



THE GOOD ACRE

FOOD + COMMUNITY

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THE GOOD ACRE BREAKS GROUND MAY 12 FOR ITS FOOD HUB FACILITY LOCATED NEXT TO THE U OF M'S ST. PAUL CAMPUS

Minneapolis/St. Paul – May 12, 2015 – The Good Acre, a distinct non-profit organization designed to fill a need in the local food community, broke ground today for its 12,000 sq. ft. food hub facility that will be located next to the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. The facility, which will also provide education, training and research opportunities, is expected to be fully operational by October 2015 at 1790 Larpenteur Avenue West in Falcon Heights.

Funded initially by the Pohlad Foundation, The Good Acre supports the further development of an affordable and accessible way for consumers to obtain locally-grown fresh produce in the Twin Cities region as well as ways to improve marketplace opportunities for diverse, independent farmers.

“The Good Acre has been three years in the making and has been a vision led by the third generation of the Pohlad family,” said Rhys Williams, general manager of The Good Acre. “It's an investment in how food is grown and shared in the Twin Cities. This includes delivering healthy fresh produce to a variety of markets, providing support for emerging diverse farmers, facilitating education and training, and partnering with The Food Group (formerly known as the Emergency Food Network) to reach low income and underserved families.”

The Good Acre food hub will be a focal point for organic farm plots, including University student plots, and will be a certified organic facility. The infrastructure will include transportation, storage, packing, distribution and marketing along with other resources. In addition, The Good Acre will provide classroom and hands-on training for farmers along with students from the University of Minnesota.

In an effort to enhance local food capacity and economy, The Good Acre will partner on various projects with the U's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences. Overall, the nonprofit will operate multiple programs that will take advantage of urban agricultural efforts in order to deliver fairly priced, environmentally sound, and healthy food.

“We are most excited that those involved in this effort will include new immigrant and minority growers, start-up independent farmers, and existing small urban farmers,” said Williams, who himself has had a long career in sustainable farming, food distribution and food-related advocacy work. “Our goal for these farmers is to generate a reliable income stream and a fair wage and provide them with the resources that will help them be successful.”



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About The Good Acre

The mission of The Good Acre is to build and demonstrate a new mode that enhances how food is grown and shared in the Twin Cities region, improves marketplace opportunities for diverse independent farmers, and increases the access that all consumers have to healthy, locally-grown fresh produce. The organization received its nonprofit status in the fall of 2014 and is initially funded by the Pohlad Foundation. Its food hub facility, located next to the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, will open by October 2015. For more information, visit the web site at www.TheGoodAcre.org.
