“Planting a Seed”

by Rick Wilson

I'm willing to guess that everyone reading this has at one time or another in their life planted a seed. When you were young did you ever say to your mom or dad, “I want a popsicle.” Or when you were in first grade did you ever tell your best buddy, “I like Annie.” In both instances you were planting a seed. You may have even planted a real seed along with the rest of your second grade class to watch the germination process.

As I grew into an adult, like many of you, I began planting seeds in food plots with the distinct purpose of taking one of God's most beautiful animals to feed my family or perhaps someone who needed help. The pictured eight-day-old food plots are partially shaded in wooded areas near two of my deer stands. Like many of you, I've planted a variety of food plots over the past several decades; but never in the shaded woods. After searching through a great number and variety of commercial seed mixtures designed especially for partially shaded areas I chose two preparations.

We know you can't just plant a seed and then forget it. We need to make sure it gets water, fertilizer and the proper amount of visiting and nurturing. I enjoy putting out deer cams to see who's visiting my newly planted food plots. In a similar way, it pays huge dividends to have members of your FHFH Team and friends check in with your potential donors to keep FHFH in front of each of them. It's also very important for you to check in periodically with every person or company you would like to have as a supporter.

(continued on page 2)
“Planting a Seed” (continued)

Read below what Jesus had to say about sowing seeds:

“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”
Mark 4:3-8 (NKJV)

From past attempts at raising funding, we’ve found that simply visiting random businesses, churches, clubs, organizations and others can often be the ‘stony ground,’ ‘wayside’ and ‘thorny places’ that Jesus described in this parable. But the ‘good ground’ must be carefully sought out, seeded, tended, watered and visited with care and the love of Jesus.

With that in mind, one evening while driving toward town, my wife began writing the names of potential individuals, corporations, dentists, doctors, restaurants, construction companies, realtors, insurance agencies, auto dealerships, in-state hunting companies, sporting goods stores, electrical contractors, sportsmen’s clubs, service clubs, community foundations, etc. on the back of the pictured envelope. She made special notations of businesses such as my hunting shops, her lady stores, service clubs, churches, sportsmen’s clubs, etc. that were owned by our friends and relatives or with whom we do business.

So now I challenge each of you to make a list of potential supporters for your area, and then begin searching for ‘good ground’ to sow your seeds that will enable you to feed the extremely necessary protein to the hungry in your area.

“2BY16” Challenge

FHFH set a goal early in 2014 of providing 2 Million Meals through 200 FHFH chapters by the end of 2016. We called this the “2BY16 Challenge.” We have a long way to go, but continue to partner with new groups, seek out new coordinators, and trust in the Lord’s will for greater impact as we strive to battle hunger in our nation. As we close out the 2014-2015 season we’ll be around 1.1 million meals served again annually through 115 FHFH chapters. Let’s continue to work hard and pray for the Lord’s blessing as we aim toward the goals of the 2BY16 Challenge!
Southeast Louisiana FHFH Deer Donation Challenge

Jason Wonch, Coordinator for Southeast Louisiana FHFH, announced A.B. York as the winner of a Deer Donation Challenge they held last season.

They were blessed with 724 pounds of meat donated for the season, which was the largest yet for them!

Robinson Area Food Pantry in Illinois Benefits from Venison Donations

Jimmy Nees, Coordinator for Eastern Illinois FHFH, received this note of appreciation from the Robinson Area Food Pantry for the donation of 192 pounds of venison:

The Robinson Area Food Pantry would like to thank you for your recent donation. During the year 2014, the Food Pantry fed 12,407 people a total of 86,849 meals.

Your donation is very much appreciated. The community’s needy persons are benefiting.

Barbara Newlin
Secretary

Sam’s Club in Cincinnati, Ohio Teams with Southwest Ohio FHFH

Cincinnati Sam's Club #6450 located at 5375 N Bend Rd, Cincinnati, OH, has teamed with the Southwest Ohio Chapter of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry to supply venison to local food banks and feeding ministries. The Cincinnati Sam's Club donated $500 through the Hunger Relief Grant program.

They allowed us to join them in their morning meeting. We had the opportunity to present them with a certificate of appreciation, share about FHFH and how their donation will be used right here in Cincinnati.

Pictured from left to right is Southwest Ohio FHFH Coordinator Don Distler, Cincinnati Sam's Club Manager Daylon Prewitt and Southwest Ohio FHFH Coordinator Donald Boling.

Thank you Sam's Club!
Partnering with FHFH

Community Foundation of Washington County, MD, Inc. Awards Grant to FHFH

January 16, FHFH was awarded a $5,000 grant by the Community Foundation of Washington County, MD, Inc.

Josh Wilson, Operations Director, and John Miller, FHFH Board Member, received the check on behalf of FHFH.

Thank you Community Foundation of Washington County, MD, Inc. for supporting FHFH’s mission of feeding the hungry!

Middletown, Ohio Walmart Partnering with FHFH

Tim Fisher and Don Distler, Co-coordinators of Southwest Ohio FHFH, attended the Middletown, Ohio’s Walmart’s Supercenter #3571 morning meeting, met Store Manager JR Parks and Assistant Manager Tina Burton and shared how their $500 donation impacts those in need in the Middletown area.

Eastgate Graphics Makes Donation to FHFH

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As part of Eastgate Graphics’ community service efforts in 2014, the company committed to make charitable donations of $50 in recognition of our employee’s time and effort toward civic causes. I am pleased to enclose a check for $50 in recognition of the volunteer efforts by Tim Fisher to the Southwest Ohio Chapter (OH-15). Thank you.

Best regards,

Tom Ludeke
FHFH - In the Community

National Deer Alliance to Promote the Value of “Hunters Feeding the Hungry” Programs

We’ve said it before and it’s worth repeating … venison for the hungry programs like Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry provide tremendous value for the hungry of our nation, hunters, and the hunting industry.

This was affirmed at the North American Deer Summit in Louisville, KY earlier this year. At the Summit, FHFH proposed that “promoting the value and importance of hunters feeding the hungry programs” be adopted as an action item for the newly formed National Deer Alliance (www.nationaldeeralliance.com). This action item was approved and will be part of the work undertaken by the NDA as they “seek to ensure the future of North America’s wild deer, wildlife habitat and hunting heritage.”

While attending the event, it became apparent that FHFH has an opportunity to play a major role in expanding and promoting the general “hunters feeding the hungry” movement across the nation. To this end we have begun to rekindle and strengthen our connections with other existing venison donation programs. We can represent them, along with FHFH, as we attend national events and interface with hunters, wildlife agencies, the media, feeding organizations, and conservation groups like the NDA.

Together we can lift up the positive image of hunters as both conservationists and humanitarians. And we can give people a new reason to try hunting for the first time – the opportunity to help provide tens of thousands of pounds of nutritious meat from harvested game to the hungry and needy people across America!
**FHFH at NASP Tournament!**

Christian Bowhunters of America has partnered with FHFH. FHFH enjoyed a great couple of days right next to Christian Bowhunters of America at the May 2015 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) National tournament in Louisville, Kentucky!

In the photo to the left are: (left to right): Josh Wilson, FHFH Operations Director; Merle Fredericks (CBA Executive Director); and Matt Wilson, FHFH Program and Development Director.

Matt Wilson, FHFH Program and Development Director, (in the photo below and to the right) had a great time at the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) National Tournament sharing how hunters “meat the need”!

In the above photo, archers competing in the 2015 NASP tournament take aim at their target.

In the photo to the left is Josh Wilson, FHFH Operations Director, and Connie Frasier, Coordinator for Herkimer County FHFH in New York.
For I Was Hungry

Dixie Deer Classic

In late February, multiple FHFH chapter coordinators in North Carolina came together to represent FHFH at the annual Dixie Deer Classic held in Raleigh, NC. This large outdoors exhibitor event brings in 15,000-20,000 people from the southeast area of the country each year. Over the course of 3 days, FHFH coordinators were pleased to engage with the public and share the ministry of FHFH. New potential coordinators were sought out in needed areas of NC. Existing chapters and deer donation drop-off sites were made known to hunters. A variety of drawings were held, including one for the grand prize – a Barnett Predator Crossbow. FHFH was able to talk with new potential sponsors and partnering organizations to further strengthen the reach and impact of FHFH in NC.

Left to right:
Ray Croyle, Richard Padgett, Phil Cole and Mark Jasmine

FHFH Coordinators Willy Duvall and Henry Morris sharing FHFH with visitors to the FHFH booth.

FHFH to be on Mossy Oak’s Hunting the Country

In late 2015 or early 2016, a new episode of Mossy Oak’s Hunting the Country will feature FHFH! This will generate new exposure for FHFH!

Left to right:
Chad Kindley; Willy Duvall, Coordinator for Glenola FHFH; Randy Johnson; Maddi; Henry Morris, Coordinator for Davidson County, North Carolina FHFH; Judah; Matt Wilson, Coordinator for Western MD FHFH; and Ellii.

FHFH National Fundraising Auction

We are gathering merchandise donations for a national fundraising auction to be held in August for FHFH. We hope to feature items such as firearms, bows, crossbows, optics, trail cams, apparel, hunting blinds, and more. This will be a fun opportunity to promote and participate in a virtual auction event to benefit our national mission!
FHFH Recipe Box

Penn Walter’s Venison Thai Curry from The GameChef Cookbook © 2006. Reprinted by permission.

Ingredients:
1 lb. venison
1/2 sweet yellow onion, diced
1 tsp. (or to taste) Thai “red curry paste” (can be found at Oriental Markets)
1 16 oz. can of coconut milk
dash of nutmeg
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
6-8 garlic cloves, finely diced
1 tbsp. ground coriander
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. sugar
cooked Jasmine rice as accompaniment

Slice venison (across the grain) into small, bite-sized pieces. Add 1 tablespoon vegetable oil to a hot saucepan - add diced onion, garlic, red curry paste, coriander, and cumin. Quickly add venison, and lightly brown, being careful not to overcook onions and garlic. Add coconut milk, sugar, and nutmeg. Reduce heat and simmer for approximately 1 hour. Total cooking time is dependent upon the cut of meat used. Tender cuts (like tenderloin, backstrap, or eye-of-the-round) will take significantly less cooking time than tougher cuts. When meat is tender, serve over a bed of Thai jasmine rice.

Serves 4.

Thai-style Venison Salad from Wild Fare & Wise Words, © 2005. Reprinted by permission.

Ingredients:
1/2 pound venison steak
1 red or yellow onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cucumber, thinly sliced
1 stalk lemongrass, thinly sliced
1 green onion, thinly sliced
1 teaspoon sugar
2 ounces fish sauce
Juice of 2 limes
1 teaspoon chili oil
Cilantro
Red or Thai chili peppers

Grill or pan-fry the steak until medium-rare. Let cool slightly, then cut into 1/8-inch slices. Combine the onion, cucumber, lemongrass and green onion in a bowl and mix well. Combine the sugar, fish sauce, lime juice and chili oil in a separate bowl. Top the vegetables with the meat and drizzle with the dressing. Refrigerate to chill and to allow the flavors to blend. Garnish with cilantro and chili peppers.

Makes 2 servings.

More delicious recipes like these can be found in The GameChef Cookbook and Wild Fare & Wise Words. The cookbooks make a great gift idea!

The GameChef Cookbook comes with a spice crate containing four different GameChef seasonings!

If you would like to purchase the cookbook, you may place your order through FHFH’s online store at www.fhfh.ecrater.com.
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- Annual FHFH “For I was Hungry” Newsmagazine
- Vinyl FHFH Logo Decal
- FHFH Supporting Membership Card
- Entry into Annual Hunger Busters Sweepstake
- 20% Discount off FHFH Logo Gear in online store

To join as a Supporting Member or give a Gift Membership visit www.fhfh.org/supporting-membership.html to join online or print and mail a form or call 1-866-438-3434
Hunters and landowners have provided nearly 16 Million Meals since 1997 with FHFH. On average around 1.5 Million Meals are provided annually through FHFH chapters. Help us reach the 2BY16 Challenge Goal of providing 2 Million meals annually through 200 FHFH Chapters across our nation. You can join the hunt against hunger in your neighborhood today! Start a chapter, give support, or donate a deer. Over 48 Million hungry men, women, and children are waiting for your help!

Earn a $2.00 DONATION for FHFH when you join World Class Hunting using our PROMO CODE “FHFH”!

Earn $2.00 for FHFH and enter a “monthly” drawing for members of our ministry partner World Class Hunting! Use PROMO CODE "FHFH" when you sign up for a free WCH membership at www.worldclasshunting.com/sweepstakes. Remember to use promo code "FHFH" when you join, and then share this offer with your friends and family!

World Class Hunting is an online community where hunters and outdoor enthusiasts come together to share their latest exploits and plan their next adventure. World Class Hunting is a firm supporter of traditional American values: faith and the right to exercise your faith, traditional family values, patriotism and love of country.
FHFH Sponsors

**NATIONAL**

We give special thanks for the following national companies and organizations that have chosen to support the work of FHFH nationally through cash contributions, merchandise donations, promotional assistance and ministry partnership over the past year. We greatly value the support of each national partner regardless of the amount given. Any gift of money, time, or other assistance is a sacrifice appreciated very much by the men, women and children we serve!

To find out how your corporation or organization can partner in support of FHFH, please email us at staff@fhfh.org or call 1-866-Get FHFH today!

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**STATE & LOCAL**

Special thanks to these corporations, organizations and foundations who provide a significant amount of financial support for our work. Some provide support to feed the hungry of a particular state while others focus their support on specific communities. Together these sponsors are helping to feed nutritious venison to many thousands of our hungry neighbors!

- Churches United of the Quad City Area (IL)
- Community Foundation of Washington County, MD, Inc.
- D.C. Central Kitchen, Inc. (DC)
- Holmes-Wayne Electric Foundation, Inc. (OH)
- Legacy Foundation (CA)
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board
- Maryland Soybean Board
- National Rifle Association (OH)
- New Life Ministries (OH)
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Outlaws Unlimited (MD)
- Patty Pollotas Fund, Inc. (MD)
- Prince George’s County Farm Bureau, Inc. (MD)
- St. Alban’s Parish (DC)
- T. Rowe Price Program (MD)
- Wal-Mart Foundation (FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, LA, MO, NC, OH, PA, SC, TN)
- Whitetails Unlimited, Inc. National Headquarters (OH)