

September 2013 - We did it - we bought the farm!

Dear Friend,

It is my pleasure to announce the newest program of the Marion Institute - Round the Bend Farm, a Center for Restorative Community! Located in South Dartmouth, Round the Bend Farm (RTB) is a working farm and in time will be a learning center. RTB seeks to localize culture, work, and wealth by exposing individuals to the basic tenets of sustainability: resiliency, zero-waste design and diversity. The vision is a community of growers, educators and social entrepreneurs, who support themselves through food and farming businesses and nurture the public with real food and place-based education. RTB will also serve the community by helping to re-skill individuals through inclusive classes, workshops, and apprenticeships that build the skills needed to transition to a localized economy. We believe that sustainable agriculture supports a strong local economy, builds vibrant communities and creates a healthier environment in which all its members can grow and thrive. This program strives to address the root causes of the multiple crises of climate, energy and food insecurity on both a global and local level.

Many of you know that my partner, Geoff Kinder, and I have been envisioning the creation of this for years (Geoff has been farming this land for nearly five years with incredible help from farmers Antone and Ellen Vieira and generosity of Leslie and Rucky Barclay!) and thanks to the guidance and support of Duncan and Ellen McFarland, Michael Baldwin, the MI Board and countless people on the ground, RTB has become a reality!

The purchase was made possible by a very generous contribution from ongoing Marion Institute supporters **Duncan and Ellen McFarland**. We are forever grateful to the McFarlands for believing and supporting our vision in such a monumental way!! The farm property - which includes 39 acres, a farmhouse and barn - was officially purchased by the Marion Institute on May 16, 2013.

I would also like to take this opportunity to [introduce you to the incredible team at Round the Bend Farm](#):

Geoff Kinder, Co-Visionary, Farm Manager and Social Entrepreneur

Liz Wiley, Program Manager

Ashley Brister, Produce Farmer and Social Entrepreneur

Shaun Van Laarhoven, Chef, Head Milker and Social Entrepreneur

With love, light and positive energy,

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Executive Director of the Marion Institute & Co-Visionary of Round the Bend Farm