



CONNECTING FOOD, FARM & COMMUNITY Since 1999

P.O. Box 3143, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 • 845-516-1100 • info@farmproject.org • farmproject.org

In honor of [Hudson Valley Gives day](#) on May 19, I am writing to request your support to help Poughkeepsie Farm Project achieve our clarified mission to **cultivate local leadership in sustainable farming, food access and education, and to foster an inclusive, welcoming community for everyone.**

2020 was a groundbreaking year for Poughkeepsie Farm Project. We continued our programs, we followed through on our intention to create a new Strategic Plan, and we responded to dramatic shifts in the world around us – integrating the values and intentions we were imagining for our Strategic Plan along the way.

First, we used our urgent work to nourish our community throughout the global health pandemic as a springboard towards permanently diversifying our food share program options to be accessible to households of any income. We offered more sponsored food shares at no cost, began providing our CSA on a sliding scale, refined our “CSA is a SNAP” program to offer more shares to households with SNAP benefits, and piloted a payment plan option for members to pay for their share over time.

Second, we deepened our reflection about the role of our organization in the fight for racial equity as our nation rallied (and continues to rally) for the safety and dignity of Black lives everywhere. We renewed our commitment to consistently weave food justice with racial justice in all that we do and felt reinvigorated in our determination to uncover and work to repair how our organization may have upheld systems of oppression in the past.

Third, we reached an unprecedented level of clarity around the importance of cultivating resilience through coalition–building and collaboration in our community. The partnerships that we established or renewed in response are already bearing beautiful fruit such as a new community farm & gardens on Pershing Avenue, and a new produce distribution site at Sun River Health.

2021 PFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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These aspects of the last year presented countless lessons for how to work towards our vision of a community that works collaboratively to provide equitable access to nutritious food via a just and resilient food system. And yet, the biggest lesson of all is how much further we must go.

We hope you will not only help to sustain our renowned programs and our critical farming operations, but also to innovate more broadly to integrate the challenging and essential lessons of the last year. We especially look forward to building on the lesson that helped us clarify how to better center equity in our programs, tie racial justice with our food justice work, and enrich our work through deep connection with community partners.

With gratitude,

Madeline Henriquez,
Executive Director
Poughkeepsie Farm Project
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OUR CORE VALUES

Honor - Practice gratitude and appreciation for where we carry out our work; foster high standards across our work

Cultural inclusion and diversity - Respect and celebrate diverse backgrounds & needs; exhibit a high level of care for dignity and rights for all; actively work to repair harms against marginalized communities

Transparency – Share about food production and services provided; share insights responsibly; seek input and offer feedback; educate and inform our community to build trust and enable informed decisions

Collaboration - Work together and build partnerships between PFP and the community; share goals and provide mutual support.

Accessibility - Overcome barriers to food access and resources, education, community events and the farm; welcome neighborhood access to land and space.