



fall newsletter

Capital Cam

Learn more about our
fundraising efforts.

Getting to Know Us, pg. 2

Learn about our history and an introduction to our board members.

Snapshot of Our First year, pg. 3

The numbers are in! Take a look at what we've accomplished.

New Partnerships, pg. 6

Read about our two newest partnerships with VR Tech and The Holland Town Center.

who are we?

My Perspective

This letter was written by a summer employee, a great perspective on our work.

Planting the Seed

Jeff Roessing shares his experience reaching youth through gardening.

First Issue

If you'd like to receive our newsletter by email, please let us know!



our history

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find out who we are
and what we do

Since this is our very first newsletter, we thought it would be helpful to catch you up on the history of our organization, where we're heading and a bit on who we are. We hope this will give you a better picture of who we are as a nonprofit.

Eighth Day History: Jeff began Eighth Day Farm in 2010 as a for profit CSA, however, his passions went beyond merely selling produce and into holistic community development. During the growing season, Josh Hauch approached Jeff with the idea of becoming a nonprofit and bringing the farm into the city of Holland. Throughout 2010 and into early 2011, Jeff and Josh researched, held meetings and eventually, through the help of several friends and 3sixty (a local neighborhood non-profit), was graciously given the land at 709 Pine Ave. by Zion Lutheran Church to farm. For 2011, Eighth Day Farm came under 3sixty for their use of the non-profit covering

until the farm could get established as its own non-profit.

In the coming year, we're looking forward to some exciting new opportunities. We've just begun two new partnerships, one with VR Tech High School and the other with the developer of The Holland Town Center. You can read about both on page 6 of this newsletter. The biggest change for 2012 is that we've started the process of becoming our own nonprofit. We're thankful for the support 3sixty continues to offer and for the wonderful team of people helping to launch this new chapter for Eighth Day.



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Josh Banner
Eighth Day Board Member



Bill Van Auken
Eighth Day Board Member

Michele Zeilinger
Eighth Day Board Member



Todd Zeilinger
Eighth Day Board Member

Chris Linde,
Eighth Day Board Member



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financials



"The nation doesn't simply need what we have. It needs what we are."

-St. Edith Stein



capital campaign

Raising funds to put us on
the right path financially.

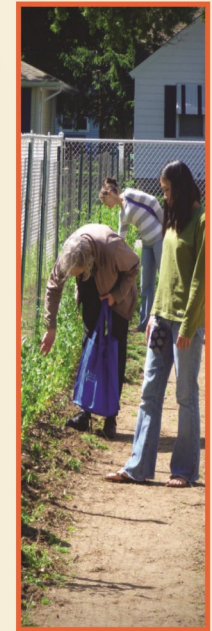
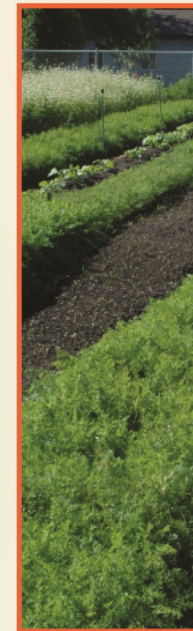
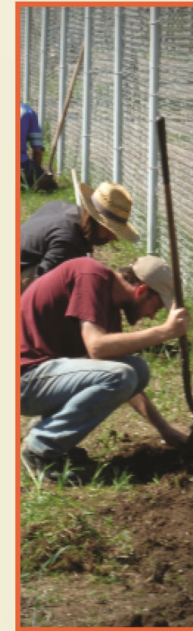
As we begin our journey to becoming our own non-profit and branching out from 3sixty, we've realized the need to start out ahead financially. This past year, 3sixty has been very gracious in supporting us in the day to day costs of beginning Eighth Day Farm as a non-profit. As of January 1, 2012, we will be our own entity and will have costs associated with beginning a second site on the north side and sustaining our current outreach programs, such as the partnership with VR Tech and our summer employee mentoring program.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 for capital and infrastructure so we can begin without the financial burdens that plague many new non-profits. Instead, we'll be able to use our energies to focus on community programs and setting up our new plot at The Holland Town Center to have a greater impact on the surrounding communities.

As the end of the year approaches, please consider making a donation to Eighth Day Farm. Your donation will still be tax deductible for the 2011 year, as 3sixty will still accept

donations on our behalf. All the funds raised will go to the farm. Donations may be made online at www.eighthdayfarm.org - simply write "Eighth Day Campaign" in the memo line on Paypal, or by check - we've included a self addressed envelope for your convenience.

We are grateful for all who have offered prayers and shared time and finances this first year. Thank you for your generous support.



new partnerships

during this first year, Eighth Day has been blessed to begin two new partnerships.

Van Raalte Tech Public High School. Van Raalte Tech is an alternative high school located in the west core neighborhood of Holland. This school assists students in either receiving their GED or returning to a traditional high school. A year ago, Josh Hauch began building a relationship with VR Tech students and staff through weekly interactions at the school.

This year we have a more formal relationship with the school and are working with set up weekly a farm to table science program. The school has granted the use of their courtyard space to raise a few chickens, as well as plant raised bed gardens. This will give students a chance to learn about food systems and

build responsibility through hands on experiences.

Another benefit of this new partnership is students will have the opportunity to learn basic grant writing and budget planning skills as they work together to submit a student oriented grant to a local foundation. This is part of the project will soon begin. We are excited to watch our partnership bloom (pun intended)!



Holland Town Center. In the spring of 2011, the Holland Sentinel ran an article about Eighth Day Farm. From this article, we were approached by Mike Bocks, the developer of The Holland Town Center (formerly, the Holland Outlet Mall) and began a new partnership.

Eighth Day Farm will open the 2012 season with a new site on the north side of Holland. We are excited about this for several reasons; first, our use of the land will encourage green space within the expansive amount of pavement in the parking lot. Secondly, our location is right across the street from the Department of Human Services and the Ottawa County Health Department. In the future, we're hoping to begin working with low income families to help provide fresh, local produce in an easily accessible location. This is just a hope, currently, as no formal decisions or connections with the organizations have been made.



mission statement

Empowered by God's redemption in Jesus, Eighth Day Farm has a passion for enjoining the restoration of land for food and the flourishing of Holland's residents.

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1⁰⁰ (over) students visited the farm. This summer, Eighth Day opened its doors to students from CASA, an after school and summer program for youth. They learned about local food and were able to enjoy hands on learning by harvesting peas and potatoes. Also, another school recently visited this fall.



7⁰⁰ pounds of produce given away to low income residents and neighbors in Holland and donated to The Center for Women in transition.



6³ - the percentage of CSA member's eating habits changed for the better since joining Eighth Day Farm's Community Supported Agriculture program.



3⁸ bouquets given away as part of our Care Flowers initiative. The flowers grown around the perimeter of the Zion site were cut and taken to residents of Hospice of Holland and local nursing homes, as well as, used for a wedding!



2⁰⁰ (over) volunteers that helped to make this year's season so successful! A BIG thanks to all

By the Numbers: A snapshot from Eighth Day's first year

We've been quite busy in our first year as a nonprofit. We're proud of all that we've accomplished. Here is a quick snapshot of the reach of our work.

planting seeds

by Jeff Roessing, Farm Manager

Urban farms come in many shapes and sizes and a big part of the fun here at Eighth Day Farm is experiencing the process of self-discovery. This first year under a nonprofit we were able to dabble in a variety of services to the community—field trips for elementary age children, mentoring teens, employing neighbors from the core city, donating food and flowers. As we gaze forward into 2012 we're contemplating which of the services we can offer is most needed. We don't pretend to have reached some dogmatic answer to this question. Our discerning is keenly contextual, and by this we mean to say we want to be good observers and responders to what is going on in Holland and to the needs that are unique or particular to this community.

It has been our observation that Holland has a strong, often faith based force when it comes to food distribution. We believe food give-aways are essential to attend to immediate hunger needs, and so we want to have a foot in this field as well, especially because fresh produce is most often what is lacking in food distribution. However, a holistic ministry cannot stop with bandaging the symptoms of societal problems, but must go further to identify and work on healing the root causes. Like many cities, Holland suffers from high unemployment, and here too we want to help. Our size and the seasonal nature of our work currently dictate the degree to which we can offer employment. That being said, we are of the persuasion that helping to shape a future where America is dotted with many small, sustainable farms is an incredibly concrete way to lower unemployment rates. Sustainable agriculture is simply more human labor intensive and what could be a better strategy to put a nation back to work than honest physical labor

that feeds neighbors with healthy food? Which leads us to this conclusion: the place we feel most equipped to ignite change is in educating our youth.

As Eighth Day Farm makes plans for 2012 at the forefront is going to be a Youth Internship Program that employs local teenagers while equipping them with essential job skills and an opportunity to learn where their food comes from and how to use food to nurture their own community. It will be work that challenges them spiritually, physically, mentally, and socially. They will experience positive adult interaction and be able to reinforce their own learning by planning and hosting a farm summer camp for elementary age youth. Again, our intent is to plant seeds in young minds that will someday bear the fruit of a healthier and more just food system for us all.

"...a holistic ministry cannot stop with bandaging the symptoms of societal problems, but must go further to identify and work on healing the root causes."



by David Moore, Jr.

This letter was written by one of our summer employees. It gives a great perspective on the impact of the farm to one individual.

My name is David Moore and I am thirty-four years old with two kids and a wife living in the downtown Holland area. I am currently between jobs and have been supplementing my income through Eighth Day Farm.

On behalf of the farm, I would like to take a brief moment to explain the many benefits that I and my family have come to enjoy as a result of having worked for this farm over the course of this year.

First and foremost, I am grateful to have work to do when there is not a lot of employment available. Equally important to me are the relationships I have begun to build with not only the CSA members themselves, but also with members of the surrounding community. I also got to network and build relationships with volunteers whom I, otherwise, wouldn't have known.

Also, working on the farm has given my family new insight as to the way we eat, the types of food we're buying and sparked a huge interest in growing our own food organically

and striving to live a healthier lifestyle. These are just a couple of the broader benefits of being connected with Eighth Day Farm and even if these were the only benefits of having the farm in Holland, a lot of things could change for the better in our community.

I look forward to continuing my work with the farm and hope to be able to volunteer my time in the future. Thank you for your interest in Eighth Day Farm. I hope this helps you to understand how a nonprofit organization such as this is benefiting people right here in Holland.

Dave did not share this in his letter, but he was not simply interested in sustainable farming, he actually took his new found knowledge home and put it into practice.

Dave began his own backyard garden and then, went another step further by sharing his vegetables with his neighbors.

In a short summer, he's gained new skills he's proud

of and is becoming a transforming factor in his own circle of influence.

As Eighth Day Farm continues to grow, we anticipate bringing on more summer employees like Dave. Our hope is that through interaction with staff, volunteers and the community, the employees will begin making changes in their own lives that will make a difference in the greater community.