

# Sola Gratia Farm

*A ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church*

## 2020 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  
Gary Volkening  
Dave Tjadin  
John Coppess



### Staff

Traci Barkley, Director  
Lincoln Morris, Assistant Farm Manager  
Fiona Munro, Outreach and Education Coordinator  
John Williams, Farm Manager  
John McNally, Wash/Pack Manager

### Farmhands include:

Timm Bogner Pomona Carrington-Hoekstra Celeste Cooke Sean Hartin	Fiona Munro (part-season) Laurel Nobilette Sophie Rasmus Alejandro Ruiz Jonathan Sanchez-Huanca	Nate Sun Helen Sussman Michael Tessene Katie Thies Josephine Tritsch	Sarah Volkening Ashlei Williams Barb Woolsey
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### 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. COVID limited our volunteer opportunities this past year but extra-special thanks to the following core volunteers that made this year possible!

Mary Anderson Kaylynn Azer Pomona Carrington-Hoekstra Tina Carrington Patty Cetin Catalin Clougherty John Coppess Kate Dallmier Michelle Dallmier Diane Durbin Devra Durkee Susan Evans Amy Frasca	Paul Gallagher Karen Gottlieb Mahnaz Ghahreman Stewart Graham Allisa Hastie Gay Holman Larry Holman Cindy Ibbotson Theo Johnson Anya Kaplan-Hartnett Grace Layton Wendy Matthewson Oleta Miller	Sharon Monday Cindy Morrison Safiyah Muhammad Esther Ngumbi Ruth Ann Noble Jill Quisenberry Jack Paxton Gayla Pllum Indyia Robinson Kelly Ryan Beth Satterthwaite Mark Satterthwaite Tod Satterthwaite	Don Saupe Cindy Strehlow Katie Thies Dave Tjadin Erma Todd Larry Todd Gary Volkening Matt Wallig John Warriner Linda Williams Kevin Wise Mary Wiemken
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### Financial supporters (grantors and major donors):

#### Grantors:

Central and Southern Illinois Synod  
City of Urbana and Cunningham Township  
Consolidated Social Services Program  
Common Ground Food Cooperative Round Up for Good Program  
Community Foundation of East Central Illinois  
Faith in Place  
Illinois Charitable Trust Foundation  
Illinois Department of Agriculture,  
Specialty Crop Block Grant Program  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Lumpkin Family Foundation  
Orange Krush Foundation  
Prosperity Gardens

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Social Ministry Committee  
United Way  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Farm to School Program  
US Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program

#### Major Donors, >\$500

Matthew & Amy Ando  
John & Susan Coppess  
First Presbyterian Church  
Gustafson Family  
Charles & Rebecca Hawley  
Jack Paxton & Sharon Monday  
Rob & Judy Pennington  
Kathy and Jonathan Sweedler  
Anonymous

## Director's Note:

Looking back on this year, it's hard to accept that it was only one. Prepping for the 2020 season last winter seems like so long ago and now somewhat in vain. We spent a fair amount of time in the winter months exploring how we could follow the "Lean Farm" model to hone our systems and improve efficiencies and productivity in order to stretch our dollars further and serve our mission better. Rather than hone, we found ourselves redeveloping so many of our systems due to the food and human safety requirements COVID presented. Throw in a couple of natural disasters including a mid-May freeze, flash floods in June, a major hail storm mid-July, a derecho in August and an early freeze mid-October and all systems (including hearts, bodies and minds!) were being tested. Redundancy and ingenuity replaced lean. Looking back, being a mature organization with established relationships, partnerships, and an experienced staff made 2020 possible and impactful.



This year, in addition to the 1 in 6 people who already struggle to put food on their table in our community, many more were seeking help to meet basic needs for the first time. Since last March, Eastern Illinois Foodbank has served nearly 90,000 individuals who hadn't previously been served through their network of partner agencies and programs. From our staff wearing masks and gloves to plant, cultivate and harvest on already hard hot summer days to our board members convening under difficult conditions to develop our 3-year Strategic Plan, our commitment to our mission and conviction that our work serving our neighbors in need is important and helped carry us through.

All told, we produced 50,310 pounds of vegetables this past year and donated 29%, totaling 14,856 pounds. Working through both established and new partnerships and programs, we are pleased to have remained true and steadfast to the three tenets of our mission ...*may we share our gifts with the hungry ...may we be good stewards of the earth, and ...may we build a community of cooperation and care.* Please see our MISSION IMPACT section for our full list of 2020 accomplishments.

A sincere thank you to each and every one of you who participate in our community farm in one way or another and welcome to those of you choosing to join us as a member, volunteer, donor, partner or supporter in this upcoming year! As one of our members said recently "Thanks for being there for us and so many others in questionable times!" The feeling is certainly mutual.

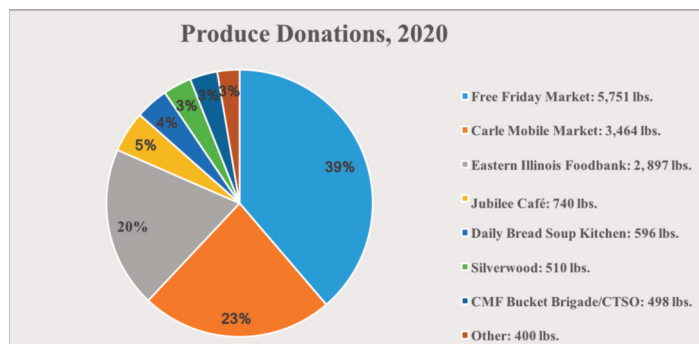
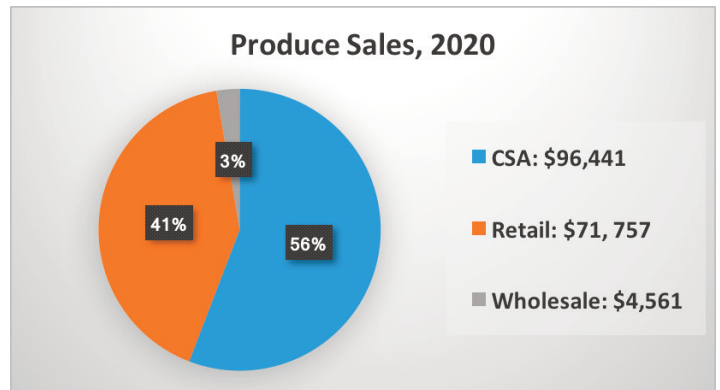
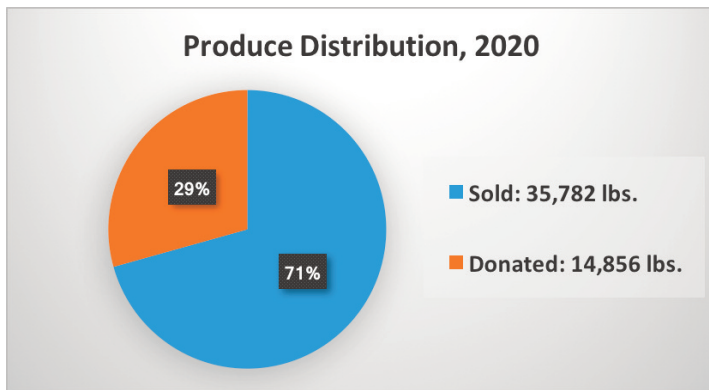
*Best, Traci*



## Mission Impact:

In 2020, we:

- Partnered with Carle Hospital, Prosperity Gardens, C-U Public Health District (CUPHD) and CU City Farms to distribute over 5,000 pounds of vegetables from Carle Mobile Market co-located with Carle Mobile Health Clinic and held twice weekly to serve low-income neighborhoods.
- Donated and distributed over 5,750 pounds of produce, 40 potted vegetable plants and hundreds of seed packets as well as staple dry goods and hygiene supplies from CUPHD at our Free Friday Market in adjacent neighborhood, reaching more than 100 local families.
- Donated and distributed over 500 pounds of produce in addition to turkeys and holiday meal staples to residents of the Silverwood neighborhood as part of our “Share Thanksgiving” Program and in partnership with Silverhearts and Urbana Rotary.
- Expanded sales to those served by SNAP, WIC and Seniors Program at farmers’ markets, including 21% at Champaign Farmers Market, 4.5 % at the Urbana Farmers Market and 4.6% at the indoor Urbana Market.
- Donated vegetables on a weekly basis to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Jubilee Café as well as several local food pantries and special programs serving our food insecure neighbors.
- Participated in a new COVID-relief program this year in partnership with Cunningham Township (CTSO), Channing Murray Foundation (CMF) and their Red Herring Restaurant by donating hundreds of pounds of produce to the restaurant who, in turn, produced healthful meals that were delivered to elderly, low-income community members with the help of the Bucket Brigade, a network of volunteers.
- Co-created and pioneered Solidarity Gardens(SG) in partnership with CTSO, Urbana Park District, CMF and Urbana Free Library. SG is a community-wide initiative to support people growing food for themselves, their neighbors and their community. We provided over 1,200 vegetable and herb transplants and seed packets and coordinated volunteer efforts as well as a community-wide tool and garden supply collection. In total, the project cultivated 1,000 square feet of additional community garden space and produced over 800 pounds of food that were donated to food assistance efforts.
- Shared thousands of vegetable starts with several local community gardens including Randolph Street Community Garden, Lierman Community Garden, CTSO garden, Habitat for Humanity garden, First Followers Garden, Mother Carr Farm, and several local school gardens.
- Employed three high school students through the CARE4U Program and hired an alum of the Youth Employment Program for full-time work.
- Co-started a community wide planning process with CUPHD in order to develop a Farm to School program to provide students with access to healthy, local food during the school day, and connect students with the resources they need to support lifelong healthy habits. Partners include Urbana and Champaign school district administrators, teachers, parents and students; Arbor Food Service and food service personnel; local producers and distributors and community members.
- Advocated for food security programs, pandemic relief for small producers, crop insurance adjustments, and measures to build agricultural resiliency to legislators and their staff including Senator Durbin and Representative Davis.
- Helped to launch the Local Food Policy Caucus with other local food farmers and in partnership with Illinois Stewardship Alliance to solve problems and put forward legislative solutions to grow the local food economy and enhance food security.
- Completed 3-year Strategic Plan as part of the Building Better Boards program with Community Foundation of East Central Illinois.



# Sola Gratia Farm

## End of the Year Budget Report, 2020

	Budget	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>		
Full Shares	31,500	28,947
Half Shares	48,000	45,322
Full Shares - Contributed		4,020
Half Shares - Contributed		5,901
Spring Shares	3,600	4,960
Fall Shares	6,000	6,240
Total Shares Revenue	89,100	96,441
Wholesale	15,000	4,561
Retail - Produce	60,000	71,757
Total Wholesale/Retail Sales	75,000	76,318
Donation/Grants	39,207	89,412
Special Fund/Donations/Grants		23,363
Equipment Sales		192
Fundraising Income	30,000	39,448
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>233,307</b>	<b>325,174</b>
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>233,307</b>	<b>321,715</b>
<b>Income minus Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,459</b>

	Budget	Actual
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising	300	215
Bank Fees	100	157
Volunteer Appreciation	750	631
Payroll & Payroll Expenses-Salaried	130,000	139,312
Payroll & Payroll Expenses-Seasonal	42,000	69,538
Conf. & Travel	1500	1,150
Market Stand Supplies	2,500	3,086
Insurance	4,000	4,309
Professional Fees	750	799
Outreach/Education	1,500	1,062
Taxes - Sales	600	900
Equipment Purchases		9,600
Equipment Replacement	6,857	6,857
Farm to School Grant	0	17,235
Fundraising	13,000	17,814
Farm Operations	29,450	29,564
Special Fund Expenses	0	19,486
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>233,307</b>	<b>321,715</b>

### Statement of Activities (financial)

