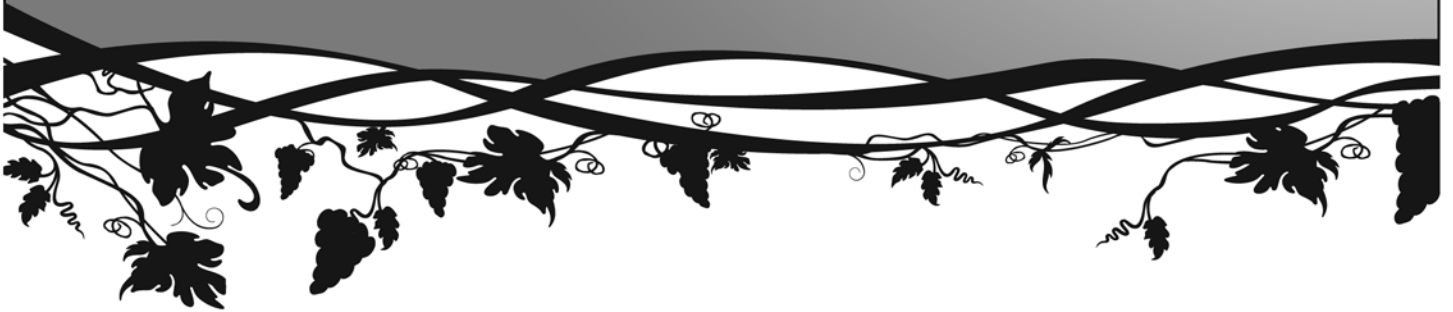


FIELDS TO FAMILIES

Seasonal Harvest



Fields to Families Volunteer Spotlight *Michelle Pollak Finds Personal Satisfaction Helping Needy Get Food*

by *Lindsey Robbins*

It was the hottest time of the year and the hottest part of the day, but for Fields to Families volunteer Michelle Pollak, it was also her favorite memory of volunteering with Fields to Families. She spent a couple hours on a Saturday with a friend this past summer gleaning 250 very large heads of lettuce. “It was the best day of the year so far!” she said. The time spent volunteering with a friend and doing physical work to provide food that would go on the tables of needy families in the Lowcountry really made her feel good. She loved that she could cut through the “red tape” and directly impact the lives of people in her community.

Michelle first became involved with Fields to Families because she wanted an opportunity to give back and because it was a mission close to her heart. Giving back by providing fresh, healthful foods was very motivating. It was a simple, direct way for her to become involved. She also really

appreciated the opportunity to do something outside and active. Physically picking food that people later would eat always made the work worth it in the end. But she advises, “You should be prepared to work!” Those 250 heads of lettuce were heavy.

Michelle first became involved with Fields to Families because she wanted an opportunity to give back and because it was a mission close to her heart.

As an enthusiastic volunteer for Fields to Families, Michelle eagerly volunteers whenever she can. Her advice for fellow volunteers is to find a passion, and it won't seem like work. “And remember your gloves, bug spray, and water!” She also

advises not to glean in a lightning storm as she did because you may not be around for future volunteer work! In all seriousness, she does recommend getting involved with a friend because it can be even more rewarding!

While Michelle is only in her first year with Fields to Families, she's already making a big impact. If you're out gleaning at Boone Hall, you're sure to see Michelle and her friends. Make sure to say “hello” and she'll teach you a thing or two about giving your all to a worthy cause.



Did You Know?

Along with our new website, Fields to Families has launched a new blog! You can follow along as we document our day-to-day efforts in helping to ease hunger in the Lowcountry: <http://fieldstofamilies.wordpress.com>.

Fields to Families Website Gets a Free Makeover with the Help of Trio Solutions

by Melanie Mathos

On October 7, Fields to Families launched a redesigned website, www.fieldstofamilies.org that was created during Trio Solutions' 2008 CreateAthon. Fields to Families was chosen from more than 50 applicants to receive free marketing services from a team of designers and marketers at Trio Solutions. The work was completed during a 24-hour, work around-the-clock creative blitz.

"We are so honored that we were selected by Trio Solutions to receive a redesign of our website, www.fieldstofamilies.org," said Jacki Baer, Fields to Families director. "Our website serves as an important extension of our mission of easing hunger in the Lowcountry and helps educate the public and potential volunteers and donor agencies about our work."

At www.fieldstofamilies.org, people can now:

- Learn more about Fields to Families and its mission
- Volunteer to help the organization in a variety of ways
- Sign up as a partner agency
- Donate homegrown produce or funds to support the mission

"It is important to each member of the team at Trio Solutions to give back to the community - both personally and professionally - and CreateAthon allows us to do just that," said Jennifer Cherock, Trio Solutions' vice president of planning services. "By offering up our marketing expertise and volunteering our time, we're able to partner with some of the Lowcountry's most valuable nonprofits and make a difference in the lives of those they serve. Believe it or not, we appreciate the opportunity just as much as the CreateAthon recipients do, and we look forward to continuing this initiative for years to come!"

CreateAthon was created by RIGGS advertising agency out of Columbia, South Carolina in 1998. Since the program's expansion from a single market to an international effort in 2001, 42 agencies have joined the CreateAthon network, holding CreateAthon events in their cities. This effort has benefited more than 1,000 nonprofit organizations with more than 2,100 projects valued at \$8.4 million. Based in Mount Pleasant, Trio Solutions Inc. is the official CreateAthon agency for the Lowcountry.

Fields to Families Holds First Volunteer Appreciation Event

by Lindsey Salmony and Dick Cable

On October 5, Fields to Families supporters — everyone from board members and volunteers, to farmers and representatives from recipient agencies — gathered at the North Charleston Recreation Department to celebrate how successful we have been in the past year in feeding the hungry with nutritious food.

Many people spoke, including Dick Cable, a volunteer who picks up produce every Saturday from the Charleston Farmer's Market to deliver to hungry people on James Island. The following is an excerpt from his inspirational speech:

"From April to the middle of December, my wife Billie and I go to the Charleston Farmers Market to visit each of the farmers, bakers, even pasta makers and fill our cart with produce, yummys, and, yes, even pasta.

We weigh and record each vendor's donation making sure everyone receives

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Fields to Families supporters enjoyed lunch and a chance to meet face-to-face — in many cases, for the first time — on October 5 at the appreciation event.



On October 15, Pam Dillon (back left) and Marlene Williamon (back right) presented Jacki Baer with RSVP's Volunteer of the Year Award.

Jacki Baer Named RSVP's Volunteer of the Year

by Lindsey Salmony, Phyllis Ford, and Billie Cable

When Fields to Families Director Jacki Baer attended an annual Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) luncheon as she has done for many years, little did she know she was about to be honored with one of its highest awards: Volunteer of the Year. A nationwide volunteer program, RSVP is a group of adults age 55 and over who use their life experiences and skills to answer the call of their communities' needs.

Jacki was nominated for the award by Fields to Families Chairperson Phyllis Ford. Phyllis took it upon herself to write a letter to the RSVP nominating committee to ask them to consider Jacki for the award.

In her letter, Phyllis wrote, "So far this year, Fields to Families has distributed 72,500 pounds of fresh produce to needy people. You may not be aware that a semi truck can hold 40,000 pounds. That means that almost two truckloads of fresh fruits and vegetables have been distributed in this short time span — all thanks to Jacki.

"One of the difficult things to accomplish with this type of venture is that when produce is ready to be picked, it is ready to be picked. IT CANNOT WAIT for a week or so. Therefore, once the farmers contact Jacki to let her know that a field is ready

to be gleaned, she must immediately get it picked and distributed. She works, as a volunteer, 12 – 14 hours a day, 7 days a week. She is the conductor of the operation, the one that brings all the instruments together. It would be a great honor if she were to be named RSVP Volunteer of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the Lowcountry."

On October 15, Pam Dillon, director of RSVP, and Marlene Williamon, RSVP's area coordinator for Charleston County, presented Jacki with the award.

"It was just lovely to receive the honor and publicize the efforts of Fields to Families," Jacki said. "I am truly rewarded by this ministry above and beyond the measure that I give. All the people who work with

Fields to Families are dedicated, caring individuals, and the award given to me belongs to all of them."

RSVP is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The local project has been sponsored by the American Red Cross, Carolina Lowcountry Chapter since 1973. Nationally, it is comprised of 450,000+ volunteers serving through 760 projects. Its aim is to utilize the particular skills and interests of each individual volunteer with an eye to what needs to get done in the community.



return to:

Fields to Families
222 W. Coleman Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Best Supporter
123 Give Back Lane
Pleasantville, SC 54321

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credit for the approximately 400 pounds we gather each Saturday.

“After that, we leave and head for Emmanuel Baptist Church located on Folly Road. There, three wonderful ladies greet us and help unload our vehicle.

“They sort everything into bags and hand them to needy — *really* needy —

James Island families. They are grateful for the delicious produce and other food.

“So, why do we do this? Billie and I made a commitment years ago to serve our community wherever and whenever possible. Volunteering for Fields To Families has been more rewarding than we could have imagined.

“We have become friends with the vendors — the most caring, giving people anywhere. Their smiles and “thank you”s only help to reinforce our belief that — **at least in the Lowcountry — generosity is alive and well.**”



about Fields to Families

our mission:

The mission of Fields to Families is to help increase nutrition to the area hungry by coordinating distribution of fresh produce obtained by local gardens and farms.

contact us:

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