



## Community Voices

“As I thought about the training Rick Hernandez generously gave me about building a trellis, I wanted something that captured that process. Every vining plant needs something strong to support its weight. Trellises allow plants to get as much light and air as possible, giving them a greater chance of success. Rick has been that to me – a great supporter and encourager throughout the learning process.”

**Justin Agolia**  
Fluvanna County Resident

# 1,880

**Pounds of fresh produce  
harvested and donated in  
2023**

## Partners for Solutions

“I assist the community in resolving production issues by introducing programs that are led by specialists and industry leaders. Through collaboration with local organizations and state and federal agencies, we are helping our community agribusinesses move forward in a sustainable manner that helps promote a healthy environment for us and our future generations.”



**Rick Hernandez**  
Agent



Carysbrook Elementary School youth harvest sweet potatoes after school for donation to the local food bank.

## Sharing Knowledge

Food security and engaging youth in their communities are two of the top priorities identified by the 2023 Fluvanna Unit Needs Assessment Survey. To improve well-being, Extension staff, Fluvanna community garden volunteers, school faculty, and Extension Master Gardeners engaged community members of all ages to address the issue of food security through volunteerism in gardens at Pleasant Grove Park, Carysbrook Elementary, and the Fluvanna Community Center.

By cultivating fruits and vegetables, citizens learn skills such as plant care, disease and insect control, the use of low-flow water irrigation, improving soils, and crop rotation. Youth ranging from third grade to high school worked at school gardens as well as community garden plots year-round while they increased their agriculture knowledge. As a result of community gardening efforts in 2023, more than 1,880 pounds of produce were donated to the local food bank or distributed at senior centers and food banks located in designated food deserts.

# Fluvanna County

## Funding by Source



**38% State**

**29% Local**

**10% Federal**

**16% Grants**

**7% Other**

**Total Funding: \$432,803**

**\$2.45**

return on investment  
for every dollar  
invested by the county  
in **Fluvanna County**

**\$345,545**

value of extension  
volunteer hours in  
**Fluvanna County**

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**visit [www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift](http://www.cals.vt.edu/make-a-gift).**