**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** November 19, 2014 MEDIA CONTACT: Alice Poltorick <u>apoltorick@thefoodproject.org</u> 781-259-8621, ext. 30

## The Food Project Receives \$50,000 Grant from Newman's Own Foundation

Part of \$10 million to improve fresh food access and nutrition education

Lincoln, MA—The Food Project has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Newman's Own Foundation, the independent foundation created by the late actor and philanthropist, Paul Newman. The award to The Food Project was made by Newman's Own Foundation as part of the \$10 million commitment over three years to improve fresh food access and nutrition education to underserved communities.

With this support, The Food Project will increase access to fresh, healthy foods for our region's most vulnerable residents. This will be accomplished by donating the food grown on The Food Project's urban and suburban farms to local hunger relief organizations, by building raised-bed gardens for families in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, and by distributing the food from our farms at affordable, SNAP-accessible outlets.

J. Harrison, The Food Project's Acting Executive Director said, "The Food Project is incredibly appreciative of the support of Newman's Own Foundation. Far too many of our neighbors struggle with food insecurity and malnutrition, as indicated by the current obesity epidemic. With this grant, we will harvest thousands of pounds of tomatoes, squash, spinach, basil, peppers, and dozens of other nutritious crops, and distribute them to our neighbors in need."

"There are so many challenges to improving nutrition access and education, especially for those who are most disadvantaged," said Lisa Walker, Managing Director, Newman's Own Foundation. "We are excited to help The Food Project and many other nonprofits across the country make an impact in improving nutrition in urban and rural communities." For more information about Newman's Own Foundation nutrition grants, visit: www.newmansownfoundation.org

The Food Project is grateful for the support of Newman's Own Foundation and looks forward to continuing this productive partnership. To find out how you can support The Food Project's mission to create a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system, visit: www.thefoodproject.org

<u>The Food Project</u> is one of the largest regional farming and food access organizations in Massachusetts. Since 1991, more than 1,200 youth have participated in our leadership development programs. We farm approximately 70 acres on three suburban farms, four urban farms, and three greenhouses throughout Massachusetts, and distribute our produce through farmers markets, subsidized farm shares, and to hunger relief organizations.



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