



Feed Fannin News



Feed Fannin Inc.

Winter 2016

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Feed Fannin (FF) held its annual meeting on January 14, 2016. Many volunteers were in attendance. The meeting started with a power point presentation by Feed Fannin Chairperson Connie Galloway. It is the same presentation that she gave to the Fannin County School Board. It highlighted all the improvements at the Ada Street Community Garden in the last year. These include renovations to the education and meeting center, improvements in the garden, the new beehive and the stream crossing cleanup which will improve drainage of the property and allow volunteers access to a previously unused section of the property.

The presentation also covered FF's contributions to the new raised bed gardens at East and West Fannin Elementary Schools and FF's continuing support of the gardening club at Blue Ridge Elementary School. Finally it showed scenes of FF volunteers hard at work in the garden and donating produce to the Family Connection Food Pantry.

Sherry Morris, the executive director of Fannin County Family Connection, thanked Feed Fannin volunteers for all they do to support the pantry and Feed Fannin for its financial support of the pantry and the donations of fresh produce from the garden. She reviewed new developments at the pantry including providing milk to families with children, becoming a member of the Chattanooga Food Bank and the pantry's participation in a pilot program to obtain very low cost quality food. She announced that Ingle's is now donating food to the pantry and that the Blue Ridge Pharmacy donated shelving to the pantry which has been put to good use to store and organize food purchases.

Following the presentations, the committee chairs met with their committee members to set goals for 2016. The FF committees are Garden, Allotment Garden, Education, Volunteers, Public Relations, Distribution/Food Pantry, Technology and Bowls of Hope.

The committee goals announced for 2016 include growing even more food in the community garden, increasing FF's involvement in gardening education in the school system, new outreach to FF volunteers and continuing support for the food pantry. For more information on the committees, what they do and what their goals are go to the Feed Fannin website at www.feedfannin.com.

All in all, it was an exciting and productive year for Feed Fannin, and it looks like 2016 will be just as exciting and productive thanks to the tireless efforts of our FF volunteers.

- Jim Yacavone

Feed Fannin's Bowls of Hope
 Help us fill the bowls of the hungry in Fannin County

Join us on Saturday, March 19, 2016
 12:00 - 4:00pm Willow Creek Falls, Blue Ridge, GA

Take home a beautiful bowl made by our local potters.

Sample delicious soups, breads, and desserts from our local restaurants.

Enjoy live music by talented local musicians. Shop at our fantastic silent auction.

Tickets per person are: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Kids are free!

For information, call 706-946-7001 or visit FeedFannin.com

Feed Fannin

Bowls of Hope





New Education Coordinator!

Hello! My name is Anna Speessen, I am the new Education Coordinator for Feed Fannin. I volunteered for Feed Fannin when I first moved to Blue Ridge in 2012. I worked in the food pantry at Family Connections weighing, cleaning, and preparing the produce to be distributed. Once I obtained a full time job that opportunity was no longer an option. I currently work as the Staff Associate for the University of North Georgia Blue Ridge Campus. Prior to working with UNG I was the Accounting Manager and the Sexual Assault Advocate for the North Georgia Mountain Crisis Network. I am a certified teacher with six years of teaching experience so when this opportunity presented itself it truly pulled at my heart strings. As a lifelong learner I believe in the power of education. My goal is to provide an opportunity to learn about ecology in a real-world context, increasing understanding of food and the environment so we can eat healthier food due to wiser food choices, and become more knowledgeable about natural processes. I hope the programs wake the intrinsic motivation of individuals to become self-sufficient and motivate individuals in volunteering to support our mission. Feel free to contact me at aspeessen@gmail.com if you have ideas for classes or if you would like to help the education committee! I am excited to be here and I look forward to being part of this great group!

Here is a list of confirmed classes so far this year.

2016 Class Schedule:

Feb. 27th: Quinn's Greenhouse and Nursery "Growing Micro Greens"

March 5th Quinn's Greenhouse and Nursery "So You Want to Plant a Garden?"

April 2nd. Raised Beds and Composting by Walt George and Elaine Bliss

April 9th: "Organic Pesticides and Beneficial Pest" by Eddie Ayers



Feed Fannin's Youth Garden Club

The Cool Kids Grow Children's Garden Club at Blue Ridge Elementary School (BRES) is designed to educate, as well as bring delight in gardening and horticulture with projects that the students start themselves and take home to continue to grow and enjoy. The winter weather may have brought our club indoors, but it has not halted the opportunity for our students to learn about nature and experience the whole life cycle from planting to harvest. Presently we have cool weather crops planted under grow lights in the school. We will start our tomatoes, squash and peppers at the next meeting and plant our cool weather crops outside. We have learned about photosynthesis and the important role plants play in producing not only food, but oxygen for all the creatures on earth.

Our community speakers are vital to the success of our club. Glen Henderson spoke to the club about the importance of honey bees for pollination of plants. It was a 'super cool' presentation as he brought a glass enclosed hive into the school. The queen bee was painted with a red dot. The kids crowded around the hive to spot her. Tom Striker came to discuss different birds that the kids may sight in the garden. We decorated a small Hemlock tree for our feathered friends with bird seed wreaths, popcorn and cranberry garlands and wild berries we harvested in the woods. We pressed leaves and learned about keying out different tree species found in Georgia. We also pounded the chlorophyll and other pigments out of leaves onto canvas. These became really cool leaf pendants for the kids to take home. Ron Zadroga cut out the pieces to construct 12 bluebird and 12 wren houses. Armed with hammers, the kids built the houses and later designed and painted each. A few of these will be donated to the first grade classes for their bluebird project.

Gardening fever seems to be contagious at BRES. At a Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) meeting in January all grade levels committed to participating in a school-wide composting project that the fourth grade (with help of our garden club members) had piloted. We feel that the Cool Kids Grow Garden Club has been developing, implementing and improving the quality of garden based STEM education. At BRES we are in the process of revamping our STEM in the Garden curriculum to provide students at all grade levels with gardening activities that will enrich and provide the most up-to-date, standards-based STEM educational units. We could not be doing this at BRES without the support of our mentor organization, Feed Fannin. Thank you Feed Fannin for the confidence that you have bestowed in our gardening efforts and the financial support you have given (and continue to give) these past five years.

- Walt and Kate George





Allotment Gardens

Ready to think Spring? We will have raised beds available for next year. They are \$10 each and you may get two of them. If interested you should contact Catherine Sugg at her e-mail address cksugg@aol.com and put "Allotment Garden" as the subject line.

Each bed has good quality soil and is in full sun.

Get out the Burpee Seed Catalog and dream big!



Feed Fannin supports the Family Connections Food Pantry by raising money to buy food and by growing food for the pantry at our community garden. Feed Fannin volunteers also work at the pantry. We're happy to report that some positive improvements at the pantry. New shelves were installed recently in the kitchen area to store excess goods while they wait to be distributed. A milk cooler was provided by the Chattanooga Food Bank and milk has been donated by Feed Fannin. Each client with a child now receives a gallon of milk with their order. Ingles has begun donating bread and other items to the pantry. This is a great help especially when we are experiencing shortages.

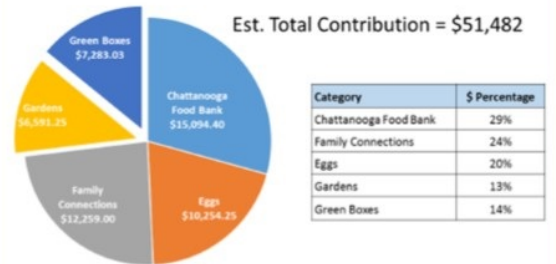
We can always use more volunteers to help out at the pantry. If you are interested in helping Feed Fannin feed the hungry you can contact Meredith Yacavone at (727) 492-0837 or email her at MeredithYacavone@gmail.com.

On Friday February 12th a Volunteer Appreciation Drop-In Reception was held at the Fannin County Family Connection. Thank you to all who help make the Family Connection Food Pantry a success.



Contributions

Food Pantry: Estimated Value of Feed Fannin Contributions (Includes Gardens/Green Boxes)



*Note: Produce Dollars and Green Box Donation Dollars are estimated based on USDA average pricing and estimation of dry good contributions based on Walmart pricing.

Food Pantry/Distribution



Remember Feed Fannin in Future Plans

You can consider Feed Fannin when you make a bequest of assets in a will or trust, which could be a specific amount of money or assets, a percentage of the money or assets, or the residual money or assets of the estate. Ask us about it. Contact information is listed below:

Email: feedfannin@gmail.com or
Call Connie Galloway, Chair, at 706-374-4372



Feed Fannin Inc.

P O Box 1085
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

Phone: 706-946-1001 (Leave message)
Chair: Connie Galloway: 706-374-4372
Email: feedfannin@gmail.com
Website: feedfannin.com

Consider donating to a great cause! Mail form below or go online to feedfannin.org

We appreciate your support of our local community.

See you in the Spring!



Feed Fannin's Programs

Community Garden – We manage Community Gardens, located on Ada Street in Blue Ridge and at other sites in Fannin County, that provide space for local residents to grow fruits and vegetables.

Food Pantry – We support the Food Pantry by providing volunteer workers, food, and money to mitigate the costs of feeding the hungry in Fannin County.

Education Classes – We provide information, education, and training to those who want to learn to be more self-sufficient in growing, preserving, and preparing their own food.



Putting the garden to bed for the Winter



OUR MISSION

Working together to educate and encourage our community towards self-sufficiency while providing food for those in need.

Volunteer with the Feed Fannin Family

If you're into hard work and having fun we would love to have you join us! Gardeners from all over are welcome. It is that time and we need your help more than ever.

However, you don't have to like to garden to be part of Feed Fannin. We have other things you can do.

To volunteer, contact Zora Herr at feedfannin@gmail.com, or call (706) 946-1001 and leave a message.

If you would like to speak with our Chair, call Connie Galloway at 706-374-4372.

Donate



Feed Fannin Gift Form

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to be added to our email list to receive information about Feed Fannin? Y___ N___

Amount of gift donation: \$ _____

Need a tax receipt? Y___ N___

Please make checks payable to:

Feed Fannin, Inc

Mail form and donation to:

Feed Fannin
P O Box 1085
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

YOUR GIFT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

"Feed Fannin is a 100 percent volunteer organization"