



Legacy Farms KOVAR Report

In August 2024, Legacy Farms received a \$20,000 grant from KOVAR to support our garden expansion at Temple Hall Farm. Legacy Farms offers vocational opportunities to neurodivergent individuals who work in our gardens, create products, and deliver over 3,000 assembled floral arrangements, herbal products, and wholesale flowers to market per year. We are experiencing significant growth in demand for our vocational program and products.

The main garden has always been located at Temple Hall. But floral design, product development, and supplemental annual filler flower gardening took place off-site in donated facilities, preventing the majority of apprentices and staff at our main garden from seeing the full product cycle and learning certain skill-sets. To centralize operations and provide more comprehensive vocational experiences, we applied for a grant from KOVAR to expand at Temple Hall Farm. By consolidating operations into a single location while also expanding our garden size, this grant allowed us to create a more cohesive and immersive environment for our apprentices. As of January 2025, these improvements allow all operations to be performed at Temple Hall Farm, where every apprentice and staff member can participate to expand their skill-sets.

A total of \$20,817.60 was expended on this project, including \$20,000 in grant funds identified in the proposal. (Receipts are attached.) Funds were expended in the following grant budget areas to meet these goals:

Walk-in Cooler: \$10,529

The largest purchase made with grant funds was an 8x12 walk-in cooler for storing floral product. The on-site cooler and production facilities described below create a more efficient use of time and space, ensuring all apprentices can participate in the floral production process. We chose a larger cooler size based on product flow, and off-set initially projected costs with donation of labor and materials for support structures by Temple Hall.

Production Facilities Renovation & Equipment: \$1,987.86

KOVAR funds supported renovation of an existing structure to serve as a floral production facility sited next to the Walk-in Cooler. Shelving units, equipment and tools were purchased for garden-to-bouquet production. A wheelbarrow and rechargeable weedeater were included in this category based on receipts attached. The new "Bouquet Barn" received flooring in addition to new paint. Temple Hall Farm staff donated flooring installation services. This covered certain line items costs, and allowed funds to be allocated to a more extensive irrigation system as part of the garden expansion.

Garden Expansion and Irrigation: \$8,300.74

This major initiative nearly doubled the existing garden space, allowing us to relocate all annual flowers to the centralized garden and provide increased space for more vocational activity. It included professional installation of an in-ground irrigation with automated electronic controls that will save labor and water. Funds also covered a new garden tiller, installation of line and weedblock for new beds and a peony garden, frost blocking, low tunnels, and other related equipment.

Legacy Farms is deeply grateful for KOVAR's support, and excited to invite you to the garden for a tour of the newly expanded facilities by our apprentices!

Sincerely,

Laurie Young

Executive Director