

MARION INSTITUTE

Reconnecting Food & Community



ANNUAL REPORT | FY 2025

(October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025)



Mission

The Marion Institute believes that food is a powerful connector and the foundation of health. Through partnerships, education, and community engagement, we are strengthening our local food system to ensure all people can access and enjoy health-promoting food.

Vision

A thriving regional food system that supports the health of our communities, our land, and the relationships that sustain us.

Our Programs

Working across schools, farms, communities, and policy spaces, our programs build a more resilient and equitable food system for Southeastern Massachusetts.



GROW EDUCATION FARM-TO-SCHOOL

Partners with area school districts to build outdoor garden classrooms and deliver student lessons on plant lifecycles, food, nutrition, and the environment



FROGFOOT FARM NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

Engages volunteers to grow nutritious produce for food relief programs and trains volunteers to become gleaners



SOUTHCOAST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Leads a diverse coalition to eliminate nutrition insecurity, strengthen our regional food networks, and advocate for inclusive food system policies

Reconnecting Food & Community



FIELDS TO FAMILIES A REGIONAL GLEANING PROGRAM

Mobilizes trained volunteers to harvest surplus crops from farms across Southeastern MA, sharing the abundance with food relief programs in their communities

Rooted in Community, Guided in Purpose



Dear Friend,

This year, the Marion Institute continued to make meaningful progress toward our mission of **reconnecting food and community** by building a healthier, more resilient regional food system across Southeastern Massachusetts.

While each of our four programs has a distinct focus, they are designed to work together. Through the **Southcoast Food Policy Council (SFPC)**, we convene diverse stakeholders to identify challenges and develop regional solutions. **Grow Education** connects students to food, farming, nutrition, and environmental stewardship. At **Frogfoot Farm**, and through **Fields to Families**, we increase access to fresh, healthy food while supporting farmers, mobilizing volunteers, and reducing food waste.

Together, these efforts form an interconnected ecosystem—one that simultaneously advances education, food access, community engagement, and systems change.

This year brought several important milestones. The SFPC expanded its reach across all six counties of Southeastern Massachusetts. More than 1,600 students participated in Grow Education programming across six school districts. Frogfoot Farm engaged with nearly 200 volunteers to grow and harvest more than 12,900 pounds of fresh produce for local food pantries, and Fields to Families launched as a regional gleaning initiative, recovering and

distributing more than 11,200 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables that might otherwise have gone to waste. Together, these efforts contributed over \$98,000 worth of fresh, locally grown produce to hunger-relief.

What makes this work especially impactful is how each program reinforces the others. Education builds awareness and engagement, policy strengthens regional coordination, and food relief programs create pathways for local food to reach neighbors most in need.

While we are proud of this progress, we are even more excited for what lies ahead. These programs are still growing, and with continued investment in infrastructure, partnerships, and community engagement, we believe their impact will increase significantly in the years to come.

None of this work is possible without the support of our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members. **Thank you for believing in this vision and helping us build a future where everyone can access and enjoy health-promoting food.**

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Liz".

Liz Wiley
Executive Director

Board Members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Margherita Baldwin

Treasurer: Michael Baldwin

Clerk: Joan Tiffany

John Duke

Leigh Keyser Phillips

David O. McCready

Kerry Saltonstall

Jamey Shachoy

Allie Wainer

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Krystyna Jurzykowski

Elizabeth Oates

Claude Pepin

Patricia Sullivan

Robert Unger

Ryan Wagner

Greg Watson

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



Allie Wainer

The Marion Institute proudly welcomes Allie Wainer to our Board of Directors. A fourth-generation food industry leader, Allie brings deep expertise in food distribution, strategic leadership, and a strong commitment to building resilient, equitable food systems. As Regional Vice President of New England for The Chefs' Warehouse and Sid Wainer & Son, she offers a systems-level perspective on sourcing, logistics, and regional food networks—alongside a longstanding dedication to supporting local farms and food recovery efforts. Allie's experience, values, and passion for strengthening the local food economy make her a powerful addition to our board, and we are honored to have her help guide the Marion Institute's work in the years ahead.

In Memoriam

We honor and remember past supporters whose leadership and commitment helped shape our mission and impact. Their contributions are part of the Marion Institute legacy, and their spirit of generosity inspires us always.

Barbara Christian | Whitney R. Long | Michelle McLean-Russell



"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

-Nelson Mandela

Marion Institute Team Members



From left to right: Ann-Marie Kirshon, Scott Codey, Heather Zine, Christy Mach Dubé, Liz Wiley, Kelsey Forcier, Hannah Traggis, Christine Smith, Liz Russell, Sarah Cogswell, Nate Sander, Abigail Smith

Liz Wiley

Executive Director

Scott Codey

Frogfoot Farm Manager

Sarah Cogswell

Fields to Families Program Manager

Christy Mach Dubé

Director of Engagement

Kelsey Forcier

Marketing & Communications Manager

Jessica Frank

BioMed Program Director

Ann-Marie Kirshon

Director of Finance

Liz Russell

Development Associate

Nate Sander

Grow Education Program Manager

Abigail Smith

Director of Human Resources & Operations

Christine Smith

Southcoast Food Policy Council Program Coordinator

Hannah Traggis

Frogfoot Farm Program Manager

Heather Zine

Executive Assistant

Welcome New Team Members



Heather Zine – *Executive Assistant*

A Wareham native, Heather brings nonprofit experience and a passion for health, sustainability, food security, and social justice to the Marion Institute. She previously worked with the Buzzards Bay Coalition and spent eight years at Round the Bend Farm as Executive Assistant and Office Administrator/Human Resources. Heather lives in West Wareham with her husband, Peter, and their two children, where they care for a small homestead and enjoy spending time outdoors.



Sarah Cogswell – *Fields to Families Program Manager*

Sarah Cogswell brings more than 20 years of agricultural and nonprofit leadership experience to her role as Fields to Families Program Manager at the Marion Institute. A lifelong resident of the Farm Coast region of Southeastern MA and RI, she has dedicated her career to strengthening local food systems, supporting farmers, and expanding access to fresh local food. Sarah has led farm-to-school initiatives, regional food hub development, farmer education programs, and statewide agricultural advocacy efforts. She holds a degree in Resource Economics from UMass Amherst and lives in Little Compton, RI, with her wife and son.

Impact in Numbers:

2025 Highlights

Thanks to you—our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members—we are **transforming how Southeastern Massachusetts grows, shares, and experiences food**. Together, we're celebrating milestones that strengthen our communities and are helping to build a more resilient regional food system.

People Nourished



174,637
Servings Donated

with fresh, locally grown produce provided through **Frogfoot Farm** and **Fields to Families**.

*Fresh Food.
Nutritional Impact.*

Young Minds Inspired



24
Schools

6
Districts

engaged in **farm-to-school** education, reaching

6,820

STUDENTS TO DATE

*Connecting Students to Where
Their Food Comes From.*



17,712
Volunteer Hours

300
Volunteers

*Community-Powered.
Impact-driven.*

Community Members Engaged



5,239+
INDIVIDUALS

collaborating across Southeastern MA to build a stronger, more equitable food system.

Stronger Together. Better Food System.

Regional Connection



6
COUNTIES

of Southeastern MA working together to strengthen partnerships, advance policy, and drive systems change

Local Action. Regional Change.



SOUTHCOAST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Leading a Diverse Coalition of Food System Stakeholders Across Southeastern MA

The Marion Institute's Southcoast Food Policy Council connects, convenes, and advocates for our regional food system, improved food and nutrition security, and a culture of personal and public health that takes root in an environmentally sustainable and equitable way.

Building the Strategy, Partnerships, and Shared Vision Behind a Stronger Regional Food System

The Southcoast Food Policy Council (SFPC) serves as the strategic backbone of the Marion Institute's work to reconnect food and community across Southeastern MA. Taking a broad view, the SFPC brings together farmers, fishermen, educators, healthcare leaders, food access organizations, policymakers, and community members to strengthen the systems that shape how food is grown, distributed, accessed, and enjoyed throughout our region.



This work is grounded in our 2021 Food System Assessment for Southeastern Massachusetts, a comprehensive analysis that established a shared understanding of the strengths, challenges, and opportunities within our regional food system. More than a report, **the assessment continues to serve as a roadmap for action**—guiding collaboration, informing investments, and helping diverse stakeholders align around common goals.

A Community Advisory Board (CAB) Grounds Our Work in Community Voice

At the center of this work is the SFPC's Community Advisory Board (CAB), a diverse group of volunteer community leaders, practitioners, and residents who help shape priorities and guide decision-making. Their work is strengthened by our Food Equity Advisors (FEAs), community members with lived experience of food insecurity who ensure the voices of those most affected by inequitable food systems remain central to the development of solutions. Together, these structures ensure community voice remains at the core of food system planning, priority setting, and leadership.



*Program Coordinator,
Christine Smith*



State House Advocacy



FEA Policy in Action



*Partnerships &
Communication*

Thank you to our 2024-2025 SFPC Community Advisory Board and Food Equity Advisors

Katie Ance, New Bedford
Mary Ann Buckley, South Dartmouth
Diana Bullard, South Dartmouth
Cassie Canastra, New Bedford
Rutchell Charleus, New Bedford
Carleen Cordwell, New Bedford
Larry DeSalvatore, Fairhaven
Judi Duveen, East Bridgewater
Darlene Dymysza, New Bedford
Nate Erwin, Cranston, RI
Catarina Faioes, Fall River
Jill Ferreira, Fall River
Bradley Fesmire, Tiverton, RI
Emily Fidanza, Wareham
Victoria Grasela, New Bedford
Jon Gray, Taunton
Meg Hebert, New Bedford
Abby Hevey, New Bedford
Jane Howard, Mattapoisett

Michael Jackman, Plymouth
Joan Kilroe, Fairhaven
Nicole King, New Bedford
Katlynn Kisla, Rochester
Pam Kuechler, New Bedford
Sarah Labossiere, South Dartmouth
Dale Leavitt, East Falmouth
Allison LeBert, Fairhaven
Tom LeClair, Winthrop
Brooke L'Etoile, New Bedford
Leimary Llopiz, New Bedford
Kristy MacMillen, New Bedford
James McKeag, Fall River
Heather Meehan, Warren, RI
Philip Messier, Norton
Susan Murray, South Dartmouth
Bernadette Oliveira, Fall River
Nicky Oliveira, Fall River
Gerami Pacheco, New Bedford

Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, New Bedford
Stephanie Perks, New Bedford
Honey Puder, South Dartmouth
Lisa Rahn, New Bedford
Adele Sands, Marion
Mia Savage, Fall River
Robert Shaheen, New Bedford
Dana Siles, Pawtucket, RI
Vanila Silva-DaRosa, Fairhaven
Rachael Sirois, Fall River
Laura Smith, Dighton
Rodney Solomon, New Bedford
Aliya Steele, Fall River
Stephanie Taylor, Taunton
Ashley Whewell, New Bedford

Working Groups Advance Regional Food System Priorities

Three interconnected working groups advance SFPC priorities, with each group incorporating policy and advocacy as a core strategy to strengthen our regional food system.

Education & Communication Working Group

- ✓ Helps residents better engage with and advocate for a stronger local food system through public education, storytelling, community events, and policy awareness efforts.
- »» Advocacy Lunch & Learn Briefings encourage us to support policy for a resilient food system.



Advocacy for Farm-to-School legislation strengthens connections between local farms and schools.

Food Access Working Group

- ✓ Focuses on ensuring all neighbors have access to fresh, healthy food.
- »» When SNAP benefits faced uncertainty last year, the SFPC quickly convened community partners to coordinate collaborative action and address impacts faced by our vulnerable neighbors.



Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) legislation helps families access food directly from farmers while supporting local economies.

Capacity Building Working Group

- ✓ Strengthens the systems, infrastructure, and relationships for a resilient regional food economy.
- »» The SFPC has long recognized the foundational role our farmers, fisheries, and shellfishermen play in our food relief system.



An Act Encouraging the Donation of Food to Persons in Need makes our food producers eligible for a \$5,000 per year tax incentive for donations to food relief organizations.

3,007

Community Members Reached

39

CAB & Working Group Members

4

Food Equity Advisors

155

State/Federal Testimonials

15,863

Stakeholder Hours Supporting SFPC

Why Eating Local Matters

Choosing local food supports farmers and fishing families, strengthens the regional economy, improves access to fresh food, and reduces environmental impact. Most importantly, eating local reconnects food and community.



In 2025, over 500 participants joined the Eat Local Challenge, continuing a growing regional movement that encourages residents to explore and support local food. The challenge includes seasonal recipes, fun facts, and educational resources as participants deepen their connection to our food system — one meal at a time.

Taking place each July, the Eat Local Challenge encourages you to eat local wherever you are, while providing the tools, resources, and inspiration to make it possible.

2025 Food Summit: Strengthening Aquaculture Through Coastal Wastewater Advocacy

In collaboration with the New Bedford Ocean Cluster, Massachusetts Aquaculture Association, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), the SFPC convened more than 80 stakeholders at UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science & Technology campus for the 2025 Food Summit. Discussion focused on the intersection of aquaculture, water quality, and infrastructure, highlighting the impacts of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

A strong sense of momentum emerged as participants identified shared priorities to support local shellfishermen, align advocacy efforts, and engage decision-makers. Building on this energy, the SFPC and its partners launched the **Aquaculture Policy Coalition**—a collaborative effort that's turning conversation into coordinated action and strengthening our coastal environment and food system.



Dale Leavitt (Bluestream Aquaculture), Seth Garfield (Massachusetts Aquaculture Association), Audra Riding from Senator Mark Montigny's office, Vincent Furtado (Public Works Superintendent, Fairhaven), Rep. Mark Sylvia, Alves Medeiros, staff for Rep. Antonio Cabral, Liz Wiley, and Rep. Christopher Markey.



“ Convening Leaders. Creating Solutions.

"What impressed me most was how quickly the Southcoast Food Policy Council was able to bring the right people together around a shared challenge. The Aquaculture Policy Coalition is a great example of the Council's ability to listen, respond, and build the relationships needed to move from conversation to action. That's the kind of regional leadership our food system needs."

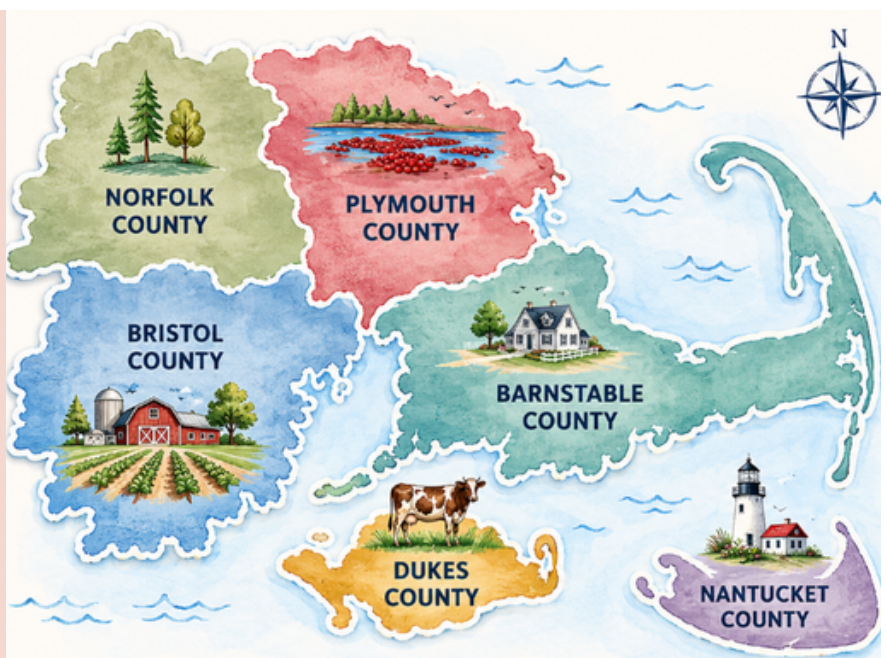
— Dr. Dale Leavitt, West Island Oysters

What's Next?

Building partnerships to expand SFPC's work on a regional scale

Our 2026 Food System Assessment for Southeastern MA, due out in Fall 2026, will combine data-driven secondary research with the Community & Agriculture Resilience Auditing Tool (CARAT) "social infrastructure" data gathered from all six counties in our region.

Together, these assessments will provide a shared language and strategic foundation for the next five years of regional food system work across Southeastern MA.





GROW
EDUCATION
FARM-TO-SCHOOL

**Connecting Students and Schools to
Agriculture, Education, and Locally Grown,
Nutritious Food**

**Anchored by outdoor garden classrooms that serve as
microcosms of regional farms, our elementary school Grow
Education Farm-to-School program connects students to
enrichment science lessons on plant lifecycles, our climate, and
the health benefits of eating fresh produce.**

Cultivating Food Literacy, Health, and Connection Through Farm-to-School Programming

Food is a powerful connector, yet many students grow up disconnected from where food comes from and how it influences their health, communities, and environment. Grow Education (Grow) bridges that gap through hands-on, farm-to-school learning that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, and environmental stewardship into classrooms and school gardens across Southeastern MA.

Why Farm-to-School Matters:

- Students develop an understanding of nutrition, agriculture, and environmental stewardship.
- School gardens transform learning into hands-on experiences that bring science, health, and food system concepts to life.
- Exposure to fresh fruits and vegetables encourages healthier eating habits and a willingness to try new foods.
- Connecting students with local farms and food producers strengthens food system resilience.



A Year of Hands-On Learning

Grow engages students through 15 touchpoints over the school year, combining classroom instruction, garden-based learning, taste tests, farm visits, and seasonal activities.

1

Teacher Professional Development

Summer professional development sessions at Frogfoot Farm immerse teachers in the curriculum while modeling the outdoor, experiential approach students will experience throughout the year.



2

Seasonal Learning Cycles

Programming follows the rhythm of the growing season—from fall planting and garden prep to virtual field trips in winter and spring seeding, tending, and harvesting—helping students connect seasonal change to food production.

3

Experiential Lessons

Students participate in hands-on activities exploring seed science, pollinators, healthy eating, and composting—lessons that reinforce classroom learning through direct experience and discovery.



What's Been

We Meet District and School-Based Teams Where They Are

Over the past seven years, we've expanded Grow programming across elementary schools in six school districts. Our innovation, flexibility, and commitment to collaboration ensures the program establishes strong roots in each community.

Grow Education Schools | 6 Districts, 24 Schools... and Counting!

New Bedford, MA

- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School
- Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School
- Betsey B. Winslow Elementary School
- Carlos Pacheco Elementary School
- Casimir Pulaski Elementary School
- Charles S. Ashley Elementary School
- Elizabeth C. Brooks Elementary School
- Ellen R. Hathaway Elementary School
- Elwyn G. Campbell Elementary School
- Hayden McFadden Elementary School
- Jacobs Elementary School
- James B. Congdon Elementary School
- Jireh Swift Elementary School
- John B. DeValles Elementary School
- Sgt. William Carney Memorial Academy
- Thomas R. Rodman Elementary School
- Trinity Day Academy*
- William Taylor Elementary School

Westport, MA

- Alice A. Macomber School*
- Westport Elementary School

Mattapoissett, MA

- Old Hammondtown School

Rochester, MA

- Rochester Memorial School

Marion, MA

- Sippican Elementary School

Wareham, MA

- Wareham Elementary School

It's happening! Fall River will begin a three-year rollout to all 11 elementary schools in the district, starting Fall 2026 with:

- James Tansey Elementary School
- Samuel Watson Elementary School
- Westall Elementary School

**Partial implementation of the Grow Education program resides at this school.*

Rooted in Place: Bringing Local Food Stories to Life



Grow Education introduced two new lessons this year exploring (1) Wampanoag foodways, cacao and chocolate production, as well as (2) native trees and plants in Southeastern MA used in holiday wreath-making. These curricular modules help students connect to local traditions while deepening their understanding of New England's native food and cultural heritage.

Growin' On?

From Classroom to Cafeteria

Through a partnership with VERTIGREENS at Lee's Market in Westport, Grow Education introduced students to hydroponic farming—an innovative method of growing food without soil. Students monitored plant growth, learned about sustainable food production, and harvested fresh greens that were later served in school meals.

The project brought Grow's classroom-cafeteria-community model to life, connecting food education, local agriculture, and school nutrition while helping students see how food systems work from seed to plate.



Bringing Learning to Life

Over the summer, students from Wareham stepped beyond the school garden and into the fields at Frogfoot Farm. They walked the fields, asked questions, and harvested 90 pounds of beets that were later donated to Damien's Food Pantry.

The experience brought classroom lessons to life while building a deeper understanding of how food connects health, land, and community.

What's Next?

Strengthening the Farm-to-School Pipeline

Grow Education is launching a regional Community of Practice (CoP) for Food Service Directors whose districts currently operate—or are exploring—the Grow Education program.

Supported by a grant from the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, the CoP will bring together school nutrition leaders to share strategies, strengthen local procurement efforts, and increase the amount of locally grown food served in school cafeterias. Participating districts include New Bedford, Westport, Wareham, Marion, Mattapoissett, Rochester, and Fall River, with Dartmouth, Plymouth, and Bristol County Agricultural High School joining the network.

By connecting what students learn in gardens and classrooms with the food they see on their lunch trays, the CoP will help ensure Grow Education's **impact extends beyond the classroom to create lasting changes in school cafeterias and students' communities across the region.**



FROGFOOT FARM

NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

Improving Nutrition Security by Growing and Harvesting Local Produce

Frogfoot Farm – Neighbors Feeding Neighbors is increasing the availability of fresh, nutrient-dense, and culturally relevant produce in community food relief programs while restoring six acres of land through climate-smart, regenerative farming practices.

Farm-to-Food-Relief: A Path to Feed Our Communities

Food insecurity continues to affect families across Southeastern Massachusetts, with Bristol County experiencing some of the highest rates in the state. While food pantries and meal programs provide critical support, they often struggle to secure a reliable supply of fresh, healthy produce. Frogfoot Farm was created to help close this gap.

In response to our SFPC's 2021 Food System Assessment for Southeastern MA, and in partnership with **A.D. Makepeace Company**, the Marion Institute launched Frogfoot Farm Neighbors Feeding Neighbors in 2023 on six acres of land at the Wareham–Plymouth line.

Frogfoot Farm grows nutrient-dense produce specifically for hunger-relief partners while serving as a hub for volunteer engagement, food recovery, and agricultural education. Through regenerative farming practices, strategic partnerships, and community investment, the farm is building long-term capacity to strengthen nutrition security across the region.

Food Insecurity Continues to Rise Across Massachusetts

- 40% of Massachusetts households experienced food insecurity in 2025.
- 58% of food-insecure households reported low nutrition security (lack of protein, fruits & vegetables).
- 67% of adults in food-insecure households reported at least one chronic health condition.
- **Bristol County among hardest hit with 1 in 2 households reporting food insecurity** compared to 1 in 3 across Southeastern MA.

Source: The Greater Boston Food Bank & Mass General Brigham
Boston, MA | April 6, 2026



25 Crops in Production



Citizen Science BioBlitz



Powered by Volunteers

Frogfoot Farm's First Full Year of Operation

2025 marked a major milestone in the Marion Institute's effort to increase access to fresh, healthy food in our local communities.

25

Vegetable Varieties
Grown
& Harvested

198

Individual
Volunteers

1,509

Volunteer
Hours

12,919

Pounds of Produce
Harvested

121,911

Servings
Donated

More Than A Farm

Frogfoot is a:

- **Production Farm** for hunger-relief partners.
- **Community Hub** for volunteers and neighbors.
- **Demonstration Site** for regenerative agriculture.
- **Training Ground** for gleaners and food recovery leaders.



Together, these roles are helping build a healthier, more resilient regional food system.

Healthy Soil. Healthy Food. Healthy Communities.



From the beginning, Frogfoot Farm has prioritized soil health as the foundation of nutrition, climate resilience, and long-term productivity. The land initially tested highly acidic and low in nutrients and biological activity. Through regenerative practices — including diverse cover cropping, compost applications, microbial inoculations, biochar integration, and amendments — soil organic matter and biodiversity have steadily increased.

Ecological stewardship extends beyond the soil. Native plantings, pollinator habitat restoration, and biodiversity monitoring through BioBlitz events — community science days where volunteers help document the diversity of plant, animal, and fungal species across the farm — allow us to track improvements in ecosystem health. These practices ensure Frogfoot Farm is not only productive today, but resilient for future generations.



Volunteers Power Frogfoot Farm

Every harvested beet, bunch of kale, and box of produce begins with people like you willing to roll up their sleeves. In FY25, individual volunteers, students, corporate teams, and community groups worked alongside farm staff to prepare fields, plant crops, and harvest food for hunger-relief partners in our region.

Thank you to these teams who joined us for a day of service and connection on the farm this year: AAA Northeast, A.D. Makepeace Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Bristol County Savings Bank, First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, Nye Lubricants, Rockland Trust, Sid Wainer & Son - a Chefs' Warehouse Company, Southcoast Health, Tabor Academy, United Way of Greater New Bedford, United Way of Greater Plymouth County, and YouthBuild New Bedford.

Looking for a meaningful team-building experience?

Volunteer days at Frogfoot Farm offer businesses, schools, civic groups, and individuals the opportunity to make a direct impact while learning about regenerative agriculture and food security. Scan to volunteer:



Cooks for Community: Nourishing Community Health

Cooks for Community combines Frogfoot Farm's farm-to-food-relief mission with healthcare and culinary expertise to provide nourishing meals for neighbors in need. Launched in partnership with Southcoast Health and local chef Danny Minkle, the initiative transforms produce from Frogfoot Farm into fresh, nutritious meals rooted in care and dignity.

Southcoast Health's Community Health and Wellness team distributed 50 meals each week to Fall River's unsheltered community during wellness check-ins, reaching 1,000 meals by year's end. Cooks for Community demonstrates the power of cross-sector collaboration and a shared commitment to improving food access, health, and well-being across the region.



Infrastructure that Expands Impact

Strategic investments are helping Frogfoot Farm move from a start-up operation to a regional food system asset.

Greenhouse

Supports seed propagation and expands growing capacity at Frogfoot Farm and also provides seedlings for Grow Education school gardens across the region.

Potable Water Well

Provides reliable access to clean water for irrigation and produce handling—essential for a working farm.

Shade Pavilion

Creates space for volunteer training, produce processing, educational programming, team gatherings, and respite during hot summer workdays.

Harvest Hopper

An all-electric refrigerated van that ensures harvested and gleaned produce remains fresh while being delivered to hunger-relief partners throughout the region.

Thank you
to our infrastructure
partners and fund-a-
need supporters!



Annual Boogie at the Bog Fundraiser

Boogie at the Bog 2025 sold out in less than an hour, bringing together more than 350 supporters for an unforgettable evening that raised vital funds for the community work we do.



SAVE THE DATE

Boogie '26

Friday, October 2

Sponsorships Now Available!



What's Next?

Growing Capacity

With the south field now in production, attention is turning to the farm's remaining three acres and key infrastructure investments—including solar, a wash/pack station, and continued soil health improvements that will increase production and strengthen long-term sustainability.

Training Hub for Food Recovery

Frogfoot Farm is becoming Southeastern Massachusetts' training hub for our Fields to Families gleaners—preparing volunteers with the skills to safely recover surplus crops from local farms and deliver fresh, nutritious food to neighbors in need.



*We Hope To See
You Soon!!*



FIELDS TO FAMILIES

A REGIONAL GLEANING INITIATIVE

**Harvesting surplus crops, feeding neighbors, and
building community across Southeastern MA**

**Our newest program, Fields to Families rescues surplus
produce from local farms and redistributes it to those in
need—reducing crop loss, nourishing our community
with fresh, local food, and strengthening our regional
food system.**

Connecting Local Farms to Local Families

Launched in July 2025, Fields to Families connects local farms with food relief organizations across Southeastern Massachusetts. Through this program, our Fields to Families trained volunteers travel to regional farm partners to harvest surplus produce and deliver it directly to food pantries in their communities.

During our first 25 gleaning sessions across Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk Counties, Fields to Families focused on building strong farm and pantry partnerships, while expanding access to fresh fruits and vegetables—foods that are often difficult for pantries to source consistently.

Through partnerships with seven regional farms, Fields to Families recovered and distributed 11,285 pounds of produce—the equivalent of 52,726 servings. Volunteers harvested 29 different crop varieties and delivered fresh food directly to hunger-relief partners throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

Thank You

Farm Partners:

- Brookwood Community Farm | Canton, MA
- Fairhaven Acushnet Land Preservation Trust | Acushnet, MA
- Freedom Food Farm | Raynham, MA
- Freed Seed Federation | Dartmouth, MA
- Heart Beets Farm | Berkley, MA
- The Neighborhood Farm | Westport, MA
- Skinny Dip Farm | Westport, MA & Little Compton, RI



What is Gleaning and Why is it Important?

Every year, good food goes unharvested because of labor shortages, market conditions, cosmetic standards, or timing constraints. At the same time, many families struggle to access fresh produce. Gleaning helps bridge that gap.

Gleaning:

- Recovers quality produce.
- Increases fresh food access for families in need.
- Supports farmers while reducing food waste.
- Builds community engagement—connecting volunteers to local farms and raising awareness about food insecurity and local food systems.
- Provides nutrition security—food high in nutritional value and beneficial to overall health.



29

Fruit & Vegetable
Varieties
Harvested

46

Volunteers

318

Volunteer Hours

11,285

Pounds of Produce
Harvested

52,726

Servings
Donated

What's Next?

Fields to Families is focused on thoughtful growth and lasting community impact. Priorities include:

- Expanding farm and pantry partnerships across Southeastern MA.
- Recruiting and training more volunteer gleaners.
- Increasing the volume of fresh produce recovered and distributed.
- Strengthening our regional food recovery infrastructure.
- Measuring the environmental impact of Fields to Families, including emission reduction from the all-electric Harvest Hopper.
- Increasing refrigeration and freezer space to keep food fresh while we bridge food pantries' limited hours of operation.

Meet the Harvest Hopper



Our all-electric refrigerated van keeps gleaned produce fresh while connecting farms, food pantries, and families across the region.



BIOMED

Honoring a Legacy of Health, Healing, and Learning

For nearly three decades, the Marion Institute's Biological Medicine (BioMed) Program helped introduce thousands of individuals, practitioners, and communities to a root-cause, whole-person approach to health. While the program sunsetted in FY25, its core principles—nutrition, detoxification, immune resilience, and the body's innate capacity to heal—remain woven throughout our work today.



Milestones Along the Journey

1993
Marion Institute Established

1997–2013
Biological Medicine Network (PBMN/BMN)
1,000+ patients supported
&
Scholarships
to the Paracelsus Clinic in Switzerland were supported

1999
“Nathaniel’s Story” **Airs on PBS**
Body & Soul with Gail Harris

2008–2013
Growth of Professional & Public Lectures
1,833 attendees; 122 expert speakers featured across BioMed’s lifetime; Expanded public & professional education

2015
“Rethinking Medicine” Video Released

2017
BioRegulatory Medicine Institute (BRMI) Established as a Marion Institute Program
Held first BRMI conference

1996
First BioMed-Related Public Lecture
Dr. Christiane Northrup, MD – Marion, MA

1998–2008
Professional Seminar Series
Three 2-year seminar cycles over 10 years

2008
Dr. Rau Presents at Bioneers by the Bay
Connecting for Change, New Bedford, MA

2010
Dr. Rau at Tabor Academy
Lyme Disease lecture to 200+ attendees &
Scottsdale BioMed Center Opens

2016
TEDx New Bedford Collaboration & “Regenerative Medicine” Video Released

BioMed By The Numbers

- 28 years of programming.
- 150,000+ hours of learning.
- 1,000+ patients supported through scholarships.
- 10,000+ community members engaged.

With Appreciation



We are deeply grateful to Dr. Dickson Thom, DDS, ND, who was pivotal in helping us launch our BioMed Certification course and in supporting our educational programs and worksite wellness initiatives.

A Movement Ahead of Its Time

Long before conversations about gut health, inflammation, and lifestyle medicine entered the mainstream, BioMed introduced these concepts through public lectures, professional trainings, conferences, scholarship programs, and community education.

For nearly three decades, BioMed connected leading practitioners with healthcare providers, caregivers, and community members seeking a deeper understanding of health and wellness. It helped build one of the nation's earliest communities dedicated to root-cause and whole-person approaches to care.

The BioMed chapter may have closed, but its influence remains. The relationships it fostered, the knowledge it shared, and the thousands of people it empowered continue to shape healthier individuals, families, and communities.



2018

BioRegulatory Medicine Book Published

Finalist: 2018 Foreword INDIES Award

BioMed Center of New England Opens in Providence, RI

Fledged out of the Marion Institute to become its own independent entity

2019-2023

Mary Shands Scholarship Fund

\$128,000 awarded to 62 patients for BioMed treatments

2021-2025

BioMed Courses & Certification Launched

Intro to BioMed, Interpreting Lab Results, Hybrid Certification

Annual 21-Day Reset Launches

Encourages healthier lifestyle habits

2023

Worksite Wellness Program Launches

Stress & Health Reset

2019-2022

BRMI Sunsets as a Marion Institute Program

becoming an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2022
&
Practitioner Forums Held
In Plymouth and Providence with Doctors Pleus, Drobot, Odell, Thom, and Fitzpatrick

2020-2024

BioBites launches

Public-facing virtual BioMed education during pandemic

2022

BioMed Bulletin Launches

Ongoing BioMed education & resources for practitioners

2025

BioMed Closes its Final Chapter

Celebrating nearly three decades of whole-person care & education

With Gratitude

We extend our deepest thanks to:

- The founders and visionaries who launched this work.
- The practitioners, educators, and researchers who advanced it.
- The donors who made access and innovation possible.
- The patients, caregivers, and community members who gave it meaning.





GREENHOUSE INITIATIVES

Our Greenhouse Initiatives provide fiscal sponsorship to visionary projects at home and across the globe

Throughout our history, the Marion Institute has incubated impactful ideas by an impressive array of leaders that are building healthier communities through strategic programs that meet people where they are.

What Does Fiscal Sponsorship Mean?

Fiscal sponsorship allows a project with a related mission to fundraise under the fiscal oversight of an existing 501(c)(3) public charity through a formal fiscal sponsorship arrangement. This enables fiscally sponsored projects to accept tax-deductible contributions to deliver programming and serve their communities while the fiscal sponsor provides strong financial control, ensuring funds advance their charitable purpose.

The Marion Institute provided fiscal sponsorship services to the following Greenhouse Initiatives in FY'25.

3 Brothers Quest

Waitsfield, VT

Friends of Taktse International School

Sikkim, India

The Himalayan Project

Kathmandu, Nepal

Kyaro Assistive Tech

Arusha, Tanzania

Lawrence Arts House

Lawrence, MA

Mastate Charitable Foundation

Mastatal, Costa Rica

The Mindful Collaborative

New Bedford, MA

The Nourishment Economies Coalition

Bath, ME

Rwanda Arts Initiative

Kigali, Rwanda

S.A.F.E.

Nairobi, Kenya

STEAM the Streets

Hercules, CA and New Bedford, MA

Ubumuntu Arts Festival

Kigali, Rwanda



The Marion Institute gratefully acknowledges the individuals, families, corporations, foundations, and organizations that have generously supported our mission. Our work would not be possible without your steadfast support. Thank you!

\$50,000+

Anonymous
Margherita and Michael Baldwin
Cindy and Doug Crocker

\$10,000-49,999

Anonymous
Arcadia Charitable Trust
Christina Bascom
Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA
Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Bromley Charitable Trust
Cape Cod 5 Charitable Endowment
Tom Cashel
Carney Family Charitable Foundation
Nancy and David Corkery
Cummings Foundation
Victoria and David Croll
John Decas
C.C. Dyer
Donna and Paul Downey
Priscilla and Allan Ditchfield
Eos Foundation
Laura and Peter Grauer
Margaret and Samuel Gray
JoAnn and Byron Hensley
Laurie and George Host
Ellis Jones
Phillip Long
Elizabeth Lyons
Massachusetts Community Health & Healthy Aging Funds
MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
MA Society for Promoting Agriculture
The Maurice and Anne Makepeace Foundation
Point32Health Foundation
Jessica and Sam Rubenstein
Trudy Ray
RSF Social Finance
Laura Ryan Shachoy and Jamey Shachoy
Schrafft Charitable Trust
Southcoast Health
Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation
Teresa Tavares and Taylor Baldwin
Town of Mattapoisett - CPA
Jennifer and Davis Webb

\$5,000-9,999

Anonymous
Trish and Chris Arnold
Margaret and Matthew Balitsaris
Laurie and David Barrett
BayCoast Bank
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital
Andy Burnes
City of New Bedford Office of Housing & Community Development
Eloise and Christopher Clark
Gretchen Court

The Crocker Family Charitable Fund
Elizabeth and Jeremiah Daly
Highland Street Foundation
Lyle Howland and Jack Manning
Robert and Jill Inches
Elizabeth and Brian Keane
Carlene Larsson
Carmine and Beth Martignetti
Susan and David McCready
Ocean Spray Cranberries
Chip and Bobbie O'Hare
Peg Palmer
Heather Parsons and Andrew Kotsatos
The Portmann Family Charitable Fund
Planetary Metamorphosis Foundation
Quan Yin Foundation
Reworld
Hew Russell
Susan Sargent and Tom Peters
Saltonstall Architects
Chris Schlesinger
Sloan and Hardwick Simmons
Matt Sperry
Judy and Geoff Swett
Joan and Edwin Tiffany
Marion and Henry Wainer
Serita Winthrop
Ann and Hans Ziegler

\$1,000-4,999

Anonymous
Abington Bank
Acushnet Company
Margo and Ian Baldwin
Barden's Boat Yard
Beals and Thomas, Inc.
Andre Bishop
Nonie Brady and Wil Merck
Carla and Hans Brigham
James Brogioli
Ellen Bruzelius and William Tiff
Rid Bullerjahn and Milo Fay
Deborah Bullock
Burr Brothers Boats, Inc.
Business Floors, Inc.
Sue Butler
Cecily Cassum
Katherine Chapman Stenberg and Bill Schnoor
Ann Marie Connolly
Converse Real Estate
Costello Fine Homes
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Christy and Evan Dubé
Jennifer and Donovan Dunn
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Erik and Debby Dyson
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Susan Eldredge Mead
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Emily and Horace Field
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FUCHS Nye

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Evelyn and Francis Goodhue
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Jocelin G. Hamblett
Shoma Haque and Josh Shultz
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Beppie Huidekoper
Jane and Charlie Howard
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James and Hannah Kane
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Karen and Skip Linn
Babette and Peter Loring
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Katherine and William Marvel
Holly and Joe McDonough
Mary McFadden and Lawrence Stifler
Kimberly Murray and Paul Kostovick
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Dana and Susan Nilson
New England Coastal Contractors LLC
Elizabeth Oates
Nicole O'Leary
Ruth and Lars Olson
Jill and Thomas Pappas
Sandria Parsons
Leigh and Peter Phillips
Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Company
The Expo Group
The Grace Jones Richardson Trust
Edgenie and Donald Rice
Rocky Maple Cranberry Co.
Michelle and Michael Russo
Kerry and William Saltonstall
Terry Saracino and Paul Strasburg
Susan Schaefer and Christian Halby
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William and Dorothy Shattuck
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Phyllis Sodes
Meg and Barry Steinberg
Margot Stone
R. Greg and Lisa Stone
Allie and Andrew Straus
Paula and Eric Strand
Jay Theva

\$1,000-4,999 (cont.)

Sigrid and Ladd Thorne
Joan and Edwin Tiffany
Steve Tempini
Tabor Academy
Taunton Federal Credit Union
Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
Heather and William Vratatos
Wareham Public Schools
Weatherlow Foundation
Carter Wilkie
Whole Kids Foundation
Yard Boss Landscape Design
Jane Young

\$500-999

Anonymous
Frederick Ames
Dana Anderson
BankFive Charitable Foundation
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Lisa Conger
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Nick Decas
Dr. Sherry Dickstein and Mr. Kurt Lauenstein
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Lara Dwyer
Devaney Energy
Helena Evans and J. Walter Freiberg
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Imtra Corporation
Lauren Jacob
Daniel and Kathleen Kahn
James and Hannah Kane
Emilie and Andrew Kendall
Chloe Kelleher
Erin Luiz
Alexander and Sally Lynch
Rachel and Stephen Lynch
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Plymouth District Attorney
Shelly and Todd Richins
Saunders-Dwyer Home For Funerals
Allison and Robert Stickles
Catherine Stone
Caitlin Swift
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Rhonda and Roy Veugen
Valrie Waible
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Liz and David Wiley
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\$100-499

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Braun | Cathy Broderick | Buzzards Bay Bee Company |
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Gould | Jane Howard | Ivory Silo Farm | Jim's Organic
Coffee | Lake Champlain Chocolates | Leigh Keyser
Phillips | Light Spirit Essentials | MA Department of
Public Health | Mahoney's Building Supply | Devin
"Nived" McLaughlin | Hannah Nadel | New Bedford
Public Schools | Old Colony Planning Council | Old
Rochester Regional School District | Paradox Acres |
Process First, LLC | Read Custom Soils | Meg Riley | Mike
Rocha | Skinny Dip Farm | Social BNB Experience | The
Social Table Experience | Matt Stanton | Dr. Dickson
Thom | Mary Towers | Town Farm Tonics | VERTIGREENS
at Lee's Market | VINO di VINO | Wareham Public Schools |
Westport Community Schools | Keith Wilda

Endless Thanks to the Volunteers Who Help Us Grow



"Volunteering at Frogfoot Farm exceeded my expectations. I think I got more out of the experience than the farm did. I didn't realize how much I needed a day in the sunshine, working with my hands, connecting with nature, and being of service. Thank you!"

— Maria Poulos (she/her)

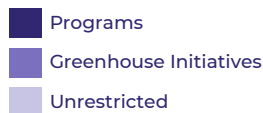
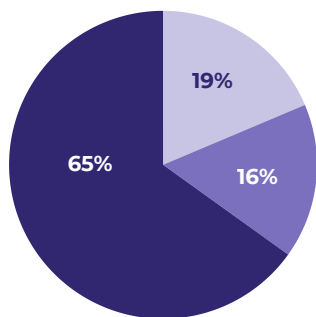
Associate Director of Marketing & Communications
The Zeiterion



Financials Fiscal Year 2025

(OCTOBER 1, 2024 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2025)

Income:



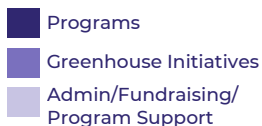
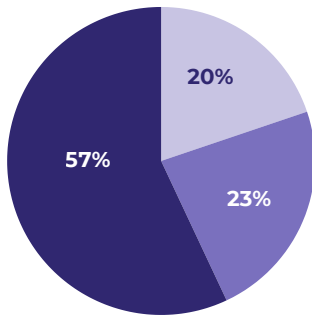
Programs
\$1,644,671

MI Unrestricted
\$471,117

Greenhouse Initiatives
\$410,911

TOTAL
\$2,526,699

Expenses:



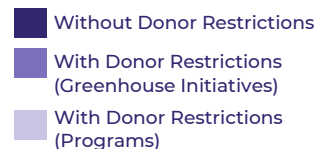
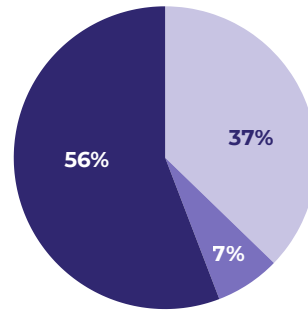
Programs
\$1,058,673

Greenhouse Initiatives
\$430,848

Admin/Fundraising/Program Support
\$368,078

TOTAL
\$1,857,599

Net Assets:



Without Donor Restrictions
\$1,311,553

With Donor Restrictions [Programs]
\$874,884

With Donor Restrictions [Greenhouse Initiatives]
\$162,857

TOTAL
\$2,349,294

MARION INSTITUTE'S *Legacy Society*

*"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."
- Warren Buffett*



Our donors may now craft a meaningful legacy at the Marion Institute through planned gifts, impacting our mission in perpetuity.

If you are interested in learning more about the Marion Institute's Legacy Society, as well as the financial and tax benefits of a planned gift (regardless of gift size), we are happy to share information and resources with you.

To execute your planned gift, please use our IRS-registered name, "The Marion Institute, Inc." and EIN number 04-3206583.

As part of your estate plan, you can support the Marion Institute through a bequest, donor-advised fund, retirement fund, life insurance policy, or charitable trust. Your generosity helps us create healthy communities for all.

If you've designated a planned gift, thank you. We invite you to join us for our annual Legacy Society event on September 18, 2026, in Marion, MA. Please RSVP to legacy@marioninstitute.org.

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Marion Institute

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