



PROGRAMS TO CONNECT SCHOOLS & FARMS THROUGH FOOD & EDUCATION

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For Immediate Release

GMFTS Hosts Healthy Kids, Healthy Farms, Annual Benefit Dinner

Westfield, VT- On October 4, 2009 Green Mountain Farm-to-School (GMFTS) held the Healthy Kids, Healthy Farms Annual Benefit Dinner. Over 100 people attended the event celebrating GMFTS' first year as a non-profit organization and the success of its programs.

The dinner was an occasion to highlight GMFTS efforts to promote the health of Vermont's children, farms and communities by providing programs that connect schools and farms through food and education. During the last year, GMFTS' Sprouts after-school garden program has expanded from 5 Schools in North Country Supervisory Union to 15 schools including Orleans Supervisory Union and Lamoille County Supervisory Union. As a part of the after-school program, students design, plant and harvest a school garden. Food from the garden is served in the school cafeteria, benefiting over 2,200 students. GMFTS also works to bring fresh food from local farms into students' lunches and educate students about nutrition and agriculture.

At the Westfield Community Center, guests enjoyed appetizers including local cheeses, lamb sausage puff pastries and wine tasting donated by Boyden Valley Wines. The meal was catered by Kim Backus of Kingdom Mountain Farm and featured food from 17 local farms. Prior to the dinner, guests were invited to Shuttleworth Farm in Westfield, where owners Todd and Kelli Shuttleworth gave a tour of their farm including a lively sheep dog herding demonstration. The event was made possible with generous assistance from Jay Peak Resort, The Craftsbury Outdoor Center, the Town of Westfield and the Troy Area Lions Club.

For more information about Green Mountain Farm-to-School and its programs, visit www.greenmountainfarmtoschool.org.