

# INTERVALE CENTER

## 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2009, the Intervale Center was one of twelve U.S. organizations chosen to illustrate the growing local food movement and what it means to be a Community Food Enterprise by the Wallace Center at Winrock International.\*

As our Executive Director, Glenn McRae, says, "The Intervale is about sustainable community development. Farms and food are the vehicles we employ to build better communities."

\*In partnership with the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) and the Training and Development Corporation. CFE is jointly funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

### THE FARMS PROGRAM

has nurtured the next generation of family farmers for 20 years by helping them build capital and access the diverse mechanical, natural and human resources available in the Intervale.

In 2009, these farms produced fresh produce on 120 acres of land and contributed 60 full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs to the Burlington economy. In 2010, two new incubator farms will join the Intervale community.

### THE INTERVALE FOOD HUB

links local farmers and the local marketplace by aggregating, marketing and distributing vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, cheeses and specialty products.

In 2009, the Food Hub CSA grew by 85%, partnering with 24 farmers, delivering to 16 local businesses, and serving 200 members.

*"As a partner, it is incredibly satisfying to be able to help bring so much high-quality local food to our workforce, and it is certainly a health benefit for all members."*

Diane Imrie, Fletcher Allen Health Care

### SUCCESS ON FARMS

Success on Farms (SOF) is a two-year business planning program that helps Vermont farm operations improve their viability.

In 2009, we worked one-on-one with 22 farms, providing specialized business planning assistance to help farmers expand their markets, increase revenues and achieve other quality-of-life goals critical to keeping them farming.

*"The Intervale Center's Success on Farms Program (SOF) has been an instrumental partner to the development of the Vermont Farm Viability Program. We enjoy working with the Intervale's dedicated and creative staff to grow and expand to serve more farms throughout the state."*

Ela Chapin, Farm Viability Program Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

### THE INTERVALE CONSERVATION NURSERY

grows native riparian trees and shrubs for state-wide conservation projects.

In 2009, we sold 25,628 stems, above expectations. In the spring, planting crews completed four riparian projects in the Missisquoi, Lamoille, LaPlatte and Lake Champlain Direct watersheds which covered an estimated 37.5 acres. We also participated in the continuation of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail floodplain reconnection project, one of the largest projects of this kind in the country.

*"The Intervale Conservation Nursery has become an integral part of many state and federal conservation programs ... I feel it is imperative for the Intervale to continue to grow and expand the Conservation Nursery Program."*

Chris Smith, Department of Fish and Wildlife

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The ABENAKI TRADITIONAL GARDEN demonstrated traditional agriculture of the Abenaki Nation. Produce gleaned from the garden was sent to the Abenaki Tribal Headquarters in Swanton, VT.

The Intervale Center is 2009-2010 facilitator for the BURLINGTON FOOD COUNCIL, which works to ensure that Burlington creates and nurtures a healthy, equitable and sustainable food system for all.

As consultant to the Association of Africans Living in Vermont's NEW FARMS FOR NEW AMERICANS project, we worked with 50 refugee families who grow produce to market at area farmers' markets and limited wholesale accounts.

The GLEANING PROJECT, in partnership with the Vermont Foodbank, coordinates volunteers to glean on Intervale farms and collect pre-boxed produce donations for distribution to local hunger relief organizations. This year we donated over 30,000 pounds of produce!

*"Donations from the Intervale Center's Gleaning Project have been vital to sustaining Campus Kitchen's operations and weekly meals."*

Sarah Heim, UVM Campus Kitchen



Volunteers glean kale at Arethusa Collective Farm



Eric Seitz & Rob Rock of Pitchfork Farm at the Burlington Farmers' Market



Dogwood cuttings growing in the Intervale Conservation Nursery's greenhouses



Success on Farms participant Stan Biasini of Mt. Mansfield Creamery, Morrisville, VT



Intervale farmers