



## Georgia Senate Study Committee on Improving Access to Healthy Foods and Ending Food Deserts

October 5, 2021



# Who is Flint River Fresh?

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- 501 ©(3) non-profit organization based in Albany, GA (Dougherty County)
- Projects covering 4 Counties (Dougherty, Colquitt, Sumter, Houston)
- 3 person staff & Board of Directors
- Additional support provided by Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District



# MISSION



- Increase access to fresh, local, affordable, healthy food for our neighbors
- Create new economic opportunities for local farmers
- Develop young people through agriculture
- Conserve natural resources for future generations

# COVID RESPONSE

**953 meals** purchased from locally owned restaurants

**\$9,980** spent at locally owned restaurants

**15,000 pounds** produce distributed

**1,000 pounds** grown on community sites

**\$5,523** spent on produce from local farmers

**\$5,000** value of produce donations

**55 coordinated distributions and deliveries** including 150 produce boxes to seniors and 200 produce packages to agencies serving vulnerable populations

**988 individuals served**



# FOOD ACCESS



- Community Farm Projects
- Fresh to Door Produce Deliveries
- Grow Your Groceries Home Garden Installations
- Garden Bucket Giveaways
- School Gardens



# Food Production Capacity

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4x8 raised garden box yields **30 pounds of white potatoes**

30 x 30 in-ground garden plots yields **100 bunches of collards every month for 3 months**

30 x 30 in-ground garden plots yields **35 pounds of strawberries**

4x16 raised beds yields **25 pounds of summer squash each week** for three weeks

5-gallon bucket yields 16 carrots



# Produce Bags Community Giveaways

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## **OVER 2500 Bags**

**413** Personal Bags of Fresh Fruits for Summer Campers

**594** Varied Individual Bags of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Seniors and the Elderly via Community Events and Door Delivery

Over **30,000 pounds** of produce delivered in 3 months

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



- Garden to Cafeteria
- Commodore Conyers College & Career Academy (4C)





# Where we grow?

We manage or have provided technical assistance for the following growing spaces

- 4 Acres of Small Scale Farm Land
- 1 Acres of Community Orchards
- 300 Raised Garden Beds

# Backyard Garden at Sunbelt Ag Expo

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**9 Raised Garden Beds**

**7 In-Ground Garden Plots**

**2 Pollinator Gardens**

**1 Community Orchard**

**1 Greenhouse**

**12 workshops in partnership with  
UGA Extension**



# Starbucks Learning Farm at Georgia National Fair

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**15 Raised Garden Beds**

**7 In-Ground Garden Plots**

**1 Community Orchard**

**3 Workshops Daily**



# Our funding



- USDA NRCS and USDA FNS grant programs
- Local business sponsors through annual Capital Campaign
- City and County level grant programs

## Atlanta Braves Foundation selects Fredando Jackson for 2021 Community Heroes Award



Fredando Jackson, Executive Director, Flint River Fresh (Source: WALB)

By [Kim McCullough](#)

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