

Sola Gratia Farm

A ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

2021 Annual Report



Board of Directors

Pastor Paul Chapman, President
Cindy Shepherd, Vice-President
Tod Satterthwaite, Treasurer and
Farm Coordinator
William Munro, Secretary
John Coppess

Sue Guironnet
Beth Satterthwaite
Gary Volkening
Dorothy Gable, term ended in 2021
Dave Tjadin, term ended in 2021

Staff

Traci Barkley, Director
Lincoln Morris, Assistant Farm Manager
Morgan Hazen, Market Manager

John Williams, Farm Manager
Sarah Volkening, Wash/Pack Manager
Fiona Munro, Outreach and Education Coordinator

Farmhands include:

Timm Bogner
Pomona Carrington-Hoekstra
Celeste Cooke
Michael Manning
Kelly Mathews

William Penne
Alejandro Ruiz
Jonathan Sanchez-Huanca
Ashlei Williams
Magdalena Yopez-Connors

Market staff include:

Erin Cocca
Emma Deedrick
Sophie Rasmus



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!!

Tim Berg	Allisa Hastie	Ruth Ann Noble	Dave Tjaden
Tina Carrington	Gay Holman	Jill Quisenberry	Erma Todd
Patty Cetin	Larry Holman	Jack Paxton	Larry Todd
Kate Dallmier	Karl Koenke	Gayla Pllum	Gary Volkening
Michelle Dallmier	Oleta Miller	Beth Satterthwaite	Matt Wallig
Karen DeBauche	Sharon Monday	Mark Satterthwaite	Linda Williams
Diane Durbin	Cindy Morrison	Tod Satterthwaite	
Karen Gottlieb	Esther Ngumbi	Cindy Strehlow	

Financial supporters (grantors and major donors):

Grantors:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
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
Lumpkin Family Foundation
Orange Krush Foundation
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Social Ministry Committee

US Department of Agriculture,
Food and Nutrition Service, Farm to School Program
US Department of Agriculture,
Community Food Assistance Program
US Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program

Major Donors, >\$500

John and Susan Coppess
First Presbyterian Church
William Capel and Ernest Martin
Charles and Rebecca Hawley
Oleta Miller
Jack Paxton and Sharon Monday
Kathy and Jonathan Sweedler
Jay and Katie Williams
Anonymous



Director's Note:

We've come a long way (baby) . . .

Ten years ago, a small group from St. Matthew Lutheran Church and Faith in Place set the dream of a community farm in motion, converting four acres of corn to diverse vegetables, breaking ground to install a greenhouse and recruiting our first CSA members. Nearly 20% of the first year's harvest was donated to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, most of our CSA members signed up for a second year and a whole lot of people shared in the labor and joy of launching Sola Gratia Farm. Ten years later, we're farming 15 acres, employing between 15-20 people per year, provide for over 200 CSA

members and their families weekly, sell at three farmers markets, co-lead a community gardening program and a district-wide Farm to School program and now donate weekly to not only the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, but also two soup kitchens and two free markets, still hitting that mark of at least 20% and as much as 30% of our harvest donated. Over 110,000 pounds to date.

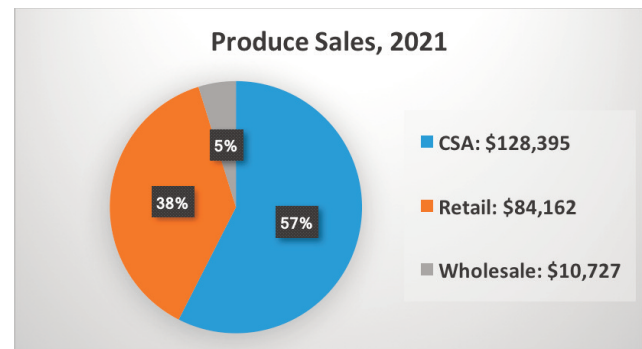
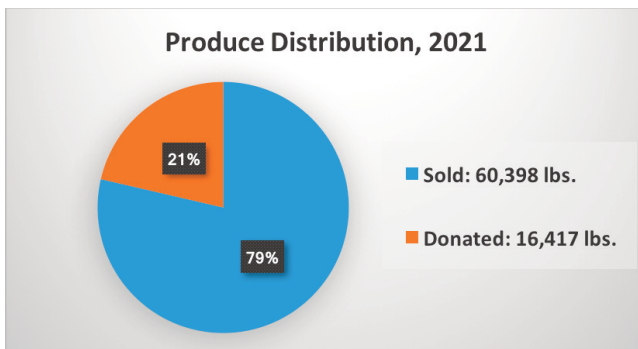
. . . but still have work to do.

And so, we have been working to both expand and transition our operation. Currently, we lease 11 of our 15 acres, not a sustainable position for how we want to serve our community. We are planning to purchase a new acreage in order to secure long-term financial sustainability, support our long-term ecological sustainability, and continue to alleviate hunger in our community while expanding our offerings as a community farm to include perennial crops including fruits. Development of a new and expanded acreage will focus our production, opening up the original four acres and infrastructure on the St. Matthew Lutheran Church campus to be used for targeted demonstration, outreach and education activities and events. We have a unique opportunity to showcase and demonstrate our regenerative growing techniques that can be implemented in gardens and other farms as well as increase community engagement.

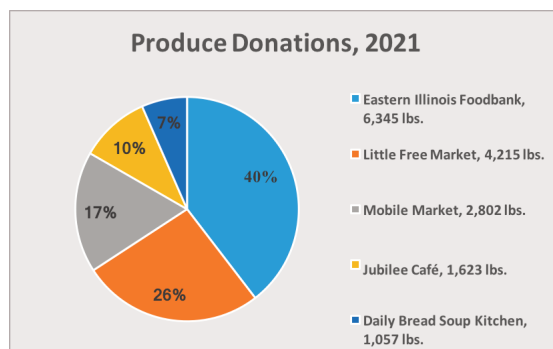
I've been thinking alot lately about the people that have made Sola Gratia Farm what it is today and poised to become in the future. The brave and committed congregants of St. Matt's, pioneering and ingenuitive farm managers, the staff members who have worked SO HARD to grow food better and smarter, our supportive and loving volunteers that have helped us have fun while we work and the hundreds of people that have chosen us as their farmers, nourishing themselves and their families with the food we have been so proud to grow while making sharing with those less fortunate, possible.

It's an honor to be part of a community that just keeps growing and strengthening with the intention, joy and connection that comes with service. Healthful food nourishes and every person deserves to feed themselves in dignity with sufficient access and quality. Thank you for being a part of Sola Gratia Farm and for believing that together we can help our neighbors and community through food and service. I'm looking forward to continuing this work alongside you.

Best, Traci



All told, we produced 76,815 pounds of vegetables and donated 21%, totaling 16,417 pounds.



Mission Impact:

In 2021, we:

- Connected over 200 families to fresh, healthy, seasonal food through 4-20 week CSA shares, and to other local producers



- Donated vegetables weekly to Eastern Illinois Foodbank (serving patrons in 17 counties), Daily Bread Soup Kitchen (serving 200 meals per day), Jubilee Café (serving ~100 meals every Monday evening), Channing Murray Foundation(CMF)/Red Herring Restaurant (preparing/delivering meals and staple goods to Bucket Brigade clients) and other local food programs

- Donated and distributed over 4,200 pounds of produce, gardening supplies and staple goods with C-U Public Health District(CUPHD) at our Free Friday Market, reaching more than 200 families in our neighborhood. Also developed and installed, with Cornerstone Fellowship, CUPHD, HACC YouthBuild and SUNA, a Little Free Pantry at the same location to provide staple goods throughout the week and in the winter.



- Partnered with Carle Hospital, CU City Farms, Prosperity Gardens, and CUPHD to distribute over 11,600 pounds of vegetables from the Mobile Market, co-located by Carle Mobile Health Clinics and held twice weekly to serve four low-income neighborhoods.
- Expanded sales to those served by SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infant and Children) and Seniors Program at farmers' markets: 23% at Champaign Farmers Market and nearly 11% at Urbana Farmers Markets.
- Donated produce to UHS Student Senate Thanksgiving Meal, an annual community event to provide hot Thanksgiving meals free of charge.



- Administered Solidarity Gardens CU, a collaborative project begun in 2020 with Cunningham Township, Urbana Park District, CMF, and Urbana Free Library (UFL) to increase food production for our neighbors in need by empowering local home and community gardeners. Highlights for 2021: expanded SGCU volunteer base, over 1,000 seeds and plants distributed to home and community gardeners, expanded accessibility of the UFL Seed Exchange with a mini seed library at Meadowbrook Park, developed additional 1,000 sq.ft. of growing space, distributed over 3,000 volunteer-grown pounds of produce through 8 distribution partners, and engaged HACC YouthBuild and Urbana High School students in projects improving infrastructure at Meadowbrook and Cunningham Township gardens.

- Shared thousands of vegetable starts with local community gardens, including Randolph Street Community Garden, Lierman Community Garden, Cunningham Township garden, Habitat for Humanity garden, First Followers garden, Mother Carr's Farm, school gardens, and Solidarity Gardens.

- Completed a community wide planning process with partners from CUPHD, USD 116 and Arbor Food Service to develop a F2S program to increase student access to healthy, local food, and connect students with the resources they need to support lifelong healthy habits. Highlights from 2021 include: release of F2S Action Plan for USD116 schools; administered district-wide Farm to School events including taste tests and the Great Apple Crunch, engaging over 1000 USD116 students ; and started installation or expansion of edible food gardens at all 9 USD116 schools



- Helped launch the Local Food Policy Caucus with other local food farmers and in partnership with Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA) to solve problems and put forward legislative solutions to grow the local food economy and enhance food security.

- Engaged our community with monthly events, many in collaboration with partners – including Plant Sale, film viewing (with UFL), on-farm yoga (with Daily Bread Yoga), Ears n Beers (with Riggs Brewery), Urbana Amble (with local gardeners), Summer Shindig and Farmer Roundtable with Representative Davis (with ISA), and volunteer opportunities with Eastern Illinois Foodbank and Silverhearts.



- Offered 4 cooking classes on meal prep, pickling, cooking greens, and crisper clean-out meals through Facebook, reaching at least 110 people
- Welcomed many to the farm for on-site tours and workdays: students K-college, service and professional organizations, and volunteers.

Sola Gratia Farm

End of the Year Budget Report, 2021

	Budget approved 1/2021	Actual
INCOME		
CSA Shares	134,100	117,585
CSA Shares - Donated	7,000	10,810
Wholesale	10,000	10,727
Retail - Produce	70,000	84,162
General Operating Donation/ Grants	71,500	103,556
Fundraising Income	22,032	25,914
TOTAL INCOME	314,632	352,754
Total Income	314,632	352,754
Total Expenses	314,632	337,404
Income minus Expenses	0	15,350

	Budget	Actual approved 1/2021
EXPENSES		
Advertising	300	444
Bank Fees	100	35
Staff/Volunteer Appreciation	500	485
Payroll & Expenses	253,732	260,675
Conf. & Travel	1,200	793
Market Stand Supplies	3,000	4,028
Insurance	5,000	10,075
Professional Fees	2,500	2,011
Outreach/Education	1,500	1,561
Office Equipment & Supplies	500	1,593
Taxes - Sales	700	2,191
Equipment Replacement	8,100	8,100
Farm Operations	37,500	45,413
TOTAL EXPENSES	314,632	337,404

Statement of Activities (financial)

