



For Immediate Release

New Barn and Learning Center for Nonprofit Farm

GRAFTON, MA – An all-volunteer nonprofit organization that grows vegetables for hunger relief broke ground today for a \$1.2 million barn and learning center that will also serve as the organization's headquarters. The structure is at the center of a new Grafton farming location for Food For The Needy, Inc., where 11 acres will be put to use growing fresh produce to be distributed through the Worcester County Food Bank.

Food For The Needy was the vision of a couple from Hopkinton, the late William and Rose Abbott, who started the program on their Ash Street farm in the early 1970s. The organization combines its hunger relief mission with opportunities for children to learn community service values, and also provides families and church groups with a way to help their communities through a rewarding, unifying volunteer experience.

The new barn will provide equipment storage for the farming program, along with an administrative office, meeting room, kitchen, and a large community room where teachers can meet with their classes during field trips to the farm. The facility, which is being built with private funds, will also be made available to other nonprofit organizations in the area to hold meetings and programs. Construction is scheduled to be completed in early summer of 2002.

More information about the program, including volunteer opportunities, may be obtained from Executive Director Clark Nicklow at (508) 881-4090. Donations may be sent to Food For The Needy, Inc., PO Box 126, Hopkinton, MA 01748.

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