



**STUDENTS CLEANING THE CURED GARLIC FOR DISTRIBUTION**



**THE NEW HAMPSHIRE REDS ARE THE BEST BROWN EGG LAYERS!**



**BEST POTATO YEAR EVER! POTATOES AND MORE POTATOES**



**TOMATOES ALL SUMMER AND FOR ALL WINTER**

# NOONDAY FARM 2023

## Assumption University's 7th Annual Day of Service



In the summer of 2016, David Crowley and Cary LeBlanc came to talk about an idea: a day of service for faculty, staff and their families at Noonday Farm to work and share a meal and our stories. Their first visit was in the fall of 2016 which later was named 'Year of the Onion' as the group harvested 1000 lbs of onions. In the spring, the Sophia class started coming for their retreat. This is a course at Assumption for

Sophomores to read,

discuss and grapple with the big questions of how to live a meaningful life. Cary even brought a business class that was discussing a 1 cent per pound pay increase for farm workers picking tomatoes! They got to harvest the tomatoes! We are so grateful for the connection and look forward to many more years together in the garden and around the table.



### Thinking of Betty

Since 2012, we have collaborated with The Winchendon School hosting fall and winter Farm Service and Cooking Creative Programs as well as the annual Chicken Harvest for the science students. We take this moment to share the story of one of the students who loved being here. Betty Zhang came from China to Winchendon in 2014. Shockingly, during her freshman year, she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor so spent nearly a year in Boston receiving treatment. She returned to Winchendon cancer free and became valedictorian of her 2018 class. Off to Tufts she went. However, this past spring, brain tumors returned so after her Tufts' graduation she was back in Children's Hospital. The therapies she received shrunk her tumors enabling her return to China to be with her family and continue getting well with their support. Sadly, we have just learned that she is in a coma and at her home. She will not be receiving any further treatments. Please think of Betty and her family. Send them your prayers. Hope for a miracle.

*Betty loves working with her hands and heart Always with a smile!*



*I come into the Peace of the wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief...For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

*-Wendell Berry*



## Power of a Parsnip, of That Which has Commanding Presence

What is poverty? What is my relationship to it? Where does my responsibility to it lie? Where better to address these issues than in community, in a soup kitchen, in central Boston? On a farm, it turns out. This is the story of my first meal at Noonday Farm.

---

Late fall, crisp and slight slate haze, we picked leeks and parsnips before heading in for lunch. Never a big fan of either, my spirits didn't rise when I saw Beth simply sautéing the parsnips in butter. These, however, were no normal veggies: raised with love, cooked with care, I had never tasted food like that before. The simplicity preserved their character, and exposed a quality I knew not possible in food. I just didn't know food could taste like that. Which, naturally, begged the question: what the hell had I been eating my whole life?! I began to understand my story in a new way; my past played differently now. My mother was a utilitarian cook; we ate to live. Noonday gave me the "Yes!" Experience: there was a better way, and this was a pointer in that direction. It pressed a new question, "How should I live?" Noonday exposed experience to be the best teacher. I understood my responsibility to poverty lay in living an authentic response to "business as usual" of the "real world." I felt called to expose people to this simple fact: there is another way to eat; and by implication, there is another way to live. I believe that it is in this journey towards authenticity and integrity that we heal the brokenness and celebrate beauty.

---

By Adam Campbell who volunteered at Noonday for three years visiting weekly from Boston.

Thank you for your past support. We are so grateful.  
Donations payable to Noonday Farm, Inc., may be  
mailed or donated online.

Noonday Farm  
PO BOX 71  
Winchendon, MA 01475  
[noondayfarm.org](http://noondayfarm.org)

For information, to volunteer or about Internships  
[info@noondayfarm.org](mailto:info@noondayfarm.org)

