2005 as a mission of Marietta's Christ United Methodist Church to help create a community in which no food is wasted and no one goes hungry.



WCHOH is an Ohio not-for-profit organization qualified as tax-exempt under IRS Code Section 501(c) (3). Gifts to Harvest of Hope are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Harvest of Hope is a United Way Agency

