FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Food Hub to Hold 2019 Community Food Awards
Nonprofit to honor Virginia farmers and community partners for their commitment to locally sourced food

Charlottesville, Va., Oct. 15, 2019 – Local Food Hub will host a community-wide celebration of the 2019 Community Food Awards on Thursday, October 17. The Community Food Awards is an annual event recognizing farmers, businesses, and community partners for their commitment to local food, healthy communities, and Virginia agriculture.

“We look forward to this event every year,” says Kristen Suokko, Executive Director of Local Food Hub. “It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hard work of everyone who helps make local food more accessible. This year, it is even more meaningful, as we celebrate both our ten year anniversary and our new partnership with 4P Foods.”

The ceremony will take place at the 4P Food warehouse at 556 Dettor Road, Charlottesville, VA. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 17, with awards beginning at approximately 6:30. The ceremony will be followed by a community meal featuring items grown by Local Food Hub partner farms and created by J.M. Stock Provisions, and an assortment of local beverages. The evening will include a bonfire with s’mores and live music by Bent Mountain Trio.

This event is free, family-friendly, and open to all. Please RSVP at localfoodhub.org/rsvp. A $10 donation is suggested, payable with the RSVP or at the door.

Ten awards will be presented:

**Partner Producer of the Year**, honors Local Food Hub partner producers and farming families who excel at consistently and reliably delivering local products packed in accordance with the highest standards.

Awarded to **Church Hill Produce** of Highland County, for consistently providing high-quality produce, particularly outstanding broccoli and cauliflower that makes its way into veggie prescriptions for health patients, major retail chains, and local mom and pop retailers and restaurants alike.

**Pioneer in the Field**, recognizes a Virginia farmer who has demonstrated innovation in food system development through their work with Local Food Hub.
Awarded to **Spring Garden Organics** of Pittsylvania County, for their organically managed, greenhouse-grown, heirloom tomatoes, which allowed for an early start to the traditional field-grown tomato season.

**Rookie of the Year** honors a new partner producer who has demonstrated a commitment to partnership with Local Food Hub and increasing access to local food.

Awarded to **Spring Hollow Farm** of Buckingham County, for offering a diverse range and deep volume of top-quality products as a first-year partner.

**Retail Leader**, recognizes a retailer who has demonstrated a commitment to the purchase and marketing of local food and to a partnership with Local Food Hub in this effort.

DC Market: Awarded to **Each Peach** of Washington DC, for their commitment to getting a diversity of Virginia-grown and made products into the DC marketplace.

Richmond Market: Awarded to **Little House Green Grocery** of Richmond, for their continued dedication to purchasing locally, trying new items, and providing invaluable feedback to our evolving business and partner farms.

Charlottesville Market: Awarded to **Nourish** of Louisa County for filling a niche community outlet, and consistently supporting both local farmers and value-added producers.

**Institutional Leader**, honors an institution that has made a commitment to local agriculture through their menu planning and food service offerings.

Awarded to **UVA Dining** of Charlottesville, for their continued commitment to showcasing Virginia-grown products in all University of Virginia dining facilities, from popular dining halls to student athlete meals and athletic stadiums.

**Local Business, Community Impact**, honors a local business that effectively and creatively increases access to local food.

Awarded to **Integral Yoga Natural Foods** of Charlottesville, for their longtime commitment to providing local produce and products for their customers, and consistently providing a solid and stable outlet for small farms.

**Healthy Community Leader**, presented in memory of the late Lisa Reeder, recognizes a community organization that demonstrates a commitment to partnering with Local Food Hub on increasing education about and access to local food.

Awarded to **WIC Clinic at Southwood** of Albemarle County, for bringing the Fresh Farmacy: Fruit and Veggie Prescription Program to the Women, Infants, and Children supplemental nutrition program recipients and their families living in a food desert.
**Trailblazer**, honors individuals or organizations who have developed innovative and creative solutions to procuring locally and have made a commitment to increasing community access to fresh, farm sourced food.

Awarded to **Rappahannock Public Schools** of Rappahannock County, for being a model in the Farm to School effort, consistently working to bring more local food into K-12 public school cafeterias.

**Entrepreneur of the Year**, recognizes an entrepreneur that demonstrates a commitment to enhancing opportunities for local people and local products in our community.

Awarded to **Orange Dot Baking Company** of Charlottesville, for their dedication to creating a high-quality product that meets the unique dietary needs of many in our community while also creating jobs in the local economy.

A special thanks to our community sponsors, including Aetna Community Health, St. Anne’s-Belfield, Blue Ridge Bucha, JM Stock Provisions, Bold Rock Hard Cider, Market Street Market, and Blue Mountain Brewery.

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Local Food Hub is a nonprofit organization that partners with Virginia farmers to increase community access to local food. We support the resurgence of small-scale agriculture and equitable access to good food for all. To learn more about Local Food Hub, please visit [www.localfoodhub.org](http://www.localfoodhub.org) or contact (434) 430-5548. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @localfoodhub.