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Rabbit Valley Farmers Market In Ringgold Launches "Nourish North Georgia" Program

Monday, October 9, 2023



Pictured, left to right, are Pamela Cudd, CEO, City of Refuge, Samantha Leslie, executive director, Rabbit Valley Farmers Market, and Jeffery Wilson, community outreach, City of Refuge

The Rabbit Valley Farmers Market in Ringgold has launched a new program titled "Nourish North Georgia," where the market will purchase fresh produce and proteins from its farmers and provide it to local food banks and food distribution organizations.

This week Rabbit Valley purchased over 100 pounds of fresh produce from local farmers Virginia Anne's Farm in Ringgold and Sunny Hill Farm Fresh in Trion, both resident market farmers at Rabbit Valley, and delivered it to The City of Refuge in Dalton.

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Nourish North Georgia plans to continue to provide foods from its farmers indefinitely as it continues to grow and establish partnerships within the tri-county area.

In addition to The City of Refuge, Rabbit Valley is partnering with The Evitt Foundation and Rock Bridge Community Church.

"Food banks and distribution sites are a much needed asset to all communities for fighting food insecurity, but they often lack fresh and local produce. Our goal is to provide fresh produce and also support the local farmers who grow the foods. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved, and we are thrilled to be the leader for this project," said Rabbit Valley Executive Director Samantha Leslie.

Executive Director Pamela Cudd of The City of Refuge said, "We are grateful to these farmers and appreciate their fresh produce here at our food bank."

The City of Refuge was founded in 1995 and works to meet the basic needs of the community through mobile food delivery, senior adult outreach, women's outreach, food pantry, clothing and housing. Information can be found at the website cityofrefugedalton.org.

Funding for the Nourish North Georgia program was made possible in part by Operation Round Up, a grant made possible through the generosity of North Georgia EMC's membership and distributed through the Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia. Operation Round Up grants support the good work of community advocacy organizations and are only possible through participating NGEMC members in the Operation Round Up program.

More information on Nourish North Georgia and the Rabbit Valley Farmers Market can be found on the website rabbitvalleyfarmersmarket.com.