



## PROGRAMS TO CONNECT SCHOOLS & FARMS THROUGH FOOD & EDUCATION

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### For Immediate Release

### **Green Mountain Farm-to-School Inaugural Benefit Dinner Celebrates Food, Farming and Community**

October 5, 2008, Westfield, VT – Last weekend, over 90 community members gathered together at the Westfield Community Center to enjoy a delicious local food dinner and celebrate the incorporation of Green Mountain Farm-to-School (GMFTS) as a nonprofit organization. The Growing Gardens, Farms and Friends Benefit Dinner offered guests many opportunities to connect with their local food sources and learn more about GMFTS's programs in six schools in the Northeast Kingdom.

The event began with a tour of Berry Creek Farm led by farmer and GMFTS Board member, Rosemary Croizet. As many school groups have already done this fall, visitors toured the farm's greenhouses, meet the farm animals, and learned about the farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm Share program. For the Benefit Dinner meal, Kim Backus of the Craftsbury Outdoor Center served a delicious fall harvest meal highlighting food from over 15 local farms. The menu included: lamb sausage, an assortment of local cheeses, roasted tofu, winter squash and potato gratin, roast pork, fresh applesauce, braised cabbage, salad, and pumpkin pie.

The evening's program featured live music by Sylvia Woodmansee and presentations by David Stackpole, Chair of the Board, and Katherine Sims, Founder and Executive Director.

Special thanks to the following partners for their support of our Benefit Dinner: the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Jay Peak Resort, the Town of Westfield, and Troy and Area Lions Club.

Green Mountain Farm-to-School works to improve the health and wellbeing of our children, farms, and community by providing programs to connect schools and farm through food and education. This year, GMFTS is running its year-round school garden program at five area schools. The organization is also coordinating Farm-to-School programs at six schools to provide students with fresh local foods, nutrition and agriculture education. GMFTS is working to expand its model program statewide. For more information about GMFTS visit [GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org](http://GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org)

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