



Impact Report 2022

GROW.
HEALTHY.
TOGETHER.



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Phoenix Community Farm started its vegetable garden in 2018 and became an establishing as a nonprofit in 2019.

Our founder and Executive Director, Beth De Vries, grew up in a rural farming community and while many in the community experienced some financial struggles, food insecurity was rare because many people grew their own food.

When working as a Nurse Practitioner, Beth was shocked to find out many in our community are making difficult decisions about bills and healthy food. In fact, many times when conducting Well Health Exams, the patients she talked discussed healthy eating with would say, “those are great recommendations, but I can’t afford that food on our family’s budget.”

We know that fresh produce is the healthiest fuel for our bodies, but the knowledge and art of growing, preparing, and preserving food is quickly being lost in our culture today.

1 out of every 3 households here in Midland County are struggling to meet basic needs, forcing them to make the difficult decision between paying bills and purchasing food for their family.

We’re working to help everyone have access to enough healthy food to live an active healthy lifestyle through education and growing food.

Statistics



According to the United Way of Midland County, **59.2% of ALICE households are considered food insecure**. A couple key definitions for you:

- **ALICE** – means Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed. These are families that are working hard to provide for themselves and their family but still have to regularly make difficult decisions between paying bills and putting food on the table.
- Food Insecurity is not only defined by having insufficient amounts of food, but also a diet that is lacking in quality, variety, and desirability.



Midland County records **34,350 households of which 28% are below the ALICE threshold**.

<https://www.uwmich.org/alice-report>

<https://www.211nemichigan.org/media-reports.html>

Mission & Vision

Our mission is to meet the basic need for fresh, healthy produce.

We grow & share produce, & we educate & empower our community to grow healthy together.

We are a non-profit farm that serves the Midland community with not only fresh produce, but also with education about growing, harvesting, preparing, eating, & preserving produce.

Our vision is of a sustainable, vibrant community growing & eating healthy food together

Staff



**Beth
De Vries**
Founder and
Executive Director



Jacob May
Production and
Operations Intern

Board of Directors

Barb Vander
Heide

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Location & Contact



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Programs

Produce donations

PCF donated 8,632 to residents of Midland Country through the Midland Fresh Mobile Farm Stand (which is run by the Arnold Center), Hidden Harvest, and a Pay what you Can produce stand located by the farm.

The Pay What You Can Produce Stand was stocked twice a week on the edge of the parking lot right at the Farm. The stand is open and available to the public. Residents are empowered to take what they need and pay what they can.

Adopt-a-Row

There were 17 three by thirty-five foot rows adopted in 2022 by families, farm neighbors, 4H groups and head start preschooler classes. PCF provided prepared soil, soil amendments, automatic irrigation, seeds and seedlings for this program. Over half of the rows received scholarships to participate in the program.

Education

See **2022 Impact Highlights on next page**



2022 Impact Highlights

In this last year, with the help of our supporters, we were able to provide:



Generous grants from

Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation	Dow Foundation, and Gerstacker Foundation,
Support from Midland Reformed Church and Universal Unitarian Church	Launched our Flower and Fall Décor fundraising memberships
Hundreds and hundreds of VOLUNTEER hours	Ongoing partnerships with Windover Highschool, Headstart
4H	17 Adopt-A-Rows nurtured by community members

Since our founding Harvest Pounds



Total 21054 Pounds

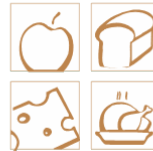
21,054 pounds of produce donated provided 105,270 servings of healthy fruits and vegetables – to residents of Midland Country through the Midland Fresh Mobile Farm Stand (which is run by the Arnold Center), Hidden Harvest, and a Pay what you Can produce stand located by the farm.



Collaboration



HIDDEN HARVEST



Putting good food to good use



Opendoor

PCF participates in Hunger Connections — Our community is stronger when we work together. United Way has partnered with **30 local nonprofits** and SVSU to form **Midland County Hunger Connections**—a collaborative designed to reduce barriers for the hungry. The goal of the group is to engage existing food security partners to foster ideas in which to collaborate to leverage resources, ensuring non-duplication of services.





www.phoenixcommunityfarm.com

