



Feed Fannin News

One Community, One Spirit

Feed Fannin, Inc.

Spring 2019

2019 Bowls of Hope said to have been ‘the best ever’

Great weather, a new configuration of seating and traffic flow both inside and outside Willow Creek Falls, an increased number of soup stations, and an orientation to prepare volunteers all combined to make the 2019 Bowls of Hope Feed Fannin’s most successful and satisfying fundraiser to date.

The April 27th event, which dished out a large variety of delicious soups, breads, desserts, and beverages donated by more than 50 area restaurants, chefs, and individuals, raised well over \$30,000 that Feed Fannin will use to support the Fannin County Family Connection’s Food Pantry. The silent auction alone raised more than \$9,500, and a new 50/50 raffle amassed \$1,400 in cash.

“Our goal is clearly to raise money,” said Feed Fannin Chair John Sugg, “but, just as importantly, it is about people helping people, neighbors helping neighbors in the long tradition of this community. People opened their wallets and their hearts, and we are so grateful for their support in helping to feed those in need.”

Hundreds of people turned out to support Feed Fannin’s mission of annually providing thousands of pounds of produce from our community garden and tens of thousands of dollars of purchased food to fill the food pantry’s shelves. As in past years’ fundraisers, they each took home beautifully handcrafted bowls made by local potters.

Close to 100 eager volunteers rallied to run the event smoothly, doing everything from greeting and serving food to the public to running the silent auction and 50/50 cash raffle, washing pots and pans in the kitchen, directing traffic, taking tickets, and wrapping up the pottery bowls for participants to take home.

The Bowls of Hope Committee made significant changes to improve this year’s event, including:

- Renting a large tent to accommodate outdoor seating and entertainment, freeing up space inside;
- Offering additional soup stations and creating more floor



Guests at Bowls of Hope choosing their bowls

space by clearing the food room of tables for diners, which helped prevent congestion in this busy area;

- Having uniformed off-duty law-enforcement officers direct ticket holders to park in a larger, more accessible parking lot and take shuttles to and from the venue, rather than clogging up the narrow two-lane road to Willow Creek Falls’ more limited parking; and

- Asking all Bowls of Hope volunteers, particularly new ones, to attend an orientation at Willow Creek Falls the day before the event to show them around, acquaint them with the event’s purpose

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Happy guests at Bowls of Hope



Our smiling volunteers serving soup at Bowls of Hope

Come play in the dirt with us!

and history, and meet with the supervisors and volunteers with which they would be working to go over their assigned tasks.

The result? "I had many people tell me that this was the best Bowls of Hope ever," said former Feed Fannin Chair Connie Galloway. "And many of these folks have been coming to Bowls of Hope every year since we started doing this [in 2013]."

Sen. David Ralston, Georgia Speaker of the House and District 7 representative, was in attendance, as he has been for many previous Feed Fannin fundraisers. According to Sugg, Ralston remarked, "I wish the General Assembly was as organized as this."

Bowls of Hope Co-Chair Carol Martel said the event was "a huge team effort" and thanked all the volunteers involved for their hard work. "It was a beautiful event and one that everyone who volunteered can really be proud of."

"Our 2019 volunteers were exceptional, and not just the experienced ones who've helped us year after year, but the new volunteers as well. They were committed to the success of the event," said Sandee Gorham, who co-chaired organizing the volunteers along with Chris Martinez.

Already, initial plans are being made for next year's fundraiser, and organizers hope to return to scheduling Bowls of Hope in mid-to-late March, when it has traditionally been held. 🌸

✍️ Diane Payne



Past FF Chairperson Connie Galloway, Speaker of the House David Ralston and current FF Chair John Sugg at Bowls of Hope

Spring brings a fresh start to Feed Fannin's bountiful garden

One of the good things about winter is that most foliage and greenery goes dormant or dies, and you get to start with a fresh clean slate for spring. It's a chance for new beginnings in the garden as you plow under your winter rye cover crop and rotate your stock from the previous year. It's an opportunity to try a new variety of a plant that you haven't grown before but have been studying in catalogs or online over the winter months. It's a chance to add new or improved elements to your garden.

During the past winter at the Ada Street garden, our volunteers built four new raised beds that were placed inside the fence and filled the beds with compost. After waiting out several wet periods, we have now filled our blank garden slate with cabbage and tomato plants courtesy of Quinn's Nursery.

Future Farmers of America students donated some cucumber and pepper plants to Feed Fannin, and the Fannin County Co-Op provided us with seed potatoes, as well as green beans, zucchini, and corn seed. Flower seeds from last year's garden were saved and have been sown. A few friends donated some herb plants. Our Forge Mill Garden partners added an electric fence this spring to try to keep the wildlife from devouring the garden, and they have planted red potatoes and corn.

So, thanks to the kindness of friends, partners, and volunteers, our gardens are planted, and the real work now begins. New weeds have started growing with a vengeance and will take over if we don't stay vigilant. Mid-May was spent mowing and trimming weeds around the fence line and cutting back grass so we can keep the garden space looking beautiful.

We are striving to enhance the garden and farm with pollinators for the bees and provide a good habitat on the property for birds. Our wonderful family of redwing blackbirds has returned, and a barn swallow has built a nest in the lower barn eaves. We attempt to provide all the resources to have a bountiful crop and harvest, as well as have a beautiful garden and farm environment.

Last year, Feed Fannin was able to grow and donate over 7,400 lbs. of produce to the Fannin County Family Connection Food Pantry. Please join us in our efforts; if you plant a garden and have extra space, please consider growing an extra row and donating the produce to the food pantry. You may contact us for



A view of the Feed Fannin Community Garden

more information on how to donate your excess produce.

I am grateful for the returning garden volunteers from last year, as well as several new faces who have recently come to the garden to volunteer. Our usual work days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday beginning at around 9 am and working two to three hours until the chores are complete. The more volunteers we have, the shorter work day we have. We work hard, but have fun, and it is a wonderful group with which to socialize. I hope to see you in the garden soon! 🌸

✍️ Kathy Beck

Feed Fannin Garden and Farm Coordinator



Smile! We're now registered on AmazonSmile!

Are you an Amazon shopper? Now, you can support Feed Fannin's mission by shopping on smile.amazon.com and designating our organization as your favorite AmazonSmile charity. Feed Fannin then will receive a portion of every purchase you make on this website, at no cost to you. Easy peasy.

Barbara Ferer Research and Demonstration Garden Update

In 2018 Feed Fannin decided to create the Barbara Ferer Research and Demonstration Garden to explore different methods of raising food in small home gardens. This effort was made possible through a grant from The George Link Jr. Charitable Trust.

As its inaugural project, the newly formed Garden Research Committee incorporated a garden that Feed Fannin volunteers had built next to the Family Connection Food Pantry using the Mittleider gardening method. The Mittleider method reportedly produces higher yields with less water in a smaller space than a standard raised bed garden, and we wanted to test whether this was true in our area.

The experiment was a big success—the Mittleider garden produced as promised. We have continued the Mittleider garden this year, and it is already growing cabbages so big they are bursting out the sides!

Meanwhile, Feed Fannin volunteers are creating new demonstration gardens at the Feed Fannin farm on Ada Street. There are four demonstration plots: a square foot, a compost, a pallet and a hydroponic garden.

Once the gardens are growing well, the Garden Research Committee will arrange a time to explain to interested visitors how each garden was designed and planted, and to discuss the costs and upkeep for each one. Crop harvest data will be kept for each type garden. For more infor-



The Mittleider experimental garden at Family Connection

For more information, contact Chuck Haines by email at hainesc60@gmail.com or 770-366-1557. 🌻

✉ Carol Martel, Garden Research Coordinator

Buy art and help Feed Fannin



Photographer Steve Procko (right) is generously donating to Feed Fannin 100 percent of the proceeds from the sale of photos he took this past winter of the historic Shallowford Bridge, just off Aska Road in Blue Ridge. Procko, who owns a cabin near the 101-year-old structure, has stretched-canvas prints of these images for sale for \$75 at the Iron Bridge General Store & Café on Aska Road, directly across from where the bridge spans the Toccoa River. Helping to display the images here is Kimberly Wolfe, the café's owner. Next time you're in the area, stop in, and you'll see the prints hanging right behind the counter. Thanks, Steve!



Among the many wonderful items donated to Feed Fannin for the 2019 Bowls of Hope Silent Auction was an eye-catching, colorful quilt (above left) made by Denise Burn featuring the handmade ceramic bowls given to Bowls of Hope participants to take home. Feed Fannin volunteers Carol Huey and Teresa Bidez were so taken with the quilt that they pooled their money to keep bidding on it until they won it. They then donated the quilt to Feed Fannin, which will hang it at the Ada Street farmhouse.

SAVE THE DATE

- May 25-26 Feed Fannin tent at the **Spring Arts in the Park**
- June 20 Feed Fannin education class **Square-Foot Garden**, 6 pm, 762 Ada Street, Blue Ridge
- July 18 Feed Fannin education class **Pollinators/Native Plants**, 6 pm, Fannin County Agriculture Facility
- Sept. 14 Feed Fannin education class **Invasive Species**, 1 pm, Fannin County Agriculture Facility, 43 Station Ridge Road, Blue Ridge
- Oct. 12-13 Feed Fannin tent at the **Fall Arts in the Park**

Stay tuned: Feed Fannin's new website is about to launch!

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PROGRAMS

Ada Street Farm – We grow food at our Ada Street Farm and elsewhere to feed the hungry in Fannin County.

Community Garden – We manage a community garden at the Ada Street Farm that provides space for local residents to grow fruits and vegetables.

Food Pantry – We support the Family Connection Food Pantry with volunteer workers, food, and money to mitigate the costs of feeding the hungry.

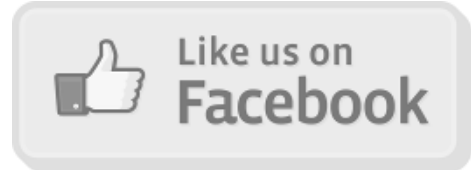
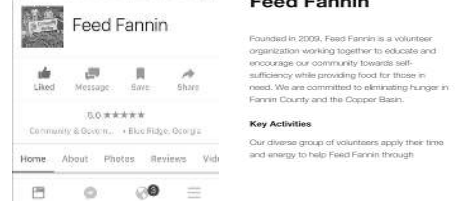
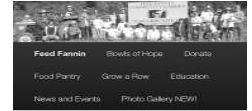
Adult Education Classes – We provide information, education, and training to those who want to learn to be more self-sufficient in growing, preserving, and preparing their own food.

Youth Education – We support and help fund gardening programs in the Fannin County elementary schools.

Two Great Ways to Keep Up With Feed Fannin

Facebook

Our Website



You can also help by donating to Feed Fannin



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 Inc.
P O Box 1085
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
Phone: 706-946-1001
(Leave message)
Chair: John Sugg
Email: feedfannin@gmail.com
Website: feedfannin.com

Remember Feed Fannin in Your Future Plans

You can remember 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 by emailing us at feedfannin@gmail.com or calling us at (706) 946-1001 and leaving a message.



Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.

~Lindley Karstens

