

# HEALTHY HARVEST PROGRAM

## SUMMARY OF 2015 GROWING SEASON ACTIVITIES

2015 was the inaugural season for the Healthy Harvest Program; a partnership between Food Rescue, local Rotary Clubs and area farmers to provide locally produced, healthy food to our neighbors in need. Through Healthy Harvest, a team of volunteers, lead by local Rotarians, visited area farms and gathered fresh fruits and vegetables that would have otherwise gone to waste, and Food Rescue transported the donations from the farms to food pantries in the five county Grand Traverse area.

The first of 13 farm/grower visits took place on August 25 and the last on November 3, with seven donors participating in the program. In total, 12,364 pounds of fresh produce was harvested. The following is a summary of the donations to the program:

<u>FARMER/GROWER</u>	<u>CROP(S)</u>	<u>POUNDS DONATED</u>
Ted Pahl farm (Buckley)	Green Beans	1460 pounds
George & Clara McManus farm (Traverse City)	Cabbage, Kale Squash, Carrots	3056 pounds
Grow Benzie (Benzonia)	Potatoes, Squash	101 pounds
Ryan Noonan farm (Maple City)	Potatoes	2565 pounds
Doug Hohnke farm (Traverse City)	Potatoes	1038 pounds
The Ugly Tomato Farm Market Carl Johnston (Glen Arbor)	Apples	270 pounds
Mike Witkop/Jacob's Corn Maze (Traverse City)	Apples	3874 pounds

At the end of the harvest season, 61 volunteers were registered to participate in the program. Of the 61 registered volunteers, 48 were associated with 7 of the 10 Rotary Clubs in the Grand Traverse area (Bellaire, Benzie Sunrise, Frankfort, Mancelona, Suttons Bay – Leelanau, Traverse Bay Sunrise and Traverse Bay Twilight), 6 were associated with Grow Benzie, 1 was associated with Food Rescue and 1 was associated with Edible Trails. Five volunteers were not affiliated with any particular group.

Of the 61 registered volunteers, 24 participated in the program, which included volunteers from 5 Rotary Clubs (Benzie Sunrise, Frankfort, Suttons Bay-Leelanau, Traverse Bay Sunrise and Traverse Bay Twilight), Grow Benzie, Food Rescue, and Edible Trails. From late August through mid-November, the 24 volunteers contributed 267 hours to Healthy Harvest, with roughly 1/3 of the hours attributed to time spent administrating the program. Hours included travel time to and from harvest locations.

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