The Food Project honors Byron Hurt, award-winning documentary filmmaker, at annual fundraiser

May 12, 2015. Lincoln, MA— On Wednesday, May 6, The Food Project, a non-profit that brings together youth and adults to build a sustainable food system, hosted its annual benefit *Farmers*, *Fables & Feasts* at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter. The event, which raised over \$250,000, brought together 250 supporters, youth, and staff for an exciting evening of delicious food, inspiring stories from The Food Project's Root Crew youth, and a lively auction with Billy Costa, host of NESN's *Dining Playbook*.

The Food Project honored Byron Hurt—documentary filmmaker and activist and Northeastern University alumnus —with its Leadership Award, which acknowledges change-makers whose work and vision within the food movement impacts our communities, food infrastructure, and environment.

"We are truly grateful for the generosity of our friends and supporters who believe in the power of food and youth to create a more sustainable, just world. Our event committee and volunteers who made the evening such a success are already looking forward to next year's celebration which will mark our 25th growing season," says J. Harrison, executive director.

This year's sponsors include: Linda and Bill McQuillan, Cooley LLP, Gourmet Caterers, Lenore and George Travis, Boston Urban Partners, LLC, Annalisa and Dino Di Palma, Fresh Pond Capital/Reynders McVeigh Capital Management, LLC, Lahey Health, Stacey and Larry Lucchino, New England Biolabs, Inc., Northeastern University, The Osprey Foundation, Arjuna Capital, Atlantic Trust Private Wealth Management, Cambridge Trust Company, Danny Chin, Amanda Dean, Margaret Leipsitz and Matthew Yarmolinsky, John and Jill Preotle, Prue Strategies, Inc., Janet Selcer and Joel Schwartz, Ann and Jared Chase, Eastern Bank, Beverly Gee and Manu Daftary, Rimma Gluzman, Gordon Hall and Linda Hall, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation, Tom and Kim Litle, Amelie L. Ratliff, Polly and Brock Reeve, and Dylan and Bea Sanders.

Proceeds from the event support The Food Project's youth programming, sustainable agriculture on urban and suburban farms, and distribution of healthy food to communities in need in Greater Boston and on the North Shore.

<u>The Food Project</u> is one of the largest regional farming and food access organizations in Massachusetts. Since 1991, more than 1,400 youth have participated in our leadership development programs. We farm approximately 70 acres on three suburban farms, four urban farms, and two greenhouses throughout Massachusetts, and distribute our produce through farmers markets, subsidized farm shares, and to hunger relief organizations.



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Photo Caption: from l-r: Youth speaker Gaurav Dangol, J. Harrison, executive director of The Food Project, Linda McQuillan, event co-chair, honoree Byron Hurt, Dylan Sanders, chair of the board of trustees, and Julia Fibbe, youth speaker.

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