

# Sola Gratia Farm

*A ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church*

## 2018 Annual Report

### Board of Directors

Pastor Robert Rasmus, President  
Cindy Shepherd, Vice-President  
Tod Satterthwaite,  
Treasurer and Farm Coordinator  
Dorothy Gable, Secretary

William Munro  
Beth Satterthwaite  
Alan Tammen  
Jake Tammen  
Gary Volkening



### Staff

Traci Barkley, Director  
Hunter DiFonso, Farm Manager      John Williams, Assistant Farm Manager

### Farmhands include:

Jessica Henrichs	Henoc Bandibanga-Tshamala	Makenzie Thompson	Laura Lopez
Nelly Musafiri	Susan Evans	Jelita Pertiwi	Celeste Cooke
Eric Gundersen	Josephine Tritsch	Mercedes Heacock	Jonathan Kamala
Lorraine Stamberger		Juliana Vidal	Emminance Tshibanda



### Mission Statement

*Sola Gratia Farm is a community-based farm dedicated to producing locally-grown, high-quality, natural produce. Responding to the Gospel, the farm is committed to helping those who lack adequate food resources by donating ten percent of its produce to support regional hunger programs. The farm promotes healthy lifestyles and community building through education, service and outreach programs.*

### Volunteers:

Volunteers are truly the cornerstone of our operation and a great way to include many in our mission. Special thanks to the following core volunteers and school/service organizations that made this year a success!

Nicole Anderson-Cobb	Beth Satterthwaite	Common Ground	Parkland Environmental
Cathy Burge	Mark Satterthwaite	Food Co-op	Biology students
Patty Cetin	Tod Satterthwaite	CU Sunrise Rotary Club	Rosecrance
Diane Durbin	Cindy Strehlow	First Mennonite Church	UIUC Urban Agriculture
Karen Gottlieb	Dave Tjaden	Illini Hillel/Cohen Center	students
Gay Holman	Gary Volkening	for Jewish Life	UIUC I-Help Students
Carol Holterman	Matt Wallig	Interfaith in Action	UIUC Diversity and Social
Karl Koenke	John Warriner	Muslim Student	Justice Education
Oleta Miller	Linda Williams	Association	UIUC Office of Volunteer
Gayla Pllum	Beta Sigma Psi	Nabor House	Programs

### Financial supporters (grantors and major donors):

#### Grantors:

Illinois Department of Agriculture,  
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program  
Lumpkin Family Foundation  
City of Urbana and Cunningham Township Consolidated  
Social Services Program  
Community Foundation of East Central Illinois  
Common Ground Food Co-op Round-Up Program  
Central and Southern Illinois Synod  
Orange Krush Foundation  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Social Ministry Committee

#### Major Donors, >\$500

John and Susan Coppess  
Charles and Rebecca Hawley  
Jack Paxton  
Heather Pierce  
Julian Jones and Aylon Schulte  
Jonathan and Kathy Sweedler  
First Presbyterian Church  
The Chapel of St. John the Divine  
anonymous

## Director's Note:

We knew going in to 2018 that we were taking on some big changes but now looking back, I'm amazed at just how much the farm transformed in one year's time.

When we were planning for this year back in the late fall of 2017, we knew we needed to make a few shifts and take on some new frontiers. First and foremost, we knew that we needed to continue to give portions of the original four acres some rest and recovery for maximum soil health in the long run. This meant taking on additional acreage, so we sought permission to rent 3 acres off of High Cross Rd near Riggs Beer Co. as well as the five acres to the north.

More land means more labor and more oversight and management. We were so very fortunate to have Hunter as our Farm Manager for a third year and to be able to employ John Williams as our first Assistant Farm Manager. Of course, we weren't planning on Hunter getting hurt and that definitely necessitated some immediate changes including increases in staff and a reassignment of responsibilities. By the end of the season, Sola Gratia Farm had employed 18 staff members!

More land also means more equipment. We have been investing in more mechanical equipment to improve our efficiencies such as a larger tractor with implements including a tiller, mower, bed shaper and plastic mulch layer, a waterwheel trans-planter and a disk harrow. We also purchased a cultivating tractor with a five-row seeder as well as cultivating sweeps. These are LARGE pieces of equipment and the shed just wasn't enough storage space for each of these items. In addition, we knew we wanted to invest in better food safety practices, which required an upgraded wash/pack shed and systems. In the early months of 2018, both the storage building and wash/pack shed upgrades were completed.

More land, of course, means more production. We greatly improved our productive capacity which greatly resulted in increased sales and donations. We tweaked the CSA program to include Spring, Summer and Fall shares and increased the number of shares and members. We added a new CSA pickup location at the Champaign Farmers Market and we doubled the size of our stand at the Urbana Farmer's Market. Common Ground Food Coop expanded our offerings to their shoppers and our produce was steadily served at Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant, Piato's, The Wheelhouse and Dancing Dog.

What follows is the point of all of this work and investment...our MISSION IMPACT. *(see the next page)*

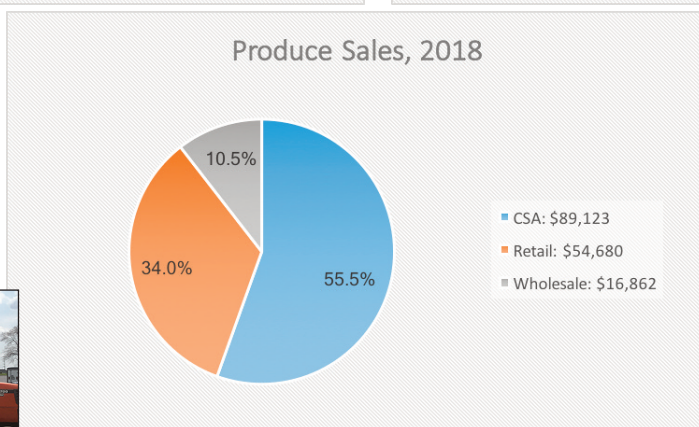
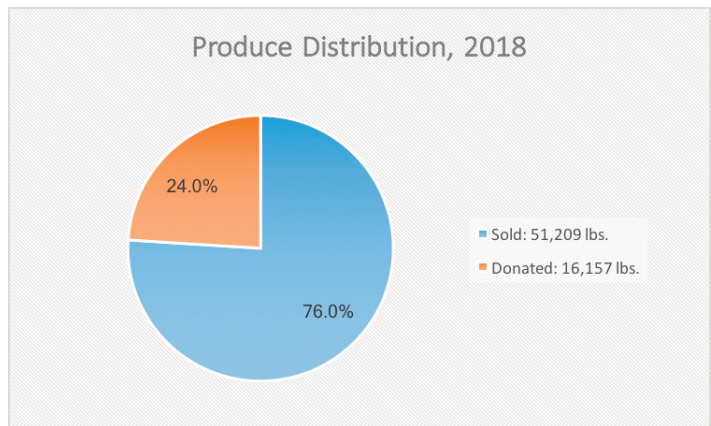
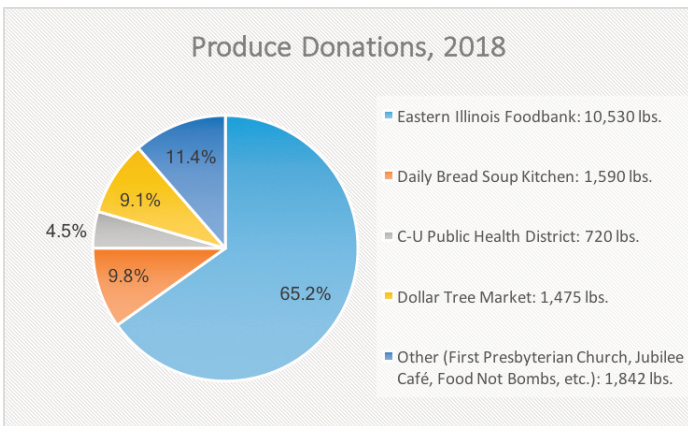
A heartfelt thank you to every single person who plays a part in this wonderful community farm. Working together, it is simply amazing what can be and has been accomplished.

*Best-Traci*



## Mission Impact:

- Increased access and sales to those served by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infant and Children) and Seniors Program at farmers’ markets.
  - Champaign Farmers market, 5% of our sales were to WIC clients and 17.3% to SNAP
  - Urbana Farmers market, 1.7% of our sales were to WIC clients and 3.5% to SNAP users.
- Increased distribution of produce to neighbors in need in partnership with CUPHD
  - Almost 1500 pounds of produce was distributed at our “pay-what-you-can” market in adjacent neighborhood, reaching approximately 100 families.
  - Over 700 pounds of produce was distributed to clients of CUPHD enrolled in the WIC or the Seniors Program as part of our “Share Thanksgiving Program.” Bags including at least 12 different kinds of produce were delivered to 21 different families and an additional 300 pounds of bulk produce was available in the lobby of CUPHD offices.
- Nearly fifty families received cooking and nutrition instruction as part of the UIUC Extension Market to MyPlate program and went home each week with a CSA share of our fresh veggies. Participants were also introduced to the basics of a CSA program and value shopping at the farmer’s market by Sola Gratia Farm staff and were incentivized to shop local farmers’ markets with coupons and vouchers for fresh veggies.
- Vegetables were donated on a weekly basis to Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and the Eastern Illinois Foodbank as well as several local food pantries and special programs serving our food insecure neighbors.
- **All told, we produced 67,366 pounds of vegetables this past year and donated 24%, totaling 16,157 pounds.**
- Farm tours have been provided to several community, service, and school groups.
- Over fifty youth participated in an on-farm day camp to learn about growing and cooking vegetables, healthy eating and bees, in partnership with the Champaign Park District and the Champaign County Farm Bureau.
- Over eighty youth learned about growing and cooking vegetables through programming at the Douglass Park Community Garden in partnership with Champaign Park District.
- Thousands of vegetable starts were shared with several local community gardens including Prosperity Garden, the Lierman & Washington garden, Randolph Street garden and Mother Carr Farm.
- SGF is a work site for at-risk youth from the Cunningham Children's Home.



# Sola Gratia Farm End of the Year Budget Report, 2018

	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Full Shares	36,750.00	31,738.00	Advertising	400.00	116.79
Half Shares	45,000.00	42,130.82	Bank Fees	100.00	127.45
Full Shares - Contributed		4,465.00	Volunteer Appreciation	500.00	57.46
Half Shares - Contributed		3,450.00	Payroll and Payroll Expenses	141,500.00	143,496.25
Spring Shares	2,400.00	2,720.00	Gas & Fuel	750.00	1,135.15
Fall Shares	4,800.00	4,620.00	Conf. & Travel	750.00	903.54
Total Shares Revenue	88,950.00	89,123.82	Market Stand Supplies	2,000.00	2,138.51
Wholesale	13,000.00	16,862.55	Greenhouse	300.00	167.18
Retail - Produce	40,000.00	54,680.63	Greenhouse Supplies	1,500.00	1,103.30
Total Wholesale/Retail Sales	53,000.00	71,543.18	Misc.	1,250.00	2,555.06
Donation/Grants	20,000.00	21,996.68	Post Harvest Equipment	750.00	856.33
Special Designated Funds		9,312.92	Seeds & Field Supplies	12,000.00	13,901.60
Fundraising Income	13,000.00	17,100.75	Tools	1,250.00	1,404.28
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>174,950.00</b>	<b>209,077.45</b>	Walk-In Cooler	400.00	65.80
			Tractor Maintenance	1,500.00	40.54
			Irrigation Equipment	1,500.00	1,697.32
			Outreach/Education	500.00	125.01
			Taxes - Sales	300.00	
			Special Designated Funds		24,019.96
			Thies Land	3,000.00	2,845.00
			Reconciliation Discrepancies		129.00
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>170,250.00</b>	<b>196,624.53</b>

## Statement of Activities (financial)

