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The Western New York Land Conservancy and Providence Farm Collective Announce a \$275,000 Matching Gift

The Western New York Land Conservancy and Providence Farm Collective are thrilled to announce a \$275,000 matching gift toward their joint capital campaign to “Plant the Future of Farming.” They need to raise at least \$2.3 million for the campaign by the end of this year. To date, the campaign has already raised nearly \$1 million toward the goal. They need members of the community to donate to match the gift this year. Every dollar donated now will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$275,000.

Once the \$2.3 million goal is met, Providence Farm Collective will purchase the 37-acre farm in Orchard Park that they currently lease. PFC will then add needed facilities, create a farmer directed endowment, and sustain the farm into the future. The Land Conservancy will place a conservation easement on the farm, protecting it forever as farmland.

Providence Farm Collective, a nonprofit that supports Black, immigrant, refugee, and low-income farmers in Western New York who cannot otherwise access farmland, started in 2017 as a grassroots effort by the Somali Bantu community to get back to their farming roots and grow fresh food. It has now grown to encompass refugees from multiple nations and members of the Black community. There are nearly 300 farmers growing fresh food for their families and their communities at the Orchard Park Farm. With its incubator farms and summer youth employment programs, it not only provides Western New York's refugee communities with a place to grow their own food; it also allows them to earn extra money doing something they love, while at the same time teaching cultural farming traditions to future generations.

The matching gift funds are from a host of foundations and individuals, including Save on SP, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Dedrick Family Foundation administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Garman Family Foundation administered by the

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Stephen Still and Terrie Tucker, Joe and Lynne Giroux, and the Black Harvest Fund.

For more than a century, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has enhanced and encouraged long-term philanthropy in the Western New York community. A 501 (c)(3) organization, the Community Foundation's mission is: Connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives in Western New York. Established in 1919, the Community Foundation has made the most of the generosity of individuals, families, foundations and organizations who entrust charitable assets to the Community Foundation's care. Learn more at cfgb.org.

Dao Kamara, Community Engagement Coordinator for PFC, said, "Planting the Future of Farming is very important to refugees, immigrant and under-resource farmers in Western New York. Its success means access to farmland to build farm businesses. It means this farm will be permanently protected for agriculture. Farmers like me will have a place to call home where we can grow culturally relevant crops, feed community members, and foster connections through shared traditions with our families."

"Now more than ever it is imperative that we support fresh local food growers like PFC farmers," said Nancy Smith, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy. "But it takes a community coming together to make this campaign successful. We are immensely grateful for these gifts. They are a strong show of support for the role PFC farmers are playing in providing a just, equitable, and sustainable business model to farm here in Western New York."

The Dedrick Family Foundation said, "We have been so impressed by the work that the farmers of Providence Farm Collective are doing to nourish their families, and the wider WNY community, with sustainably grown produce. PFC's partnership with the Land Conservancy proves that this grassroots organization is continuing to orient itself towards resilience; not only the resilience of the farmers and their families, but also the health and longevity of the land they are working. We are excited to support PFC's entrepreneurial spirit and creative thinking with this grant, and sincerely hope that other donors will be inspired to join us."

Natalie Baszile of the Black Harvest Fund, who is also a renowned author and filmmaker, said, "The Providence Farm Collective / Western New York Land Conservancy partnership is the best example I've seen of a concrete, workable solution to help Black, Immigrant, Refugee, and low-income farmers. Their work has yielded tangible results and should be a model for Land Conservancies across the country. I continue to be inspired by PFC's vision and am honored to support them."

"The Land Conservancy is doing truly inspiring and impactful work in our community," said Stephen Still, who contributed to the matching gift with his partner, Terrie. "The planned Western New York Wildway, The Riverline, restoring the Niagara Gorge—all these projects contribute to better, healthier outcomes for the people of Western New York. Since Providence Farm Collective helps to provide more opportunities for Black, immigrant, and refugee farmers in our region, the Land Conservancy's joint campaign with PFC is yet another example of this impact. My partner and I are honored to support this worthy cause."

The Land Conservancy and Providence Farm Collective need donations of all sizes in order to Plant the Future of Farming. For larger donations, donor recognition opportunities include:

- One donor of \$500,000 or more can be recognized on the pavilion
- One donor of \$300,000 or more can be recognized on the barn
- One donor of \$150,000 or more can be recognized on the children's play area
- One donor of \$100,000 or more can be recognized on the market stand
- Donors of \$50,000 or more can be recognized on a shade and tool shelter
- Donors of \$30,000 or more can have a picnic table named in their honor
- Donors of \$20,000 or more can have a garden bench named in their honor
- Donors of \$10,000 or more will have their name placed on a quilt square made by Stitch Buffalo on the quilt display in the pavilion
- Donors of \$2,000 or more will be recognized in the Land Conservancy newsletter and Providence Farm Collective's Annual Report

If you would like to donate to Plant the Future of Farming and double your donation through the matching gift, you can donate online at wnylc.org or send a check made payable to "Western New York Land Conservancy" to P.O. Box 471, East Aurora, NY 14052. Please call or email if you have questions: (716) 687-1225 or info@wnylc.org.

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for current and future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1000+ land trusts nationwide, including 87 in New York State. Land trusts have protected over 56 million acres of land. To learn more about the Land Conservancy, visit wnylc.org.

Providence Farm Collective is a non-profit that believes in empowering Just and Equitable Access to Food and Farmland. It cultivates farmer-led and community-rooted agriculture and food systems to actualize the rights of under-resourced peoples. Providence Farm Collective (PFC) has its roots in the Somali Bantu Community Farm, a three-year pilot project. The pilot explored the challenges and opportunities of addressing fresh food insecurity and farmland inequity. PFC supports under-resourced farmers in Western New York needing access to clean, rural farmland, farming and business education, technical assistance, access to markets and the opportunity to farm for income. PFC also offers youth education and employment programs. Website: providencefarmcollective.org.

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