



Trees That Feed Foundation



Annual Impact Report 2025–26

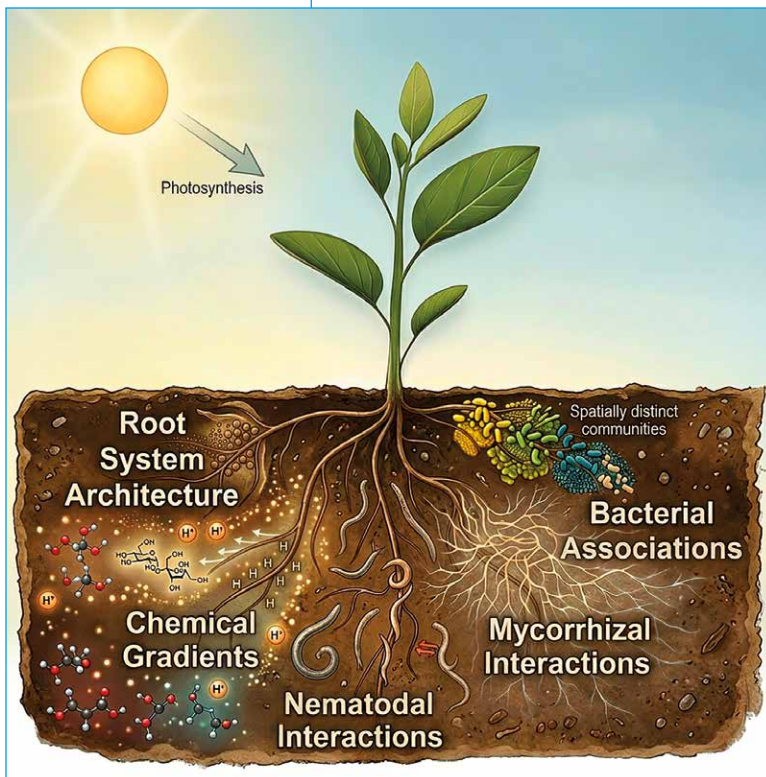
Dirt vs. Soil

These two words are often used interchangeably in casual conversation. But from a tree's point of view, they are way different!



◀ **This is dirt**, recently bulldozed for a building site. It's a combination of various minerals with little or no biological activity.

▼ **This is soil**, a cross-section view showing what's underneath:



Underneath are not just tree roots. There's a whole living ecosystem down there. Most of it isn't visible, but there's quite a list!

- **Roots (of course!)**
- **Minerals and dirt too**
- **Humus (decaying vegetation)**
- **Bacteria**
- **Viruses**
- **Fungi**
- **Nematodes**
- **Mites**
- **Earthworms**
- **Grubs maybe**
- **Air spaces**
- **Water**

In healthy soil these components are all in active biological balance, each playing a part in maintaining the ecosystem. The visible beneficiary of all this is the tree!

By the way, when soil is tilled before planting, you actually may be upsetting the ecosystem! Some of the deeper parts come to the surface while surface parts get plowed under.

That's another reason we like trees! Once planted they stay put and become part of the soil! Actually, planting trees enriches soil activity, provides cooling shade, drops leaves that become humus, and limits surface erosion. Mother Nature comes out as a winner!

Letter from the Co-Founders



Hello again, friends! Another year has flown by. Wow! At Trees That Feed, we've been having fun and staying really busy! In this report we'll list our activities, but this time we will also try to explain the impact of our work. Yes, we planted thousands of trees, but how did

that help? We'll explain. You've already seen one impact on the page to the left. You already knew that trees benefit the air, removing carbon dioxide, dust and pollutants, while returning oxygen. Last year's annual report talked about photosynthesis. Planting trees also benefits the soil! That's part of their impact.

You'll also hear stories about the entrepreneurs who have benefited from planting trees. They've utilized the fruit to produce nutritious meals, bread, pancakes, and more, while earning themselves an income. They sell, they buy, they hire, they sustain themselves long term. They are active players in their community.

Our work has impacted schoolchildren, farmers, families, even governments. We've created collaborations. And we're building leaders (see page 7). We'll tell stories and share some numbers.

Thanks to Natasha Norris for getting our message out and keeping our programs on track. We are also grateful for our dedicated volunteers. Special thanks to Judy Osgood, Eric McLaughlin, and Adriana Talavera who contribute their talents weekly. And thank you to all of you for your continued support and encouragement. We'll keep on doing what we're doing, as good stewards and citizens of the planet.

Mary and Mike McLaughlin

Co-founders

Trees That Feed Foundation



Share this report
online with friends,
or read it on-the-go.

Growing Impact

Trees That Feed Foundation plants trees. The real impact comes later. Trees become food. Food becomes businesses, jobs, and healthier communities.



In Puerto Rico, trees donated by Trees That Feed Foundation in 2014 began producing in 2018. That harvest led to Finca Dos Hermanas and the Entre Panas brand. Today, breadfruit is grown, milled into flour, baked into gluten-free products, and sold in retail stores or online.

In Northern Haiti, through our partnership with Rayjon Share Care, breadfruit is nourishing vulnerable children. At the Centre for Nutrition & Education for Women & Children (C-NEW-C), konparets made by GAPL are newly introduced and already well-accepted.

These are examples of our growing impact ... from a sapling to lasting change. Trees that FEED!

Jajaira González and Josué Rodríguez Negrón founded Entre Panas in Puerto Rico at an off-grid farm powered by solar energy. Sheep help fertilize the trees.



Trees planted years ago now provide nourishing food for children who need it most.



Together, We Delivered Results in 22 Countries Since 2008.
Your support powers our work. We measure impact in stories and in numbers.

454,635
Trees supplied



460,000
Tons of carbon dioxide sequestered by our fruit trees



400,000,000
Meals provided from our fruit trees



15,000
Farmers with TFFF breadfruit trees



42,000
Families Impacted



678
Entrepreneurs supported



24
TFFF designed hybrid solar dehydrators in operation



180,896
Views of our educational videos



23,000
Educational activity books provided in 9 languages in 9 countries



5
Governments advised



How do we track all this? We combine exact data and conservative estimates. Trees, meals, equipment and books are tracked through accounting records. Estimates are based on growth, yield and survival studies.

Voices of Impact

Supporters



“Thank you for the incredible work that you do. You’re changing so many lives for the better, and saving the planet too!”

JENNIFER BISSELL
UNITED STATES



“Trees That Feed Foundation’s work not only contributes to global food security and environmental sustainability but also empowers communities to thrive independently. I’m honored to have played a small role in nominating this remarkable charity for awards, helping to shine a light on their invaluable efforts to make a lasting, positive impact on the planet.”

RONALD POON-AFFATT
BRAZIL



“I feel like a fan at the Super Bowl – enthusiastically supporting from the sidelines while you make the game-changing plays. Your work is the true victory here. Thank you for allowing me to play this small part in your remarkable journey.”

SISTER ROSE THERESE NOLTA
HOLY SPIRIT MISSIONARY SISTERS
UNITED STATES

Partners



“Thanks to TTFF, thousands of breadfruit seedlings will be planted across the North of Haiti next year, bringing hope and sustainability to our communities. Let’s grow together and make a lasting difference!”

CALEB CADET
BRIGHT HOPE
HAITI



“Thank you so much for the gift of these fruit trees. These babies will be treated with love and care. This contribution will definitely be a valuable contribution to the feeding program here at St. John Bosco.”

KELLY-ANN NEVERS-HAYNES
JAMAICA



“We plant breadfruit trees in public areas like highway verges and along recreational trails as food security strategy. Trees That Feed has been the catalyst and facilitator of this project, for which the people of this island are grateful.”

BARNEY GIBBS
FUTURE CENTRE TRUST
BARBADOS

Building Leadership

We are learning all the time. Our mission is very clear and constant, but we are always seeking to improve.

In the past we helped local farmers and entrepreneurs by reimbursing program expenses as appropriate. After working with certain local partners for years, we decided to give them more independence.

Mary suggested, "Let's pay them program expenses up front, have them manage their work themselves and report back to us. They are responsible people!"

So now they are planning, budgeting, and running their own programs. Meanwhile we advise and monitor progress.

At Something Country Bakery in Jamaica, Karlene Johnson produced more than 20,000 breadfruit-based meals for TTFF's school feeding program in 2025 alone.

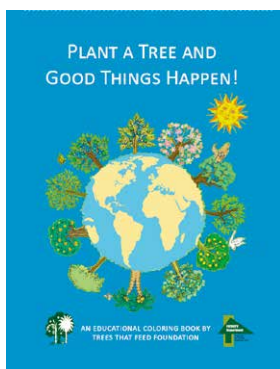
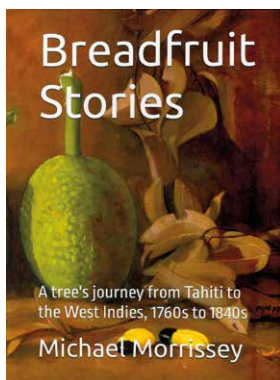
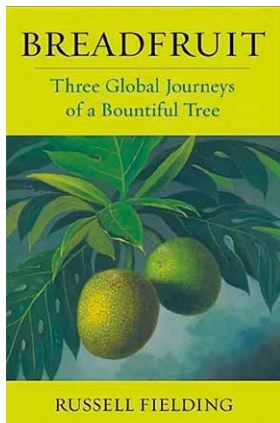


Here's a good example. In Jamaica, Karlene Johnson bakes "bullas," a large biscuit. With TTFF's early support, she launched Something Country Bakery and supplied breadfruit bullas to schools. Today, she leads the program, identifies customers, delivers meals to schools, reports outcomes, and has started her own tree-planting effort. She also teaches others about breadfruit in her community.

Now Karlene and about 12 other local partners in Haiti, Jamaica and elsewhere are transforming into true community leaders. With less management, just a little nudge from Trees That Feed, they are innovative, decisive, strategic, and respected in their communities.

We're building leadership! That, friends, is sustainable impact!

Breadfruit Books



Education and training are key components of Trees That Feed Foundation's mission. Here are three books that inform, inspire and drive planting worldwide.

Breadfruit: Three Global Journeys of a Bountiful Tree

Dr. Russell Fielding's new book was published by Columbia University Press in 2025. In this deeply researched work, Dr. Fielding relates the journey of breadfruit trees across the Pacific, then into the New World, and now globally. With first-hand interviews Russell captures how this remarkable tree shapes livelihoods, diets, and resilience in communities around the world.

Dr. Fielding credited Trees That Feed Foundation for its leadership in the modern breadfruit movement. He thanked Mary and Mike McLaughlin for introducing him to many of the farmers and partners featured in the book. We will continue celebrating this important work and expanding its reach.

Purchase a copy and don't forget to write a review on Amazon or Goodreads!



Pictured (l-r) Holly Friedman (volunteer), Natasha Norris (TTFF), Judy Osgood (volunteer), Mike McLaughlin (TTFF), Russell Fielding (author), Mary McLaughlin (TTFF), and Monica Fox (volunteer). Launch party sponsored by The Book Stall. Refreshments courtesy of Ulu Foods, Barbados.

Breadfruit Stories: A Tree's Journey from Tahiti to the West Indies, 1760s to 1840s

Written by the late Michael Morrissey and published by TTFF, this book remains a powerful resource. A beautiful addition to your coffee table, it shares true stories and compelling facts. It connects readers of all ages to breadfruit's potential to nourish people and the planet.

Purchase a copy. Trees That Feed receives a small royalty.

Plant a Tree and Good Things Happen

For children, TTFF's activity book sparks curiosity and action. We have adapted it to nine different cultures and languages. It teaches young readers about trees, food systems, and stewardship. We are currently developing a United States edition and a Bahamas version.

Learn more about the activity book on our website, and purchase copies on Amazon.

Tree Propagation

One of the questions we sometimes get is, will breadfruit trees become invasive!? Short answer, no chance. Breadfruit propagates slowly. Most fruit have no seeds. Tree roots send up suckers, but most die off. Without propagation by people the trees would gradually die out.

The Pacific islanders took breadfruit roots with them as they spread from one island to another. That's one of the journeys discussed in Dr. Fielding's recent book. In Jamaica, our main supplier, Mr. Alfred McLean, produces up to 40,000 seedlings a year from root cuttings.



At Orange River Research Station in Jamaica, a nurseryman inspected a root prior to planting for propagation.

Another propagation method is air layering, also called marcotting or circumposing. A circular cut is made around a twig, bark is scraped off, and the twig is wrapped in coconut fiber or peat moss. After a few weeks, roots develop and the twig can be cut off and planted.

In Uganda, TTFF's East Africa leader Kanya Musigire and partners including His Grace Demo Farm, Uwepo, and TriTrees have mastered air-layering and are teaching farmers across the country. The number of breadfruit trees being planted is growing exponentially.

In Guatemala, Frutas del Mundo collaborating with Contour Lines propagates by grafting breadfruit scions (twigs) onto other Artocarpus species that grow from seeds.

Knowledge is spreading. With our support and encouragement our partners are teaching each other. In 2009, none of our countries produced their own trees. We had to import expensive tissue cultured plantlets. Now, nine countries are propagating their own. That is the IMPACT of our work ... permanent sustainability.

At Great Outdoors Uganda, they learned to propagate breadfruit using air-layering, wrapping branches in aluminum foil to keep them cool and hydrated. Roots develop in 4 to 6 weeks.



Innovation Meets Tradition

Trees That Feed Foundation turns one crop into many solutions. By adapting breadfruit into familiar foods, we speed adoption and create lasting change.

Nutritional biscuits made with breadfruit flour look different in every country. In Haiti, konparets. In Jamaica, bullas. In Uganda, kabalagala. Each reflects local taste and delivers nutrition. These foods are already feeding schoolchildren in Haiti and Jamaica. Uganda is next.

In Uganda, another standout is rolex. Not the watch, but a national favorite food and a symbol of everyday life and ingenuity. It's a vegetable omelet wrapped in chapati (flatbread). Made with breadfruit flour, it adds crispness and shows how easily a new crop fits into daily meals.

Led by TTFE East Africa representative Kamya Musigire, partners are building demand from the ground up. Flour is tested by restaurants, street vendors and organizations like Aid Africa. Experimentation becomes adoption.

This is how markets begin. Breadfruit flour is entering local economies through small businesses. With TTFE support, one entrepreneur received equipment to build a processing facility and is repaying that investment in flour. Production grows. Access expands. Income stays local.

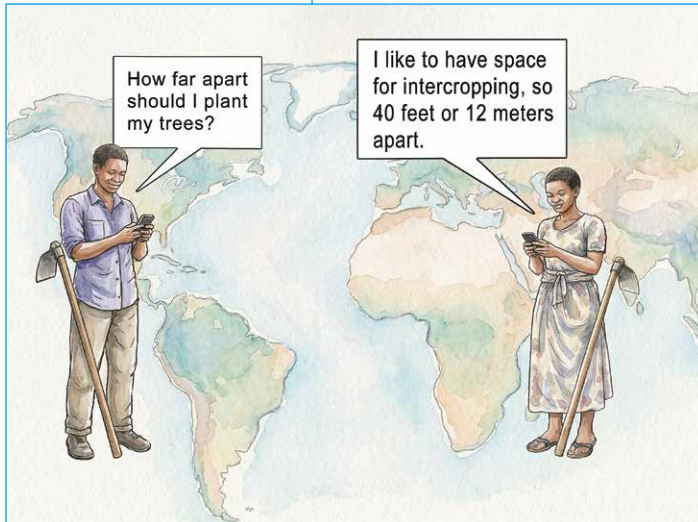
Rolex is a "national meal" that caters to a wide range of ethnic and social groups. It is often made in roadside stalls with just a table for kneading the dough, a pan for frying, and a charcoal stove. Rolex is also prepared in fine dining establishments. Now TTFE and partners are incorporating breadfruit flour!



Global Breadfruit Collective

We at Trees That Feed Foundation aim to share all our knowledge with people interested in our mission. We know a lot but not everything. So, we encourage people we work with to share their knowledge with each other. We take pride in connecting people who can help each other.

What began as a small WhatsApp group has become a 20-country strong, trusted network, active daily, with over 130 group members as of early 2026.



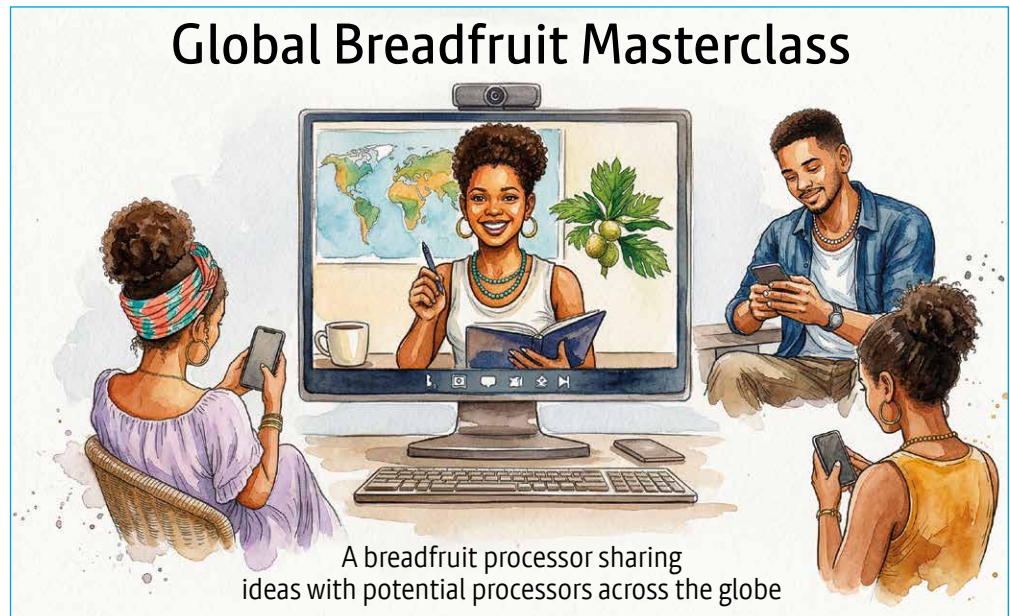
Farmers and entrepreneurs share practical advice, solve problems, and support each other through challenges like natural disasters and climate shifts. They exchange knowledge on propagation, production, and marketing across countries and cultures.

There is no competition. Only collaboration. Feeding people, creating jobs, and benefiting the environment.

This growing community accelerates learning, strengthens businesses, and helps breadfruit spread faster worldwide.

Farmers, processors, and educators communicated daily through the Global Breadfruit Collective WhatsApp group, accessed by mobile phone on a free app.

TTFF hosted three global virtual Breadfruit Masterclasses. Featured speakers shared their experiences so that as one said, "No one else has to slip on the same banana peel I did."



A breadfruit processor sharing ideas with potential processors across the globe

Jamaica: Hurricane Recovery

Hurricane Melissa was the strongest ever recorded to hit Jamaica.

Hurricane Melissa struck western Jamaica on October 28, 2025, with 180 mph winds. The storm damaged homes, roads and power systems across the island. It also threatened food security. Fruit trees were uprooted, and branches snapped. Years of growth were lost in hours, leaving farming families with empty tables and uncertain income.



Dr. Caroline McClean, a dean at Northern Caribbean University (left) and 25 students volunteered immediately when Nadia Washington-Daley organized a tree-planting field trip.



Our donors responded immediately and generously. As soon as communication and access were restored, we purchased 2,000 breadfruit, avocado and mango trees. (We also encouraged planting of potatoes and other fast growing food sources.)

Among the first recipients of breadfruit trees was Nadia Washington-Daley, a lecturer at Northern Caribbean University in the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science. She mobilized support from the administration and students to plant 10,000 food-bearing trees in the hardest hit areas. Planting began



in her hometown of Cave. Recovery is now building long-term food systems. Word on campus spread quickly, and volunteers are eager for the next planting field trip.



TFFF planted “friendship and resilience trees” in collaboration with Jamaican organizations at a primary school in Hanover.

New plantings are taking root. Food is returning, and confidence is growing. Jamaica’s farmers are proving resilient, and recovery is well underway.

Thank you for standing with Jamaica. Your support is yielding results that will feed families for generations.

We also supported targeted recovery projects with Sheldon Lyn who is a partner at a global management consulting firm, along with American Friends of Jamaica, Sandals Foundation, NCB Foundation and Hanover Charities. It was heartwarming to see the cooperation between the various relief groups.

In 2026, we are deepening our partnership with Jamaica’s Forestry Department to support the planting of at least 30,000 food-bearing trees.

The impact is already visible. Surviving trees are releafing and producing again.



Sheldon Lyn, a Jamaican now living in New York, is shown here with his daughter Anna in Jamaica.

“I’m grateful to have met Mary and Mike, and for the support of Trees That Feed. For our Youth Service Mission to St. Elizabeth following Hurricane Melissa, we wanted to do something both symbolic and meaningful. Their donation of fruit trees, planted across three communities, is a living testament to the Jamaican spirit: to rebuild and rise again.”

– SHELDON LYN



Uganda: Rapid Progress

In 2018, we had one partner in Uganda. In 2023, we had three. Today, we have a waitlist of farmers and community organizations interested in planting breadfruit trees!

Local leaders are driving rapid growth. Farmers and organizations are planting trees, teaching propagation and reaching thousands through agriculture shows. Many more farmers want in. Training is expanding to meet demand.

Value is now created in-country. We built a hybrid solar dehydrator. Breadfruit flour is beginning to be produced locally, reducing waste and creating income. Entrepreneurs are adding breadfruit to familiar foods.

Programs are evolving into systems. Trees provide food. Food becomes products. Products create income.

This is food sovereignty in action.

TTFF's East Africa leader, Mr. Kamy Musigire (right), spent the year sharing both the agricultural and culinary potential of breadfruit across Uganda. He is shown here at Aid Africa in Gulu teaching a Breadfruit Masterclass.



Many more Ugandan families planted trees on their land, building food security and income for the future. Photo courtesy of His Grace Demo Farm, a key partner, who propagates seedlings, trains farmers, and distributes trees.

Haiti: Expansion



In southern Haiti, years of work have built a strong system. We have planted more than 50,000 food bearing trees. Local partners are producing flour and baked goods at scale. Today, these products help feed schoolchildren through a United Nations-supported program.

Trees That Feed Foundation is now expanding in the north. With support from Buddhist Global Relief, we provide breadfruit konparets (nutritional biscuits) to 14 schools, orphanages and nutrition centers. Children are fed. Bakeries and processors gain steady income.

Next on our agenda is a new nursery to expand local breadfruit tree supply.

From south to north, Haiti is strengthening its food system.



Students at Pinson Community School in the rural, mountainous region of Haut de St. Marc, clearly loved the breadfruit chips made by our longtime partner, Rayjon Share Care. The local Women's Federation (FEFEH) we support together has since created a new breadfruit product called Cris de Femmes.

TTF was proud to support breadfruit celebrations around Leogane, where partner GOALS Haiti is based. Community members learned about (and tasted!) many ways to prepare breadfruit.



Guatemala: A New Beginning



Students at Ak'Tenamit learned how to create meals with fruit growing on their school's campus in the Guatemalan jungle.



In 2025, Trees That Feed Foundation launched its first project in Guatemala with support from the Barrington Rotary Club and local partners Frutas del Mundo and Contour Lines.

Families like Albina's received breadfruit trees that will provide food for generations.

Because our partners geo-tagged the trees with Greenstand's free Treetracker app, we can all view them at <https://map.treetracker.org>.



A 500-tree pilot proved successful. Farmers were trained. Systems worked. With confidence, the project expanded to 1,000 more trees.

Partners are now training farmers, tracking trees, and building a hybrid solar dehydrator to reduce waste and create new products. Communities are learning to cook, process and sell breadfruit.

This is a proven model taking root in a new country. The project is building food, income, and resilience for the future.

The Bahamas: Bearing Fruit



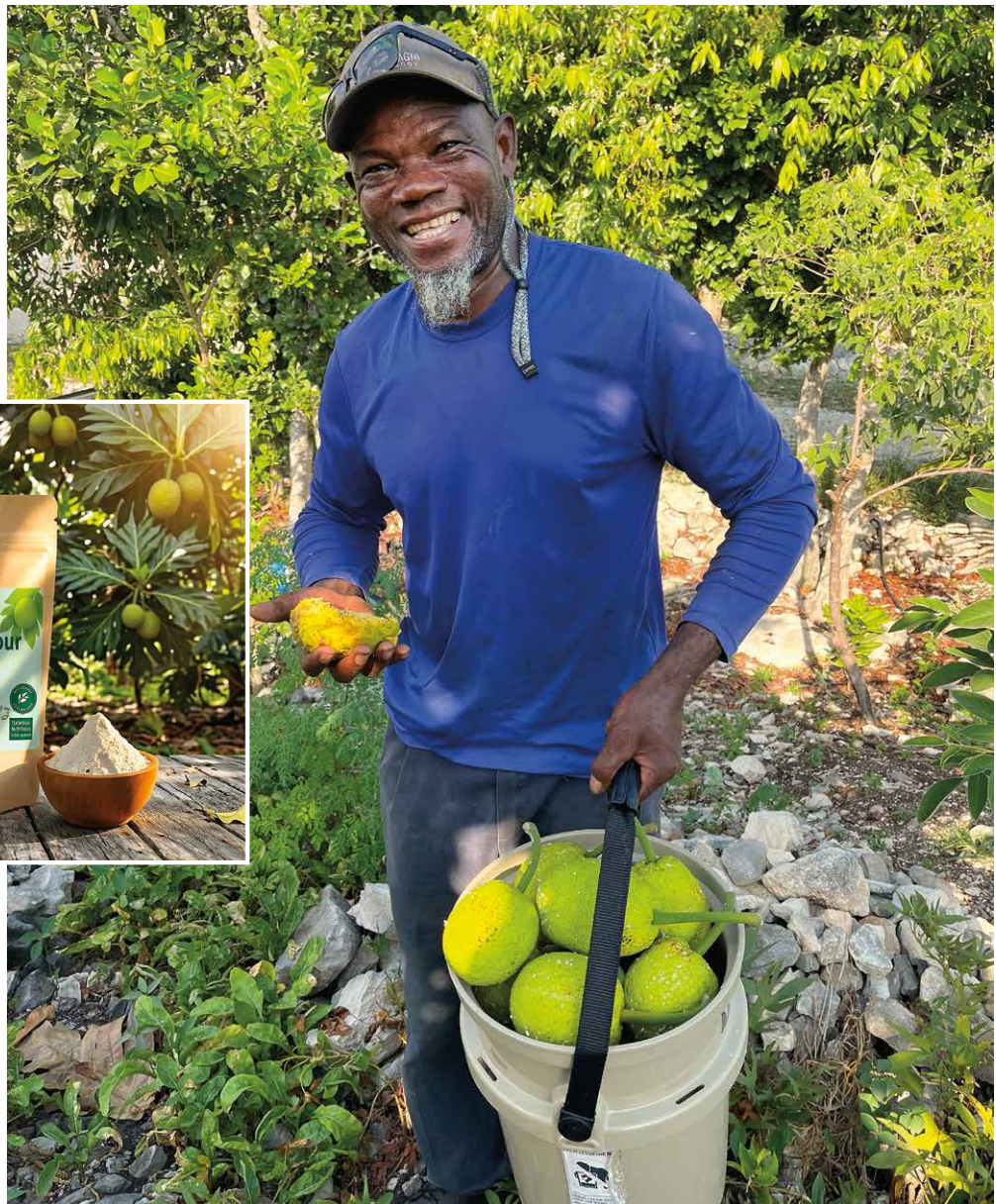
Since 2016, Trees That Feed Foundation has helped plant more than 6,000 breadfruit trees across The Bahamas. Today, they are fruiting. They're feeding families, generating income and strengthening resilience.

After Hurricane Dorian in 2019, breadfruit became an important part of recovery. Farms were rebuilt. Trees are producing again.

Across the islands, impact is growing. Farmers are expanding production. Students are learning agroforestry. Families are turning trees into food and small businesses.

One tree can feed a family for decades. Across The Bahamas, that promise is becoming reality.

Elidieu Joseph harvested Otea breadfruit at The Island School on Eleuthera, where trees support school meals. Students learn agroforestry, soil health, and sustainable farming.



Debbie Burrows turned her backyard food forest in Abaco into a growing business. Now she is producing and selling breadfruit flour, transforming her trees into income and opportunity. This is her bag label (designed by Mary McLaughlin).



United States: A Growing Presence

In Puerto Rico, Mike (right) and Mary McLaughlin visited farms and processing facilities, including Amasar, led by Marisol Villalobos (left). Her breadfruit flour and mixes are sold online and in select U.S. stores.



Early on, as Mary and Mike started up Trees That Feed, a few skeptics asked why we were helping foreign countries. Why not help in the US? Americans need nutritious food too!

Well, here we are. We do work in the US. We're working with scientists, farmers, distributors and food innovators. Awareness of the benefits of breadfruit is spreading, but the trees can only be grown in the warmer states and territories. We visited three of them.

Florida A hub for research and education. TTFE engaged with leaders in climate-resilient agriculture and visited sites advancing breadfruit in tropical and subtropical conditions. Grimal Grove in the Florida Keys is the first breadfruit grove in the continental U.S. and an agroforest with many other fruit trees.

Hawai'i A global center of breadfruit knowledge. TTFE learned best practices in pruning, production, and product development from leading researchers and producers.

Puerto Rico An emerging leader in the breadfruit economy. Partners are expanding tree planting, propagation, and food innovation with strong institutional support.

TTFE also works in the US Virgin Islands and American territories in the Pacific. Our vision is to see breadfruit become a valued part of the diet eventually worldwide.

In Florida, at ECHO's International Agriculture Conference, Natasha Norris (center right) connected with partners and experts to exchange insights on agroforestry and climate-resilient food systems. She is pictured with Guatemala partners Sean Dixon-Sullivan of Contour Lines (left) and Dwight Carter of Frutas del Mundo (right), and Katalina Landaeta of ECHO Central America (center left).



Making Headlines

A selection of standout media coverage from 2025 brought our work to broader audiences and amplified our impact.

BROADCAST



▶ **CBS News Chicago:** Audrina Sinclair interviewed Mary and Mike McLaughlin about Trees That Feed Foundation in a five-minute segment highlighting the resilience of Jamaican farmers and their breadfruit trees after Hurricane Melissa.



▶ **Lisa Dent Show:** Breadfruit trees planted by Trees that Feed Foundation survive Hurricane Melissa and help rebuild communities.

PRINT



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Breadfruit

from Page 1

...cane ever" in the Caribbean country, Mary McLaughlin told the Tribune, "and it hit Jamaica in its breadbasket," the southwestern parish of St. Elizabeth, dubbed after its fertile soil, favorable to many crops that feed the country.

Having planted trees in that area, the foundation expects to have some losses.

"However, we have worked in countries that have had hurricanes and seen recovery, and if the trees have roots in the ground, those trees will recover. And we know we may miss a bearing season, but the following year, they will produce," Mary McLaughlin said.

At the same time, she said, the trees "lock carbon away while feeding people," essentially addressing the root of increasingly destructive weather events.

Jamaicans are now coping with the aftermath of a hurricane so severe it is tied with one from 1935 for the third strongest ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean and most intense to make landfall.

Rita Hilton, who has lived in Jamaica for 60 years, works with the McLaughlins and helps farmers export their crops. She called the hurricane "the most intense, horrific storm" she has experienced. Hilton was airlifted to Kingston, the country's capital, this week after seven days in her isolated, torn-down home.

"If you look at all the breadfruit trees, think about the



Mary and Mike McLaughlin, both originally from Jamaica, sit in front of breadfruit trees in their Winnetka home on Wednesday. Their Trees That Feed Foundation plants breadfruit trees in over 20 countries. After the recent hurricane in Jamaica, many of the trees planted by the organization still stand, demonstrating their resilience. DOMINIC DI PALERMO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ley Henry, conservator of forests and CEO at Jamaica's Forestry Department, with which the foundation has collaborated for years. "And the beauty of breadfruit is, it's a very hardy species. ... If it does get broken or all the leaves get blown off, it doesn't matter."

Because these trees reproduce vegetatively — that is, new plants grow from parts of a parent plant such as roots, stems or leaves — they are resilient to and can even propagate after this kind of storm damage, Henry said.

While breadfruit trees were introduced to the Caribbean by colonizers in 1793, the specific variety they brought is noninvasive

"You can use breadfruit for anything that you can use a potato for. You can boil it, you can roast it, you can fry it, and you can use the sun to dry it, and then it can be ground into flour."

— Mary McLaughlin

University and the Chicago Botanic Garden. "And also when they do break, they grow back. Those are the characteristics that help them do really well in island-type settings."

Zerega, who is a board member at the foundation, studies underutilized tree crops, especially in the

than a banana.

"Some (varieties) tend to have higher this or that than others, but on the whole, they all have a lot of valuable nutrients and minerals and vitamins," said Zerega.

The fruit has a subtle, pleasant flavor that complements a wide variety of dishes, she said. And it can be prepared in many different ways.

"You can use breadfruit for anything that you can use a potato for," Mary McLaughlin said. "You can boil it, you can roast it, you can fry it, and you can use the sun to dry it, and then it can be ground into flour."

Still, there is an immediate need for food, as the second harvest season was just getting underway in Jamaica.

"All the crops are wiped out," Hilton said. "And there's going to be a serious issue with food security in the next six months."

Fallen bread fruit, however, has emerged for locals as a crucial form of subsistence in recent weeks; two Jamaican newspapers wrote about people eating them in a pinch, as the food supply has suffered with roads impassable from the storm damage.

"The breadfruit trees that did come down," Hilton said, "have been a godsend for some of the communities."

As the country recovers, replanting more trees will be crucial to ensuring food security.

In the next few months, a new grant from the foundation will fund the planting of at least 15,000 trees in Jamaica, according to the

"This will increase the resilience of these spaces, particularly in light of the threat — the obvious and current problem of hurricanes in Jamaica."

The couple approached the local government with the idea of also distributing fruit trees, which have the added benefit of offering a bountiful harvest every year without the need to replant a crop.

After moving to the United States for Mike McLaughlin's job as an actuary in 1978, the McLaughlins settled down in the Chicago area a decade later. But their connection to their homeland remained strong, especially in the early 2000s when they began feeling an itch to take action because of the climate crisis and its consequences for island nations such as Jamaica. And so Trees That Feed was founded.

The way the partnership works in Jamaica, the foundation gives the Forestry Department grants to buy cuttings from the country's plant nurseries, which the government then distributes among small farmers at no cost.

"We do get our hands dirty, but as two little people can't plant half a million trees," Mike McLaughlin said, "we work with farmers. They really know what they're doing."

"So we don't go in and impose," his wife added.

The farmers want a sense of ownership over the trees, she said, which carries on to the small businesses that can grow from selling the fruit.

The program facilitates food security and income

FOOD & WINE

▶ **Why Breadfruit is the Superfood You're Missing Out on — and How to Use It**



▶ **TREE-MENDOUS, a profile on Mary McLaughlin**



▶ **Northern Caribbean University Aids Fruit Tree Replanting Post-Melissa**



▶ **This Single Tree Can Fight Hunger, Poverty, and Climate Change — All at Once**

Chicago Tribune's feature story on Mary and Mike McLaughlin and Trees That Feed Foundation appeared on the front page!

Dateline 2025

Watch a video by Peace Corps volunteer Andy Zehner and hear what breadfruit means to Jamaican smallholder farmers.



Just a partial list of TTFF activities and accomplishments for the year:

January

- Presented breadfruit workshops in Uganda and visited partners in person, witnessing significant program growth
- Debuted our first virtual global Breadfruit Masterclass, featuring Andrina Valcent of Andrina's Agro-Farm in St. Lucia

February

- Launched pilot project in Guatemala with first 500 breadfruit trees
- Partnered with University of Illinois Students Consulting for Nonprofit Organizations
- Sponsored buffet of diverse breadfruit dishes for GOALS Haiti breadfruit festival

March

- Purchased 7,450 breadfruit trees propagated by McLean Nursery in Jamaica for distribution by the Forestry Department throughout the year
- Celebrated Amasar brand in Puerto Rico for being awarded Best New Protein Pancake at Natural Products Expo

April

- Planted 400 breadfruit trees in Haiti thanks to Earth Month donors, "Tree Parents"
- Shared our mission with the Our Lady of Africa parish on the south side of Chicago and North Shore Senior Center in the northern suburbs

May

- Partnered with Uganda Conservation Foundation to plant 1,000 fruit trees in national parks and wildlife preserves
- Convened a Board of Directors meeting

June

- Strengthened Peace Corps partnership in Jamaica with tree planting and youth education projects
- Planted 500 breadfruit trees in Honduras with Support Roatan to expand breadfruit agroforestry and economic opportunity

July

- Celebrated Ulu Foods brand in Barbados for winning International Recognition at the 2025 Free From Food Awards
- Showcased breadfruit cultivation and flour processing expertise in Uganda for Aid Africa visitors thanks to TTFF East Africa leader Kamya Musigire
- Marked one decade of partnership with Smallholder Farmers Alliance in Haiti

August

- Produced the first abundant harvest from breadfruit trees planted in 2022 for farmers in The Bahamas
- Presented breadfruit as a climate-smart food security solution at national agricultural conferences in Uganda

September

- Donated breadfruit trees to Northwestern University's Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences, now displayed in the atrium
- Hosted second virtual global Breadfruit Masterclass, featuring Jamaican Javion Blake of Jus Chill
- Introduced breadfruit at Winnetka Farmers Market
- Collaborated with gluten-free influencers to educate consumers about breadfruit flour for Celiac Disease Awareness Day
- Provided factory equipment to Jamaican woman for agribusiness, thanks to TTFF Board Member Nicola Barrett, who couriered it

October

- Delivered grafting training on Saba through TTFF Board Member Dr. Ken Banks
- Engaged new corporate sponsor Microbial Discovery Group in Milwaukee
- Shared our mission with Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston, IL
- Supported Jamaican entrepreneur as she baked breadfruit goods for neighbors after the strongest hurricane on record (Melissa) struck Jamaica

November

- Recognized by Dr. Diane Ragone of National Tropical Botanical Garden's Breadfruit Institute, during her acceptance of the David Fairchild Medal for Plant Exploration
- Advanced knowledge and partnerships at the ECHO International Agriculture Conference in Florida and the first breadfruit groves in the continental U.S.
- Conducted a Board of Directors meeting

December

- Secured 1,000 assorted fruit trees from new nursery partner Jacqueline Morgan to launch hurricane recovery planting in Jamaica
- Planted 100 breadfruit trees with Firma Capital's Proyecto Mazapán Honduras
- Visited Puerto Rican breadfruit farms and factories and shared their proven agribusiness strategies with breadfruit entrepreneurs worldwide

EVERY MONTH

- Delivered more than 11,000 breadfruit-based meals to schools and orphanages in Jamaica and Haiti
- Trained more than 100 adults in various countries on tree care and tracking, flour processing, food preparation, and more



2025 Donors

\$5,000+

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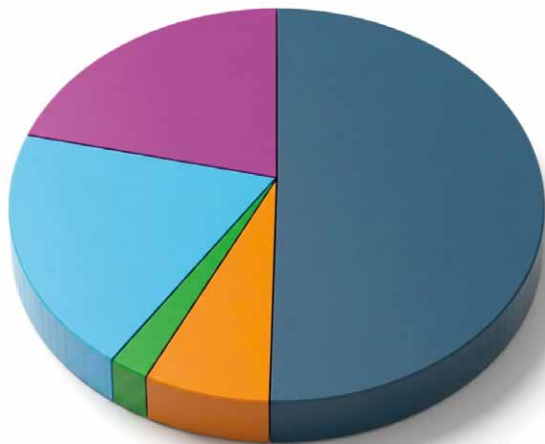
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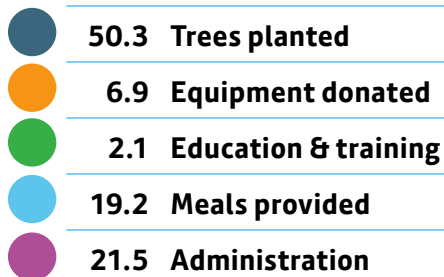
*Recurring monthly donations

Financial Summary

In addition to the numbers and technical notes, this time around we explain a bit how we manage the funds generously entrusted to us.



% Share of Each Dollar Spent



100.0 Total

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Contributions	442,934	367,669
Trees Planted	(175,202)	(181,232)
Equipment	(23,921)	(40,207)
Education and Training	(7,488)	(18,021)
Food Supplied	(66,805)	(83,728)
Administrative Expense	(75,023)	(67,334)
Total Expenses	(348,438)	(390,521)
Surplus (Deficit)	94,495	(22,852)
Expense Ratio	16.9%	18.3%
Net Assets	700,641	606,146



Financials

Notes:

1. Audited financials.
2. Contributions grew 20 percent year over year in part due to hurricane disaster support.
3. Administration as a percent of contributions.
4. Our policy is to hold net assets equal to approximately one year of contributions as a reserve against economic fluctuations. We anticipate deficits in some years.

Trees That Feed Foundation was incorporated in 2008 under the laws of the State of Illinois. Approval for tax exempt status from the US government was obtained retroactively. TTFF is regulated by both state and federal governments as a public charity.

In 2025, we received a clean CPA audit opinion on our 2024 accounting. We also were audited by the IRS and received a clean "no change in status" report.

Mary and Mike McLaughlin, co-founders, have roles as board members and officers of the organization. Mary is chair of the board and President. As Treasurer Mike McLaughlin owns responsibility for the preparation and presentation of financial statements.

TTFF uses Quickbooks, an industry standard software package, to track all funds received or disbursed for any purpose. Controls are in place such that different staff approve expenses, enter accounting records and reconcile accounts on a monthly basis.

With Gratitude for Your Support

Board Transitions



Welcome, Joanna Walczak

Joanna Walczak joins the TTFF Board with an environmental passion and perspective connecting forests, food systems, and coastal ecosystems. A marine biologist and conservation leader, she brings scientific insight and operational expertise to advance our mission.

Thank You, Gabriel Osson

We thank Gabriel Osson for his service on the TTFF Board. He brought deep experience in governance, strategy, and organizational development, along with a strong commitment to Haiti. We are grateful for his contributions.



Make a Gift



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Every gift creates impact. You help us plant trees, feed families and build livelihoods that last for generations. Because of you, we can go farther and do more.

Monthly donors give us stability. Honor and memorial gifts connect this work to the people you care about. Each contribution carries meaning, and we are deeply grateful.

Trees That Feed Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing. Donations are typically tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

If you are 70½ or older, ask your advisor about making a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA.

Your Impact in Action

- ▶ A breadfruit tree that feeds a family for decades **\$15**
- ▶ A hands-on workshop for farmers and cooks **\$150**
- ▶ Educational activity books for 100 students **\$180**
- ▶ Nutritious meals for 3,000 people using breadfruit flour **\$300**
- ▶ A hybrid solar dehydrator that creates income and reduces waste **\$2,500**

We steward every dollar with care. We keep overhead low so more goes directly to impact.

Thank you for making this work possible.





Trees That Feed Foundation

Planting Fruit Trees to Feed People, Create Jobs and Benefit the Environment

1200 Hill Road, Winnetka, IL 60093 / www.treesthatfeed.org / info@treesthatfeed.org

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