

Dear Friend,

This winter has brought many exciting changes to Round the Bend Farm (RTB) that we would like to share with you. On January 1st, [Desa VanLaarhoven](#) made the decision to leave her position as the Executive Director of the Marion Institute, a post of 8 years, to join the RTB team as our full time Director. Desa and her partner, Geoff Kinder, have been the co-visionaries of RTB since its inception as a program of the Marion Institute. Desa's insight, experience and commitment to living her values add a vital component to the farm and we are thrilled to have her passion and enthusiasm benefitting the work and mission of RTB.

[Shaun VanLaarhoven](#) was also hired this winter to be part of the RTB team. Shaun's roots in the farming community go back to his earliest days showing his prize-winning sheep at various 4H Club and local fairs. After graduating, Shaun moved to Boston where he specialized in working with homeless and formerly homeless individuals living with HIV/AIDS. These experiences led to his understanding of the restorative powers of a community like RTB and in 2009 Shaun started volunteering for the farm. His renaissance skills quickly made him an invaluable member of the team. A superb chef, Shaun crafts delicious and nutritious farm-based meals for the farm team, designs cooking workshops featuring local farm-based foods, and assists with a myriad of tasks around the farm. In addition to his work in the kitchen, Shaun is in charge of RTB's dairy operation and has become Milkshake's (the dairy cow) favorite and most trustworthy milker. Shaun's positive energy is the sustenance that fills in the cracks at RTB!

The newest member of the RTB team, [Nate Sander](#), will focus on cultivating a perennial food landscape at the farm as our Permaculture Apprentice. This exciting project will focus on developing integral systems of sustainable agriculture and will add to the abundance of diversity, beauty, and productivity at RTB. Nate most recently worked for the Seattle (Washington) Public School System, where he coordinated efforts between the school district and community-based organizations. His commitment to education, community development, and social justice make him a good fit to expand the mission of Round the Bend Farm.

Meet Desa, Shaun, Nate, and the rest of the RTB team at April's [Open Market Day](#). We look forward to seeing you on the farm.

With gratitude,



Elizabeth Wiley
Program Manager
Round the Bend Farm - *A Center for Restorative Community*