

FOOD WORKS AT TWO RIVERS CENTER

*Connecting People Back to the Land
Cultivating Community Food Security*

Since 1987, Food Works has been working in schools and communities addressing the quiet crisis of childhood hunger by integrating the practical skills of food, garden and nutrition education into public school curriculum. With the purchase of the historic Jacob Davis farmstead in 2001, we have grown into Food Works at Two Rivers Center, Central Vermont's hands-on food and agricultural education center working to strengthen local food systems and empower people to grow, prepare, eat and preserve their own foods.

All of our programs at the Two Rivers Center and beyond embrace community-based approaches addressing the growing concerns of poor nutrition, diet, health, land use, and declining food security. We offer ongoing classes, workshops and summer camps on food growing, cooking, food preservation, backyard medicinal herbs and nutrition basics. By connecting people back to the land and the natural world, our work mobilizes people to effect positive change for themselves and their neighbors.

The Two Rivers Center: Restoring Montpelier's Landmark Farm

Our historic farm on Montpelier's eastern border at the confluence of the Winooski and Stephens Branch rivers was originally owned by Montpelier's first permanent settler, Colonel Jacob Davis, who also donated the land on which the Vermont State House now rests.

The farmhouse, attached ell, and barn on the Two Rivers Center property are among the oldest farm buildings remaining in the capital city. In a report to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board in February 2003, Historic Preservationist Liz Pritchett called the 1836 Farmhouse "an outstanding resource with cultural and architectural significance for the residents of Montpelier and Vermont" noting "the property is 'a historical landmark prominently associated with an important person, movement, or industry of statewide significance.'"

Ms. Pritchett added, "Reviving the historic agricultural use of the property for Food Works at Two Rivers Center is a worthy one. The outstanding farmhouse has wonderful potential to be a showplace of the Greek revival style and the history of Vermont interiors. It is a very good candidate for rehabilitation in a manner that will retain its historic features."

The Center's historic 1836 Farmhouse and Barn are being fully restored to house a visitor's center, community teaching kitchen, living history museum, a community root cellar, a resource library, meeting rooms, and offices. A proposed new "Living Traditions Barn" will house a Localicious Eatery serving fresh local foods featuring a Quebec-style bread oven and a General Store selling Vermont-made food products and crafts.

Financial supporters of the first phase of the Capital Campaign to restore this historic landmark include the State of Vermont, the state's Department of Historic Preservation, the Joukowsky Family Foundation, Mrs. Harriet Gamper, the L.Z. Francis Foundation, the Sustainable Future Fund, the entire staff and Board of Food Works, and many individuals and families across the region.



THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN to Create Central Vermont's Own
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER

II. Overview of Food Works at Two Rivers Center