



# GROUP VOLUNTEERING 2023



**Get Dirty. Leave with Great Stories**



## Why Volunteer at the Sharing Farm?

Every year groups large and small come to the Sharing Farm for their team volunteering days and company days of giving. The saying “many hands make light work” rings true here, and we are so grateful for all the work done by our fantastic group volunteers.

There are many reasons to take part in a day of volunteering at The Sharing Farm. As a group you will:

- contribute in a meaningful way by helping us grow food for community members facing food insecurity.
- participate in hands-on food production and farm maintenance tasks.
- spend time outside with your team members in a beautiful setting.
- learn about the farm and our ecologically sound farming practices.
- get your hands dirty, experience something new, and have fun!

## About The Sharing Farm Society

***The Sharing Farm grows fruit and vegetables for the Richmond Food Bank, community meal programs and other neighbours in need, using ecologically-sound farming methods.***

Since our inception in the early 1990s, we have donated over 350,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables. We believe that all residents in Richmond should have access to fresh, healthy food and we donate around 20,000 pounds each year! During the growing season, our vegetables end up on the plates of over 2000 people each week.

As an organization, we have evolved from collecting surplus tree fruit into a thriving farm that cultivates four acres in the award winning Terra Nova Rural Park.



Through a number of volunteer and educational programs, we host hundreds of volunteers annually, providing a space for community members to work together, and for new generations of urban farmers to develop. Mental health and addiction groups have been blended into our volunteer programs as a form of horticultural therapy.

If you visit the farm on a summer's day, it will likely be buzzing with the activities of people who are dedicated to providing fresh, healthy, local produce to community members facing food insecurity. We hope you choose to become part of this story!

# Details for Group Volunteering

## DATES AND TIMES

- Friday afternoons 1pm-4pm from June to mid October.
- We schedule groups according to the needs of the farm; book early if your group needs a specific time period.
- Volunteering sessions are 3 hours in length.

## GROUP SIZE

- We can accommodate groups from 10-20 people
- The minimum group size is 10 people (we will consider smaller groups, but the minimum donation remains \$400)
- At the time of booking, please let us know the approximate number of people in your group



## DONATION

- Our donation rate is \$40/person for a 3-hour volunteer session.
- The minimum donation is \$400.
- Children are welcome to join if accompanied by a parent / guardian. The rate for those under 12 is \$20/person.
- Your donation goes directly towards supporting our mandate of growing healthy food for the food bank. It also covers staffing costs for your time on the farm.
- We are unable to waive the donation requirement.
- Your donation can be made by cash, cheque, or via our on-line payment system.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available for groups donating \$1000 or more.
- Official tax receipts can be issued for donations over \$50.

## CANCELLATION FEE

- We book groups according to specific farm needs and last minute cancellations are hard on us. It is nearly impossible to fill a spot with less than 6 weeks notice. A cancellation fee of \$400 will be charged if you cancel less than 6 weeks before your scheduled volunteer date.
- We schedule groups according to the needs of the farm; book early if your group needs a specific time period.

## What's Included:

- Orientations and short farm tour
- Breakout into group activities
- Knowledgeable staff, ready to answer your questions and help you with your task
- Breaks for snacks and drinks (not provided)
- Use of all required farm tools and gloves (but feel free to bring your own gloves)
- Fun and invigorating farm-related activities
- Harvest tables in our herb garden to enjoy your lunch (not under cover)
- Covered space/tables to store belongings and/or eat your lunch
- Please let us know if there are ways we can help make your visit a great experience

## Your Day on the Farm

**A typical volunteering session might look like this:**

1:00pm – Arrive and start orientation/tour (a tour is not mandatory)

1:30pm – Discuss farm task(s), gather tools, gloves, wheelbarrows and go to work area

2:30pm – Short break (or take breaks as needed)

3:45pm – Wrap up field tasks, wash and put away tools

3:55pm – Group photo!

4:00pm – Done!





## Volunteer Activities

As a working farm it is difficult to plan ahead exactly what a volunteer day will look like. Activities are scheduled around the needs of the farm and may change at the last minute for a number of reasons, including weather and unforeseen circumstances. Unfortunately, we are not able to take "requests" for farm tasks, but please rest assured that any work you do is extremely valuable to our operations! Please note that we do work in the rain, so dress appropriately. Please let us know if you would like some "light duty" options and we will do our best to accommodate.

## Other Housekeeping Details

- Public washrooms are available on the farm
- Drinking water is available to fill up your water bottles
- Please plan to take away all garbage and recycling that you bring, but we will happily take your fruit and veggie scraps for our compost pile!
- Please dress appropriately for farm work, including close-toed shoes/boots and rain gear. Yes, we work in the rain!
- There is a covered space to leave your belongings, but it is not secured so please do not bring valuables with you
- If requested, there may be an opportunity to purchase Sharing Farm produce at the end of your visit

## Directions and Parking Information

- **The Sharing Farm is located at 2771 Westminster Hwy in Richmond, BC**
- From the intersection of Westminster Hwy and No. 1 Road, drive west along Westminster Hwy and take the second right onto Barnard Drive. Then take your second left to get back onto Westminister Highway
- As you near the end of Westminister Hwy, you will see a parking lot on your left, (across from a stand-alone giant house). Please park here. This is a free, municipal lot
- To reach the farm, continue walking down Westminister Hwy about 1 minute and look on your right for the sign for 2771. The sign lists a number of organizations located here, including The Sharing Farm
- Walk down the driveway and go to "Mary's Barn" where a Sharing Farm staff member will be waiting to greet you!



## How Your Donation Helps The Sharing Farm

As a non-profit charity, we rely on donations to cover many of the costs associated with growing healthy food for those in need year after year. Your donation is used to cover the costs of operating the farm – including the fantastic staff working with you – and also to purchase tools and materials needed to grow the food.

Although your volunteer hours at the Sharing Farm are extremely valuable to us, it does take a lot of time and resources to host groups. In order to ensure that your team has a successful and rewarding experience at The Sharing Farm we try to ensure that there are sufficient staff and resources available for your visit.

Should your team wish to find out more ways that you can help us, please let us know. Many groups who volunteer with us organize fundraisers to make additional donations on an annual basis. **Sponsorship opportunities are available for groups who donate \$1000 or more (see the following page for more information).**

With your help The Sharing Farm can continue to grow food for our less fortunate neighbours, and provide a unique community gathering space for groups and individuals to participate in a meaningful way.

We are able to provide official tax receipts for all donations over \$50.





## Sponsorship Opportunities

For families living in poverty, nutritious meals are often not affordable. This is where The Sharing Farm helps. We cannot do this work alone. We need partners – like you – to help us achieve our mission of providing healthy food to our neighbours in need. Multiple sponsorship levels enable our partners to find the level of support that is right for them. All sponsorship levels include a complimentary group volunteering experience alongside many other benefits.

### Neighbour Basket Level \$1000

At this sponsorship level, you will fund the provision of a weekly box of fresh, sustainably grown vegetables to a low-income family for fourteen weeks. These overflowing baskets— designed for a family of four—will be provided each week from July through October.

### Bee Hive Level \$5000

In addition to a neighbour basket, the Bee Hive Level sponsorship sees your support of two beehives in the Sharing Farm's sustainably managed honeybee apiary. You will become partners in our program of breeding locally adapted and organically managed honeybee colonies.

### Farm Land Level - \$10,000

At the Farm Land Level, you will sponsor a Neighbour Basket, become a supporter of two bee hives, AND become the exclusive sponsor of an acre of sustainably managed farmland at the Sharing Farm—yielding nutritious food for low income families relying on food from the Richmond Food Bank.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO BOOK A  
VOLUNTEER DAY**

**CONTACT:**

**Leslie Williams**

**[leslie@sharingfarm.ca](mailto:leslie@sharingfarm.ca)**

**604-227-6210**