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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Campti Field of Dreams Receives Conservation Innovation Grant to Support 20 Small Farmers in Louisiana

EROS, Louisiana (February 9, 2022) – Campti Field of Dreams is pleased to announce that they have been awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant for its proposal, No-Till Organic Market Gardeners: Restoring Soil Health and Rebuilding Local Food Systems, from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The three-year award of \$1,080,676 will assist 20 participants to implement conservation practices on private lands.

Since 2014, Campti Field of Dreams has partnered with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide outreach and education about financial and technical assistance programs available to those in rural Louisiana. That partnership has expanded over the years to include Back to Your Roots, an annual sustainable agriculture conference attracting over 200 participants and Sustainable Agriculture Farmer Education classes with over 20 participants. This award furthers our work with farmers in Louisiana.

The goal of this project is to show that No-Till Organic Market Gardens (No-Till OMG) build soil health, increases climate resilience, improves the economic well-being of the producer, and can be scaled to support a diversified food system.

Tillage and synthetic chemical applications destroy soil health. Further, the loss of soil resilience, biodiversity, and naturally functioning ecosystems resulting from decreased soil health makes farming increasingly vulnerable to climate change. This vulnerability makes crop and ecosystem loss a true threat and reduces the ability of future generations to feed themselves.

To help ensure that future generations can feed themselves, No-Till OMG will combine virtual training, a market garden fertility toolkit, financial incentives, and peer-to-peer mentoring with performance-based results over three years to shift the mindset of participants, creating viable organic agricultural producers that do not till. Through a combination of proven soil conservation practices; deep mulch, compost, vermicompost, compost tea, biochar, and micro-irrigation, participants will learn to grow food without tillage. This will improve soil health, crop yield, the farm business, and the local community.

Campti Field of Dreams is partnering with the following non-profit organizations: Social Springs Baptist Church, Louisiana Urban Gardening Initiative, and Ross Lynn Charitable Foundation/Lincoln Prep School to set up demonstration farms in low-income communities in Jackson, Red River, Caddo, and Lincoln Parishes. For more information on applying to participate in No-Till OMG, please visit www.camptifieldofdreams.net.

About Campti Field of Dreams, Inc.

Campti Field of Dreams, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in underserved communities through cultural heritage, green rehabilitation, local food production, and sustainable entrepreneurship initiatives. For more information, contact: Donna Isaacs, 318-521-4998, donna@camptifieldofdreams.org.

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