

KELLY NEWBERG & CAROLYN STALEY

HILLCREST FARMERS MARKET



PULASKI HEIGHTS
BAPTIST CHURCH

making a difference

Your names:

Kelly Newberg and Carolyn Staley; Other volunteers are Joni Lee, Becky Cornett, Melissa Moody, and Beth Nutt. Several other church members help regularly as well.

Your occupation:

Kelly Newberg (HR Director); Carolyn Staley (Pastor); Melissa Moody (Attorney, Lobbyist).

What organization are you involved with?

Hillcrest Farmers Market, a community service of Pulaski Heights Baptist Church. The market is for food growers and producers, and everything sold is made or grown by the person

who sells it. Nothing is bought elsewhere and brought in to sell.

How long have you been involved with this organization?

The market planning process started in 2010 and we opened in the Spring of 2011.

How are you involved with this philanthropy?

Kelly is the volunteer market manager and Carolyn does the communications for the market.

Why would you encourage others to get involved with this community event?

Hillcrest Farmers Market welcomes shoppers from all over the community and state, and visitors from around the country. Vendors are also welcomed, and while we have a waiting list, we do our best to give an opportunity to most who apply to sell at the market. In addition to shopping for fresh, local foods, it is a great opportunity to see and meet neighbors.

Why did the church decide to do this particular project?

The Pulaski Heights Baptist Church Ministry and Missions team conceived of the idea for the market as a way to get to know our community and neighbors. We saw them on our sidewalk,



Kelly and Melissa



Beth at the kid's table

walking, biking, and jogging past the church, and we hoped the market would give us an opportunity to be outside and to get to know folks.

We initially thought of a community garden but realized we didn't have adequate space for that project. Then the idea of a farmers' market was discussed and we believed this would be a good fit for us. It also promotes the faith principles of care for God's creation, for healthy lifestyles and diet, and for providing access to locally grown produce and foods to our neighbors. It also provides an opportunity for our vendors to sell their goods.

How does this philanthropy bring joy to you?

Hillcrest Farmers Market brings joy and satisfaction to me and to our volunteers as we have the opportunity to meet the shoppers, let them know about our church's activities and upcoming special events and services, and interact with the vendors who bring food to sell. The market brings the church community outside to the Hillcrest neighborhood and allows us to meet our community and get better acquainted. We've had special projects to collect books, coats, and nonperishable foods for those in need, and our market shoppers have been quick to support these and help make them a success. We have also been very fortunate to see several vendors go on to establish brick and mortar locations: Loblolly Creamery, Mylo Coffee, Southern Gourmasian among others. During the past ten years, we have hosted more than 150 unique vendors and regularly host 25-30 vendors on a regular summer Saturday.

Do you have an event coming up that we can let residents know about?

Hillcrest Farmers Market is open year-round on Saturday mornings. We have adjusted our summer hours during COVID to 7am-11am (May-September). Our winter hours are generally 8am-noon (October-April). During our summer market, we also host a weekly free children's craft coordinated by Beth Nutt, a member of our Children's Ministry team. We welcome all to come to enjoy the market and shop!



Do you have a favorite 501 charity that you would like to highlight in an upcoming issue? Email karen.ryall@n2pub.com.

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