

# Community Food Initiatives

Grow and Share the Harvest



Bekky Hobson, Donation Station Regional Developer

# Our Mission

To support a local food system that provides equitable access to fresh healthy foods for all people in the region.



# What's the problem?

- ❖ 14% poverty rate in Ohio
  - ❖ 30% poverty rate in Athens
  - ❖ Many counties fall above this number
- ❖ 16.9% Food insecure rate in Ohio
  - ❖ Compared to 14% nationwide
  - ❖ 20% Food insecure rate in Athens
  - ❖ Ohio is one of the top 5 worst states in food security
- ❖ Over 46 million people living in poverty
- ❖ Rising preventable disease rates



# Local Food System Safety Net Activity



# CFI Programs Overview



Community Gardens

A Community of Gardens and Leaders



School Gardens

Grow, Learn, Discover



Donation Station

Local Food Access For All



Seed Sovereignty

Grow Your Heritage



# Donation Station Overview

A local food solution that fights hunger  
and supports the local food economy



# Healthy, Local Food for all

It's possible.

CFI distributed **86,991** pounds of local produce to 44 pantries and agencies in 2015.

Since 2008, **425,517** pounds have been distributed

Our goal for 2016: 100,000 pounds

Just over 1/3 of that food was donated by farmers.



# A Benefit for all...

## local food system support



Cash donations are spent at that same farmer's market.

**\$14,599** spent in the local food economy just last year

**\$53,130** since 2012

\$1 fetches 1lb of food



# Harvest Hotline

In 2014, CFI staff gleaned  
over **5,522** pounds.

860 lbs in 2015.



# Discovery Kitchen

Embrace Cooking and Discover Food

Discovery Kitchen connects the Donation Station to the end consumer. It ensures that people know how to use the fresh, local produce they are receiving.

In 2014, Discovery Kitchen reached over **200** people at **25** different events.





# Triple Bottom Line

- ❖ People -- Helps those in need
- ❖ Planet -- Curbs farmer waste
- ❖ Profit -- Puts money back into local food economy

# Why have a Donation Station?

“They truly create a win-win situation for the farmers, recipients of the produce and the entire community.”

*-Rick Vest, Vest Berry Farms*

“The vendors of the Athens Farmers Market and the Donation Station are a beautiful symbiotic relationship that helps to grow and strengthen each organization as well as address food insecurity to those less fortunate in our rural area.”

*-Kip Parker, Athens Farmers Market Manager*





# Bringing Donation Station to Your Community...



- ❖ Consult with us!
  - ❖ Assessment/Research of Region's Potential for Donation Station
  - ❖ Site Visits by CFI Staff (w/lead organization & stakeholders)
  - ❖ Staff Trainings
  - ❖ Adaptation & Licensing of Donation Station
  - ❖ Donation Station Operations Handbook and Materials
- ❖ We will work with you step by step and grant by grant!

# Questions?

## **Contact Information:**

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