GRATEFUL TO OUR FRONTLINE HEROES!!

#GraceFarmsReliefFund
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.

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 169,716 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 XI 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 300,000 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.

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

**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.
The result is an environment that feels hopeful and aspirational— that stretches us all in different ways to share in something greater.
Together we can address the most pressing humanitarian issues of our times.
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.

a year of impact

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
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
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.

“In the face of this public health emergency, we all need to come together. I urge our community to take action,” said Connecticut’s First Lady Annie Lamont.

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, nitrite 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.

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, nitrite 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.

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, nitrite 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.

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, nitrite 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.

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, nitrite 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.
“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
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
Stratford, CT
Trumbull, CT
Weston, CT
Westport, CT
Wilton, CT
Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, NY
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.

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.

Food relief has always been part of our community work
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
Turkey chili
Rice
Roasted vegetables
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

“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
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.

NEW OUTCOME

© Oleksandr Zhabin

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

150 billion
$ value of the modern slavery criminal industry worldwide

25 million
approximate number of people held in servitude for forced 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.
"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
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.
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.

**OUR FIVE INITIATIVES**

- **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
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 continued focus on nature this year, from restoring wild with native plants to creating vital habitats 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
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.

**OUR FIVE INITIATIVES**

**arts**

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

The U.S. Department of State also noted in its 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report: “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.
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.
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.

**OUR FIVE INITIATIVES**

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

©Julien Jarry
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

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 Karuki, 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...
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 program 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.

faith

OUR FIVE INITIATIVES

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
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, *After Whiteness*

“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

In this conversation between Chaplains Solhjem and Dr. Croasman resonated with so many people around the world because of the widespread themes that emerged during the pandemic.
The River building was pivotal to our humanitarian efforts.
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.

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.

AWARDS
select recognition

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.

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.
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

Thomas Fowler  
Director of Facilities

Rod Khattabi  
Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director

Frank Kwee  
Head of Visitor Engagement

Sharon Prince  
Chair and CEO

Michael Chen  
Vice Chair

Roy Medler  
Treasurer

Abby Bangser  
Founder and Creative Director, Object & Thing

Jay Fielder  
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

Karen Karuji  
Community Initiative Director

Chelsea Thatcher  
Creative Director and Chief Marketing Officer, Grace Farms Foundation

Dr. Miroslav Volf  
Director, The Yale Center for Faith and Culture

board of directors

Sharon Prince  
Chair and CEO

Michael Chen  
Vice Chair

Roy Medler  
Treasurer

Abby Bangser  
Founder and Creative Director, Object & Thing

Jay Fielder  
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

Karen Karuji  
Community Initiative Director

Chelsea Thatcher  
Creative Director and Chief Marketing Officer, Grace Farms Foundation

Dr. Miroslav Volf  
Director, The Yale Center for Faith and Culture

Karen Karuji  
Community Initiative Director

Rod Khattabi  
Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director

Frank Kwee  
Head of Visitor Engagement

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

Tom Medico  
Controller

Fred Pickering  
Director of Safety

Elizabeth Rapuano  
Director of Communications

Pamela Ruggio  
Arts Initiative Curator

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
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.
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.

$6.3 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.

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

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
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.

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, $3.9 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.

| 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
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.

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 so much for your donation of PPE to St Mary’s Hospital on Tuesday! Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated. We needed PPE to continue to do our work safely 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

Medical Relief Supplies Recipients continued

Edith Kassananavoid 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
Stratford, CT
Trumbull, CT
Waterbury, CT
Weston, CT
Westport, CT
Wilton, CT
State of Connecticut
Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, NY
Millwood, NY
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