

Farm & Food System Project Update, Sharron May May 12, 2015

Activities since last Leadership Team (LT) meeting

- **1 Farm and Food System LT Assessment Review Meeting, Leadership Team Project Brainstorm Session, 1 LT Focus Group meeting (Pop-Up Food Hub).**
- **Farm and Food System Assessment edits (Done).**
- Project proposals: 1) Pop-Up Food Hub 2) Database, directory or other mechanism for increasing farmer awareness and access to resources, programs, equipment, education, expertise, funding etc. It was agreed that a coordinating organization or person would be needed.
- **PR/Outreach**
 - **L2L Farm & Food System Project was featured in the Food and Farm Network Summit and 2015 Report to the Community.**
 - **Grow Benzie's new director is using the Assessment as his 'bible' in developing a direction for GB.**
 - **L2L representation at Food & Farm Network meetings and events.**
- **New Ag Opportunities:**
 - Oryana Food Coop is seeking more local products and producers for their second location and developing in-house trainings (GAP, food safety, packaging, labeling, etc) to enable growers to sell in their stores.
 - Farm Bureau programs include job training, front to back of the house hospitality training, and food handling training.
 - Goodwill My Fresh Start program addresses the skilled labor issue by offering trainings on how to handle all the crops from strawberries to root vegetables. Goodwill Farm To Freezer program offers a) transitional employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged and b) new markets and increased profitability for local farmers.

At the April Food & Farm Network meeting it was acknowledged that there is an abundance of programs & resources and in some cases, a duplication of them. There was consensus that a mechanism for communicating and coordinating these efforts was needed. The next step is a focus group w/potential partner organizations to develop project idea.