

**Dear Friends of Food Works at Two Rivers Center,**

Would you be surprised to learn that 90% of the food you consume comes from over 1,500 miles away? What if you were to find out that one of out every 10 children in Vermont goes to bed hungry every night or is food insecure at some point in every month? Or that fully 40% of Americans are overweight?

Vermont, the U.S. and the whole world faces critical choices about how we will feed ourselves and where our food will come from in the future. As oil prices continue to climb, food prices will continue to escalate causing economic hardships for many. Further, these imported foods are often heavily processed and devoid of essential nutrient value. There can be no doubt that our society is becoming increasingly disconnected from the land where its food is grown.

Historically, Vermont has long met its food needs and we can do so again – addressing the twin needs of reducing reliance on imported foods and improving the quality of food that we consume. **Food Works at Two Rivers Center** is playing a critical role in addressing the interconnected issues of food insecurity, hunger, and agricultural education.

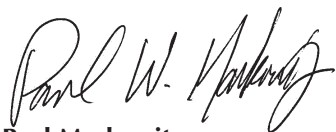
We at Food Works are very excited to share with you this case statement about our plans for establishing a home for place-based, hands-on food and agriculture education in Central Vermont. Located at the historic site of the former Jacob Davis farmstead, Food Works is in the middle of a Capital Campaign to restore and expand this farmstead. We invite you to become a part of this groundbreaking effort.

Since 1987, Food Works has been at the forefront of cultivating food security through hands-on education. Today, Food Works has a diverse portfolio of programs. The summer **Gardens for Learning** program teaches children how to grow, harvest, and cook their own meals directly from a garden. **Our Farm-to-Table** program connects local farmers with underserved Vermonters, simultaneously expanding local markets and providing nutritional foods to seniors and young children. In partnership with the Vermont Foodbank, Food Works is now embarking on a new program to launch the first-ever **Foodbank Farm at the Two Rivers Center**, growing potatoes, onions, carrots and tomatoes exclusively for Foodbank member agencies. The program includes ongoing classes in nutrition, food growing, food preparation and food preservation, thus planting seeds for regional food security well into the future.

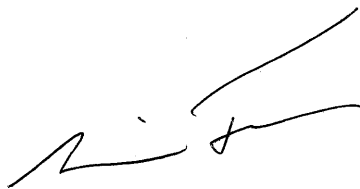
Since acquisition of this landmark farmstead in 2001, Food Works has re-cultivated five acres of fertile river bottom land, constructed three new greenhouses, built an outdoor kitchen, poured a new foundation for the farmhouse, and developed an Earth Garden and medicinal herb garden. Once it is fully restored, the 1836 farmhouse at the Two Rivers Center will house a welcome and orientation center for students and adults alike, a community café with a teaching kitchen, a community root cellar, and a living history museum, among other features. In addition, on the footprint of an old dairy barn adjacent to the main house (note cover photo circa 1900), a new “Living Traditions Round Barn” is planned to house a four-season greenhouse with a Quebec-style bread oven, a local foods eatery and a General Store to sell locally-made food, crafts and herbal products.

**We hope you will consider giving generously to our efforts.**

Very truly yours,



**Paul Markowitz**



**Artemis Joukowsky**

**Co-Chairs, Capital Campaign Committee**

