

Educating Children



Several students shared testimonials from their nutrition education experience.

"When cooking in the kitchen, you have to read the recipe carefully and measure slowly."
— Lyanna from Longfellow

"My mom and I make smoothies together and I'm going to ask if we can add spinach."
— Camila from Escuela Vieau

"You can grow carrots and carrots are good for your eyes!"
— Juan from Longfellow

"My family tried making sweet potato fries in the oven because it's healthier than French fries!"
— Myrice from Albert Story School

In 2019, 250 students from three Milwaukee Public Schools took part in a nine-month Farm-To-School Program about nutrition education. The program offered students the opportunity to learn about healthy food through an abundance of hands-on experiences.

Students engaged in weekly classroom lessons, art projects and field trips to the Hunger Task Force Farm. While at The Farm, students were immersed in growing and harvesting fresh produce, cooking, hiking and taste-testing new recipes of their creation. Twenty-eight school garden beds produced tomatoes, peppers, okra, peas, sour gherkin, squash, kale, brussels sprouts and herbs. Students learned essential kitchen etiquette in the demonstration kitchen, such as proper knife skills, reading and measuring recipe ingredients, mixing, baking and sautéing; all while demonstrating math, science and knowledge of the MyPlate healthy eating model.

In addition to the school year session, the Farm-To-School program branched out and collaborated with other local organizations during summer, including the YMCA. Over eight weeks, an additional 200 students ages 5-15 cared for the school garden, engaged in physical activity and created healthy recipes.

The success of this year's Farm-To-School program was evident both by the reactions and positive energy of the students, and through the results of extensive research conducted by Hunger Task Force via surveys and questionnaires. Overall, 77% of students reported intent to eat more fruits and vegetables across breakfast, lunch and dinner after nine months of programming.



2019 Farm Harvest Report

Feeding the Hungry

Hunger Task Force is dedicated to providing healthy food, free of charge, to Milwaukee's low-income children, seniors and families. The Hunger Task Force Farm offers a way for these individuals—who often lack the resources or access to eat healthy—to receive a reliable source of fresh, nutritious, local produce throughout the summer and fall.

Led by signature sponsor Harley-Davidson Foundation, The Farm's success is a community effort. Hunger Task Force farmers work together with community volunteers, individuals and donors to run The Farm operation. With this in mind, we work hard, in rain or shine (and sometimes snow!), to proudly share our Fresh-from-The-Farm produce.

The 2019 season included a torrent of rain—11 inches above average! Some crops, like spinach, broccoli and cauliflower, suffered as a result of the dreary weather. Bees and other pollinating insects had a more difficult time getting into the orchards to pollinate the apple and pear trees. Despite these challenges—and with the help of more than 6,000 volunteers (a new record!)—Hunger Task Force farmers harvested more than 325,000 pounds of fresh, Wisconsin-grown fruits and veggies for neighbors in need right here in the Milwaukee area.

The season also provided some great success stories. Thousands of pounds of delicious, sweet cantaloupes were sent out from The Farm, as well as 50,000 pounds of cabbage and sweet corn, and 25,000 pounds of fresh apples and pears. Peppers and collard greens thrived in the conditions, providing delicious, veggies to those in need. Plus, Harley-Davidson volunteers dug in during peak harvest season for the eighth annual Harley Harvest for the Hungry to gather more than 54,000 pounds of fresh produce from the fields! Hunger Task Force is so thankful for the generosity of the volunteers and donors who helped ensure this growing season was a success.



The Hunger Task Force Farm's primary goal is to grow fresh, healthy produce for those in need in Milwaukee County. We have a unique opportunity to not only feed vulnerable populations, but to also be stewards of the 208 acres of farmland, crops and natural areas that comprise The Farm.

In the fields, sustainable agriculture practices include cover cropping, crop rotation, conservation tillage, controlled traffic farming and integrated pest management. We are currently working on our most ambitious sustainability project to date—the installation of subsurface drip irrigation in 75 acres of farm fields. These practices reduce erosion and compaction; minimize our carbon footprint; increase soil biology, fertility and carbon sequestration; reduce insect and disease damage; and increase water use efficiency.

Stewards of the Land

In addition to our cropped acreage, The Farm manages approximately 100 acres of natural areas. This space includes one of Milwaukee County's few remaining Oak Savannas—a natural ecosystem native to Wisconsin—a 30-acre prairie, and wetlands bordering the Root River.

It is hard to overstate the transformation that has taken place in this nature preserve at The Farm since the shift in focus to sustainable management. Thriving wildlife populations, native plants and butterflies all point towards the success of The Farm's sustainability program. Through the efforts of volunteers, donors and staff working together, these sustainable growing practices allow The Farm to feed people today while simultaneously guaranteeing our ability to do so well into the future.

Farm Aid

This year, Hunger Task Force had the special honor to partner with Farm Aid—a live performance at Alpine Valley featuring Willie Nelson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Dave Matthews and more. Before the concert, farmers and farm-related organizations from around the country came to visit The Farm to learn about our unique model for feeding those in need.

Over 30,000 people attended the concert and had a chance to learn about The Farm in the festival's HOMEGROWN Village and donate food to Hunger Task Force! These events created great exposure for Hunger Task Force, The Farm and our shared mission, and culminated in a \$7,000 grant check, signed by Willie Nelson himself!

