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June 2010



May & June have been some key months in the continued developed of a number of initiatives and we are happy to say things are going better than could be expected. The reason? The simple fact that this community of people continues to be moved with great focus and greater purpose.

The Farm

After a month of rain delays on some key days we are happy to say that things are back on track. Thank you to all who responded to our ask for extra help to get caught back up. Without those efforts, this update would have been very different.

We are happy to report that to date we have harvested approx. 168 pounds of lettuce types of food from The Farm. Harvests over the coming months will rise significantly as the summer crops become ready for distribution. Follow our [Harvest Tracker](#) for latest updates

R.E. Baker Gift Card Program

We are excited to announce a new pilot program in partnership with R.E. Baker Elementary School in Bentonville. We are testing a program in which we have provided free gift cards to the school social workers who then distribute them to students (and their families) who are at risk for hunger over the weekends. These gift cards are then redeemed at our Bentonville Farmer's Market booth on Saturday mornings.

Video Story & Details

[The Farm gives back to R.E. Baker Elementary School](#)

Farmer's Market

With the development of the Gift Card program, our presence at the [Bentonville Farmer's Market](#) takes on an added purpose of allowing those in our community at risk for food insecurity to come and "purchase" health food with dignity.

Visit [The Farm Initiative Page](#) for more information & to find out how you can volunteer to be a part of this effort to end hunger in NW Arkansas.

The Farm initiative is operated in collaborative partnership with David Carter (land owner), the [University of Arkansas Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Services](#), [Downtown Bentonville, Inc.](#) and with support of [World](#)

Upcoming Activities

Jun 16th - [Haiti Relief Follow-Up](#)

Jun 18th - The Farm Friday Harvest Party (every Fri)

Jun 19th - The Farm Service Day & Bentonville Farmer's Market (every Sat)

Jun 26th - [The Garden @ Samaritan Comm Center](#)

Jul 2nd/3rd - [Laundry Love](#)

Aug 22nd - [Green Room](#)

Weekly (on Friday's)

- [The Farm Harvest Party](#)

Weekly (on Saturday's)

- [The Farm Harvest & Planting](#)
- [Farmer's Market](#) (Volunteer Oppty's)
- [The Garden @ Samaritan Comm Center](#)

Follow-up Links

[Cobblestone Project](#)



The Cobblestone Project is a 501(c)(3) Community Focused Organization

[You can donate to the various](#)

[Garden](#) and [Walmart Stores](#).

[initiatives via PayPal](#)

Donations can be mailed to
Cobblestone Project
PO BOX 1246
Bentonville, AR 72712

Our Step

We are happy to report that our second Our Step family is now safe & secure in their own home!

This second family represents significant forward progress of the Our Step program as it represents both a first for the Samaritan Community Center & continued refinements of the process in which families are recommended and approved for the program.



We have learned so much since [Don and his family](#) were first moved into housing, and the group of agencies working together on this program are truly dedicated to making sure that move forward in a way that ensures each Our Step families long term future success. The stakes are just too high to do anything less.

We hope to be able to share more information over the coming month on all the activities around this second family & some incredible people who made this possible.

The Our Step program was designed and developed to remove the initial barriers to moving into housing. It is a collaborative effort between Seven Hills Homeless Shelter, NW Arkansas Women's Shelter, Samaritan Community Center, United Way of Northwest Arkansas and Dr. Kevin Fitzpatrick with the University of Arkansas Community and Family Institute.. To learn more please visit the [Our Step initiative page](#).

The Garden at Samaritan Community Center

The first run of The Garden at Samaritan Community center took place last weekend and we are happy to report that we are ready to move forward.



Starting this Saturday (Jun 26th), there are weekly opportunities to serve both the Samaritan Community Center and the people they serve every week. However, this allows the center to open on Saturday and it will also serve as a location for distribution of food harvested from The Farm.

By operating at this location we hope to accomplish three things:

1. Provide the resources (i.e. free food) that allows the center to open up on Saturday to serve their current clients (the Samaritan Community Center currently feeds approx. 200 people a day during their existing meal times).
2. Connect The Garden initiative & the people who make it all work directly with the faces of hunger in NW Arkansas.
3. Provide an opportunity for a larger number of people to serve their community (i.e. kitchen prep, serving the meals, etc.).
4. Provide a point of direct distribution of fresh & healthy produce through their food pantry operations.

If you would like to volunteer with The Garden initiative at the Samaritan Community

Center, the opportunities are posted on the Cobblestone Project volunteer hub to sign up.

[Volunteer Registration: The Garden at Rogers Samaritan Community Center](#)

For more information, please visit [The Garden initiative page](#) and find out how you can help.

Haiti Relief

Last month we had the opportunity to co-host a community wide meeting around the activities of many Northwest Arkansas residents who are actively involved in relief efforts for the people of Haiti.



It was incredible to see and hear about all of the activities already underway, and how collaboration between people and organizations continue to provide ways to help the overwhelming needs of the people of Haiti.

We have posted information about the May meeting on the Cobblestone Project website & there is a **follow-up meeting this Wednesday evening (Jun 18th)** to provide a space where people can come together around this need.

[NWA Haiti Relief Information & Next Steps](#)

If you desire to help the people of Haiti, we invite you to come. There are opportunities for medical personnel, construction workers, families, people who can love and care for the Orphan, serve meals, carry bags and play ball with the children.

Volunteer Hub

For a quick and easy way to see the volunteer opportunities available through the various initiatives of the Cobblestone Project, please visit the Cobblestone Project Volunteer Hub.

[Cobblestone Project Volunteer Hub](#)

Thank you to everyone that gives unceasingly to serve our community. You are the heroes & we could not be more grateful to live in a community like NW Arkansas

Take Care,

The Cobblestone Project

"Aggressively Pursuing a Community Without Need"

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