

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida Awards \$18,500 to Non-Profit(s) Improving Rural Communities

MARIANNA, Fla., Jan. 12, 2024 – Farm Credit of Northwest Florida announced a total of \$18,500 awarded to five organizations working to improve rural communities within the Florida Panhandle. One recipient was the Monticello, FL chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization whose mission is to ensure “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.” Their Mission is carried out through volunteers dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. This award is given to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace in its important work helping families devastated by the impact of Hurricane Idalia.

Another recipient was Second Harvest of the Big Bend headquartered in Tallahassee, FL. Second Harvest provides food for our neighbors facing hunger and food insecurity throughout the Big Bend service area by serving as a storage and distribution depot for over 149 smaller frontline agency partners such as soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and emergency food pantries. In 2022, Second Harvest provided approximately 14 million pounds of nutritious food to people in need for no charge (enough for about 11.6 million charitable meals).



Rooted in Giving Donation Award to John Bozeman, Co-Chapter President Sleep in Heavenly Peace by Nominator, Abby Todd, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida CFO.



Rooted in Giving Donation Award to Kristie Teal, Donor Engagement Manager of Second Harvest of the Big Bend by Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, Director of Human Resources, Dorislynn White-Padgett.

Other award recipients include Waterfront Rescue Mission, headquartered in Pensacola, FL; Jackson County Jr. Cattlemen’s Association headquartered in Marianna, FL; and Feeding the Gulf Coast whose Panhandle Branch is in Milton, FL.

“We are delighted to support these outstanding organizations and their work on behalf of families in Monticello and surrounding areas,” said Farm Credit of Northwest Florida CEO John Gregory. “I am proud of our employees, who contribute donations that are matched by Farm Credit of Northwest Florida, to provide these staff-nominated awards to worthy recipients. Working together, we can help our communities remain strong and resilient.”

Additionally, food collected from the Farm Credit of Northwest Florida Food Drive was provided to Second Harvest of the Big Bend and Feeding the Gulf Coast, with the aim to help restock the shelves of area food banks after the Thanksgiving holiday and provide area families nutritious meals.

This is the 9th year of the Rooted in Giving holiday awards, with more than \$104,000 donated to assist organizations making our local communities better places to live.

###

About Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Farm Credit of Northwest Florida is a member-owned financial cooperative headquartered in Marianna, Fla., that serves 18 counties throughout the Florida panhandle. Farm Credit offers highly competitive credit to meet the financing needs of rural land and homeowners, farmers, and agribusinesses. For more information about the types of financing available or how cooperative lenders share their profits with borrowers, please visit www.GoRural.net.

