



Willing Hands

Volunteer Report

June 2025



2024 Volunteer Impact

4,840

total volunteer hours

(That's 45% more than in 2023!)

112,712 lbs

of food harvested by community members

28 farm partners for gleaning

115 gleaning sessions

221 unique gleaning volunteers

169 garden sessions

541 unique garden volunteers

2,337 garden volunteer hours

811 group volunteer hours

92 youth and **249** adults volunteered as part of a group

Volunteering at Willing Hands



Volunteers are at the heart of the Willing Hands mission, ensuring fresh food is available to our neighbors and improving the health of our community. Use our volunteer calendar at willinghands.org or scan the QR code to sign up for regularly scheduled and impromptu **pop-up** sessions.

Scan here to volunteer!



"I am always amazed at the impact that our volunteers make in **really going above and beyond** to help Willing Hands to achieve our mission."

—Chris

Operations

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO: Volunteers help our dedicated staff keep the warehouse organized and running smoothly so fresh food can be picked up and delivered without delays.

REGULAR SESSIONS

- **Bits and Bobs:** On Tuesday mornings, join our staff in the warehouse to sort food
- **Bin care:** Wash and organize produce transport bins
- **Driving:** Pick up small quantities of produce from local farms with a personal vehicle
- **Landscaping:** Help with grounds care tasks like lawn-mowing at our Norwich facility

"It's always a joy to see folks in the community giving their time to being outside, working hard, and helping to relieve hunger around us. It creates great energy and momentum."

—Alec



Gleans

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO: Willing Hands volunteers visit partnering farms and orchards throughout the region to collect fresh vegetables, berries, apples, and mixed produce directly from the fields.

"For 16 years, we have loved being part of the Willing Hands community that is dedicated to making fresh, wholesome, *delicious* produce from our local farms accessible to all. Every day we are inspired by the generosity and spirit of everyone who contributes to this effort."

—Carolyn & Milt



REGULAR GLEANING SESSIONS

- Tuesday mornings at Crossroad Farm
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Harlow Farm
- Wednesday mornings at Honey Field Farm
- Thursday mornings at Edgewater Farm
- Friday mornings at Cedar Circle Farm

POP-UP SESSIONS

- Strawberries in June
- Blueberries in July
- Corn in August
- Apples and root veggies in September and October

A season of volunteering



June

Veggies from the garden

July

Blueberries



August

Corn and tomatoes



Willing Hands



"I am incredibly moved by the steadfast commitment our volunteers have to working in the gardens and across all of our programs. This is especially true given that we live in a world that is increasingly competing for every ounce of our attention and every minute of our time. Our volunteers' commitment invigorates me and reminds me on a daily basis of **the care our community members have for each other.**"

—Ehrin

Gardens

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO: Willing Hands tends four gardens in the Upper Valley, and our volunteers get to do nearly everything a vegetable farmer does! Sessions are scheduled regularly from spring through the fall harvest and are typically two hours of active work. Volunteers prepare beds for planting seeds and seedlings, weed pathways, water crops, and harvest fresh produce.

REGULAR GARDEN SESSIONS

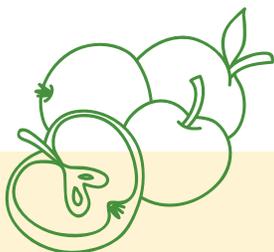
- Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings at our Sunny Fields plots at Cedar Circle Farm
- Tuesday evenings at our Home Garden in Norwich
- Wednesday afternoons at the Farmacy Garden at DHMC

POP-UP SESSIONS

- Large planting events throughout the season
- Special garden-specific projects
- Crop harvests

"Volunteers are essential to Willing Hands' daily operations in many ways. **We could not do what we do without the help of our dedicated volunteers!**"

—Beth



September

Apples



October

Squash and potatoes



November

Garlic planting



Admin and Office

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO: Volunteers provide administrative support that keeps Willing Hands running smoothly behind the scenes. Tasks include data entry, assembling mail, updating records, and indoor plant care.

REGULAR SESSIONS

- Email volunteer@willinghands.org if you're interested in becoming a regular administrative volunteer.

POP-UP SESSIONS

- Bulk mailings
- Events support
- Seasonal projects



"When corporate teams, school groups, and faith or civic communities come together to volunteer, they bring more than just helping hands—they bring energy, connection, and a shared sense of purpose. It's inspiring to see these groups having fun, building bonds, and making a real difference side by side. We're so grateful for the joy and momentum they bring to our work."

—Christine

Groups

WHAT VOLUNTEERS DO: Volunteer groups can participate in our garden, gleaning, Bits & Bobs, and Veggies for Vets programs. Volunteering as a group is a fun and meaningful opportunity for team building, connecting with the community, and impacting local food insecurity. We welcome groups from area businesses, schools, clubs, and more.

SESSIONS

- Contact us about setting up a volunteer session for your group by emailing volunteer@willinghands.org.
- Big groups and those with young participants often fit best in our garden program, where we can accommodate groups of up to 20 participants or participants as young as six years old.



**Reducing
food waste to
*end hunger.***

198 Church Street
Norwich, VT 05055
willinghands.org

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
WHT RIV JCT VT
PERMIT 86

2024 Volunteer Survey Results

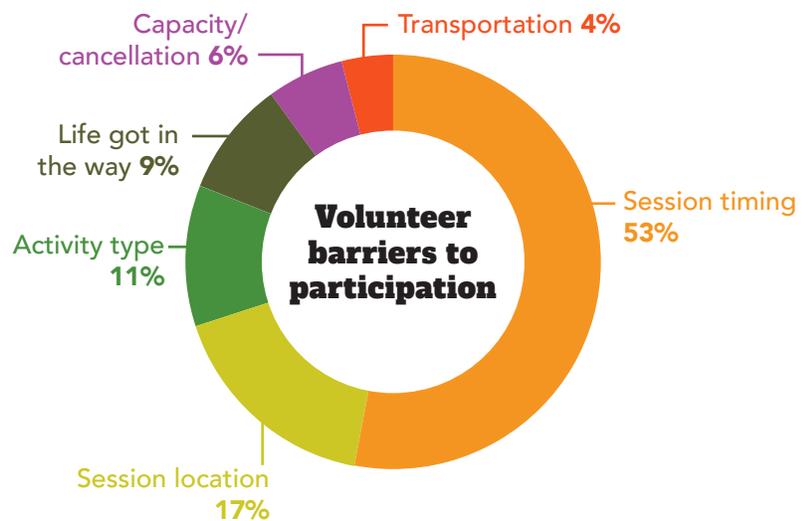
Every year, we ask our incredible volunteers for their input on our program. We are excited to act on their thoughtful feedback for a more impactful 2025 season.

YOUR FEEDBACK WE'RE FOCUSED ON:

- Adjusting session times to better suit availability
- Enhancing social and educational experience
- Recruiting more volunteers at distant locations
- Improving ease of use for bin washing

Session timing was the biggest barrier to participation. 53% of survey respondents who wanted to volunteer more in 2024 reported that session times prevented them from doing so.

Thanks to volunteer input and support, we're building a stronger, more vibrant volunteer program—together!



I feel great satisfaction in knowing that I am helping, on a very basic level, our neighbors who need good, healthy food. And it is a joy to work along with the other volunteers who have the same desire."

—Willing Hands volunteer

