FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ashley Messier, 804-771-5303

**Google Funds Mobile Hope’s Sustainable Agriculture Project at JK Community Farm**

 *Enables Neighborhood Distribution of Organic Produce to*

*Food-Insecure Youth and their Families*

**LEESBURG, Va**. (July 1, 2021). [Mobile Hope](http://www.mobile-hope.org/), a non-profit organization serving homeless and at-risk youth up to age 24, has partnered with [JK Community Farm](https://www.jkcommunityfarm.org/) and received support from [Google](http://google.com/) to plant, cultivate, harvest and deliver fresh fruits and vegetables into neighborhoods affected by poverty, food insecurity and transportation barriers.

The funding from Google will enable sustainable growth of organic and chemical-freebeets, radishes, kale, carrots and spinach in bio-intensive raised beds to be distributed to youth and their families through *Listen for the Honk.* Raised beds allow for increased yields of organic produce, more varieties, an extended growing season and bio-intensive produce as it reduces competition for nutrients and creates efficient irrigation.

Mobile Hope launched neighborhood delivery of free food and vital supplies to families in need in 2012, and has heightened services in response to COVID-19 through the bus outreach program *Listen for the Honk*. Since March 2020, Mobile Hope has distributed more than 11 million pounds of food to more than 200,000 family members in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. The bus enters neighborhoods with the sound of the horn, letting families know it has arrived with food and vital supplies, including diapers, hygiene items, school supplies and clothing. The bus schedule can be found [here](https://mobile-hope.org/listen-for-the-honk).

Google is committed to helping fight hunger and this week launched a new site called “[Find Food Support](https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/public-policy/connecting-people-to-food-support/),” a new resource hub that will help people find food support in one place. The [site](https://findfoodsupport.withgoogle.com/) features an interactive Google Maps locator tool that people can use to find their nearest food bank, food pantry or school lunch program pickup site, as well as resources to help people find food support, such as state-by-state benefit information, hotlines and resources for specific communities like seniors and kids.

“Providing healthy, fresh food to children and families is extremely important,” said Laurel Brown, Head of Community Development US-East for Google. “Mobile Hope does a tremendous job in the community and we are delighted to support their Sustainable Agriculture Project.”

“We are humbled by this generous gift from Google, and honored to continue our partnership with JK Community Farm. The proximity of the farm has allowed us to distribute nutrient-intensive vegetables directly into neighborhoods to at-risk youth and their families within 24 hours of harvest.”

“The JK Community Farm is committed to combating hunger with healthy food. Mobile Hope is helping us reach more youth facing food insecurity,” explained Samantha Kuhn, Executive Director of JK Community Farm.  “This year, our target is to grow and distribute 230,000 pounds of healthy food, and our partnership with Mobile Hope and Google is important in helping us achieve this goal.”

**About Mobile Hope**

Mobile Hope, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, empowers at-risk, homeless and precariously-housed youth to become self-sufficient and improve well-being. Since 2011, Mobile Hope has provided access to daily essentials and extensive case management at its Leesburg headquarters and through bus outreach.

In 2020, Mobile Hope served 373 youth up to age 24 in the Crisis Care Program, 169 of which were literally homeless. For these young adults, Mobile Hope offers: emergency shelter, essential support items such as clothing, coats, shoes, hygiene items; donated cars and help with transportation; financial assistance; extensive case management; job skills training and life skills training—such as cooking, grocery shopping and money management. Since March 2020, more than 200,000 family members have been served through the bus outreach program, “Listen for the Honk”.

**About Google in Virginia**

With two data centers in Loudoun County and a growing office in Reston, Google has 420+ employees across the Commonwealth working in critical functions such as Google Cloud and the infrastructure that makes Google services like Search fast and reliable for users around the world. Google strives to be a great neighbor in the local community, and since 2009, has donated more than $25 million to Virginia nonprofits. In 2020, Google helped provide $5.98 billion of economic activity for VA businesses, website publishers, and nonprofits.

###