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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Food Hub to Hold 2014 Community Food Awards & Fifth Birthday Celebration

*Nonprofit to honor farmers, businesses, and institutions
for their commitment to farm sourced food*

Charlottesville, VA, Nov. 18, 2014 – Local Food Hub will celebrate its fifth birthday during its community-wide ceremony of the 2014 Community Food Awards on Thursday, November 20. The Community Food Awards is an annual event to recognize farmers and community partners for their commitment to local food, healthy communities, and Virginia agriculture.

“The Community Food Awards is a special opportunity to highlight farmers, businesses, and institutions for their commitment to making access to local food the norm, not the exception, for all segments of the community,” said Kristen Suokko, Executive Director of Local Food Hub. “We are honored to be celebrating our fifth year among our friends, family, and those who have provided crucial support to Local Food Hub’s efforts to provide access to healthy, farm sourced food for everyone.”

The ceremony will take place at Local Food Hub’s warehouse at 566 Dettor Road, Ivy, VA. The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, with awards at 5:30 followed by a community meal and bonfire with s’mores. This event is free, family-friendly and open to all.

Ten awards will be announced:

Partner Producer of the Year, Fruit and Vegetable (two distinct awards), honors Local Food Hub partner producers and farming families who excel at consistently and reliably delivering local produce packed in accordance with the highest standards.

Pioneer in the Field, recognizes a Virginia farmer who has demonstrated innovation in food system development through their work with Local Food Hub.

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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.

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.

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

Small Business, Big Impact, honors a small business that effectively and creatively incorporates locally grown food into their inventory or product offerings.

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.

Community Partner, recognizes a community organization that demonstrates a commitment to partnering with Local Food Hub on increasing education about and access to local food.

Innovation in Agriculture, a cash award provided by Bundoran Farm by Natural Retreats, recognizes a small-scale family farmer who has demonstrated creativity and innovation in order to grow or expand their farm business.

A special thanks to the community sponsors that enable this ceremony to be held, including Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, Crutchfield, Nest Realty, Oakencroft Farm, Payne Ross and Associates, University of Virginia Community Credit Union, and Whole Foods Market Charlottesville.

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Local Food Hub is a nonprofit organization that provides access to nutritious, locally farm sourced food for everyone. It offers a smarter, healthier alternative to the traditional agribusiness models by reinstating small farms as the food source for the community. It forges close relationships with over 70 small family farms and provides essential services that lead to the direct distribution of fresh, high-quality food to institutions, retailers,

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restaurants, and schools. It creates community partnerships that promote knowledge of and access to local food where it is needed most, such as at hospitals, nursing homes, food banks, and schools. For more information, please visit www.localfoodhub.org or contact (434) 244-0625. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @localfoodhub.

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