And the Sun Shined on the 2022 Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade!

By: Alice Settle-Raskin



The 2022 Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade was a resounding success! From the glorious sunshine gifted by Mother Nature and the thousands of faces beaming with anticipation, the spirit of the season was definitely alive in the historic town of Lisbon, Maryland!

The parade brought out the community, families, friends, and neighbors from nearby towns and big cities! The size of the crowd lining the route was often 10 to 12 people deep! You see, they came to shop at the nearby Santa's Village and get a "reindeer ride", they came to see tractors, they came to see the horses, they came to see the hounds and, they came to feed the hungry!

They were all there in the historic town of Lisbon, Maryland on Saturday, December 10th to celebrate the annual Lisbon Christmas Parade that has been feeding the hungry since 2011.



The Parade

In keeping with the spirit of the season, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus led the tractor parade on their red Farmall, then leading with their BIG GREEN John Deere with the cherished farm-dog riding atop the fender, was the Carroll County Farm Bureau. They proudly displayed their banner, Carroll County Farm Bureau, the Voice of Agriculture. Not far behind was Howard County Farm

Bureau's BIG GREEN pulling the wagon with the Little Miss Farm Bureau and youth ambassadors. Whether the tractors were painted with the season's traditional Red or Green, or any other color of the rainbow – Blue New Hollands and Fords, Orange Kubotas and Allis-Chalmers, and others! The tractors pulling wagons were fully loaded, filled with festive smiles. Not to be forgotten, mixed in were antique farm trucks, antique cars, and fire trucks!



The Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds, plus the Goshen Hounds from nearby Montgomery County brought their lively yelps and made patrons smile! With their noses to the ground, following the scents, to calls of the hunting horn, the hounds from both groups are definitely an annual hit!



Over a hundred seasonally-adorned horses – driven, under saddle, and led by side-walkers – made their way down the parade route! From draft horses, to saddle horses, to ponies and minis, groups such as the Saddle Gals and Guys Drill Team with their flags flowing high, Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue, Days End Farm Horse Rescue, and fun riding groups: Huzzies on Hooves.



Feeding The Hungry

Thanks to you – our amazing community sponsors, and tractor and equine participants, the parade has raised over \$27,000! Our beneficiaries – Howard County Food Bank, Carroll County Food Sunday, Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, and the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company will be presented checks at the Annual Howard County Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner held on April 20th.

In addition, over 3,400 pounds of nonperishable canned foods was collected and donated to feed the local food banks in Howard and Carroll Counties! Thank you to all those who participated in the food drives this parade season!

Since the parade's inception in 2011, over \$177,000 has been raised to feed the hungry! With the generous support of the community, in 2023 the Parade hopes to raise well over \$30,000, bringing that total to over \$200,000!

What's to Come in 2023?

Mark your calendars! The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade presented by the Howard County Farm Bureau is scheduled to kick off on Saturday, December 9th, 2023. The Town of Lisbon, Maryland, will be abuzz with activity including Day's End Farm Horse Rescue's Santa Village. Stay tuned and learn more by visiting: www. **LisbonChristmasParade.org.**



<u>The Great Lisbon FARMERS FEED THE HUNGRY Christmas Parade</u> presented by <u>The Howard County Farm Bureau</u>, benefits <u>The Howard County Food Bank</u>, <u>Carroll County Food Sunday</u>, <u>Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry</u>, and <u>Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company</u>. Since its inception in 2011, the parade has raised more than \$177,000 to date for the parade's beneficiaries and collected many thousands of pounds of nonperishable canned food donated to our local food banks in Howard and Carroll counties.