Produce from UDC’s farm donated to NBC’s ‘Food 4 Families’ Campaign

December 5, 2013, Washington, D.C. - In celebration of Thanksgiving, the College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia donated freshly grown produce to NBC Washington’s ‘Food 4 Families,’ a campaign with the goal of feeding people during the Thanksgiving holiday season.

CAUSES donated kale, collards, spinach and other nutritious vegetables grown at the UDC Research Farm located in Beltsville, Maryland. The greens were harvested by several volunteers, who helped to harvest the produce the morning before the donation.

On Monday, Nov. 25, more than 100 pounds of freshly picked kale and collards were transported from Muirkirk farm to the Verizon Center, where Urban Agriculture Director, Che' Axum, and CAUSES Associate Dean of Programs, William Hare, were interviewed on live television by NBC Washington's Pat Lawson Muse, during NBC 4's food-a-thon. Che and his crew then delivered the vegetables to the Boys and Girls Clubs on Benning Road in Southeast, D.C., a food insecure region in D.C. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as an area where “consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at times during the year.”

Food donation campaigns usually receive canned, processed and pre-packaged goods that go a long way toward helping those in need but are lacking in nutrition. Kale is loaded with vitamins as well as calcium, iron and antioxidants and is good for eyesight.

Additional behind the scene photos are available on the CAUSES Facebook page. For more information on CAUSES, visit www.udc.edu/causes.

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