

2020

annual report

GRATEFUL
TO OUR
FRONTLINE
HEROES !!

#GRACEFARMSRELIEFFUND

grace farms
foundation



With grace, peace, and joy, we invite you to advance good in the world with us.

Last year, our team and partners mobilized our wherewithal and ingenuity to address two intersecting and pressing humanitarian crises at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When we closed to the public on March 9, there was only one COVID-19 case in Connecticut. That one case soon turned into many and our first responders sounded the alarm about the crucial need for personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the state.

As the economic effects of the crisis intensified, we began to hear from community partners about the overwhelming need for food. As one partner remarked, “we know that the need may never dissipate - this may be the new normal.”

Taking the step to close early gave us the opportunity to think about how to respond to these rapidly escalating emergencies. We redeployed our teams to address needs developing in real-time. Using our expertise in supply chains, we swiftly worked with trusted partners, while also transforming our public space into an essential place of business and a humanitarian hub to serve others.

Within days, trays of fresh, healthy dinners rolled out the Commons, which serves as our community gathering place. As food insecurity continued to rise, we accelerated

the donations and delivered 169,276 pounds of food to over 70,000 individuals and families, with the help of a dozen not-for-profit partners. Our new normal is to continue addressing social equity through a food lens.

While we were loading food onto delivery trucks bound for those who needed it, we were also securing PPE for our healthcare heroes. We launched the Grace Farms Relief Fund for Connecticut and Grace Farms Alliance Against COVID-19, comprised of partner organizations including the Town of New Canaan Emergency Management, Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc., and XJ Group, based in China. The Relief Fund and cross-sector partnerships enabled us to source, purchase, deliver, and donate 2M elusive, life-saving PPE. This includes 500,000 N95 respirator masks and other medical necessities to fill the gap for frontline workers in 55 different organizations, 17 hospitals, and 27 municipalities.

While forklifts were hoisting hundreds of boxes of PPE onto vehicles to deliver across the state, our initiative work continued. We developed diverse virtual programming, engaging thousands in resourceful conversations to cope with isolation and crisis. From discussions with Dr. Theresa Bowling, Anesthesiologist at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, to a conversation with Chaplain Tom

Solhjem, the Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Army, they gave us hope.

During this accelerated pace of advancing good, we launched Design for Freedom, a new and ambitious movement to eradicate forced labor from the built environment. Joined by more than 60 industry leaders and professionals, we launched a dedicated website and *Design for Freedom*, a groundbreaking report that I co-edited with Amb. (ret.) Luis C.deBaca, our Justice Initiative Senior Advisor, and Chelsea Thatcher, Creative Director and CMO.

Despite the long days to accomplish all of this, we found joy in helping others. As Camille A. Brown and Ross Gay reminds us in a preview of *Moments & Fieldnotes*, a new digital Arts Initiative program, joy is fundamental to our lives. It propels us forward and gives us meaning.

With grace, peace, and joy, we invite you to advance good in the world with us.

S Prince

CEO and Founder, Grace Farms Foundation



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Joy is
fundamental
to our lives.

It propels
us forward
and gives
us meaning.

Change is built
by community,
and systemic
change is
sustained by
community.





about grace farms

Grace Farms Foundation's interdisciplinary humanitarian mission is to pursue peace through five initiatives – nature, arts, justice, community, and faith – and Grace Farms, a SANAA-designed site for convening people across sectors. Our stake in the ground is to end modern slavery and gender-based violence, and create more grace and peace in our local and global communities.

mission

Grace Farms Foundation supports initiatives in the areas of nature, arts, justice, community, and faith, and encourages participation locally and globally. The Foundation carries out its work through the publicly available facilities and integrated programs of Grace Farms, an 80-acre property owned and operated by the Foundation. Grace Farms was established as an essential platform for the Foundation, serving as a welcoming place where individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and government entities come together to collaborate for the common good.

vision

Grace Farms Foundation aspires to advance good in the world, providing a peaceful respite and porous platform to experience nature, encounter the arts, pursue justice, foster community, and explore faith.

our values

As we aim to advance good in the world, we believe that our culture and the manner in which we work carries the same significance as the outcomes we are trying to achieve.

grace

we seek to understand and engage with one another with humility, forgiveness, and respect.

peace

we pursue a just, diverse society through our initiatives and justice, starting with ourselves.

excellence

grounded in grace and peace, we continually aspire to elevate our collective work and place through an inner drive to go beyond what has been done before.

openness

we communicate often and honestly, championing the resolution of issues promptly and directly.

meaning

we cultivate meaningful community rooted in joy, integrity, and our common sense of purpose.

new outcomes

we learn and collaborate broadly, generating new perspectives and outcomes to advance human flourishing.





our five initiatives

“We started with a clean slate to think about what could we contribute to human flourishing? These five initiatives are part of our answer.”

– Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder of Grace Farms Foundation, in *The CEO Forum*

Grace Farms was envisioned as a new kind of publicly available place, a peaceful respite with an active community, where new outcomes could emerge.

Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, envisioned that an intentionally-designed space could communicate a set of values and advance good in the world for years to come. This concept of space communicating is profound, as it is subtle. And SANAA’s Pritzker Prize-winning architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, embodied this vision into the River building’s design, creating a site with social and spiritual potential. The result is an environment that feels hopeful and aspirational – that stretches us all in different ways to share in something greater.

Our core focus areas of nature, arts, justice, community, and faith also inform one another, increase diverse perspectives, and promote inclusive thinking. Much of our initiative work also aligns with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, as well as with the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles of 2020. This alignment is now part of our long-term strategic goals.

Our initiatives, which apply our own scholarship in addition to global partnership insights, become more profound when they intersect through Grace Farms.

nature

We facilitate the stewardship of our natural world through restoration, exploration, and preservation, offering more than 30 weeks of multi-generational programming, and collaborate with the Justice Initiative to protect endangered species and wildlife at a local and international level.

arts

Arts demonstrates our integrative vision and dynamic interplay between people, architecture, and landscape, and develops and presents new, collaborative, site-responsive programming at the intersection of the visual, literary, and performing arts.



This concept of space communicating is profound, as it is subtle.

justice

Our commitment to justice is based on the inherent right of liberty and equality for all. We leverage our law enforcement expertise, capacity building across local, national, and global justice systems, and our unique interdisciplinary approach, in order to disrupt modern slavery, gender-based violence, and environmental crimes.

community

We engage diverse audiences and also create proximities to people with different perspectives and humanitarian issues, with the goal of catalyzing new ways of thinking, partnerships, and actions that can lead toward sustained social impact.

faith

We offer opportunities for dialogue and reflection to explore the nature of flourishing and purposeful life through workshops with various faith leaders and educators engaging with the world’s great traditions.

2020 partners

A Better Chance of Wilton
Abilis
Ability Beyond
American Society of Landscape Architects
Americares
Architectural Record
B Kind
CBA Committee on Human Trafficking
 | Sub Committee on Forced Labor
Community Mindfulness Project
Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
Columbia University/Barnard College
Connecticut Association of Independent Schools
Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Connecticut State Police
Dedication 2 Community
Design Within Reach
DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking
Fairfield County's Community Foundation
Fairfield Police Department
Government of Iceland
Haitian National Anti-Human Trafficking Committee
Homeland Security Investigations
Houston 2026 World Cup Bid Committee
IE Madrid
Illinois Institute of Technology

Interfaith Council of New Canaan
Liberty Shared | Malawi Network Against Trafficking
LUMOS Foundation
Lusaka Agreement Task Force
Marion Manufacturing
Mayan Corporation
New Canaan Cares
New Canaan Community Foundation
New Canaan Library
New Canaan Museum and Historical Society
News 12 Connecticut
Norwalk Police Department
Parsons School of Design | The New School
Pentagram
Pratt Institute School of Architecture
Princeton University
Resiliency Center of Newtown
Retazo L3C
shohei yoshida + associates / sy+a
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
STAR
The Cooper Union
The New York Times
Tide Risers
UN Environmental Program (UNEP)
UN Women

The result is an
environment that feels
hopeful and aspirational
– that stretches us all in
different ways to share
in something greater.

University of Maryland
University of Norte Dame
 | Human Trafficking Initiative
University of Pennsylvania
 | Perry World House
U.S. Army Chaplain Corps
U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of CT
USAID/USNDP
Voices Center for Resilience
Wildlife Conservation Society
Woman at the Well Transition Center
Yale Center for Faith & Culture
YWCA Hartford
YWCA Greenwich

Together we
can address
the most
pressing
humanitarian
issues of
our times.



a year of impact

Our founder’s belief that space could communicate a set of values and activate our mission had a profound effect on our work in 2020.

The River building, designed by SANAA’s Pritzker Prize-winning architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa and embedded into 80 acres of natural landscape, was pivotal to our humanitarian efforts. The building itself, along with the hopeful and open space of Grace Farms, became the epicenter of our personal protective equipment (PPE) and food relief efforts.

On March 9, when we closed to the public, we converted Grace Farms into an essential place of business to confront the escalating crises. With a first-responder mentality, we pivoted to address the critical shortages of PPE and access to food.

In this hopeful space, we used all our skills and expertise, including our supply chain knowledge, to respond to these historical crises.



2M

PPE sourced, donated, and distributed to 55 organizations in 27 towns across Connecticut and New York

169,276

pounds of nutritious meals and pantry staples distributed to 67,897 individuals through our Food Relief program

60+

leaders of industry joined Design for Freedom to design and build more humanely, including 13 design partners and supporters, and 12 colleges and universities nationally and internationally



A YEAR OF IMPACT

Out of the PPE crisis, new outcomes emerged to save lives

As the crisis swiftly unfolded, we mobilized our operations and supply-chain experts to source, purchase, track, and load thousands of PPE supplies delivered from overseas onto trucks in our parking lots. In cross-functional unison, our other teams, including marketing and communications, supported these round-the-clock efforts.

The PPE requests came from many channels, including emails, phone calls, and social media. Every incoming request from organizations and individuals had to be dealt with care, speed, accuracy, and agility. The attention to logistics was not unlike trying to coordinate the construction of our River building, with many parts in motion simultaneously.

As Grace Farms was turned into a humanitarian hub, the Foundation launched the Grace Farms Relief Fund for Connecticut and the Grace Farms Alliance Against COVID-19 to accelerate these efforts.

The Relief Fund was initiated with a \$2.5 million donation, and within four months there were \$4.8 million in individual donations, grants, in-kind donations, and support from the state of Connecticut. More than \$800,000 in in-kind PPE was donated from our Alliance partner Ningxia Yanbao Foundation, and Connecticut’s sister state in China, the Shandong Province Provincial Government.

The Shandong Province Provincial Government also raised \$100,000 in funding. Other Alliance partners that assisted in the complex coordination of PPE sourcing and delivering included: the Town of New Canaan Emergency Management, Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc., Building and Land Technology, Greenwich Economic Forum, Helena Foundation, and XJ Group.

"So long as we stand together through this hardship, together we shall prevail. Let our friendship shine through this challenging time." – America & Oceania Division, Shandong Foreign Affairs Office

“I can’t stress enough the importance of this shipment to our members. Many have died and will die for lack of PPE. It is heartening to know that there are people and organizations who understand the stakes and act accordingly.”

– Stephen Magro, SEIU Healthcare 1199NE

This cross-sector Alliance, along with Grace Farms’ transnational supply chains and customs expertise, expedited the sourcing, purchasing, donation, and delivery of bulk quantities of medical-grade N95 respirator masks and other medical necessities within three weeks. During the most critical phases of the pandemic, the Foundation secured and donated a total of 2M PPE, including 500,000 N95 respirator masks and other medical necessities to fill the gap for our frontline workers in 55 different organizations, 17 hospitals, and 27 municipalities.

Social entrepreneurial approach

As we were triaging the needs of healthcare organizations and not-for-profits throughout the state, our own community needed help. In an analysis conducted by the *Hartford Courant*, Fairfield County was identified as the number one hot spot in the state during the height of the pandemic. By mid-April, Fairfield County had the most reported cases of COVID-19 and COVID-associated deaths, 5,534 and 248, respectively.

Sharon Prince’s early and social entrepreneurial approach to close the PPE gap statewide, provided the first safety net

to healthcare and other essential workers. Her leadership to get PPE to those who needed it was recognized with the 2020 Transformative CEO Award in Leading Through Crisis, in the category of Community, by *The CEO Forum*.

Expanding relief through partnerships

As PPE supply chains began to stabilize, we broadened our outreach to donate PPE to hospice patients, homebound elderly, those in assisted living and supportive housing, the homeless, and people with special needs.

In June, the distribution expanded to 109 additional not-for-profits in Greater Waterbury, Connecticut, made possible by a generous \$95,000 grant by the Connecticut Community Foundation and United Way of Waterbury. More than 400,000 PPE was donated, including surgical masks, nitrile gloves, N95 respirator masks, and face shields.

This assurance that Grace Farms was able to meet early PPE demands led to a public-private partnership with the State of Connecticut, and also allowed the state to eventually build a PPE stockpile when supply chains opened up.

Connecticut’s Governor Ned Lamont acknowledged that the Foundation’s contributions to protect frontline workers at that time was a “godsend.”

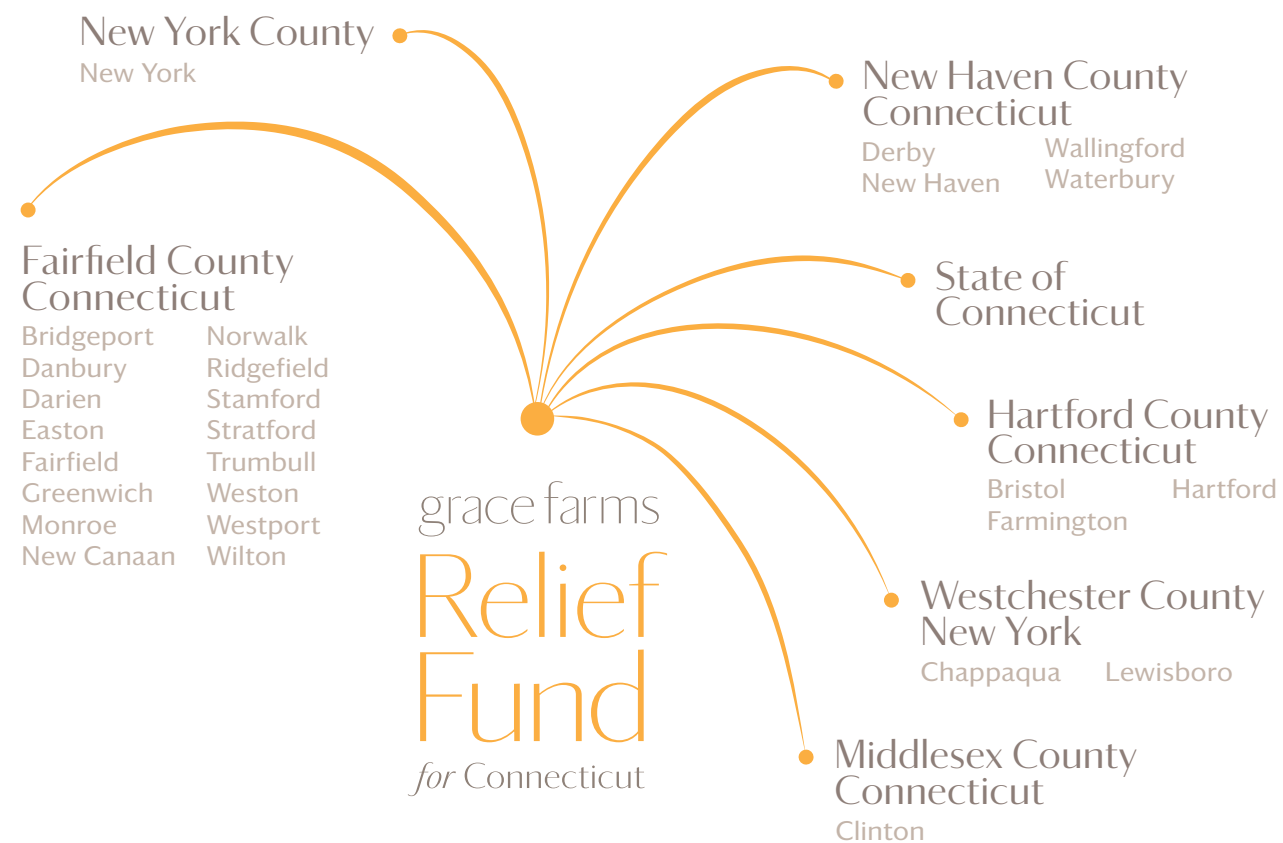
Closing the PPE gap

Grace Farms’ unparalleled interdisciplinary, collaborative and social entrepreneurial ethos to confronting pressing humanitarian crises allowed the Foundation to deliver lifesaving outcomes.

“To support Connecticut in the combat against Covid-19, we will donate goods in need to our sister state of 34 years as any friend indeed would have done. So long as we stand together through this hardship, together we shall prevail. Let our friendship shine through this challenging time,” said the America & Oceania Division, Shandong Foreign Affairs Office.

Louisa Lombardi, a critical ICU nurse at St. Vincent’s Medical Care Center, in Bridgeport said, “It means the world to me to have this N95 mask on for my safety and for the safety of my family that I have to go home to and come back—I love my job, I just want to be protected.”





“There was risk-taking. But you think about the healthcare workers taking risks every single day, you could see that. So, taking a risk, a business risk, was warranted.”

- Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, Grace Farms Foundation

PARTNERS

Grace Farms Foundation created the Alliance Against COVID-19

Grace Farms Alliance Against COVID-19 Partners

Town of New Canaan Emergency Management
Town of New Canaan Fire and Police Departments
Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc.
Helena Foundation
Ningxia Yanbao Foundation
Building and Land Technology
Greenwich Economic Forum
XJ Group

Medical Relief Supplies Recipients

Bridgeport Hospital
Bristol Hospital
Community Health Center, Inc. (14 COVID-19 testing sites)
Danbury Hospital
Greenwich Hospital
Griffin Hospital, Derby
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, New London
Northeast Medical Group
Norwalk Hospital
Silver Hill Hospital
St. Francis, Hartford
St. Mary's, Waterbury
St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport
Stamford Health

Waterbury Hospital
Waveny Care Center
Yale New Haven Health
Yale New Haven Hospital
Westerly Hospital, RI

Towns Receiving PPE Supplies for first responders, assisted living facilities, and other frontline workers

Bridgeport, CT
Darien, CT
Easton, CT
Fairfield, CT
Greenwich, CT
Monroe, CT
New Canaan, CT
Norwalk, CT
Ridgefield, CT
Stamford, CT
Stratford, CT
Trumbull, CT
Weston, CT
Westport, CT
Wilton, CT
Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, NY



NEW OUTCOME

Food relief has always been part of our community work

Working across initiatives, the place of Grace Farms, in collaboration with 12 not-for-profits, delivered over 168,000 pounds of healthy food to over 67,000 individuals.

Approaching an unprecedented crisis

Reminiscent of the Great Depression, which left us with indelible images of bread lines, the COVID-19 crisis will leave us with similar images of historical and economic hardship, long lines of people waiting for food - many of whom have never known food insecurity until now - around the country and in our communities.

Prior to the pandemic, Grace Farms had been involved in providing food relief to those in need in Fairfield County since it opened. Through its Community Initiative work with not-for-profits such as Food Rescue US and Person-to-Person, Grace Farms donated thousands of pounds of fresh food each year from its Community Garden, as well as nutritious meals made on site. When it became apparent that one of the fallouts from the pandemic was food insecurity rising to historical heights, Grace Farms Foundation pivoted to accelerate the Foundation's food relief efforts.

Our operations team converted Grace Farms into an essential place of business, a humanitarian hub to serve

others during the crisis, with particular attention to helping excluded communities, including the homeless and the elderly. Within days of closing to the public on March 9, the Commons, a community gathering place within the River building with kitchen facilities, became central to our food relief work. Chef Neena Perez, Director of Culinary Operations, along with her kitchen staff, dedicated their efforts to food relief, producing upwards of 2,000 wholesome meals per week.

The ability to pivot so quickly and respond in real-time to the unraveling food crisis is a natural extension of the interdisciplinary and collaborative work undertaken at the Foundation, where cross-sector collaboration results in new outcomes to pressing humanitarian issues. Our knowledge of supply chains, and ongoing work with established and trusted not-for-profit partners, local food providers, including farmers, provided a turn-key food operation and delivery system to target our food donations. Our relief work not only supported our communities, but provided much needed support for small- to mid-sized farmers also impacted by this pandemic.

Clockwise: © Dean Kaufman, Dean Kaufman, Julien Jarry

“I think of a person as a whole—providing six to eight ounces of protein, some grains such as rice, barley, and a healthy salad. It’s a full meal and we even provide a dessert. What is a meal without a dessert?”

– Chef Neena Perez, Director of Culinary Operations, Grace Farms Foundation

Feeding America, which supports food banks across the country, projected that by the end of 2020, over 43,000 people would become food insecure in Fairfield County as a result of the pandemic, pushing the number of food insecure to over 136,000 people in this county, alone. That’s roughly 1 in 7 of our neighbors. Local food relief agencies at the height of the COVID-19 crisis reported seeing as much as a 70 percent increase in requests for food assistance over the same time last year and a 300 percent jump in requests for financial assistance.

Our unique partnership model

The Community Initiative partnered with 12 not-for-profits including Person-to-Person, Food Rescue US, and the Domestic Violence Crisis Center to distribute fresh food and staples to those in need in Fairfield County. Over the years, the Community Initiative, led by Karen Kariuki, has built strategic relationships through its Space Grants Program, enabling the Foundation to extend its impact and capacity through these partnerships.

Our food relief work has also helped our partners divert their time and resources to deal with other critical issues, including housing and medical needs. The communities helped through our food relief work include: the elderly, homeless, low-income earning families and individuals, immigrants, and survivors of domestic violence, as well as the newly-unemployed.

Reaching tens of thousands in need

The day-to-day operations of our food relief initiative, managed by Chef Perez, resulted in the donation of more than 168,000 pounds of healthy food to over 67,000 families and individuals in 2020. Meal preparation takes into account cultural tastes and also incorporates Grace Farms’ hospitality approach: Personalized packaging, messaging, fresh flowers from our garden and meadows, coloring books, and other family activities developed by our arts, nature, and community initiatives, and our operations team, are meant to recognize the dignity of each person. In addition, 100 percent of our 1,400 square foot garden was dedicated to growing food for Grace Farms’ relief efforts.

The impacts from our food relief efforts were tangible. In a relatively short time, we’ve deployed our expertise, leveraging long-standing partnerships, including our wholesale suppliers, local farmers, not-for-profit partners, and repurposed our facilities at Grace Farms to provide thousands of pounds of nutritious food to those in need during this pandemic. As our CEO and Founder Sharon Price often says, we need to link arms to move the needle on systemic problems that underpin our society in order to achieve equity and freedom for all.

While the pandemic will eventually cease to be a threat, food insecurity will be a residual effect for years to come. So our work continues.

examples of meals we’re serving

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Mixed green salad | Mixed garden salad |
| Turkey chili | Adobo roasted pork stew |
| Rice | Mexican style rice |
| Roasted vegetables | Cookies |
| Cookies | |

partners

- Staying Put (New Canaan)
- Inspirica (Stamford)
- Malta House (Norwalk)
- Domestic Violence Crisis Center (Stamford and Norwalk)
- Pacific House (Stamford)
- Open Doors Shelter (Norwalk)
- Operation Hope (Fairfield)
- Thomas Merton Center (Bridgeport)
- Person-to-Person (Norwalk)
- Bridgeport Rescue Mission (Bridgeport)
- CT Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (Bridgeport)
- Food Rescue US



Design for Freedom: designing a more humane future

Construction is
the largest global
industrialized sector
and at the highest
risk of forced labor.

Nearly 25 million people around the world are in forced labor conditions, working in hazardous and inhumane environments to make and extract building materials such as brick, steel, and timber. Although slavery is illegal in every country, from human trafficking to forced labor, it continues with impunity.

Who makes our buildings and the materials that go in them? These are the central questions of the Design for Freedom movement.

In the fall of 2020, Grace Farms Foundation CEO and Founder Sharon Prince launched Design for Freedom, an unprecedented and ambitious movement to end forced labor in the building materials supply chain. Joined by more than 60 global industry leaders across the ecosystem of the built environment, Prince is leading the work to design and build a more humane future.

Many CEOs and principals who have taken up the flag to advocate for supply chains free of forced labor also have muscle memory from launching the green building movement. Although the environmental sustainability movement in the architecture, construction, and engineering industry took decades to materialize into mainstream consciousness, there is now a knowledge about how to create new models for adopting social sustainability and criteria for transparency in material procurement, shortening the timeline for widespread adoption.



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150 billion
dollar value of the modern
slavery criminal industry
worldwide

25 million
approximate number of people
held in servitude for forced labor

152 million
children aged five to 17 are
subjected to child labor

11.4 trillion
construction-related
spending globally (USD)



The public launch included the publication of a new report, *Design for Freedom*, which provides analysis and data on how forced labor is cemented into the very foundations of our buildings; a dedicated website (designforfreedom.org) with tools, resources, and original content; and a visiting lecture series and public events with numerous academic institutions such as Yale University, Cooper Union, and Pratt Institute to educate future architects and the public about this pressing humanitarian issue. A core goal in 2021 is to initiate material transparency research and initiate a pilot project.

Launched in the fall of 2020, Yale University's *Fighting Slavery in the Building Supply Chain* was a first-of-its-kind class. Led by Associate Dean Phil Bernstein and Fellow Luis C.deBaca, the class was made possible with support from Grace Farms Foundation.

Design for Freedom report

The Architect's Newspaper hailed the *Design for Freedom* report as "historic." Including original commentary and analysis from more than 30 experts and leaders at the forefront of innovation in the built environment ranging from the U.S. to Africa, the report offers insights into how technology and innovation can improve industry efficiency and empower stakeholders to apply an ethical lens to their daily and strategic decision-making.

Designforfreedom.org

Our new website, designforfreedom.org, provides facts and information to illuminate forced labor in our building materials supply chains, original content and perspectives from more than two dozen leaders in the built environment, and actionable steps professionals and students can take to help move toward forced labor-free building.

Design for Freedom Digest

The Design for Freedom Digest is an informative newsletter with eye-opening reports, news stories, and notes milestones made toward responsible progress within the architectural, engineering and construction industry supply chains.

Visiting lecture series

Recognizing the importance of mobilizing future architects to join the movement to design a more humane future, our CEO and Founder Sharon Prince, along with Working Group members, have collaborated with more than a dozen universities across the country to present Design for Freedom to the next generation of architects and leaders.

A partnership to raise awareness and grow the movement

As a part of Design for Freedom, Grace Farms partnered with Working Group member Herman Miller and Design Within Reach to retail an ethically-manufactured face mask.

Designed in collaboration with architects Shohei Yoshida, Principal of shohei yoshida + associates / sy+a and formerly of SANAA, and Peter Miller, Founding Partner of Palette Architecture and formerly of Handel Architects, the Design for Freedom face mask is inspired by the roof of Grace Farms' iconic River building, that reflects light differently throughout the day and in response to the weather.

In addition to the sale of the ethically produced mask, Herman Miller and Design Within Reach made a donation to help advance the Design for Freedom movement. These partnerships demonstrate the difference we can collectively make when we work together to confront pressing humanitarian issues.

30

Design for Freedom was featured in printed and online publications including

Forbes

FASTCOMPANY

ARCHITECT

The Architect's Newspaper

Architectural
Record

WRC

working group

500

architecture students became a part of the movement through presentations at more than a dozen colleges and universities nationwide

major supporters

- Grace Farms Foundation
- HermanMiller
- good folk
- Dalio Philanthropies
- Holland & Knight

design supporters

- Geometry Global/WPP
- Shohei Yoshida and Associates
- Palette Architecture
- Pentagram
- Marion Manufacturing
- Mayan Corporation
- CookFox Architects
- Paratus Group
- SHoP Architects
- FXCollaborative
- SO-IL
- Extravega
- Sciame Construction, LLC

collaborations with universities

- Yale School of Architecture
- Pratt Institute
- Pratt Institute School of Architecture
- Cooper Union
- Parsons
- Princeton
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- IE (Madrid)
- University of Pennsylvania
- Cornell University
- Columbia University/Barnard College
- University of Maryland

media partners

- Architectural Record*
- The Architect’s Newspaper*

"We fail to realize that every line a designer or architect draws sets into motion a string of actions that have environmental, social, and ethical repercussions."

– Jing Liu and Florian Idenburg, Principals, SO–IL, members of the Design for Freedom Working Group

working group members

- Baxi, Kadambari** | Barnard College, Professor of Professional Practice in Architecture, Co-Founder, Who Builds Your Architecture?
- Bergdoll, Barry, Ph.D.** | Center for Architecture, Board President
- Berke, Deborah, FAIA, LEED AP** | Yale School of Architecture, Dean, and Deborah Berke Partners, Founder
- Bernstein, Phillip, FAIA, RIBA, LEED AP** | Yale School of Architecture, Associate Dean and Professor Adjunct
- Blackstock, Kaley, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, CDT** | Gensler, Sustainability Specialist
- Bradley, Paul** | Lendlease (U.S.), Global Supply Chain Manager
- Bronet, Frances** | Pratt Institute, President
- Bucher, Alissa, AIA** | Rogers Partners, Associate Partner
- Burke-Vigeland, Madeline, FAIA, LEED AP, NCARB** | Gensler, Principal
- Califano, Mark, Esq.** | Dentons, Partner-Commercial Litigation practice
- C.deBaca, Luis, Amb. (ret.)** | Grace Farms Foundation, Justice Initiative Sr. Advisor and Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Cook, Rick** | COOKFOX Architects, Founding Partner
- Coppedge, Susan, Amb. (ret.)** | Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons & Krevolin & Horst
- Crawford, Jill** | Type A Projects, Founding Partner

60+

global leaders of the built environment are a part of the Working Group

working group

Darling, Diana | The Architect’s Newspaper, CEO, Co-Founder, and Publisher

Denison, Dirk, FAIA, MCHAP | MCHAP Director and Professor at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), College of Architecture

DuBois, Bill, CSI, CCS | Gensler, Certified Construction Specifier/Architect

Gans, Deborah, FAIA | Gans & Co., Founder and Principal Architect

Gilbert, Jared | COOKFOX Architects, Director of Communications

Gorman, Jay | Sciam Construction, Project Executive

Green, Michael, AIBC, FRAIC, AIA | MGA, a Katterra Company, President and CEO

Gore, Meredith, Ph.D. | University of Maryland, Associate Professor

Grennan, Elizabeth | Global Managing Counsel, McKinsey Digital

Guilliams, Gabe, PE | BuroHappold Engineering, Principal, Lighting Specialist

Harriss, Harriet, Ph.D., CONS, RIBA, PFHEA, PFRSA | Pratt School of Architecture, Dean

Hernandez-Eli, Jhaelen | The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Head of Construction

Idenburg, Florian, RA, AIA-IA | SO – IL, Founding Principal

Jones, Susan | atelierjones, Founder, Architect

Kaiman, Elliot, Esq. | Wiggin and Dana, Partner, Design, Construction and Real Estate

Kharitonova, Olya | GoodFolk, Creative Director

King, Leslie P., Esq. | Carlton Fields, Shareholder, Construction Litigation

Klemmer, Andrew | Paratus Group, President & Founder

Laidley, Iain, Ph.D. | GoodFolk, Managing Director

Liu, Jing, AIA | SO – IL, Founding Principal

Lynch, Brad, AIA | Brininstool + Lynch, Founding Principal

MacDonald, Shawn, Ph.D. | Verité, CEO

Malekshahi, M. Mark, PE | Zubatkin Owner Representation, Sr. Project Manager

Marroquin, Diego | East Rock Capital, Partner, and The World Around, Co-Founder & Executive Chairman

McGuigan, Cathleen | Architectural Record, Editor-in-Chief

Medina, Sammy | The Architect’s Newspaper, Executive Editor

Mettam, Kirk, PE | Silman, EVP, Senior Principal

Miller, Peter, AIA, LEED | Palette Architecture, Founding Partner

Mizzi, Joseph | Sciam Construction, President & COO

Moote, Kilian | KnowTheChain.org/Humanity United, Director

Natke, Patricia Saldaña, FAIA, ALA, NCARB | UrbanWorks, Founding Partner and President

Opara, Eddie, AIGA | Pentagram, Partner

Oppenheimer, Nat, PE | Silman, EVP, Senior Principal

Posner, Michael | NYU Stern, Professor of Ethics & Finance, Director Center for Business & Human Rights

Prince, Sharon | Grace Farms Foundation, CEO and Founder

Propst, Debbie | President, Herman Miller Retail

Reynolds, Fiona | Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), CEO

Ricks, Alan, Int FRIBA | MASS Design Group, Founding Principal and Chief Design Officer

Rilloso, Antonio | ExtraVega, CEO & Founder

Rogers, Robert, FAIA | Rogers Partners, Founding Principal

Rolland, Ann, FAIA | FXCollaborative, Partner

Schaeberle, Carolyn | Pratt Institute, Director of the Center for Sustainable Design Strategies

Sharples, Christopher, AIA | SHoP Architects, Founding Principal

Shaw, Matthew | The Architect’s Newspaper, Contributing Editor

Short, Annabel | Institute for Human Rights and Business

(NY), Built Environment Program-Advisor

Slade, Hayes, AIA, IIDA | Slade Architecture, Co-Founder and Principal & AIA NY 2019 President

Trubiano, Franca, Ph.D. | University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design, Architect and Associate Professor in Architecture

Ulicny, Brian, Ph.D. | Thomson Reuters Labs Americas, Vice President

Uzuri, Imani | Vocalist, Composer, Harvard Fellow

Walker, Darren | Ford Foundation, President

Weisz, Claire, FAIA | WXY architecture + urban design, Principal-in-Charge

Yoshida, Shohei | Shohei Yoshida and Associates, Principal

American Institute Of Architects

Dodge, Sarah | AIA, Senior VP of Advocacy & Relationships

Prosky, Benjamin | AIA NY & Center for Architecture, Executive Director

Seidel, Paula, CAE | AIA, Senior Director, Industry and International Relations

Yao, Kim, AIA | AIA NY, President and ARO, Principal

Grace Farms Foundation

Prince, Sharon | CEO and Founder

Khattabi, Rod | Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director

Thatcher, Chelsea | Creative Director and Chief Marketing Officer

Adams, Kenyon Victor | Arts Initiative Creative Director

Cleary, Eavan | Director of Brand Design

Fowler, Mark | Nature Initiative Director

Rapuano, Elizabeth | Director of Communications

Reynolds, Alina Marquez, Esq. | General Counsel and Justice Initiative Senior Advisor

Sikora, Ashley | Director of Marketing

Walsh, Meg Hely | Director of Strategic Partnerships

our five
initiatives
work together
to generate
new outcomes



© Julien Jarry

initiatives

addressing our humanitarian and societal challenges

Our ability to work together and examine our societal issues through diverse expertise allowed us to immediately respond to the PPE and food crisis, while also continuing to achieve new humanitarian outcomes, including launching a movement to remove forced labor from the built environment, as well as building more resilient communities.

We invite our five initiatives to confront and tackle contemporary issues from various perspectives and knowledge. By being in close proximity to each other, we can examine issues such as human trafficking and forced labor through the lens of our initiatives of nature, arts, justice, community, and faith.



OUR FIVE INITIATIVES

nature

The Nature Initiative facilitates the stewardship of our natural world through restoration, exploration, and preservation. In this historic year, filled with challenges due to COVID-19, our exploration of nature brought us hope and engaged us during a time of prolonged isolation.

We significantly expanded our digital programming to stay connected and continued to learn and discover ways we can restore and preserve nature together. Through our Instagram stories, for instance, more than 3,000 people joined our nature-focused virtual tours of Grace Farms’ meadows and natural landscape.

We demonstrated how we restored 77 acres of our land into ten biodiverse native habitats, including meadows, woodlands, ponds, and wetlands. A focus on nature has been a part of Grace Farms Foundation’s work since our founding. The River building was purposely designed to bring together people and nature. Its open and porous architecture seamlessly rests in the landscape and breaks down barriers to the natural world.

3,638

people engaged with the Nature Initiative’s in-person and virtual content

9M

weekly audience reach of the News 12 series *Road Trip Close to Home*

2

featured dialogues in partnership with USAID and UNDP on Big Cat Conservation

Since our founding, we've restored 80 acres back to its native habitats, creating an awe-inspiring model of what's possible when we work together, locally and globally.

Our continued focus on nature this year, from restoring wild with native plants to creating vital habits for pollinators, to understanding the constellations in our year-long astronomy series, resonated with multi-generational audiences.

Exploring nature & pollinators

We explored how planting with native species of trees and plants attract pollinators. Since Grace Farms opened, native bees and over 100 species of birds have returned, as the result of our restoration to a native landscape, dramatically improving the biodiversity of our ecosystem. A native landscape has broader environmental impacts as well: it reduces the demand for non-renewable resources, improves water quality, and provides food and shelter for beneficial insects.

This year, Mark Fowler, our Native Initiative Director, also launched a TV series called *Road Trip: Close to Home* that took us on a journey across Connecticut. As host of this nine-part series in collaboration with News 12, Mark shared the wonders of nature and the extraordinary biodiversity in Connecticut with over 9 million viewers each week.

Pollinator pathway

The Pollinator Pathway, a coordinated movement to create pesticide-free corridors of native plants, is an important part of our work. As a founding member of the New Canaan chapter, along with other organizations such as The New Canaan Land Trust, we are actively building these protective pathways to provide nutrition and habitats for pollinators and protecting our biodiversity. We often think of pollinators largely as honey bees, but our native bees, birds, and beneficial insects are equally as important to support.

Our partnerships with groups like Pollinator Pathway expand our capacity to advocate for the stewardship of our natural world. Beyond our local and regional advocacy, our

Nature Initiative collaborated with premier international development agencies USAID and UN Development Programme (UNDP), to host a series of ongoing *Big Cat Conservation Dialogues*. The protection of big cats, which has received international attention in recent years, explores why the conservation and protection of these animals is so important to our global ecosystem.

Combating Illegal wildlife trafficking

These dialogues and explorations increased our awareness about the natural environment, brought us closer to nature, and encouraged us to consider national and international perspectives and impacts that we can make together. Our ongoing work in conservation continues through these partnerships, including our collaboration with our Justice Initiative, which provides the law enforcement expertise and capacity building to confront illegal wildlife trafficking around the world. Together, with the Justice Initiative, we expanded our network to combat wildlife trafficking, including partnering with organizations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society and Traffic, among others.

"There's incredible life out here in the remote parts of our state. Now a days, when we can't travel internationally, it's about getting out doors, in our region, bringing your family along, and having an adventure you will never forget."

– Mark Fowler, Nature Initiative Director
Road Trip: Close to Home





OUR FIVE INITIATIVES

arts

The COVID-19 Pandemic presented an opportunity for the Arts Initiative to revisit its programming archive with new guiding questions. In 2020, this curatorial inquiry revealed an expanded capacity to discover insights and connect with communities through *Moments & Fieldnotes*, a new digital programming platform. The first installment featured a chorus of interdisciplinary perspectives from artists who contributed to our 2018 *Practicing Joy* program. The program also served families by providing downloadable activities for those sheltering at home, as well as through *Operation Joy*—a collaboration with our Community Initiative delivering arts activity kits alongside the Foundation’s Food Relief program.

1,000+

visitors interacted with *Moments & Fieldnotes*, a new, digital programming platform

200

activity kits from the Arts Initiative were delivered to families as a part of *Operation Joy*

1,700+

participants attended the premier of two new digital works commissioned by the Guggenheim’s Works & Process department, and co-presented by Grace Farms Foundation’s Arts Initiative

In such times, the work of artists can become a source of joy, grace, and sustaining peace for the many audiences we are grateful to serve.

We also found the opportunity to stay connected to the community of artists who have contributed to Grace Farms, including choreographer **Andrea Miller**, filmmaker **Ben Stamper**, choreographer **Silas Farley**, and dancer **Cassia Farley**. It was a joy to support all four artists through *Works & Process Artists Virtual Commissions*, a new program developed by the performing arts series of the Guggenheim. As a co-presenter of the event, the Arts Initiative moderated a discussion prior to the world premiere of *Notes on Gathering*, with the film's creators, Andrea Miller and Ben Stamper.

Practicing during challenging times

The *Practicing* program at Grace Farms is grounded in the notion that the work of contemporary artists is a substantive context in which to aspire towards individual and societal transformation. Together with contributors from various disciplines, we seek to cultivate an environment in which artists can hold space for a receptive attention to the process of creating and questioning. Since its inaugural year, the Arts Initiative established a programming approach that relies as much on silence as it does creative output, finding a relevant truth in the adage, *ora et labora*, a dialectic of commitments to contemplation and action. Each workshop in *Practicing*, a series which examined empathy, awe, silence, and joy, has yielded a central set of knowledge outcomes.

Theologian **Willie James Jennings** – whose insights were included in artist **Julianne Swartz'** three-part sound installation in the River building, figures joy and the work of sustaining it as a mode of resistance against despair and all its forces. It was this particular insight, and a chorus of voices from *Practicing Joy*, that illuminated and extended the invitation to consider joy deeply as a way of responding to a time of profound suffering.

Moments & Fieldnotes

In March of 2020, the Arts Initiative asked the question: *What practices are required to sustain life and liberation?* This inquiry – amid the layered crisis presented by COVID-19, which has intensified systems of oppression that have for centuries defined our shared reality – led us to publish *Moments & Fieldnotes*, a new digital programming platform. The first issue, *Fieldnotes from Practicing Joy*, introduced audiences to insights from those who convened at Grace Farms in 2018. The program included videos, articles, playlists, and family activities, organized into three parts: joy and sorrow, joy as resistance, and joy in recognition. It is our hope that these questions, experiments, discoveries, and invitations serve continually as a source of fortitude for the many seeking hope amid an ongoing season of extraordinary challenges.

"I look at joy as an act of resistance against despair and its forces ... that can become a state, that can become a way of life."

– Willie James Jennings, theologian



Practicing Joy-inspired family activity kits from the Arts Initiative in the West Barn Studio.



Arts Initiative Director, Kenyon Victor Adams, following a digital panel discussion broadcast from the Commons at Grace Farms.



OUR FIVE INITIATIVES

justice

The foundation of our justice work is based on the inherent right of liberty and equality for all. We aim to empower justice systems at the local, national, and global levels to address modern slavery, gender-based violence, and environmental crime. To do so, we utilize a multidisciplinary approach, including awareness, policy, and capacity building.

In 2020, we witnessed an increase in domestic violence, as well as an increased risk of human trafficking. Intimate partner violence rose during global lockdowns, and in some countries, calls to domestic violence helplines significantly increased since the COVID-19 pandemic began, according to the UN Women’s report on *COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls*¹.

The U.S. Department of State also noted in its 2021 *Trafficking in Persons Report*²: “While the number of individuals at risk of trafficking grew during the pandemic, so did the conditions under which traffickers thrive.”

“Within my own career, I have seen law enforcement agencies begin to adopt more compassionate means of aiding victims of human trafficking.”

– Rod Khattabi, Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director

¹ COVID-19 and ending violence against women and girls, UN Women. 2020.

² *Trafficking in Persons Report*, U.S. Department of State. 2021.

700+

people engaged through in-person and virtual justice awareness and training content

6

countries collaborated with GFF to promote awareness and training on the topics of forced labor, trafficking in persons and wildlife, and gender-based violence

8

new partnerships developed to increase the global footprint of capacity building programs

Disrupting violence before it occurs requires first building public awareness, which is one of the pillars of the Justice initiative.

Preventing and protecting violence before it occurs

We responded by amplifying our focus on gender-based violence with the release of *Safe at Home | Preventing Violence Against Women*. These webinars, led by former federal prosecutor and Senior Advisor to the Justice Initiative **Alina Reynolds**, a recognized expert on the Violence Against Women Act. The programs explored the importance of cross-sector collaboration in preventing domestic violence and discussed essential resources to support survivors during the COVID-19 crisis. In 2020, the Justice Initiative also focused on the convergence of human trafficking and environmental crimes. Capacity building programs have allowed us to surface the overlapping nature of these crimes through the use of forced labor in areas such as illegal logging, sex trafficking in labor camps, and transnational organized crime syndicates that facilitate illicit trade.

From pre-COVID in-person training in Uganda to facilitating trainings virtually for participants in Malawi and Haiti, we have engaged more than 300 people in the implementation of policy that increases the identification of victims, their access to services, and the prosecution of perpetrators.

Launch of Design for Freedom

The pandemic also made us acutely aware of our global supply chains and their complexity. Still largely hidden from view is how human trafficking and forced labor is used in our supply chains and the built environment. To surface this issue, our CEO and Founder, Sharon Prince, galvanized more than 60 industry leaders and experts and launched the Design for Freedom movement.

Leaders of our Justice Initiative, including Rod Khattabi, Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director, have contributed transnational supply chain and human trafficking expertise to advance the Design

for Freedom movement. As a part of the groundbreaking *Design for Freedom* report, Rod joined **Dr. Meredith Gore**, recognized expert in conservation issues, and Nature Initiative Director Mark Fowler, to discuss the connection between forced labor in our building materials and the environmental crime of illegal logging. This was one of many collaborations between the Justice and Nature Initiatives, which have been working to train law enforcement to disrupt transnational wildlife crime.

Partnerships

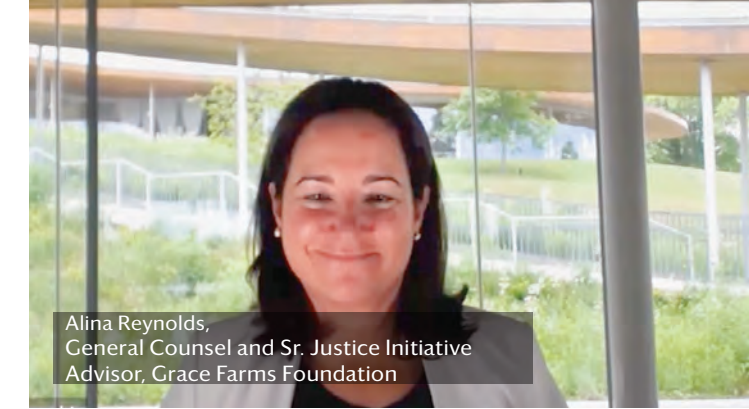
“It is vital that organizations like ours work in tandem with law enforcement agencies to provide the knowledge, resources, and tools necessary to effectively investigate human trafficking.

– Rod Khattabi, Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director

Throughout 2020 we continued to expand our programmatic partnerships through new collaborative endeavors with the **UN Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Development Programme, Born Free USA, Turtle Survival Alliance, Lemur Conservation Network**, and the **University of Maryland**.

Our partnership with **Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)** provided critical new opportunities to assist law enforcement around the world. To that end, Grace Farms hosted HSI on site in March, bringing together law enforcement to share resources to combat human trafficking.

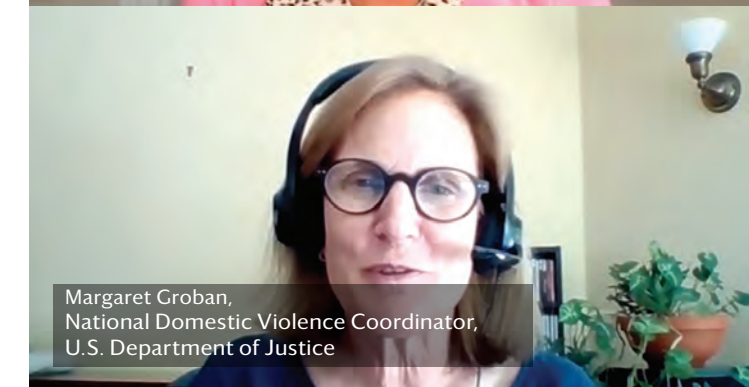
The Justice Initiative was also honored to receive the 2020 Partnerships Award from the **National Intellectual Property Rights Center and Global Trade Division**, which can be read about in our Awards section.



Alina Reynolds,
General Counsel and Sr. Justice Initiative
Advisor, Grace Farms Foundation



Karen Jarmoc,
Former CEO, Connecticut Coalition Against
Domestic Violence (CCADV)



Margaret Groban,
National Domestic Violence Coordinator,
U.S. Department of Justice



Kalliopi Mingeirou,
Chief of the Ending Violence Against Women
Section, UN Women



OUR FIVE INITIATIVES

community

More so than in any previous year, our initiatives revolved around strengthening our connection with each other during a prolonged period of isolation, while providing unprecedented relief for our communities.

Within days of closing, we focused our resources to address growing food insecurity in our community. Last spring, many supply chains were disrupted and food banks—the safety net for the food insecure—were struggling with securing fresh food, staples, and basic supplies. We immediately heard from our community partners that besides the dire need for personal protective equipment (PPE), there was a growing need for food. With infrastructure and partnerships already in place, we were able to strategically determine the areas where we could make the most impact, especially among the newly unemployed, excluded, and communities.

750

people engaged to foster wellness and connection through digital content

21

local collaborators linked arms to present *The Start of Change: Addressing Racism*, a series addressing racial uprising and justice in our communities.

110

not-for-profits engaged with our resources to navigate through the crisis

169,276 pounds
of nutritious meals
and pantry staples
distributed to 67,897
individuals through our
Food Relief program

100% of staff dedicated to relief work

With a projected increase of food insecurity of 14% in Fairfield County, up from 9.9% in 2018, we accelerated the number of wholesome culturally-sensitive meals donated each week from about 500 meals per week at the start of our relief efforts to nearly 2,000 meals per week. Chef Neena Perez, our Director of Culinary Operations, managed the day-to-day planning while our Community Initiative Director, Karen Kariuki, worked strategically with our Connecticut-based not-for-profit partners, including **Person-to-Person** in Stamford, **Open Door Shelter** in Norwalk, **Domestic Violence Crisis Center** in Stamford, and **Staying Put New Canaan**, to deliver the most impact.

Our Community Garden staff, as well our Operations' team, dedicated their support to food relief, including transitioning 100% of growing space to food relief. Our year-over-year harvest increased by 26%, helping to boost food contributions. The food relief undertaking was funded by Grace Farms Relief Fund for Connecticut, which was launched soon after Grace Farms closed to the public.

Launch of *Caring for Community* series

In addition to this work and in recognition of the uncertainty and stress caused by the pandemic, we launched the *Caring for Community* series, which consisted of three digital programs focused on wellness and healing trauma, developed in collaboration with professionals that focus on well-being. Internationally-recognized movement, meditation, and wellness expert **Pilin Anice** created our digital programing series Movement for Healing, which was designed to create a sense of connection during stressful times. Other experts that contributed to our caring series included **Mary Fetchet**, a licensed clinical social worker and Founder of **Voices Center for Resilience**, as well as Erika

Long, a certified mindfulness teacher and co-Founder of the Community Mindfulness Project in New Canaan, CT.

Support with strategic resources

To understand the role social media can play in helping organizations stay connected, our Community Initiative Director invited *The New York Times* Social Media Editor **Sona Patel** for a conversation with over 100 community partners and organizations. Besides illuminating the role social media can play in communities, Patel helped not-for-profits understand social media ethics and leverage social strategies to advance their missions.

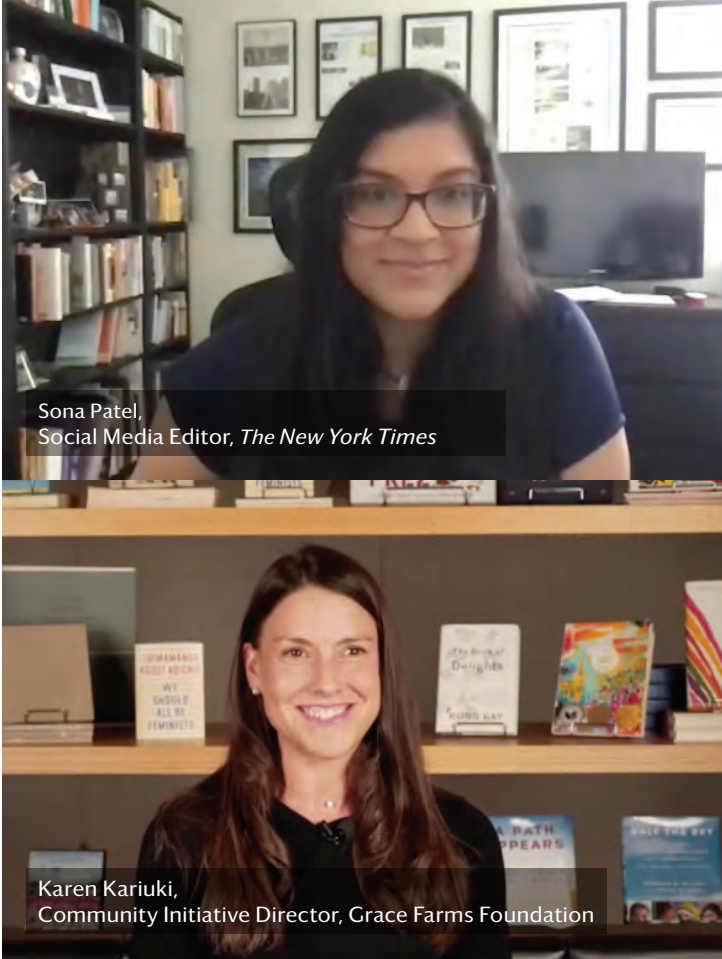
Addressing race & racism

Along similar themes of division and isolation, we launched with more than 20 local partners, *The Start of Change: Addressing Racism*, a series of conversations addressing the community's understanding of race and racism. This series launch, initially started with **New Canaan Library**, **New Canaan Museum & Historical Society**, **New Canaan Community Foundation**, **the Interfaith Council of New Canaan**, and **B kind**, will also go on in 2021.

As we all continue to address these societal inequities and challenges, it's clear from the impacts we've made this year - that change must come from the community and be sustained by the community.

"What we've seen with so many families, after all of these tragedies, is that they've been able to move forward in their life. It will never be the same, but they've found growth out of the experience."

– Mary Fetchet,
Founding Director Voices Center for Resilience



"... when we think of equity, access, and voice amplification ... we need to think about people who don't have ... [internet] access, but who have equally important stories to tell."

– Sona Patel
Director of Community, *The New York Times*



OUR FIVE INITIATIVES

faith

While COVID-19 left us with so much grief and sorrow, it was also a year that provided new opportunities to reflect on the deeper meaning of our relationships with those around us, our communities, and ourselves.

The imposed and long isolation presented opportunities for dialogue and contemplation to explore: *What is the nature and shape of flourishing life?*

To explore this question, we created *Books on Faith & Meaning*, a digital programing series consisting of monthly presentations of selections from the Faith & Meaning section of the Grace Farms Library. Dr. Matthew Croasmun, Faith Initiative Director at Grace Farms and Associate Research Scholar at the Yale Center for Faith & Culture, invited authors and thought leaders from multiple religious and philosophical traditions and backgrounds to critically discuss book themes and the meaning in our lives.

9,000

people viewed U.S.Army Chief of Chaplains interview with Dr. Croasmun

6

faith thought leaders from around the county collaborated on *Books on Faith & Meaning*

4

Connecticut-based partners lead a discussion about the college prep and application processes

“Love is the power that sustains us ... love for our family, even though we’re separated, even though we’re restrained or constrained. Love is a powerful thing.”

–Thomas Solhjem
U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains

This digital format and series, which engaged hundreds of participants, allowed the Faith Initiative to respond to the pandemic crisis with relevant discussions on faith and meaning. For instance, in a conversation with Dr. Croasmun, **Martin Hägglund**, Professor of Comparative Literature at Yale, discussed our fragility and the possibility of loss that make our lives meaningful. With Hägglund’s book *This Life: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom* as the basis of the discussion, they addressed a year of great loss and how to navigate beyond our isolation and fear, to feeling connected.

Through our ongoing partnership with the U.S. Army Chaplains Corps, Dr. Croasmun invited U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains **Thomas Solhjem** to speak about the war-like aspects of the pandemic. This conversation, which reached over 9,000 people around the world, reminded us that love is what sustain us in difficult times. The Chaplains Corps take care of the diverse spiritual needs of thousands of Army soldiers around the world, including their families and army civilians, addressing some of the most important questions of their lives.

“But at the end of the day, this pandemic will end. And then what I would offer is, is what we’ve been able to gain through the struggle, can make us better, stronger.”

– Thomas Solhjem, U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains

This conversation between Chaplains Solhjem and Dr. Croasmun resonated with so many people around the world because of the widespread themes that emerged during the pandemic.

In a conversation with Chaplain Solhjem, Dr. Croasman asked about COVID-19 referred to as a war against the virus and the similarities with war. “I asked Chaplain Solhjem whether this was an apt comparison. And if this is war, how do we cultivate the courage that we need to weather dangers that we can’t control?”

While the Faith Initiative was addressing what could sustain us during a “war against the virus,” the initiative also examined persistent issues of systemic racism. Through the Books on *Faith & Meaning* series, we furthered our exploration of Black liberation theology by discussing two key texts: first, James Cone’s *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, and second, in conversation with the author, Willie James Jennings’ *After Whiteness*. These books call us to confront injustice and white supremacy in our communities, houses of worship, educational institutions, and county, while also envisioning new ways of life and communities of belonging.

“... if there is a gathering, in the very gathering itself, it undoes whiteness, it unravels it, it unravels people’s lives from it, so they start to see themselves as part of the gathering, not the center of reality that makes the gathering possible, then we are onto something extraordinary.”

– Willie James Jennings,
Books on Faith & Meaning
A Conversation with Willie James Jennings



Mathew Croasmun,
Faith Initiative Director, Grace Farms Foundation



Thomas Solhjem,
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army

“In this in this moment, in this pandemic, we’re suddenly confronted with precisely a danger that we can’t control. And we need to activate courage that maybe many of us haven’t cultivated...it is going to cause us to have to dig deep.”

– Thomas Solhjem,
U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains

The River
building was
pivotal to our
humanitarian
efforts.



select recognition

Grace Farms has been internationally recognized for its outstanding design, architectural significance, and work to advance good locally and globally.

The CEO Forum Group's Transformative CEO Award in Leading Through Crisis (2020)

The CEO Forum Group selected Sharon Prince and Grace Farms Foundation for its 2020 Transformative CEO Award in Leading Through Crisis in the category of Community. This award was for “unprecedented heroic efforts” in delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) during the first wave of COVID-19 in spring 2020, as well as for creating a “unique, scalable model” for comprehensive responses for current and future crises.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Partnership Award (2020)

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center recognized Grace Farms Foundation and Rod Khattabi, Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director, for our ongoing work to safeguard national and economic security, combat illicit trade, and protect the health and safety of the American public. Other award recipients included Pfizer, Nike, 3M, Citigroup, Amazon, Walmart, and Johnson & Johnson.

Second Prestigious LEED Certification, Silver (2019)

Grace Farms Foundation was awarded our second prestigious LEED Silver certification for Operations + Maintenance, led by Adam Thatcher, then Director of Operations and Sustainability and current Sustainability Advisor. Paired with Grace Farms' 2016 LEED Certification

for Building + Maintenance, we demonstrate our ongoing and daily commitment to sustainability and protecting our fragile ecosystem both locally and globally.

American Institute of Architects New York Chapter NYC Visionary Award (2019)

Sharon Prince and Grace Farms Foundation were awarded the NYC Visionary Award for the vision for Grace Farms as a new kind of public space that seamlessly blends architecture, art, and nature into a platform for people across sectors to convene and activate the Foundation's initiatives to advance good in the world.

American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Architecture Honor Award (2017)

This AIA award is given annually and honors the best built works in American architecture.

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Connecticut Design Honor Award (2016)

The Honor Awards from the statewide chapter of the AIA celebrate the excellence of Connecticut projects. In its citation, the jury described Grace Farms as “a graceful project with an ephemeral quality, a quality of apparent simplicity that belies complexity in sectional and structural planning. The project preserved a substantial piece of the public Connecticut landscape for public and an unusual institutional use.”

Fast Company Innovation by Design Awards, Social Good Finalist (2016)

Fast Company acknowledged Grace Farms Foundation and its mission in its design category that includes great architecture in the service of social good.

Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize (2014-2015)

The second annual Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize recognized the best built works of architecture in the Americas realized from January 2014 through December 2015. Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, founders of the Pritzker-winning architecture firm SANAA, were presented with the Award, the MCHAP Chair at IIT Architecture Chicago for the following academic year, and \$50,000 in funding toward research and publication.

Individuals and firms who worked as a part of the Grace Farms design team have also been acknowledged for accomplishment in engineering, construction, acoustic systems and lighting design. The full architectural team can be found at gracefarms.org/project-team.

board of directors

- Sharon Prince

Chair and CEO
- Michael Chen

Vice Chair
- Roy Medile

Treasurer
- Abby Bangser

Founder and Creative Director,
Object & Thing
- Jay Fielden

Former Editor-in-Chief, *Esquire*
- Barbara J. Gould

General Counsel, Alvarez & Marsal
Capital Partners
- Peter Hunsinger

Founder and CMO, KANE 11
- Angela Mwanza

Senior Vice President, UBS Wealth
Management
- Robert Prince

Co-CIO, Bridgewater Associates
- Hayes Slade

Co-Founder and Principal, Slade
Architecture
- Chelsea Thatcher

Creative Director and Chief
Marketing Officer, Grace Farms
Foundation
- Dr. Miroslav Volf

Director, The Yale Center for Faith
and Culture

leadership

- Sharon Prince

CEO and Founder
- Kenyon Victor Adams

Arts Initiative Creative Director
- Eavan Cleary

Director of Brand Design
- Dr. Matthew Croasmun

Faith Initiative Director
- J. Mark Fowler

Nature Initiative Director
- Karen Kariuki

Community Initiative Director
- Rod Khattabi

Chief Accountability Officer and
Justice Initiative Director
- Frank Kwei

Head of Visitor Engagement
- Nancy Lagnese

HR and Recruitment Manager
- Kate Maloney

Associate Director, Global
Partnerships and Research
- Alina Marquez Reynolds

General Counsel and Justice
Initiative Senior Advisor
- Tom Medico

Controller
- Fred Pickering

Director of Safety
- Elizabeth Rapuano

Director of Communications
- Pamela Ruggio

Arts Initiative Curator
- Sarah Scandiffio

Director of Events
- Ashley Sikora

Director of Marketing
- Christine Simmons

Director of Operations and Visitor
Experience
- William Stonebridge

Director of Facilities
- Cherie Sweeney

Chief Operating Officer
- Adam Thatcher

Sustainability Advisor
- Chelsea Thatcher

Creative Director and Chief
Marketing Officer
- Bill Tom

Director of Information
Technology and Cybersecurity
- Meg Hely Walsh

Director of Strategic Partnerships



2020 FINANCIAL

financial review

Grace Farms is a new kind of public place,
a peaceful respite and an active community
where new outcomes emerge.

The open, porous architecture of Grace Farms' River building is designed to break down barriers between people and sectors, inviting us to pause and reflect, while also encouraging engagement that creates lasting change and impact that advances good.

Our humanitarian mission of ending modern slavery and domestic violence, as well as addressing crises impossible to ignore, is reflected in our values of place and our five initiatives of nature, arts, justice, community, and faith.

We reached our fifth anniversary in fall 2020. At this important milestone, we are thankful for early supporters who embraced Grace Farms Foundation's vision to create a generative, humanitarian platform and new outcomes that emanate out into the world locally and globally.

income

In 2020, even during a global pandemic, more than 375 donors, including individuals, foundations and businesses, generously invested in the Foundation’s work.

As a private operating foundation, we steward our donations into operating and managing the publicly welcoming Grace Farms, including our space grant program, and the impactful work of the Foundation five initiatives – nature, arts, justice, community, and faith - which are described in detail in prior pages of this report.

\$14,000,000
total donations to Grace Farms Foundation in 2020

\$4.8 million
investments in the Grace Farms Relief Fund *for* Connecticut from 216 individuals, businesses, governments and in-kind donors. The Relief Fund was launched in 2020 to address the immediate and urgent need to provide relief to the food insecure and to provide critical personal protective equipment (PPE) to those on the front lines of the pandemic in communities across the state.

\$2.65 million
in individual donations

\$95,000
grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Waterbury to fund distribution of PPE to nonprofits on the front lines of the pandemic.

\$800,000
in-kind donations of PPE

\$1.25 million
from the state of Connecticut to procure PPE

expenses

We are grateful to have had a committed group of donors underwrite general and administrative expenses for 2020.

This support ensures that all gifts to our designated Grace Farms Fund directly support the charitable programmatic work of Grace Farms, through the ongoing preservation and operation of Grace Farms and the work of our five initiatives. Every donation helps keep Grace Farms accessible to all.

\$10 million
Total cost in 2020 to support the charitable programmatic work and ongoing preservation of the publicly available Grace Farms as a welcoming respite for all, our five initiatives, and the outcomes of our cross-initiative work, such as the COVID-19 Relief Fund and the Design for Freedom movement. All gifts to the Grace Farms Fund support this work.

\$6.1 million
General & Administrative expenses underwritten by a committed group of donors to support the mission of the Grace Farms Foundation, including accounting, legal, human resources, fundraising, and communications.

the future

The future of Grace Farms is a shared vision that together, we can continue to advance good.

Our various supporters and partners, including passionate individuals, engaged philanthropic entities, members of the local and regional business community, and civic and municipal organizations, are ensuring that this unparalleled place and interdisciplinary work can manifest new outcomes for decades to come.

Please join us in making a difference locally and globally by donating to Grace Farms Foundation.

Roy Medile
Treasurer, Board of Directors

relief fund

The Relief Fund, established with \$2.5 million in private donations, was launched during a period when federal, state, and large corporate procurement of PPE was nearly impossible to procure in bulk quantities from reliable sources.

To build a trusted and reliable supply chain of delivery, Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, organized the Grace Farms Alliance Against COVID-19, an effort comprised of more than half a dozen partner organizations (see full list of Alliance partners on the following page).

At the height of the pandemic, Grace Farms donated 2 million PPE statewide, which helped close the critical state-wide supply gap.

Grace Farms also received a \$95,000 grant, awarded by the Connecticut Community Foundation and the United Way of Greater Waterbury. This grant purchased over 400,000 medical-grade PPE from Grace Farms at cost, which was distributed to over 200 not-for-profits in the greater Waterbury region. Grace Farms collaborated with Marion Manufacturing Company to use its factory to sort and distribute the PPE.

In addition, more than \$750,000 of in-kind donations was donated from our Alliance partner Ningxia Yanbao Foundation. The Shandong Province Provincial Government, also an Alliance partner, raised an additional \$100,000 in funding to support the relief effort.

To help healthcare providers find and request help from healthcare and government leaders, the Relief Fund donated \$250,000 to support Helena Foundation's COVID Network, a non-profit, open-source platform that helps organizations in need of critical medical supplies.

While Grace Farms played an essential role in closing a state-wide PPE gap early in the pandemic, it was also addressing the acute food shortage in Fairfield County.

Through the Grace Farms Relief Fund *for* Connecticut, \$2.9 million in funding allowed Grace Farms to become a major supplier of wholesome and nutritious food relief in the county. Working across initiatives, the place of Grace Farms, and in collaboration with our 12 not-for-profit partners, we delivered over 169,000 pounds of healthy food to over 67,000 families and individuals in need.

Within a month of closing to the public, Grace Farms Foundation launched the Grace Farms Relief Fund *for* Connecticut to address the critical shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) across the state, as well as historical food insecurity in Fairfield County.

Connecticut Community Foundation distributed 404,563 pieces of PPE including:

- 200,000 surgical masks
- 200,000 nitrile gloves
- 3,803 face shields
- 760 N95 masks

PPE was distributed to 109 nonprofits from 20 towns and cities, including:

- Beacon Falls
- Bethlehem
- Bridgewater
- Brookfield
- Cheshire
- Danbury
- Hartford
- Litchfield
- Naugatuck
- New Britain
- New Milford
- Oxford
- Prospect

- Southbury
- Southington
- Torrington

Grace Farms Alliance Against COVID-19 Partners

- Shandong Province Provincial Government, sister state to CT (China)
- Town of New Canaan Emergency Management (New Canaan, CT)
- Town of New Canaan Fire and Police Departments (New Canaan, CT)
- Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc. (Glen Allen, VA)
- Helena Foundation (Los Angeles, CA)
- Ningxia Yanbao Foundation (Ningxia Province, China)
- Building and Land Technology (Stamford, CT)
- Greenwich Economic Forum (Greenwich, CT)
- XJ Group (New Canaan, CT)
- *PPE deliveries were also coordinated with the State of Connecticut

Medical Relief Supplies Recipients

- Ability Beyond Disability
- Bearskin Health & Wellness Center
- Bridgeport Hospital
- Brightview Assisted Living
- Bristol Hospital
- Charter Oak Health Center
- Christian Medical & Dental Association
- Community Health Center, Inc. (14 COVID-19 testing sites)
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Connecticut Community Foundation
- Danbury Hospital
- Edith Kassanavoid Gordon

relief fund

Medical Relief
Supplies Recipients
continued

Edith Kassanavoid Gordon
Assisted Living Center
Family & Children’s
Health Agency
Gaylord Hospital
Greenwich Hospital
Griffin Hospital, Derby
Hartford Hospital
Homeland Security Investigations
Kyle Health Center
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital,
New London
Monument Valley Community
Health Center
Nathaniel Witherell
Navajo Nation Long Term Care
Northeast Medical Group
Norwalk Hospital
Notre Dame Health
& Rehabilitation
Okmulgee Indian Health Center

OPTIMUS
Regional Hospice, Danbury
RVNA Health
SEIU District 1199
Seneca Cayuga Culture
& Historic Prevention Program
Silver Hill Hospital
St. Francis, Hartford
St. Mary’s, Waterbury
St. Vincent’s Medical Center,
Bridgeport
Stamford Health
Stratford Visiting Nurses
Tsailie Health Center
UCONN Health
Visiting Nurse & Hospice, Wilton
Vitas Healthcare
Waterbury Hospital
Waveny Care Center
Wilton Meadows
Yale New Haven Health
Yale New Haven Hospital
Westerly Hospital, RI

Towns Receiving PPE Supplies
for first responders, assisted
living facilities and other
frontline workers

Bridgeport, CT
Clinton, CT
Darien, CT
Easton, CT
Fairfield, CT
Greenwich, CT
Monroe, CT
New Canaan, CT
Norwalk, CT
Ridgefield, CT
Stamford, CT
Stratford, CT
Trumbull, CT
Waterbury, CT
Weston, CT
Westport, CT
Wilton, CT
State of Connecticut
Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, NY
Millwood, NY

Great news to read! Any chance you can send any to Griffin Hospital in Derby, CT? My wife is a nurse in the ICU and they could certainly use them. She’s using the same one multiple times! 🙏

Thank you sooo much for your donation of PPE to St Marys Hospital on Tuesday! Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. We needed PPE to continue to do our work safety with some piece of mind while working.. knowing that we have the proper equipment helps tremendously . Thanks again! Can’t wait to visit with you when we can get out and things slow down a bit! Gina —ICU RN St Mary’s Hospital 🙏

Social media became
a lifeline for many

Our Foundation set up an online PPE request form to take urgent requests in real-time. Many leads started with social media messages, and requests were sorted and assessed. Many deliveries went out from Grace Farms the same day of the request to provide lifesaving protection.



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grace farms

Grace Farms Foundation's interdisciplinary humanitarian mission is to pursue peace through five initiatives – nature, arts, justice, community, and faith – and Grace Farms, a SANAA-designed site for convening people across sectors. Our stake in the ground is to end modern slavery and gender-based violence, and create more grace and peace in our local and global communities.

Grace Farms was established as an essential platform for the Foundation, serving as a welcoming place where individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and government entities come together to collaborate for the common good.

To learn more visit gracefarms.org

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get involved

Created as a peaceful respite with an active and engaged community, Grace Farms inspires people to connect with one another, engage with nature in all seasons, and advance good in the world.

membership

Grace Farms Members enjoy special access to our site, experiential activities and thought-provoking programs – and the opportunity to be a part of our mission to pursue a more peaceful world. Learn more at gracefarms.org/membership.

donate

One hundred percent of charitable donations directly fund the Grace Farms Fund unless directed otherwise. Visit gracefarms.org to support our initiatives and publicly available space for all.

follow us @gracefarmsct

