MVB Community Choice 2026

Let’s Grow Good Food For All !

Farming Falmouth is on a mission to “bring food home again,” by growing more local food, preserving farmland and strengthening our region’s food resilience.

We’re producing more food in Falmouth so more people get the benefit of eating fresh-picked vegetables and fruits, grown locally in sustainable ways. Last year we harvested 9,400 lbs. of food to donate to the Falmouth Service Center and to the Cape & Islands Veterans Outreach Center. This year we are shooting for 12,000 lbs. -- grown by farming manager Jeny Christian, assistant Christine Sinlao,,and 90 dedicated volunteers like Calvin D. Mathis III.

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our non-profit organization. We caught up with Calvin to ask why he volunteers, and we hope you’ll find his answers as inspiring as we do.

Calvin first heard about our organization at the farmers market , where he helps SNAP customers with their supplemental nutrition benefits. “When I learned Farming Falmouth grows mostly for donation,“ he said, ”I wanted to give my labor and time for my community, and for what I believe is a human right: access to healthy food.”
A few years ago, during the Covid pandemic, he recalled empty shelves and lines for limited food. “I remember thinking, I don’t like this feeling. How could this happen? I began to research the food system and focus more on how I eat. I learned about the benefits of growing your own food and more sustainable ways to do it.”

Calvin had some basic growing skills, learned from his grandfather who kept a garden. He began volunteering at the Service Garden, our quarter-acre field at Tony Andrews Farm. "Last summer we grew beans, tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant -- all the usual vegetables you'd expect around here," he said. "We also grew more culturally diverse produce like bok choy, tomatillos, collard greens and okra." He became a regular in the field, one of Jeny’s Service “Guard-ners.” Rain or shine, week after week, he helped harvest, weigh, wash, pack -- "bunch produce and make things look nice " -- before loading up the truck bound for the Service Center, a 15-minute drive away.
The care that all the Service Guard-ners take hasn’t gone unnoticed by Service Center’s clients. “When I see the fresh vegetables offered, “ said one client, ”I can’t believe it’s for us. So beautiful and healthy. Thank you, farmers!”

Last June, when Farming Falmouth acquired its own small farm – The Patch – Calvin volunteered to do a weekly shift there as well. He helped break ground on a new field, prepare the soil, add compost, plant seeds, propagate starts in the greenhouse, and see everything develop “from the ground up.” In the dry months of late summer, he

gained an appreciation for drip irrigation and getting water efficiently to roots. “We planted radishes, carrots, turnips and lettuces for the fall,” he recalled. "Finally we put in garlic, for next year’s crop.”

It’s that extra bit of space at the Patch that allows us to project that we can increase our fresh food donations to 12,000 lbs. in 2026. “The fresh produce that we receive from Farming Falmouth has been an incredible boost to what we can offer our client households,” says Kerin Delaney, director of the Falmouth Service Center.”

The new goal will also require extra seed, compost, irrigation – and extra work.
“I know I can count on Calvin “ says farming manager Jeny. “ I appreciate his curiosity, trying to learn more each week, and how he helps newer volunteers. It’s part of the learn and lead thing we do. He‘s become part of the teaching crew. He’s stepped up to the role. And he has fun with it!”

The appreciation is mutual.

“Farming Falmouth gives me the opportunity to pursue a personal goal,“ says Calvin, “to help people who aren’t in the best financial situation to eat in a healthy way.“ He gets our vote for MVP in the field, and we hope he – and all our wonderful volunteers – will get your vote of confidence, too.

To learn more about Farming Falmouth, our educational programs, volunteer opportunities, farmland preservation and other initiatives, please visit:
farmingfalmouth.org