

GROW PITTSBURGH 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Supporters,

We are pleased to present you with Grow Pittsburgh's third annual report. The last year was marked by significant and exciting changes at our organization that will no doubt have far reaching effects on the urban agriculture community as a whole.

By the numbers, it was a great year for us. We started four new community gardens in partnership with local residents, bringing the grand total since the program's inception in 2010 to 16. We also hosted 28 free workshops in conjunction with that program over the course of the season. Our Edible Schoolyard program launched an Affiliate Program in response to increasing demand for school garden programming, and welcomed four new schools for our pilot year.

On the production side, our team was hard at work obliterating our numbers for both pounds of food grown and sales of produce, in particular to local community members in Braddock and Homewood, where our sites are based. We saw a 30 percent increase in revenue from farm stands at Braddock Farms and the Shiloh Farm and Frick Greenhouse. In total, we grew nearly 6 tons of produce in 2013—an increase of over 2 tons of food from last year.

This success couldn't have happened without assistance from interns and apprentices in Grow Pittsburgh's Urban Farmer in Training and Urban Farm Apprentice Programs, which in total graduated 12 budding growers in 2013.

Internally, at the beginning of the year we adopted an ambitious, three-year strategic plan that was the result of a full year of work surveying our stakeholders, interviewing key partners, and brainstorming amongst staff and board about the path forward for Grow Pittsburgh.

We rewrote our mission statement – to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits gardens bring to our neighborhoods – in a nod to simplicity and also to reflect that in the end, Grow Pittsburgh is firstly about people, and connecting people to food through community.

As we work in 2014 to achieve the goals in our strategic plan, you'll see us focusing on ensuring local growers have access to the resources and knowledge they need to be successful; advocating for grower needs at all levels of government, and ensuring that all people in the region, regardless of age or background, have an opportunity to connect to Grow Pittsburgh and its programs.

There's much more to report on the pages that follow. We hope you'll take a look. As always, thank YOU for your support of Grow Pittsburgh. We could not do this without you!

Warmly,

Julie Butcher Pezzino, Executive Director

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Claudia Saladin, Chair, Board of Directors and the entire staff and board at Grow Pittsburgh



ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

WE TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO GROW FOOD:

- 1,943 STUDENTS WERE TAUGHT
 FOOD-BASED LESSONS and spent
 488 hours in the garden and classroom through the Edible Schoolyard
 Pittsburgh Flagship program
- LAUNCHED A "TRAIN THE TRAINER" MODEL EDIBLE SCHOOLYARD PITTSBURGH AFFILIATE PROGRAM and began working with 4 schools:

Propel Homestead, Pittsburgh Miller, Carnegie Elementary School and Clairton Middle School

- EMPLOYED 8 YOUTH FOR 6 WEEKS THROUGH THE URBAN FARMERS IN TRAINING (UFIT) summer internship program at Braddock Farms— youth worked 191 hours learning about the local food system and urban farming
- 9 RESTAURANTS AND 13 CHEFS VOLUNTEERED 98 hours to the Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh Flagship program and reached over 800 students
- WORKED WITH 6 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH in the Homewood-based Bridge to College Program for 5 weeks planting and maintaining Homewood garden beds
- HELD 13 SKILLSHARE WORKSHOPS
 WITH 221 PARTICIPANTS
- **4 APPRENTICES WORKED 2,816 HOURS** with Braddock Farms, Shiloh and Frick Greenhouse Managers learning about urban farming
- PILOTED A SHELTER-BASED FAMILY GARDENING WORKSHOP with Homeless Children's Education fund that reached 50 children and 30 parents
- 142 PEOPLE DONATED 331 VOLUNTEER HOURS to the Edible Schoolyard

WE GROW FOOD:

• HOSTED 6 SCHOOLS TO COMMUNITY FOOD EVENTS at the Flagship Edible Schoolyard schools and shared schoolgrown produce with over 325 families

 DELIVERED 84 POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO 8 FAMILIES over 9 weeks in a pilot CSA with the Homewood Children's Village

• DELIVERED 181 POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO 10 SENIORS over 14 weeks in a pilot Braddock Senior CSA

• **TOP 3 VEGETABLES SOLD** at Shiloh farm stand: red tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, and kale

• **TOP 3 VEGETABLES SOLD** at Braddock farm stand: red tomatoes, collard greens, and kale

• 8,391 ORGANIC EDIBLE SEEDLINGS SOLD

 1,050 ORGANIC EDIBLE SEEDLINGS DONATED to community gardens

• 1,604 POUNDS OF PRODUCE DONATED

5.9 TONS OF FOOD GROWN at Braddock Farms, Shiloh Farm and Frick Greenhouse— an increase of over 2 tons of food from last year

• 6,438 POUNDS OF FOOD SOLD TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

4,230 POUNDS OF FOOD SOLD TO RESTAURANTS

• **42% INCREASE** in earned revenue from produce sold

• 30% INCREASE in farm stand revenue

224 PEOPLE DONATED 637 HOURS to Braddock Farms, Shiloh Farm and the Frick Greenhouse

WE BUILD AND SUPPORT GARDENS:

- PARTNERED WITH GREATER PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK to distribute 3,025 seedlings to 1,350 people at 3 of their Plant to People events
- **4 NEW COMMUNITY GARDENS** were started for a total of 16 community gardens since the inception of the City Growers program
- 28 GARDEN WORKSHOPS were facilitated at the City Growers community gardens
- 5.3 TONS OF FRESH FOOD were grown by 9 community gardens in our City Growers program
- **PARTNERED WITH GTECH STRATEGIES** to host a Bike & Bus Tour of area gardens and reclaimed lots with 18 gardens and farms participating
- **53 GARDEN EVENTS** were hosted by 9 community gardens in our City Growers program
- EXPANDED COMMUNITY GROWING SPACE BY 5,124 SQ. FT., including 34 raised beds and 38 in-ground beds
- PILOTED A COMMUNITY GARDEN SUSTAINABILITY EVALUATION TOOL with 26 community gardens and farms. The series of questions measures a garden's sustainability based on 8 categories such as leadarship and zero waste

• **CONVENED OVER 80 LEADERS** from non profits and city government for the Urban Agriculture Policy Symposium to discuss key urban food issues in Pittsburgh.

• **424 PEOPLE DONATED 1,654 HOURS** to our community garden program

"Grow Pittsburgh's approach helps students understand how science and nutrition work together to help them maintain their own health and show them the beauty of the natural growing cycle."

– Dr. Linda Lane, PPS Superintendent

2013 Community Garden Survey Snapshot:

Because of their involvement with their community garden: -86% of respondents said they eat more fruits and vegetables. -75% agree they are more physically active.

-95% say they have met more people in their neighborhood.

"It's motivating me to have my own farm at home."

— Jonathan, UFIT Intern

"I expected to learn techniques in urban farming. But I couldn't have known how much there was to learn." – Urban Farm Apprentice

































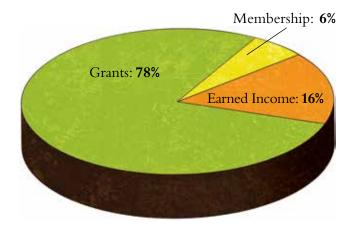




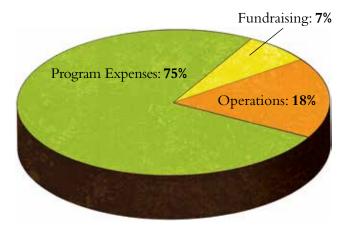




REVENUE*



EXPENSE*



* Figures based on un-audited financial statements

"I loved trying and tasting the vegetables when we went to the garden. I tried a lot of new foods."

– Edible Schoolyard Student

THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 DONOR SUPPORTERS! ORGANIZATIONS

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"I can walk right outside and get fresh vegetables to cook and eat!"

-Boxy Caulfield Memorial gardener and resident of Northside YMCA









THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 DONOR SUPPORTERS! INDIVIDUALS Please forgive us if we missed you in these pages, it was not intentional

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"Working on the farm I learned better life skills, eating habits and working skills."

— Duulane, UFIT Intern

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Rayden Sorock City Growers Assistant

Courtney Thrall Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh Senior Garden Educator

APPRENTICE & INTERN TEAM: *Special thanks to all our interns and volunteers of 2013!*

Emily Baddock, *City Growers Program Assessment Intern* Jewell Bohlinger, *Greenhouse & Shiloh Farm Apprentice* Kristen Hunninen, *Braddock Farms Senior Apprentice* David Madden, *Greenhouse & Shiloh Farm Senior Apprentice* Kathleen Poth, *Braddock Farms Apprentice* Emma Strong, *Education Intern* Sarah Trujillo, *External Affairs Intern*

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