

# Jamestown Community Farm Annual Report 2015



## Late Winter:

During the winter 2015 the Farm organized a mittens, hats and scarves program to be distributed to the homeless and those in need by McAuley House in Providence . The program was a complete success and Jamestowners and many others provided new and hand knitted winter wear. The program will be continued during the winter of 2016.



## High Tunnel

2015 was the first year that we grew production vegetables in our new 96' X 30' high tunnel greenhouse. It was a "learning year" for all of us relative to drip irrigation, what to grow, proper ventilation, weed control, etc. But, we managed to produce and distribute over 1000 pounds of vegetables from the high tunnel. As importantly we were planting earlier and still picking tomatoes at Thanksgiving so it

definitely extends our season. More production and better at everything is our goal for 2016.



## New Growing Areas

In 2015 we started growing in an entirely new area of the farm. The reason for this was to not necessarily increase the production of the farm, but rather to allow other growing areas rest from production for an entire year. We have been growing vegetables on the original four acres for over fifteen years. It is better soil



management to provide annual rest and recuperation for the land. Expanding the cultivated area will allow us to rest and revitalize approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the cultivated areas every year without diminishing production. We will also be experimenting with a variety of cover crops to determine which cover crops provide the best efficiency and restorative quality.



## Volunteers

Once again this year we had an incredible group of volunteers. People of all ages from 10 to 80 showed up and worked. Our volunteer nights Tuesday and Thursday and Saturday mornings May –October, were filled with volunteers laughing and talking and working at the task at hand whether it is planting beans, weeding eggplant or harvesting tomatoes the volunteers got the work done. The Farm could not work without this consistent and consistently

happy dedication of the volunteers. It is most interesting to see seniors working next to teenagers and younger children working with adults 5 and 6 times their age and most importantly everyone doing the same job. This does not happen all that often in regular



everyday life. Children are isolated by grades in their schools, adults isolated in their jobs with other adults, seniors isolated with other seniors at the senior center, teenagers with other teenagers. That is not necessarily a bad thing and probably, much of the time, it's what we want and it works. But, there is a dynamic that works at the Community Farm that is in contrast with this and it provides a unique opportunity for a different experience. You come away from that experience having a lot more faith in everybody.



## Distribution

We distributed approximately 23,000 pounds of fresh produce in 2015. Fresh vegetables were transported by farm volunteers to the; McAuley House Providence, House of Hope Warwick, Martin Luther King Center Newport, Child and Family Services Middletown, East Bay Food Pantry Warren and the Pemberton Apts. Jamestown

In addition we sold vegetables, eggs and honey from our farm store and pumpkins on Pumpkin Hayride Day in late October.



We had a great year and we look forward to another great year in 2016 and we thank Peter Ceppi, our very generous landlord, our very generous financial patrons and all of our volunteers.