



FROM SEEDS TO SUCCESS

Flagel Huber Flagel and Produce Perks Path to Nonprofit Success



BACKGROUND

In 2017, Flagel Huber Flagel was approached by Produce Perks Midwest to bring their concept of increasing affordable access to fresh fruits and vegetables to all, regardless of financial ability, a reality. Produce Perks secured financial funding and wanted to ensure they took all the right steps to set up a successful nonprofit so they could make a difference in communities throughout Ohio. Providing a dollar-for-dollar match for SNAP/EBT costumers to purchase fresh, healthy produce, Produce Perks works to address food insecurity, strengthen local food systems and improve health outcomes by providing highly nutritious food to all.

SOLUTION

Tevis Foreman, Executive Director of Produce Perks Midwest, approached Flagel Huber Flagel looking for guidance on federal funding. Produce Perks knew they would be receiving funding and wanted to make sure their 501c3 was compliant with the applicable guidelines. As a new nonprofit with limited accounting knowledge as well as a very limited capacity to hire staff, they needed expert assistance. FHF Partner, Chris McCaskey, stepped in ready to share his expertise and knowledge in the nonprofit area.

The relationship began with filing tax returns but after two years, the work evolved into a financial statement review and eventually into a federal compliance audit. "Chris and Katie Pavy from Flagel were instrumental in helping Produce Perks think outside the box and provided tremendous feedback and assistance. They helped us manage millions of dollars throughout the year, along with over 100 vendor payments that needed to be tracked," states Foreman. To remain independent, FHF helped Produce Perks find the right third-party CPA who specializes in working with nonprofits to assist with the accounting processes and procedures.

RESULTS

While many non-profits fail because of poor financial oversight, Produce Perks has been successful in improving lives throughout the region for over seven years and continues to do so. Allowing FHF to handle the ever-changing and complicated financial and accounting details, Produce Perks has remained compliant and efficient in managing their funds and operations so they can focus on their mission of addressing food insecurity and improving health outcomes in Ohio. McCaskey states, "It was a great opportunity to help Produce Perks from the beginning – walking alongside them, helping them navigate early growing pains, and ensuring they were set up for long-term success. We are honored to be part of their journey and watch them grow into a thriving nonprofit making a significant difference in the Ohio community."

AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Startup of a Non-profit
- Navigating federal funding regulations
- Ensuring compliance as a 501c3 nonprofit
- Managing limited accounting skills and staffing



CHRIS MCCASKEY

Partner

"Being a part of Produce Perks journey from start to current day is a very rewarding experience."

