



2023

# annual REPORT



Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley

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*transforming disabilities into abilities*

# Welcome to the farm!

Since 2012, Farm in the Dell has provided meaningful employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals with disabilities in our beautiful farm and garden setting.



## We don't just grow produce – we cultivate people.

Farm in the Dell serves individuals with disabilities, like Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Autism, and more. We offer our community a chance to experience a life that is **productive, joyful, meaningful – and never marginalized.**

Every day, we strive to ensure that each person feels **seen, heard, valued, accepted and celebrated** – rooted in their true identity as beloved children of God.



**Anna Sather**  
Executive Director

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to join the team at Farm in the Dell this year.

I have learned – in the deepest and most sincere way – that farming is a wonderful blessing from God that provides all of us – whatever our abilities may be – an opportunity to learn and grow. I am so grateful to be a part of it.



**Rikki Trageton**  
President of the Board

As 2023 comes to a close, I reflect on all the blessings experienced at Farm in the Dell this past year. I have been truly blessed to serve on the Board of Directors for 10 years – and I have had the opportunity to watch the farm grow from an idea and a dream to a real place where people of all abilities can learn, grow, and uncover their potential. I am beyond excited to see where God leads us next.



## The joy of a bountiful harvest

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Our Garden Engineers discover their abilities while planting, harvesting, and more – experiencing the joy of meaningful work. They work alongside our supervisors and volunteers who support them in their employment – and on their journey through life.



## Our Mission

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*Transforming disabilities into abilities*



WATCH OUR MISSION  
IN ACTION

# About Farm in the Dell

Whether you're already involved or are just learning about us for the first time, we invite you to come out to the farm and experience our mission firsthand.



Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley is nestled on a **25-acre plot of land, just north of Moorhead, MN.** We primarily serve individuals with developmental disabilities – like Autism, Down Syndrome, and more.



As a faith-based organization, **everything we do is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.** Every day, we are reminded that our worth does not come from our productivity – but is rooted in our identity as beloved children of God.



Each year on the farm, **we grow dozens of varieties of vegetables, fruit, herbs, and flowers.** We sell the produce through our CSA program, at farmers markets, and through “U-Pick” events on our farm.



Our Garden Engineers, ages 16 and up, work part-time during the growing season. They spend their time in the garden while **planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, packing CSA boxes, and more.**



LEARN MORE

## Our impact

The community that we serve – individuals with disabilities – were born with differing abilities that often lead them to be **forgotten, devalued, or marginalized** in our current society.

**Farm in the Dell exists to change that.** While we acknowledge that no amount of money or boxfuls of produce will ever erase their struggles, **we choose to define our community through their abilities** rather than their limitations, to treat them with dignity, to celebrate their uniqueness, and to show them the **respect, love and kindness** that they deserve.

**For God sees not as man sees: man sees the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.** – 1 Samuel, 16:7b

# 2023: Our Year in Review

2023 was a profoundly impactful year for Farm in the Dell. Below are just a few of the things we had the opportunity to do!



## PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT

From mid-May to mid-October, our team of **25 Garden Engineers** worked hard to provide our community with fresh produce.



## SERVED FAMILIES THROUGH OUR CSA

We had the opportunity to provide community-supported agriculture – or CSA – shares to **100 local families**, providing them with fresh produce, helping them experience the bounty of the harvest.



## ENGAGED OUR COMMUNITY

Whether volunteering, touring, or attending an event – we are grateful that this year, the farm was able to be a platform for 2,000+ individuals to **learn, grow, and experience the joy of God's creation.**



## WELCOMED VOLUNTEERS

Each week, **dozens of volunteers** generously donated their time and talents to help us tend to the garden and conduct special events.



## WIDENED OUR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In addition to participating in the City of Moorhead Farmer's Market each week this summer, we were also able to **launch a pipeline of produce to local schools and stores.**



## EXPANDED U-PICK PRODUCE

This year, we **expanded our 'U-Pick' produce opportunities** to flowers, herbs, produce and more – welcoming families to the farm to experience the joy of picking their own produce.



## CELEBRATED THE HARVEST

We welcomed **hundreds of guests** to the farm during our annual Fall Festival event. We enjoyed games, crafts, pumpkin picking, and more – celebrating the bounty of the harvest and the changing seasons.



## LAUNCHED OAT & BERRY BREAKFASTS

Each Monday in June, we invited the community to join us for a **volunteer shift in the garden – and a delicious bowl of oatmeal** and freshly-picked strawberries with our Garden Engineers.



## HOSTED TABLE TO FARM DINNERS

This year, we **launched our Table to Farm dinner series**, where members of our community could break bread together, enjoying fellowship, togetherness, and delicious local food.

# Did you know?

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According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **66% of individuals** with “independent living disabilities” between the ages of 18 and 64 living in Minnesota are unemployed.



Employers can apply for a certification from the Department of Labor allowing them to pay disabled individuals **less than the federal minimum wage**.



Farm in the Dell exists to change that, **ensuring our employees are paid at least minimum wage**, and providing them with value and confidence.



Our Garden Engineers also receive free produce, skill development, team bonding, and most importantly, **a community that supports and prays for them**.



Farm in the Dell offers a non-competitive setting where our Garden Engineers are not valued on their efficiency – but instead are reminded of their **true dignity and identity as beloved children of God**.



## Why our mission matters

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We strive to provide meaningful job opportunities where employees are given fair wages and a steady paycheck – helping to give them confidence and fulfillment. Every day at the farm brings a new chance to provide purposeful employment that fills our employee’s spirits, sharpens their minds, and cultivates joy.

“ Working at Farm in the Dell makes me so happy. It’s peaceful – I get to see my friends and help with planting and weeding.

– Jenny, Garden Engineer



## Jenny’s Story

This past summer was Jenny’s first season at Farm in the Dell. Prior to joining our team as a Garden Engineer, she worked at a local thrift store, sorting toys and clothes. When Jenny heard about the farm, she was thrilled to apply, as she loves spending time outdoors and even tends to her own patio garden each summer.

On Jenny’s first day, she introduced herself as a “Mother Hen,” and our team quickly learned why. She immediately started welcoming new team members as if she had been working on the farm for years. Jenny always offered help to those needing support – showing them how to clock in for the first time, put on their gear, or start a new task. By mid-summer, Jenny started to take on more leadership roles. She started leading the daily prayer at team huddles, and helped share the story of the farm by giving her personal testimony at one of our Table to Farm dinner events.

Though Jenny learned a lot this summer, she says that her favorite part was the people. When Jenny arrived at work every day, her eyes would light up and she would run to greet the garden team with a big hug. For Jenny, Farm in the Dell is a place of joy and belonging. Because of the incredible support of our community, the farm is a place where all of us – like Jenny – can grow together in our love, our faith, and our abilities.



# Our History

Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley was formed in 2012 by a group of parents who each had a teen with a developmental disability. Their kids were about to enter a time with many unknowns – What are their next steps? What will their employment look like, or their social life?

After months of research, the parents stumbled upon Farm in the Dell International – the original “Farm in the Dell” organization, operating in Montana since 1986. Inspired and intrigued, they headed west to learn more.

They learned that Farm in the Dell International was based off of similar farms in the Netherlands. Here, disabled individuals could live, work, and play – leading fulfilling lives in a safe, self-sufficient environment, despite their disabilities.

The Moorhead parents returned home, inspired by what they had seen. They gathered resources, found a small plot of land in south Fargo, and within a few months Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley was born: a non-profit organization with a mission of “transforming disabilities into abilities.” The group of parents – along with their families, supporters, and a handful of employees – cultivated a special place to learn and grow.

In 2015, Farm in the Dell moved to its current location: a 25-acre plot just five miles north of Moorhead, MN. Each growing season, the farm employs individuals from our community, and runs a CSA program, providing weekly produce boxes each summer for families wanting to support the cause.

Today, Farm in the Dell continues to be a place where people of all abilities can find purpose together, enjoy God’s creation, and experience a community where each individual is respected, valued, and celebrated.







## Engaging our community



At our core, Farm in the Dell exists to serve our community – and that goes beyond providing employment to individuals with disabilities. We love getting involved with local events, speaking engagements, schools, churches, and more!

## Get involved at the farm!



### PRAY

Pray that our mission positively impacts the lives of our community.



### GIVE

Make a financial gift to support our mission, or donate much-needed farm supplies.



### PURCHASE

Purchase our produce at a farmers market, through our CSA, or at Farm in the Dell events!



### VOLUNTEER

Help out on the farm with our one-time or ongoing volunteer opportunities.



### ATTEND

Come to Farm in the Dell events and other happenings on the farm.



### SPREAD THE WORD

Refer volunteers, employees, partners, and more!

# 2023 Financials



## EXPENSES

- PROGRAMMING: 85%
- ADMINISTRATIVE: 15%



## REVENUE

- PRIVATE & BUSINESS DONATIONS: 41%
- PRODUCE: 23%
- GRANTS: 20%
- EVENTS: 10%
- OTHER: 6%

# Event Sponsors

## TABLE TO FARM

### SEED SPONSORS – \$1,500

- Fredrickson Law Firm
- Ron D. Offutt Company

### SOIL SPONSORS – \$750

- AgCountry
- Dakota Fence
- DakSota
- Bernie's Cafe

## FALL FESTIVAL

### SEED SPONSOR – \$1,500

- Case IH

### ROOT SPONSORS – \$1,000

- Cargill
- American Crystal Sugar

### SOIL SPONSOR – \$750

- NorthStar Safety

We are deeply thankful for the support of all of our amazing donors, sponsors, and volunteers. We truly could not do this work without you!

# Our Staff & Board

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Anna Sather** Executive Director

**Sarah Bofferding** Garden Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Rikki Trageton** President

**David Sigler** Vice President

**Zach Bartsch** Secretary

**Meg Bradley** Treasurer

**Vince Ulstad** Board Member

**Dave Jensen** Board Member

**Reuben Viland** Board Member

# Connect with us!

**VISIT THE FARM:** 7426 40th Street N, Moorhead, MN

**CONTACT OUR TEAM:** info@fidrrv.com | 218.593.3355

**MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 975 | Moorhead, MN 56561

farminthedellrrv.org | @farminthedellrrv





**farm** IN THE **dell**  
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

*We have the opportunity every day to change the way people accept other people – how they love, respect, support and value them. We work hard to make sure that the farm is a place where the inclusion of all abilities is appreciated and celebrated.*