



The Friends of Holcomb Farm have long envisioned ways to improve our operations and expand our capacity to serve the community. Now, an exceptional opportunity has taken root, right next to our fields, on land that had been part of the original Holcomb Farm.

## A BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

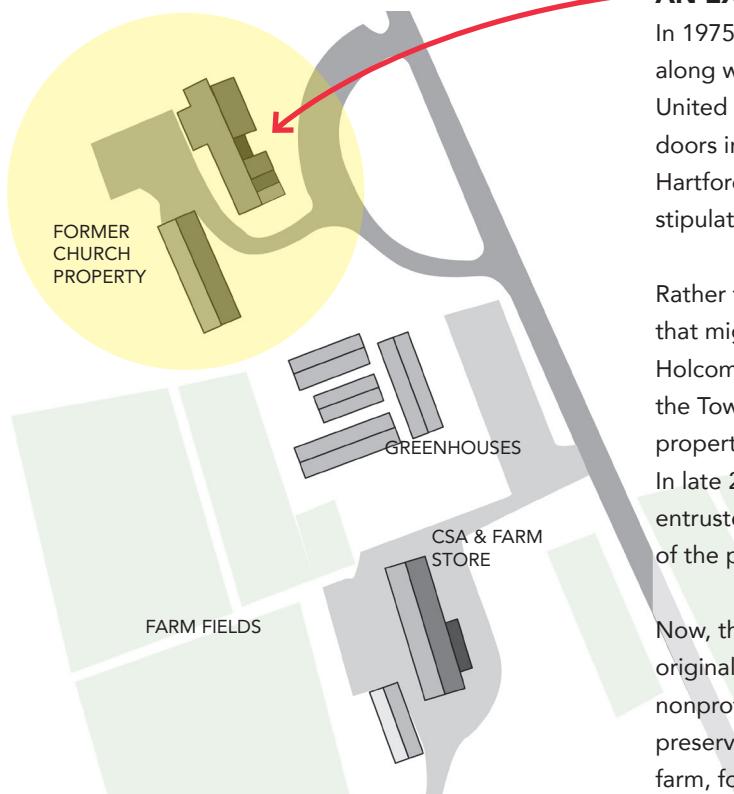
*The Campaign To Grow Holcomb Farm's Community Impact*

### OUR VISION

Our goal is to transform the former West Granby United Methodist Church building—located next door to our current CSA & Farm Store—into a new year-round farm store with products from Holcomb Farm and other local producers; an indoor post-harvest facility for cleaning, packaging, and storing Holcomb Farm produce; a commercial kitchen for value-added food products; and a clean, temperature-controlled staff headquarters for our farm crew, staff, and volunteers. We seek your support to make this vision a reality. All funds donated to this effort will help us:

- Restore, repurpose, and revitalize an existing building
- Expand access to fresh, local, sustainably grown food, year-round
- Support local farmers and makers
- Strengthen the ability of the Friends of Holcomb Farm (FOHF) to provide healthy food to food-insecure families and senior citizens through our Fresh Access program
- Strengthen community ties and local control of our food system
- Provide improved working conditions for our farm crew
- Create space for events and education

This is a low-risk, high-impact, community-driven investment in sustainable agriculture, year-round local food access, support for local farmers, artists, and more, and adaptive reuse of an existing property.



## AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

In 1975, Tudor and Laura Holcomb generously gifted land, along with the resources needed to build the West Granby United Methodist Church. When the church closed its doors in 2021, ownership of the property reverted to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG), as had been stipulated in the original deed.

Rather than see the property sold or repurposed in ways that might sever its agricultural roots, the Friends of Holcomb Farm, together with the Granby Land Trust and the Town of Granby, made the case to HFPG that the property should be returned to the farm. HFPG agreed. In late 2024, the Town of Granby assumed ownership and entrusted the Friends of Holcomb Farm with stewardship of the property through its Lease and Use Agreement.

Now, the land has come full circle—returned to its original home, Holcomb Farm, where it can support the nonprofit mission of the Friends of Holcomb Farm: to preserve, promote, and utilize an historic New England farm, for the benefit of the community.

## ROOTED IN COMMUNITY, GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

Since 1993, the volunteer-led Friends of Holcomb Farm has farmed and strengthened the fertile fields at Holcomb Farm—lands that have been farmed since 1756—to nourish people, protect farmland, and strengthen our town from the soil up. Today, FOHF runs a thriving nonprofit farming operation, including:

- A **Community Supported Agriculture** program (CSA) with 550 summer members and 130 winter members
- A **public farm store** carrying products from our fields, as well as products from other local farms
- The **Fresh Access food assistance program**, through which we deliver thousands of pounds of produce annually to neighbors in need.

But we are constrained by outdated infrastructure—an old, unheated, former tobacco barn limits our public operations to only five months of the year. Meanwhile, year-round demand for fresh vegetables, food access programs, and local products continues to rise.



## WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

This project allows us to do what our current facilities simply can't do: grow for the future.

Specifically, it will support:

### 1. Resilience Through Expanded Winter Operations

By repurposing the church's sanctuary into a post-harvest center for washing and packaging produce, Holcomb Farm can immediately double its winter CSA shares, unlocking new and reliable revenue from our farming program—our “revenue engine”—in the offseason. This improvement alone is projected to increase net income by more than enough to cover the building's carrying costs.



Currently, post-harvest processing is done outdoors which is difficult in cold months.

### 2. Community Access to Local Food Year-Round

The new Holcomb Farm CSA & Farm Store will create a welcoming space for the public to purchase local vegetables, dairy, meats, artisanal baked goods, handmade items, and more, even in winter. The store will also serve as a pickup location for CSA members, bringing hundreds of people from throughout the region to Granby and the store, weekly, assuring a ready-made customer base. The commercial kitchen promises value-added produce created on site, and a venue for cooking demonstrations, educational events, and other events that offer community and connection.

### 3. Improved Working Conditions for Farm Staff

The building will provide a crew break room, secure lockers, and private office space for FOHF's farm crew, small staff, and growing volunteer board and committees—needs that cannot be met in the current barn.

### 4. A Year-Round Market for Granby Farms

We will be able to invite even more neighboring farms to sell their products through our Farm Store, expanding their exposure to customers beyond the summer season.



The new retail space will offer more sales opportunities for local producers.

### 5. Repurposing a Treasured Space for Public Good

This building will honor the West Granby United Methodist Church's past, while securing its future, through a use that continues to bring people together around shared values: stewardship, community, and sustainability.

### 6. Assistance for Neighbors in Need

Fresh Access, FOHF's program for providing fresh produce to people with limited access to affordable, healthy food, is the largest single “customer” of the farm. As FOHF is strengthened, our ability to grow Fresh Access also grows.



Through Fresh Access, we distribute produce in Granby and throughout the Greater Hartford region.

### 7. Strong Financial Strategy with Minimal Risk

FOHF's phased approach ensures that:

- No funds are spent until secured
- No debt is incurred
- Initial investments support revenue-generating activities

Future enhancements—including renovating the kitchen so the farm can create value-added products and perhaps even offer culinary programming—will be developed as funding allows.



Architect's rendering of the future post-harvest processing center with year-round processing and expanded cold storage.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We invite donors, foundations, and community partners to help raise funds to start construction of the post-harvest processing center, the welcoming space for the year-round Farm Store, as well as staff quarters and a community meeting room. This foundational investment will unlock the building's income-generating potential and improve year-round access to local food. As additional funds are raised, we will begin construction of a commercial kitchen for processing local produce.

### This is more than a farm project.

It's a community investment in resilience, access, and place. It is a building for our future.

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## JOIN US

Be part of this transformational effort. Every dollar is welcome, and there are specific opportunities for those with an interest. Major gifts can be directed to various aspects of the project, with appropriate acknowledgement to be made in the building and publicly:

- A **post-harvest processing center** and cold storage, to support year-round production
- A **four-season Farm Store** offering distribution of local products throughout Granby's agricultural community and beyond.
- Additional project elements include:
  - New, welcoming entrance that promotes the local products being sold and attracts customers
  - Improved landscaping and streetscape to honor the historic nature of the neighborhood
  - Private break room and lockers for staff
  - Shared boardroom for use by community partners and the Friends for meetings and educational events
  - Future opportunity: A **commercial kitchen** for value-added food production from local produce