

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dedication Ceremony and Inaugural Harvest of Izzie's Field – A Farm to Foodbank Project

NORFOLK, VA | July X, 2023 – The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore is delighted to announce the dedication ceremony and inaugural harvest of Izzie's Field. This Farm to Foodbank project – funded by Kroger and supported by New Life Church, Pop Son Farm, and Hubbard Peanut Company – aims to increase the availability of fresh produce to our community while also supporting the hard working and generous spirit of a local grower. It is located next to the state police station at 30010 Camp Pkwy in Courtland, VA.

The dedication ceremony will take place on Tuesday, August 1, at 9:00am, honoring the late Izzie Brown, former Foodbank Grants Manager, whose passionate grant writing efforts made this initiative a reality. We are proud to dedicate this farm to her memory and continue her legacy of compassion and commitment to fighting hunger.

Volunteer opportunities will span three days, starting on Tuesday, August 1, and concluding on Thursday, August 3. Three hundred volunteers, aged eight and older, are needed at Izzie's Field and the Foodbank daily to assist in the harvest and quality assurance of nearly 160,000 ears of fresh, locally grown corn.

- Corn Harvest Shifts at Izzie's Field: Volunteers will be harvesting corn directly from the field.
 - Tuesday, August 1: 7-9am and 10am-12pm
 - Wednesday, August 2: 7-9am and 10am-12pm
 - Thursday, August 3: 8:00-11:00am
- Corn Harvest Production Shifts at the Foodbank: Volunteers will package corn for distribution and perform control measures, including inspection of the corn for freshness, maturity, and absence of contaminants. This is an alternative for those that wish to be involved in this inaugural event without being outside for extended periods.
 - Tuesday, August 1: 1-3:30pm and 5:30-7:30pm
 - Wednesday, August 2: 1-3:30pm
 - Thursday, August 3: 1-3:30pm

This is a fantastic opportunity for individuals, families, and groups to make a tangible impact in our community. More information can be found at <https://foodbankonline.org/volunteer/> or by contacting Volunteer Manager Stephanie Cuffee at scuffee@foodbankonline.org or 757-314-4559.

Lastly, we would like to extend our gratitude to Elisha Barnes, the dedicated farmer for Izzie's Field. By partnering with a minority farmer, the Foodbank aims to address the historical barriers faced by socially disadvantaged farmers and strengthen the food system in the Franklin area. Mr. Barnes will tend to the 20-acre farm, dedicating 10 acres to crops of his choice, while caring for crops selected by the Foodbank on the remaining half.

The harvested produce will be distributed throughout various food pantries across the region. The success of this pilot program will guide our future endeavors, and if all goes well, we plan to expand similar projects to the Eastern Shore and South Hampton Roads regions.

About the Foodbank

For more than 40 years, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore has provided more than 380 million meals to those in our community who face hunger. Through our programs, facilities, and large network of community partners, we work to eliminate hunger daily. Our understanding of the need for a long-term solution has led to the creation of a refreshed strategic plan aimed at moving Hampton Roads closer to achieving the mission of eliminating hunger for those we