



Hope of the Harvest is a partnership between Delaware Valley University, Philabundance, The Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC), The United Way of Bucks County, The Land O'Lakes Foundation, The Reinvestment Fund and The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. The project uses land owned by the University to grow fresh, nutritious food for local food pantries.

**History:** At the Hunger Forum at DelVal on Feb. 2, 2012, a group of students who were concerned about hunger in the area, announced the initiative. It started with just one acre on main campus. During the first year, the project produced nearly 16,000 pounds of produce for people in need in the area. Hope of the Harvest has expanded to approximately two acres on main campus. Since then, Hope of the Harvest has participated in charitable garden start-ups and production outreach initiatives.

### **Year totals (pounds of food donated):**

**2012-** nearly 16,000 pounds (15,800 pounds)

**2013-**35,498 pounds

**2018-**265,000 pounds (total since the project was founded as of March 2018)

**Impact:** As of March 2018, the project had produced 265,000 pounds of food for people in need since it was founded. That's the equivalent of 204,039 meals.

**Growing practices:** The University uses Hope of the Harvest as an educational tool to teach a variety of growing practices.

**Current and Past Supporters:** The Land O'Lakes Foundation, The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), The United Way of Bucks County, The Bucks County Opportunity Council, Philabundance, Delaware Valley University, and The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation/ Pharo Family Fund have contributed to the financial costs of the project.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers have come from Delaware Valley University (students, staff, faculty, and participants in the Organic Farming Program), BCOC, Philabundance, Reed Technology, Advertising Specialty Institute, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Charles River Labs, Doylestown Food Co-Op., Central Bucks School District, and the National Women's Farming Association.

**Where does the food go?** The food goes to residents and families slipping through the hunger safety net. Among those served are: working poor, senior citizens, and other vulnerable populations such as those with mental or physical disabilities.

Food has gone to all of the pantries in BCOC's Food and Nutrition Network.

**How to help:** To learn more, volunteer, or get involved contact Delaware Valley University's Horticulture Manager Matt Beekman at [matthew.beekman@delval.edu](mailto:matthew.beekman@delval.edu).

**Drive hunger from our communities. Hope grows here.**

*"Without this garden, there would be many more neighbors in the Delaware Valley without access to nutritious, local produce. Fresh fruits and vegetables are often the first thing cut from the grocery list when money gets tight because fresh food is often expensive and does not last very long." -Bill Clark, former president and executive director of Philabundance*