



April 14, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Megan Pirelli - Partnership Development, Fork Farms

Email: megan@forkfarms.com

Phone: 262.287.4342

GROWING FRESH FOOD & LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Xavier Middle School to donate leafy greens to St. Joseph Food Program

Appleton, WI - Even with classrooms across the state empty amid COVID-19, something exciting is growing at Xavier Middle School thanks to a special care-taker.

Early February 2020, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Schools received a generous donation to place a Fork Farms Flex Farm in Mrs. Cindy Foss' 5th grade classroom. The Flex Farm, an indoor hydroponic vertical farm, was a welcomed addition to the STEM/STEAM program at the Middle School.

Unfortunately, only a few weeks after receiving their highly anticipated Flex Farm, Wisconsin schools were required to shut-down and move all learning to online from the safety of student homes. While it seemed like the temporary end to their Flex Farm program, it turned into a beautiful opportunity for cross-community collaboration.

Thanks to the continuous efforts of Xavier Middle School facilities director Joe Linsmeier, the Flex Farm remained operational and has now grown over 20 pounds of fresh leafy greens! Deciding what to do with the greens, the school landed on wanting to help their local community. They decided the leafy greens grown in the Flex Farm will be donated to St. Joseph Food Program in Menasha to support their hunger relief efforts.

"Although, it was sad that they cannot help care for the plants that they planted and named, my students are so thankful that Mr. Linsmeier is continuing to care for Brooke, the name that they have affectionately given their Flex Farm. He sends us pictures of its growth. They said they hope to be back working on the "farm" soon, but for now, keep the pictures coming," said Cindy Foss.

FORK FARMS



Mrs. Chris Goulet, STEM Coordinator for Xavier Catholic Schools, is so grateful to Mr. Linsmeier for the care he has provided to keep the Flex Farm growing. “It would have been disappointing to have seen the effort of the students, the materials and the valuable food go to waste due to the schools having to close because of the global pandemic. It’s become even more important that we continue to grow the leafy greens so that we can donate the produce to help those in need within our community during this time.”

When Mrs. Goulet contacted Mr. Linsmeier to touch base about how to shut down the Fork Farm after harvest, she was elated to receive the following reply, “I do not plan on shutting it down. The farm will continue after harvest. A good farmer always gets multiple crops.”

The first round of leafy greens will be harvested on April 14, 2020 and donated to St. Joseph Food Program.

To learn more about partnerships like this, please contact megan@forkfarms.com

###

Fork Farms LLC is an agriculture technology company based in Appleton, Wisconsin. Our flagship product the Flex Farm is a highly efficient indoor hydroponic growing system that puts the power to grow fresh, affordable produce into the hands of our partners all across the nation. Fork Farms has been involved in hundreds of indoor farm installations throughout the United States with partnering schools, nonprofit organizations, families, corporate cafeterias and more. We believe in the power of good food, and we have made it our mission to unleash the power of food production for happier, healthier people.

Located in Appleton, Wisconsin, St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System is a co-educational, fully accredited Catholic school community comprised of more than 1,500 students serving grades Pre-K through 12, including St. Francis Xavier High School, St. Francis Xavier Middle School, and St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, Marquette St, and St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, McDonald St. With state-of-the-art facilities, small class sizes and a curriculum consistent with current trends, we offer the highest quality faith-based education while stressing the importance of partnering awareness with moral and social responsibility.