

# Strategically Building the Local Food Economy for All

### Letter from CISA's Executive Director and Board Chair

In 2014, CISA's work with 250 Local Hero farms and 130 businesses sourcing from farms strengthened the bond between local farms and their communities. Yet, we are always asking ourselves, how well are we doing? New agricultural census data provided a snapshot of local agriculture, which we shared with elected officials, the media, and the public. In Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties, from 2007–2012:

- Total acreage in farmland grew eight percent; and,
- The number of farms selling direct to consumers went up 24% to 606 farms.

We are so pleased with these successes. At the same time, the ag census data reveals that the overall growth rate for direct sales may be slowing, and that dairy farmers continue to struggle. As stewards of 18% of our agricultural land, the success of dairy farmers matters to all of us.

# In 2014, CISA's work with 250 Local Hero farms and 130 businesses sourcing from farms strengthened the bond between local farms and their communities.

We are also looking far down the road towards our long term goal of doubling the percentage of local food in our diets to 25% by 2035. We're building an agricultural economy that will serve our children and the generations to come. With that long view in mind, we are proud of our accomplishments and our partnerships with strong community groups in 2014!

- Expanding our presence in Hampden County: Farm participation in the Local Hero program is up by 40% and we held a panel focusing on the future of local food in the county.
- Keeping our dairy farms strong: In partnership with UMass, we documented the real cost of producing milk in Massachusetts to help inform the public, elected officials, and wholesale buyers about the economic challenges for dairy farms.
- Raising the profile of our farmers: We consulted with WGBY on the production of their agricultural documentary, A Long Row in Fertile Ground. The film features interviews with local farmers and has been viewed by tens of thousands of people.
- Positioning local agriculture for the future: CISA's new strategic plan ensures that we can support farms through challenges to come. It was developed by a board, staff, and community committee that reviewed data, talked with farmers and other experts, and focused on increasing our capacity and efficiency.

Overall, CISA is now reaching more people: farmers, entrepreneurs, media representatives, elected officials, and residents. We're working—and eating—together and we hope you'll join us!

Sincerely,

Philip Korman Executive Director Risa Silverman Chair of the Board

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2017

# **MISSION**

CISA strengthens farms and engages the community to build the local food economy.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Local, prosperous, and diverse farms are essential to the economic health and environmental quality of the region
- An informed and engaged community is essential to the long-term sustainability of our local farms
- Everyone should have access to locally grown food and farm products

# VISION

- We make it possible for farms and related businesses to support the families of workers and owners, create jobs, and adopt sustainable environmental practices.
- We promote and expand agriculture's vital role in the health of the community.
- We partner with other groups to provide more local food to all residents in the Pioneer Valley and the state.
- We keep farms thriving now and into the future.

## **STRATEGIES**

### **Growing Healthy Farms**

- Provide support and training to farms to run thriving businesses
- Research local food system gaps and create opportunities to build the local
- Ensure local, state, and federal policies responsive to farmer needs

### Growing a **Healthy Community**

- the public about the positive benefits of thriving farms and a local food economy
- Increase local food access to more people

### Growing a Healthy Organizatioin

- Increase the financial sustainability of CISA
- Weave evaluation, reflection, and action into the fabric of CISA
- Ensure the organization is
- Position CISA for the future

# **Highlights from CISA's work in 2014**

Within the last year, two big screen portrayals of Pioneer Valley agriculture have enjoyed many local showings. *Root Hog or Die*, a documentary from 1973, focused on Hilltown farms, some still farming with horses. In 2014, CISA assisted WGBY in creating a current picture of Pioneer Valley agriculture, *A Long Row in Fertile Ground*. In both films, farmers speak eloquently about land stewardship, hard work, and good food.

The farmers interviewed in *Root Hog or Die* never mentioned how they market or sell their products. Today, most farmers in our region juggle multiple sales outlets, managing the preferences of buyers ranging from individual shoppers to hospitals and schools. Our farmers are competing in a global marketplace, even if they sell all their produce here in the Pioneer Valley. Good marketing is essential for their success. Following a recent showing of *Root Hog or Die*, a farmer commented on CISA's role in helping farmers thrive in this new environment. "Farmers don't have time to do all the promotion that is required today," he said. "CISA does that essential work, so that we can farm."

### **Healthy Farms**

Increasing the visibility of Pioneer Valley farms and food businesses is at the core of CISA's work **growing healthy farms**. In 2014, these promotional activities included:

- Regular radio and TV appearances for local farm and food businesses;
- "Valley Bounty," a weekly newspaper spotlight on a seasonal product;
- Educational opportunities for the press, restaurant, and retail buyers, such as a behind-the-scenes dairy farm tour.

CISA's workshops for farm and food businesses help owners improve their own marketing—whether through social media, traditional press releases, events, or email newsletters. In 2014, more than 400 farmers received training from CISA (some of them more than once!). The opportunities included individual consulting and workshops on topics ranging from farm labor to farmers' markets management, success in wholesale markets, and options for receiving grants or loans.

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### **Healthy Communities**

Healthy communities depend on thriving farms and food that is good for the land and the people that consume it. In 2014, our work **growing healthy communities** continues to expand in Hampden County:

- A fall panel in Holyoke, where both rural and urban farmers commented on the challenges of gaining long-term land tenure, among other topics;
- Outreach to many farms and food businesses. CISA staff gained familiarity with many new farms, and we are delighted that the number of farms participating in the Local Hero program increased by 40%.

### **Strong Partnerships**

Good food is fundamental to the health of individuals, communities, and our land. CISA's core concern for farm success overlaps with many other pressing issues—including climate change, the environment, public health, and the growing gap between rich and poor. Luckily, we are joined by many individuals and organizations working towards shared goals. We hope you will join us in our work in 2015!

### **Financial Notes**

We are glad to report that for the fifth straight year CISA has ended the fiscal year with a surplus. Our continued financial success reflects our ability to obtain public and private grants and unrestricted donations from businesses and individuals. We are so appreciative of the support of our communities.

In 2014, the year after our 20th anniversary, as expected, we saw individual and business support return to preanniversary levels. By containing daily operating expenses, CISA was able to grow cash reserves to cover five months of operating expenses (Reserve Fund), invest in buying

a new donor database, and began to increase staffing levels to meet the demand for CISA's programs.

Moving forward, increasing CISA's unrestricted donations remains vital as grant money from state and federal agencies becomes more uncertain. CISA's staff and board are committed to investing in the organization to improve long-term financial stability and to ensure continued good stewardship of CISA's assets.

Respectfully,

Michael Wissemann

Treasurer

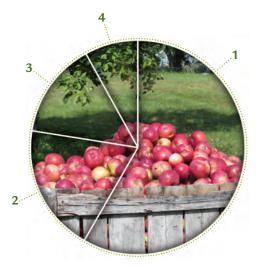
Philip Korman
Executive Director

### 2014 Financial Summary

Revenue and Support	2014*	2013
<b>1.</b> Grants and Government Contracts	\$530,910	\$658,063
2. Donations	\$363,919	\$455,621
3. In-Kind Donations	\$20,802	\$91,997
4. Local Hero Membership Dues	\$63,154	\$56,902
<b>5.</b> Rental, Consulting, Fees & Miscellaneous	\$43,284	\$66,663
<b>6.</b> Advertising	\$52,398	\$41,878
Total Revenue and Support	\$1,074,466	\$1,371,124



Expenses		
1. Program	\$567,056	\$628,803
2. Community Education	\$187,576	\$130,582
3. Fundraising	\$137,985	\$146,152
<b>4.</b> Administration	\$77,965	\$96,175
Total Expenses	\$970,582	\$1,001,712
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,151,066	\$781,654
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,254,951	\$1,151,066
Restricted and Designated Assets		
Emergency Farm Fund	\$122,412	\$96,965
Grants and Donations	\$259,476	\$219,954
Building Fund	\$77,660	\$24,646
Reserve Fund	\$400,000	\$200,000
Total Restricted and		
Designated Assets	\$859,549	\$541,565
Net Unrestricted Assets	\$395,402	\$609,501



Pie chart photos: (top) Bear Root Farm, (bottom) Park Hill Orchard, CISA staff photos

<sup>\*</sup> Unaudited figures. Audited figures are available upon request.

# Sapowsky Farm

### Local Hero farm profile

Sapowsky Farm's beginning was an accident. In 1947, Sue Sapowsky, mother of current owner Steve Sapowsky, had a bumper crop of strawberries and put them out for sale. When they sold out, she planted more, later adding asparagus. Steve is one of six siblings who were raised on the Granby farm that his mother began. He and his wife Tammy have built the secure base of land, markets, and community relationships that allow the farm to thrive today.

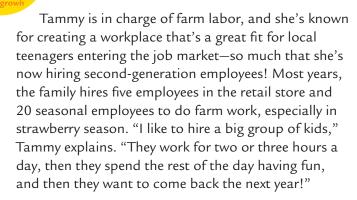
Steve and Tammy met at a local coffee shop 40 years ago when he was a customer and she was a waitress. Now married 32 years, Tammy and Steve farm 200 acres of vegetables and small fruit. The farm started

with just 40 acres, much of it rented land around town. When the real estate boom of the 1980s hit, Tammy and Steve realized that much of their beloved farmland was being sold off to housing developers, so they bought as much land as they could to ensure success for their farm.

In addition to strawberries and asparagus, sweet corn and tomatoes are important crops for

Tammy and Steve and their two sons. They also grow squash, beans, pumpkins, and winter squash, and last year added some greenhouse crops like peppers and zucchini. Almost all of their crops are sold from the family's farm stand, with only about five percent going to local retailers and restaurants.

s and restaurants.



Sapowsky Farm has been a Local Hero member since 2004. Tammy has found CISA's workshops especially valuable. This year, she's attending CISA's winter

marketing series with an eye towards updating the farm's social and digital media presence in order to build customer loyalty and bring in new shoppers. They've always survived on word of mouth and print ads but are realizing that print ads in particular aren't as effective as they once were. The Sapowskys keep coming back

to CISA's workshops because they have always shown value: "You do a great job!"

Tammy says, "I think we're a pretty good family farm success story. We work hard and we work well together, and we have a lot of pride in our farm and love being farmers."



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### **Local Hero Members**

**FARMERS** Abundant Harvest Apiary Amend Organics Amethyst Farm Amherst Farm Winery Amherst Nurseries Apex Orchards The Apple Place Art's Berry Farm Atkins Farms Atlas Farm The Atherton Farm Austin Brothers Valley Farm Australis Aquaculture Balky Farm Bare Roots Farm The Bars Farm Barstow's Longview Farm Bascom Hollow Farm Bashista Orchards Bear Meadow Farm Bear Path Farm Bear Root Herb Farm Bear Swamp Orchard The Benson Place Bergeron Sugar House Birdhaven Blueberry Farm The Bitty Red Barn Black Birch Vineyard **Blossoming Acres** Blue Heaven Blueberry and Raspberry Farm Book and Plow Farm Bostrom Farm Boyden Brothers Maple Bree-Z-Knoll Farm **Bridgmont Farm** Brook's Bend Farm Brookfield Farm Bug Hill Berry and Flower Farm Burnt Hill Farm, LLC Calabrese Farm Carl Popielarz Pig Farm Carr's Ciderhouse Chase Hill Farm Chestnut Mountain Tree Farm Chicoine Family Farm Ciesluk Farm Stand Clark Brothers Orchards Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Inc. Common Wealth CSA Cook's Farm Orchard Cooks Farm and Flayvors of Cook Farm Cooper Shop Farm Copperhead Farm Couch Brook Farm Coyote Hill Farm Crabapple Farm

Craigieburn Farm Alpacas

Cranberry Moon Farm

Cream of the Crop Farm Crimson and Clover Farm Dancing Bear Farm Dave's Natural Garden Deepening Roots Farm Devine Farms DewGreen Farm Dickinson Farm Diemand Farm Dufresne's Sugar House E. Cecchi Farm East View Farm Echo Hill Orchards & Winery Echodale Farm Eden Pond Farm **EIEIO Farm** Enterprise Farm Falls Brook Farm Farmacy Gardens Flourish Farm Flynn Farm Four Rex Farm Four Star Farms, Inc. Foxbard Farm Foxfire Fiber & Designs at Springdelle Farm Freeman Farm Frizzell Hill Farm Fungi Ally Funny Farm Gardening the Community The Gill Greenery Goat Nook Farm Godard's Red Hen Farm & Mineral Hills Winery Goldthread Apothecary Golonka Farm Good Bunch Farm Gooseberry Farms Grace Hill Farm Gran Val Farm/Scoop Granny's Place Graves-Glen Farms Gray Dog's Farm Greenfield Community Farm Greens Treat Hager Brothers Farm Hamilton Orchards Hardwick Vineyard & Winery Hartman's Herb Farm Harvest Farm of Whately Headwater Cider Hettie Belle Farm High Lawn Farm Homestead Farm Hosta Hill Farm Intervale Farm

J & J Farms

J.O.E.'s Farm

J.M. Pasiecnik Farms, LLC

Johnson Brook Farms, LLC

Joe Czajkowski Farm

Johnson Hill Farm Johnson's Farm Justamere Tree Farm K & L Organic Growers Kenburn Orchards King Creek/Queen's Greens Kinne Brook Farm The Kitchen Garden Kleeberg's Sugar House Kosinski Farm Lakeside PYO Strawberries LaSalle Florists Left Field Farm Leyden Glen Lamb Little Brook Farm Long Plain Farm Lukasik Family Farm Lyonsville Farm Malinowski Farms Manda Farm Many Hands Farm Corps Maple Corner Farm Mapleline Farm Martin's Farm Compost and Mulch Mayval Farm McCray's Farm and Country Creamery McKinstry's Market Garden, Inc Meadow View Farms, LLC Meadowbrook Farm Merrick Farm Mockingbird Farm Moss Hill Farm Mountain Orchard, LLC Mountain Pasture Farm Mountain View Farm Mount Warner Vineyards, LLC Mycoterra Farm Natural Roots New England Wild Edibles New Lands Farm New Salem Preserves, Inc. Next Barn Over Farm North Hadley Sugar Shack Northfield Mount Hermon Farm Northwoods Forest Products, LLC Nourse Farms Nuestras Raices Farm Old Depot Gardens Old Friends Farm Open View Farm Educational Center Outlook Farm

Park Hill Orchard

Paul's Sugar House

Pine Hill Orchards

Pioneer Valley NE

Growers Coop

Pieropan Christmas Tree Farm

Pioneer Valley Heritage Grain

Plante Farm Pomeroy's Vegetable Farm Pop's Farm Potash Hill Farm Quonquont Farm Randall's Farm Raspberry Patch Farm Ravenwold Greenhouses Ray's Family Farm Red Barn Honey Company Red Fire Farm Red Gate Farm **Education Center** River Maple Farm River Rock Farm Riverland Farm Roaming Farm **Rock Paper Scissors** Rock Ridge Farm Roundhill Orchards Sangha Farm/Goat Rising Sapowsky Farms Sawmill Farm Sawver Farm Seeds of Solidarity Farm Sentinel Farm Shattuck's Sugarhouse Shinglebrook Farm Shoestring Farm Sidehill Farm Simple Gifts Farm Sixteen Acres Garden Center, Inc. Small Ones Farm Smiarowski Farm Stand and Creamery Sojourner Designs at Sojourner Sheep Songline Emu Farm South Face Farm Spring Water Farm Steady Lane Farm Stillman's at the Turkey Farm Stockbridge Farm Stone Soup Farm Stony Brook Valley Farm Summit Farm Sunrise Farms Sunset Farm Sweet Morning Farm Sweetwater Farm Szawlowski Potato Farms Tanstaafl Farm Taproot Commons Farm Teddy C. Smiarowski Farm Town Farm Twenty Acre Farm

and Greenhouses

Twin Maples Farm

Twin Oaks Farm

Pioneer Valley Popcorn

Plainville Farm

Pioneer Valley Vineyard, LLC

Upinngil Vollinger Farm W & W Farms Waidlich Farm Walnut Hill Farm Wandering Brook Farm Warm Colors Apiary Warner Farm West Granville Blueberries Wheel-View Farm White House Farm Whitney Acres Farm Wilder Brook Farm Wilder Hill Gardens Winter Moon Roots Winterberry Farm Yard Birds Yellow Stonehouse Farm

#### **INSTITUTIONS**

Amherst College **Dining Services** The Arbors at Greenfield **Baystate Dining Services** Baystate Franklin Medical . Center Café Baystate Mary Lane The Bement School Cooley Dickinson Hospital Deerfield Academy Dining Eaglebrook School Greenfield Community College Dining Services Hampshire College **Dining Services Lathrop Communities Loomis Communities** -Applewood Northampton Survival Center Northfield Mount Hermon **Dining Services** Rockridge Retirement Community ServiceNet Prospect Meadow Farm Smith College Dining Services **UMass Amherst Dining Services** 

#### LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN

Andrew's Greenhouse Broadfork Permaculture Hadley Garden Center Megan's Valley Garden & Landscape Supply New England Wild Flower Society

#### **RESTAURANTS**

30Boltwood/ The Lord Jeffery Inn A Touch of Garlic Alina's Ristorante The Alvah Stone Apollo Grill Auntie Cathie's Kitchen Bistro Les Gras Black Sheep Deli Blue Heron Restaurant & Catering Bottega Cucina Bread and Butter Bridgeside Grille Bub's BBO Bueno Y Sano **Buon Appetito Ristorante** Champney's Restaurant & Tavern @ the Deerfield Inn Chandler's Restaurant Chez Albert Coco & The Cellar Bar Cup & Top The Dirty Truth Dobra Tea Eastside Grill Esselon Cafe The Farm Table at Kringle Candle Fitzwilly's Gill Tavern GoBerry, Amherst & Northampton Great Wall Restaurant Henion Bakery Hillside Pizza, Bernardston & South Deerfield Homespun Event Design & Catering, LLC Hope & Olive Hungry Ghost Bread Jake's Johnny's Tavern Lattitude Restaurant Lone Wolf Magpie Max's Tavern Northampton Brewery Paul & Elizabeth's The People's Pint Roadhouse Cafe Roberto's Sam's Pizzeria and Café Spoleto Group Sylvester's Restaurant Taylor's Tavern & Restaurant Wagon Wheel Restaurant The Whately Inn West End Pub Woodstar Café

#### **RETAILERS**

AC's Main Street Market All Things Local Coop Market Armata's Market Atkins Farms Country Market Barstow's Dairy Store & Bakery at Longview Farm, Inc Bay State Fish Shares Big E's Super Market Big Y World Class Markets, Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, & Southampton 5 4 1 Cooper's Corner Cornucopia Foods Elmer's Store Foster's Supermarket Inc. Green Fields Market Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange Hager's Farm Market Keystone Market Leverett Village Coop M & M Green Valley Produce Maple Farm Foods McCusker's Market Millstone Farm Market New England Felting Supply North Quabbin Community Co-op Old Creamery Cooperative Randall's Farm & Greenhouse River Valley Market Serio's Market Squash, Inc. State Street Fruit Store Sutter Meats Valley Green Feast Collective Whole Foods Market

#### **SPECIALTY PRODUCTS**

Artifact Cider

Williamsburg Market

Appalachian Naturals

Artisan Beverage Cooperative Backyard Bakery Emily's Grain-Free Forest Products Associates Lashway Lumber Maple Valley Ice Cream Mi Tierra Mother's of Shelburne, Inc Pioneer Valley Vinegar Works Ponders Hollow Custom Wood Flooring & Millwork Real Pickles Cooperative Relish the Harvest Richardson's Candy Kitchen

Tornado Firestarters, LLC

The Turkish Kitchen Valley Malt



Join Us!

### CISA's community members are dedicated to our farmers and our local food economy. Will you join us?

Your membership supports our work in raising awareness, creating new programs, and providing learning opportunities for Local Hero members and the community at large. As a member you will receive an array of benefits including behind the scenes farm tours, discounts at participating farms and retailers, and our enormous gratitude!

# Our local food and farmland is essential to the culture and quality of life of the region.

CISA connects Valley residents with each other and with local farms and local foods. Many folks consider our local food and farmland essential to the culture and quality of life of the region. Your CISA membership is an important way in which you can play a part in building a robust local food economy.

Help ensure the future of local agriculture in the Pioneer Valley-visit buylocalfood.org/member and become a CISA community member today!



## **Community Members**

Joan Accuosti Warner Adams Doug Adler David Ahlfeld Anne Alexander Joseph Alfano Tracy Allen & Karl Mutchler & Beverly Montague Betty & Tom Andersen Betty Andersen Teri Anderson Fred & Jane Andresen Max Antes Steven Arango Marie Armentano Suzanne Arnopolin & Ronnie Williams Debra Augusto Roy Bachinsky

Luis Baez

Brooks Ballenger

Lundy Bancroft

Ann Buscemi James Cabral Gregory Cameron Susan Campbell & Todd Fuller Denise Caputo Amy Carey Stacy & Shawn Carkonen Valerie Caro Wavne Carter Cate Carulli & Linda Sinapi David Caruso & Sara Hunt Castanea Foundation Lorraine Cetto Annie Cheatham & Ann Gibson Jennifer Christian David Chura Audrey Clark

Carrie Cuthbert & Scott Laidlaw Cary Dash & Vivian Miller Hannah Davidson Deborah Dawson-Breen Rania Dbeisi Debra & John Deane Sheryl Derderian & Wraye Dugundji Florence & Peter DeRose Tom & Sheila DeSellier Joanne & Brian Despard Jan & Robin Dizard Karen Dodge Karen & Chip Doherty Benjamin Douglass Rosalyn Driscoll John Dunne

John & Gail Gaustad Frances Gebhardt Michael Genthner & Mary Riley John & Phyl Gerber Kim Gerould I P Gillio Iessica Giroux Elizabeth Glackin & Michael Erdil Jouli M Gobrial Judy Golan Owen Goldfarb & Priscilla Fairbank Norbert Goldfield & Sandra Matthews Fran & Steven Goldsher Valerie Gracechild Myra & Kim Grassfield

Frederick & Linda Hess Marjorie Hess & Rudolph Talaber Dean Hickey Mary Clare Higgins Ruth Hoffman Marcia & David Holden Lewis & Kathryn Holzman Chuck Hommes & Vicki Baum-Hommes Sandra Hoover Bruce Hopper Sara Hostetler Jacob Howe Amber Hubbard Gayle & James Huntress Katherine Hutchinson & John Giroux Eleanor Innes Paul Jablon Marcia Jackson Michal Jacob-Goldstein

Katherine Jamieson & Ben Gundersheimer Daniel Jaworski

Miriam Jenkins Abbie Jenks Sylvie Jensen Phyllis Jeswald Margaret & Skip Jodoin

Theresa Johnson Carol Iolly Mordechai Kamel

& Sara Weinberger Craig Kannel & Becky Mazur

Richart Keller Diane Kelton

Kieras Oil

Jan & Jeremy Klausner-Wise Naomi Klayman

& Grant Kendrick

Alice G Klingener Jillian Knapp

Luanne Knox

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Sharon Band **Emily Barber** Tracy Barclay Allen Belkin & MaryJean O'Reilly Andrew Bellak & Susan Bain Bellak Tracy Ann Benoit Peter & Ellen Berek Tina & Michael Berins Steven Berlin & Valerie Lavender Ed & Julia Berman Phyllis Bermingham & Peter Greenwald Lisa M Bertoldi & Bill Sayre Lukas Best Channing & Marie Bete Zachary Billings Dan & Gail Blanchard Joseph Boivin leff Bott George Bowers & Shayne Beede Bernice Bowler Anna Bralow Dorothy Braman Andrew Bresciano Marybeth Bridegam Lindsey Britt Laura Broad Barbara Brown Bruce Brown & Mary Thorpe Brown Eli Brown Luann Brown Wesley Brown Susan Bunker Mark Burton Joshua Bury Rebecca Busansky & Jonah Zuckerman



Kathryn Leary Tyler Leary Carol & Peter Letson Helen Leung & Mark Marshall Jim Levey & Christine Olson Rachel Levey Tracey Levy & Paul Gulla Kirsten Lindblom & Jay Baudermann Eva Lohrer Anne Lombard Deanne Loonin & Elizabeth Renuart Elizabeth Loughran Kathleen Lovell Lucinda Lucey Johanna Lucia Samantha Lyman Dianne Mackler Irene & Lawrence Madden Michael Madole Holly Malinowski Steven & Michele Marantz Harriet Marple Plehn Anne Marie Martineau Diane Mason-Arnold & Fred Arnold Kim Matland & Linda Farmer Richard Maxson Fawn Mazzei William McCloud Tamsen Merrill & Gregory Thorp Gary Mescon Iill Messick Edward Mikalunas

Rebecca Mitchell

Anne Morehouse

Gregory Nichols

Kristine Nickerson

Elizabeth O'Gilvie

Andrea Olanyk

Pamela Ondrick

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Tiffany Zal

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Elliot Fratkin

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Kristen Gage

Laura Garcia

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& Linda Ťumbarello

Dorothy & Hugh Friel

& Dana Gillette\*

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CISA's work is accomplished in collaboration with a number of program partners. We thank them for their continued interest in sustaining local agriculture.

Agricultural Commissions American Farmland Trust Ascentria Care Alliance/ New Lands Farm

Berkshire Grown Buy Fresh, Buy Local Cape Cod The Carrot Project

Franklin County Food Council Franklin Regional Council of Governments Gardening the Community Grow Food Northampton Hampshire College Hampshire County Regional Tourism Council Hampshire Regional Chamber Healthy Hampshire Holyoke Council on Aging **Huntington Council on Aging** Island Grown Initiative Land For Good Live Well Springfield/Partners for a Healthier Community Massachusetts Department

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# **Al and Mary Siano**

### Donor profile

Al and Mary Siano are community-focused philanthropists and long-time CISA donors and members. Their first awareness of CISA came via Green Fields Market, where they've been members since the early 1980s. As a volunteer at a Greenfield community meal, Mary was struck by the contrast between the Valley's

bountiful farm fields and the number of people facing hunger and food insecurity in her community.

As Greenfield natives, Mary and Al remember neighborhood produce deliveries in the 1950s. In Mary's neighborhood, a farmer came around weekly with his truck loaded down with vegetables. Today, that neighborhood delivery system has evolved to farmers' markets and CSAs. Mary and Al appreciate the ways that farmers, farmers' markets, and organizations

like CISA are working together to ensure that local food is available to all residents of the region. The Sianos continue to support CISA from year to year because they believe in our mission and understand that building community support for local agriculture is essential to our community and economic well being.

Mary and Al rely on multiple CSAs for access to healthy, locally grown produce and meat. They now have a summer CSA share from Coyote Hill Farm, a

> meat share in the winter from Hettie Belle Farm, and a flexible market share from Atlas Farm. CSA membership allowed them to really see the direct impact that their support for local agriculture could have. "Farmers have been around always," Al notes, "but the co-op movement got us to focus on local food. It's really your neighbor that you're supporting by buying local."





"It's really your neighbor that you're supporting by buying local."

# Make a lasting statement about what is important to you!

One of the many ways to support CISA is through planned giving. By putting CISA in your will or estate plan you can make a lasting statement about what is important to you!

Each year CISA relies on gifts, big and small, to support our work and mission. There are a number of ways that you can continue your support beyond your lifetime. Anyone can plan to make a gift from their estate, it doesn't have to be big but it will matter to us. Legacy gifts help create a sustainable foundation for CISA's future.



Bear Root Farm, CISA staff photo

For more information please visit buylocalfood.org/support.



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