



No child should go to bed hungry.

"Then [God] changed wasteland into fresh pools of water, arid earth into springs of water, brought in the hungry and settled them there; they moved in—what a great place to live! They sowed the fields, they planted vineyards, they reaped a bountiful harvest. God blessed them and they prospered greatly; their herds of cattle never decreased. But abuse and evil and trouble declined as God heaped scorn on princes and sent them away. God gave the poor a safe place to live, treated their clans like well-cared-for sheep." —Ps 107:35-41 MSG

As a 2014 Neighbors in Need grant recipient, The Potato Project, aka IHartHarvest, Inc., located near Reading, Pennsylvania, is viewed by its directors, Walt and Linda Zawaski, as a faith-based farming ministry mandated by God to serve all in need. They live out their understanding by "responding to a call of the Holy Spirit which directs them to help by offering food from the land they have been given to manage and by giving only out of what they possess, and/or can do by their own hands."

To that end, eight acres of potatoes were harvested in September 2014 which reached and augmented local meals with fresh food for an estimated 30,000 households, about 84,000 persons, ranging from children and single parents to senior citizens. In addition, the Zawaskis hosted over 900 volunteers who helped to pick and supply 153,000 pounds of potatoes and

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4,855 pounds of carrots, all of which was donated—at an estimated value of nearly \$118,000—in the battle against food insecurity!

Food insecurity is defined as having limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food. Food insecurity “exists in every county in the U.S., ranging from a low of 4 percent in Slope County, ND to a high of 33 percent in Humphreys County, MS. In 2014, 48.1 million Americans lived in food insecure households, including 32.8 million adults and 15.3 million children. Households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 19 percent compared to 12 percent. While in 2013, 5.4 million seniors (over age 60), or 9 percent of all seniors were food insecure.” (source: www.FeedingAmerica.org)

Walt Zawaski humbly, but firmly, shares his belief about their farming ministry this way: "The work we do is not about the physical things we build, or the credit, notoriety, or even accolades we may garner. The work we do is about the one thing that neither any civil war nor anything else can ever destroy. Everything comes down to building relationships. Relationships between ourselves and others, and relationships between God and God's people, is what matters, alone."

In partnership with The Greater Berks Food Bank, the Potato Project supplies over 300 qualified charitable food programs, including local food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, Kids Cafes, Weekender Backpack Programs, and senior housing facilities.



To learn more about
The Potato Project visit
sites.google.com/site/ihartharvest/home
or like IHartHarvest, Inc. – The Potato
Project on Facebook.

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

Please donate today!

Neighbors in Need 2016 ucc.org/nin

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

