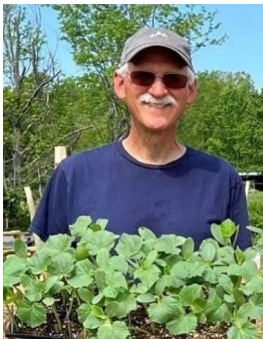




# Rappahannock Education Farm

## 2025 Annual Report

## Dear Friends of the Farm



As we reflect on 2025 — our very first year operating our 11.5-acre Farm — we are filled with gratitude. What began as a dream of a community-centered nonprofit farm is becoming a reality. Here are a few of the highlights of an amazing year for our Farm:

**Abundant Harvests:** We grew and donated more than 43,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, helping to reduce hunger and food insecurity in our community, far surpassing our goal of 25,000 pounds.

**A Community of Volunteers:** A “Farmily” of dedicated volunteers donate their time, energy and enthusiasm. The hard work of our volunteers is at the heart of everything we do!

**Infrastructure:** We needed infrastructure for long-term success. We now have an irrigation system, a deer fence to protect our crops, and electricity. We installed a barn and began work on a greenhouse to extend our growing season.

**Financial Support:** More than 150 individuals donated to our Farm and we obtained significant support from local foundations that care about the wellbeing of our community. With this support we are establishing a sounder financial footing, making progress in repaying the debt we incurred

to purchase our Farm, and building a future so that our Farm can continue to serve our community well into the future.

As we look to 2026, we’re excited to build on the successes of 2025. Most importantly, we have a goal of growing and donating 60,000 pounds of nutritious produce in 2026 – with a long-term goal of growing and donating 100,000+ pounds annually. We will also offer educational classes, in addition to hands-on learning, to show people how they can successfully grow some of their own food.

The success of our nonprofit Farm is an illustration of what our community can do when we work shoulder-to-shoulder. Every seed that was planted, every vegetable that was harvested was done with volunteer hands – friends and neighbors, coming together to support each other. This spirit is at the heart of our Rappahannock Education Farm.

With Gratitude,

Rich Larochelle  
On behalf of the Board of the  
Rappahannock Education Farm

### MISSION STATEMENT

Reduce hunger and food insecurity by growing and donating produce as well as teaching people how to grow some of their own food.

### VISION STATEMENT

A world where everyone has access to fresh, healthy produce and the knowledge to grow their own food using sustainable, natural methods.

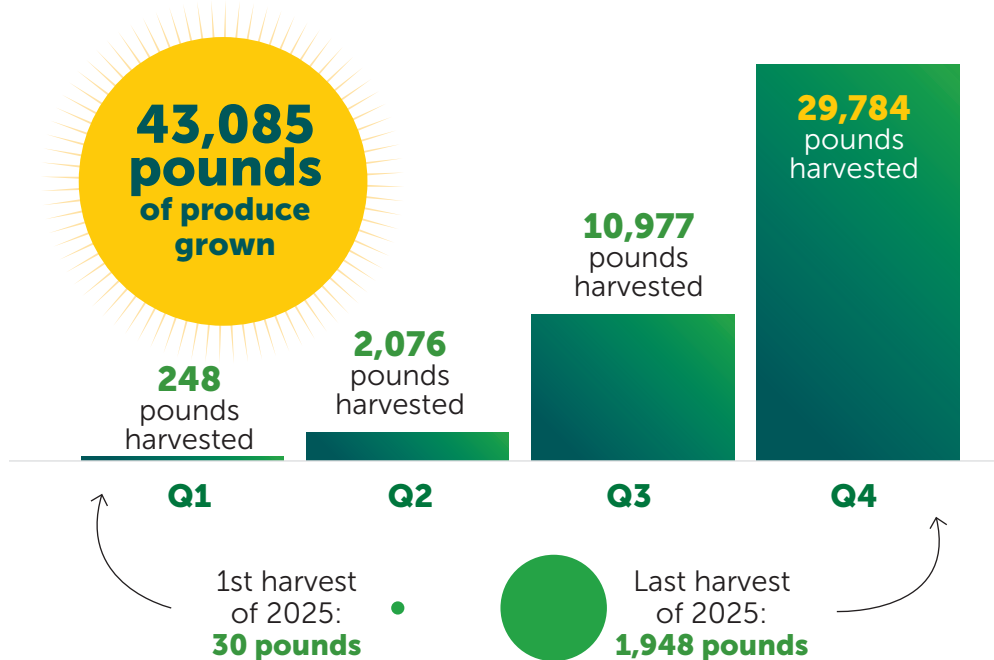
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of the end of 2025:

Richard Larochelle, *Chair*  
Dan Maher, *Vice Chair*  
James Miller, *Treasurer*  
Candice Armstrong, *Secretary*  
Mari Kelly  
Els van Wingerden  
Januari Coates  
Gwyn Whittaker



## 2025 Highlights



### Additional land purchase

Thanks to donations from Board members, an additional 2.5 acres were acquired in January 2025, increasing the total acreage to 11.5.



### 2025 Plantings

**17**  
different crops

**35+**  
different varieties

nearly  
**90,000**  
meals supported by that output

### Infrastructure & other enhancements made:

- Well completed
- Irrigation extended throughout the farm
- Greenhouse construction started
- Barn
- Deer fence
- Parking Lot
- Fruit orchard
- Native Garden for pollinators



Fruit orchard



Native Garden for pollinators

## Rooted in the Community



“At the Farm, volunteering does more than grow healthy food—it grows connection. It brings generations together, softens the edges of loneliness, and nurtures a sense of community, leaving you with the kind of good vibes that reminds us that humanity still thrives.”

—Robin Lee

### Our Volunteer Impact

In 2025, more than **500 volunteers** contributed nearly **7,500 hours** in farming activities.

Others, such as Board Members, Fundraising Committee members, administrative and site development volunteers donated another **4,500 hours!**



### We're always growing and we need your help!

#### Our primary volunteer needs:

- Gardening and farming, especially planting, weeding, harvesting
- Delivery of harvested produce
- Fix-it tasks/Repair and maintenance

#### Other ways to help:

- Administrative tasks, for example, website upkeep, data entry
- Community engagement and fundraising
- Grantwriting

Gardening and farming tasks are usually scheduled three times a week during the growing season to give plenty of volunteer time options

**I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER**



### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Steve Spratt

During 2025, we had the opportunity to construct a greenhouse but lacked the know-how to do so and the financial resources to formally engage a contractor. Thankfully, we knew just where to turn to solve that dilemma. Steve Spratt has distinguished himself through a lifetime of achievements in the construction field and a passion for community service. Though he had never built a greenhouse before, Steve accepted the challenge and volunteered his time and expertise. Thanks to him, we now have the capacity to keep the Farm in operation year-round!



## Our Dedicated Donors

Our farm's progress is entirely dependent on the generosity of our donors, to whom we are deeply grateful. In 2025, designated gifts from our supporters enabled several key achievements.

- Lions Clubs: *Barn (over \$35,000)*
- Honeywell Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region: *Greenhouse building materials (\$35,000)*
- Mary Washington Hospital Foundation: *Operating costs (\$25,000)*
- Stafford Hospital Foundation: *Operating costs (\$25,000)*
- Duff McDuff Green, Jr Fund of the

- Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region: *Tractor (\$15,000)*
- Private Foundation: *Irrigation extension (\$10,000)*
- Southeast Regional Community Action Program: *Well (partial funding \$7,500)*
- Hilldrup Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region: *Operating costs (\$7,000)*
- Friends of the Rappahannock: *Orchard planting and Irrigation extension to orchard (over \$4,000 and in-kind installation)*
- The Earl and Mary Hall Fund of the Community Foundation of

- the Rappahannock River Region: *Operating costs (\$3,493)*
- The David Morgan Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region: *Operating costs (\$2,000)*
- The Hugh and Marian McCabe Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region: *Operating costs (\$900)*
- Luck Stone and Stone Excavating: *Gravel and stone for parking (materials and in-kind labor)*
- Amazon: *Fence Extension (in-kind)*
- Dominion Energy: *Electricity and deer fence extension (in-kind)*

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors, without whose support we could not achieve our mission.



We deeply appreciate each donor and each donation—large or small.

**I'D LIKE TO DONATE**

### In 2025, more than 150 individual donors made 195 donations for a total of almost \$253,000

#### \$25,000 and above

Andrew Craig and  
Els van Wingerden  
Richard and Linda Larochelle

Jim Purton  
Emily & John Sagle  
Paul & Debbie Simpson  
Winfred Van Wingerden &  
Sheila Batson  
Gwyn Whittaker

#### \$5,000 - \$10,000

Mari Kelly  
Barb & Tom Pishock

#### \$500-\$999

Susan & David Goode  
Phil Huber  
Linda LaFave & Jim Goehring  
Ben Litchfield  
Victoria Maioco  
Chu Hui Pak  
Andre & Carol Pineda  
Adam Schwartz  
Samuel & Linda Smart  
Nancy Stokes  
Ruth & Lee Stone  
Pete Webb

#### \$3,000-\$4,999

Council of All Beings Fund  
Lisa Bruer  
Fredericksburg Regional  
Food Bank  
Margaret Kertess  
Bill & Lynn Wood

#### \$1,000-\$2,999

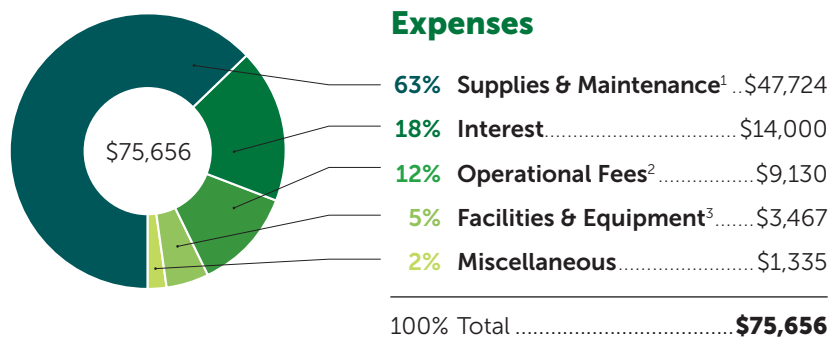
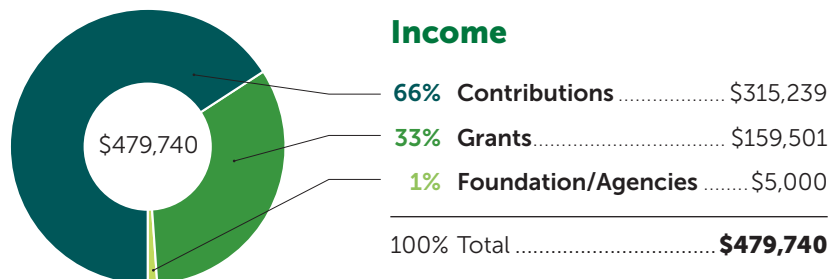
Lynn & Ernest Ackermann  
Emanuel Castaneda Arellano  
Deborah Baird  
Patricia Corbett  
Marie & Walt Daly  
Price Jett

#### \$10-\$499

116 donors

# The Story of our Stewardship

The financial statements and other data in this Annual Report covers the period of January 1 - December 31, 2025.



<b>1. Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	
Supplies	\$44,611
Maintenance	\$3,113
<b>2. Operational Fees:</b>	
Professional Fees	\$6,339
Business Taxes & Licenses	\$2,066
Insurance	\$725
<b>3. Facilities and Equipment</b>	
Facilities and Equipment	\$2,927
Computer/Internet	\$540

## Increase In Assets And Reduction In Liabilities

A major focus of 2025 was to equip our Farm with the needed fixed assets — land, building, machinery and equipment, etc. needed to carry out our mission. We also worked hard to reduce our major liability by paying down the principal balance on the loan used to acquire our land in 2024.

This use of funds is not part of our P&L statement, but is reflected in our balance sheet which showed the following changes from the end of 2024 to the end of 2025.

## Balance Sheet Changes

12/31/2025 vs. 12/31/2024

### Increase in Fixed Assets

Land	\$150,000
Improvements	\$61,079
Buildings	\$39,264
Machinery and Equipment	\$33,457
<b>Total Increase in Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$283,800</b>

### Reduction in Liabilities

Debt Reduction	\$55,000
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### Total Increase in Fixed Assets

**Plus Reduction in Liabilities: ..... \$338,800**

## The Future is Bright

Our commitments to reducing food insecurity, ensuring sustainable farm production, fostering community engagement, and advancing agricultural and nutritional education make these future goals important to achieve.

### 2026 GOALS

- Grow and donate 60,000 pounds of produce
- Make barn and greenhouse fully operational
- Bring entire property under cultivation
- Complete shade pavilion
- Begin the process of being Certified Naturally Grown (CNG)
- Conduct monthly educational programs at the farm

### LONGER TERM GOALS

- Grow and donate 100,000+ pounds of produce annually
- Pay off land acquisition loan
- Continue to engage and grow our volunteer base



## We appreciate our community partners who embrace REF's mission:

"The Rappahannock Education Farm was my top local story of 2025. It showed the power of community—harvest in the field one day and see it on someone's table the next day."

– Ted Schubel, Host of TownTalk, NewsTalk 1230 WFVA



"The joy offered to our shoppers in the form of a single heirloom tomato is enough to justify the work of the Rappahannock Education Farm. But the fact that they supplied us with hundreds of pounds of produce all year long truly changed lives."

– Rev. Jake DeNap, Director of Mission and Evangelism, St. George's Episcopal Church

"In an obvious way, the Rappahannock Education Farm is about feeding people who lack healthy food access. That is a noble cause. The Farm also feeds the community spiritually and emotionally, by connecting the commitments of volunteers and donors to the service of neighbors in need. That may be even more noble."

– Dan Maher, President & CEO, Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank

"The Rappahannock Education Farm has been such a success that in its first year the production well surpassed all goals set for the 2025 season! That alone is huge and the engagement that it has brought to the community has been a blessing. The future is bright for the Farm and it's been nothing but a pleasure to work with everyone affiliated with the project."

– Taylor Galloway, Operations Manager, Moss Neck Farm

"The Rappahannock Educational Farm is a wonderful partner with an inspiring mission and team. We highlight its work and fresh produce in our pantry and enjoy sharing our enthusiasm for the organization's purpose and vision with our students."

– Kevin Mielnik, Food Pantry Specialist, Germanna Community College



# Rappahannock Education Farm

[www.rappahannockfarm.org](http://www.rappahannockfarm.org)



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to sign up to volunteer, make a donation or learn more.



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