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HARVARD PILGRIM HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FIRST-YEAR IMPACT OF 2016 HEALTHY FOOD FUND PROJECTS

Amount of healthy, local produce distributed to low-income families in region increased 87%; amount of produce sold increased 63%; \$2.2 million value of healthy food reaching households

(Wellesley, MA) **March 23, 2017** – Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation today announced the [first-year impact](#) of its 2016 Healthy Food Fund projects in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Based on an independent evaluation, the amount of healthy, local produce distributed to low-income families in the region over the past year increased 87 percent as a result of Healthy Food Fund contributions; and the amount of produce sold increased 63 percent to 827,000 pounds. The total dollar value of healthy food reaching households in communities across the region in 2016 is \$2.2 million.

"We are so pleased we can show how relatively small investments in local organizations can measurably improve access to healthy food," said Harvard Pilgrim Foundation's President, Karen Voci.

Of the 26 Healthy Food Fund projects, 17 organizations are selling healthy local food through Farmers' Markets, Mobile Markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, and farm stands. A total of 20 projects are distributing produce through free-to-recipient channels such as gleaning, food banks, community meals, and youth agriculture programs.

In 2016, more than \$1.4 million in grants was distributed to the Foundation's Healthy Food Fund initiatives within the region, with funds supporting programs that grow, distribute and/or market fresh food for low-income families and communities across the region

Harvard Pilgrim Foundation's Healthy Food Fund projects include:

Connecticut Healthy Food Fund Projects

- Hartford Food Systems, *Mobile Farmers' Market*
- New Haven Farms and New Haven Land Trust, *Farm-Based Wellness, Cooking and Nutrition Program, incubator garden*
- Green Village Initiative (Bridgeport), *Community Gardens Program*
- Brass City Harvest (Waterbury), *Healthy Corner Store Initiative; Cooking and Nutrition Classes*

- CT Food Bank (East Haven), *Farm-to-Pantry program*

Maine Healthy Food Fund Projects

- St. Mary's Regional Medical Center (Lewiston/Auburn) and Cultivating Community, *Good Food Bus Mobile Farmers' Market*
- Cultivating Community (Portland), *Expand CSA shares; cooking and nutrition classes*
- Healthy Communities of the Capital Area (Southern Kennebec County), *Expand gleaning and food processing through Restorative Community Harvest Program*
- Maine Farmland Trust (Biddeford, Portland, Saco, S. Portland, and Westbrook), *SNAP incentives at Farmers' markets, CSA programs, food hubs, co-ops*
- Wolfe's Neck Farm Foundation (Greater Bath and Brunswick), *Teen Agriculture Program; cooking and nutrition programming*

Massachusetts Healthy Food Fund Projects

- Boys & Girls Clubs (Boston), *Farm-to-Family program*
- Regional Environmental Council (Worcester), *Mobile Farmers' Market*
- Mill City Grows (Lowell), *Mobile Farmers Market*
- Boston Area Gleaners (Waltham), *Distribution and Delivery Program*
- Gardening the Community (Springfield), *Expansion of Walnut St. garden; Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture*
- Groundwork Lawrence, *CSA program, youth-led urban agriculture program, cooking and nutrition classes*
- Grow Food Northampton, *Food Access Northampton; Giving Garden*
- Growing Places (Leominster), *Teaching Garden, Garden on the GO, cooking classes*
- Nourishing the North Shore (Newburyport, Amesbury, Salisbury, Rowley, Newbury, West Newbury), *Garden and food delivery expansion initiatives, cooking and nutrition classes*
- Community Harvest Project (North Grafton), *Volunteer Farming Initiative; Farm-to-Health Center program*
- Mass in Motion (New Bedford), *Subsidized CSA program; cooking and nutrition training*

New Hampshire Healthy Food Fund Projects

- Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, Inc. (Laconia), *Pop-up Farmers' Market; cooking demonstrations and community gardens*
- Seacoast Eat Local (Dover), *Mobile Farmers' Market*

- Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) (Berlin), *Farmers' Market Grow Healthy Initiative; Outdoor Teaching Kitchen*
- New Hampshire Food Bank (Manchester), *Production Garden Extension*
- Tamworth Community Nurse Association, *Tamworth Farmers' Market SNAP expansion*

About The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation

Created in 1980, The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation supports Harvard Pilgrim's mission to improve the quality and value of health care for the people and communities we serve. The Harvard Pilgrim Foundation provides the tools, training and leadership to help build healthy communities throughout Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. In 2016, the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation awarded more than \$2.4 million in grants to more than 900 nonprofit organizations in the region. Since its inception in 1980, the Foundation has awarded \$140 million in funds and resources throughout the four states. For more information, please visit www.harvardpilgrim.org/foundation.

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