



GROW PITTSBURGH

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Dear Supporters,

Last year's annual report marked a huge milestone for Grow Pittsburgh – our tenth anniversary. We spent a lot of time reflecting on the growth and past accomplishments of the organization over the course of a decade, and we're proud of how far we've come and the many individuals that have enabled us to get to this turning point.

Now, we are doing a lot of looking forward. Ten years gave us a chance to review and refine our work, and we're happy to share in this annual report some of the ways in which we're adapting to the ever-changing urban agriculture landscape.

We've helped to set up food gardens in partnership with a variety of communities, both geographic and cultural, in Pittsburgh. But we know there are still many more opportunities to create growing space. That's why we've increased our support to new American and refugee communities, many of whom came to this country with agrarian backgrounds and have found food growing to be therapeutic as they adjust to their new homeland. We've also begun working with youth in the juvenile justice system, and have again found that gardens have healing powers that provide young people in distressed circumstances an opportunity to shine.

As you may have heard, we also recently launched a significant effort to bring 50 new school gardens to Allegheny County over the next 4 years. Pittsburgh, and indeed the nation, is continuing to recognize the value of instruction beyond the classroom to increase test scores, establish healthy eating habits, and encourage wonder and appreciation for the natural world.

Our farm sites grew more produce and seedlings than ever before, all while instituting enhanced programming. Planning commenced in 2015 for a new and improved apprenticeship program that, as I write, is employing and training 7 young adults from disinvested neighborhoods where our sites are located.

Last but certainly not least, we were part of a team of advocates last summer that successfully passed one of the most progressive urban agriculture zoning codes in the country, making it easier for everyone to grow food in Pittsburgh.

But while it's easier, it's still not easy. And that's why we continue to listen to you, our supporters, in adapting and changing to meet the needs of a rapidly changing landscape and city. We envision a new Pittsburgh where access to growing space is a right for all, and an equitable food system provides every resident an opportunity to eat well. We hope you can help us get there!

Warmly,



Julie Butcher Pezzino, Executive Director



“MY FAVORITE PART OF THE PROGRAM WAS WATCHING THE ENTIRE PROCESS THAT FOOD GOES THROUGH BEFORE REACHING THE DINNER TABLE.”

—Urban Farmer in Training

WE TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO GROW FOOD

- 96% of school garden program students tasted the healthy food prepared each week in the Winter Cooking Program.
- Harvested a sweet potato in the Pittsburgh Faison garden weighing in at over 3 lbs!
- 200 families and community members helped care for school gardens during summer 2015.
- Spent an additional 308 hours outside with students because of their participation in garden class.
- 1,110 students participated in cooking demonstrations as part of Chef in the Garden events at three school gardens.
- 100% of Urban Farmers In Training participants identified that they have a stronger understanding of where their food comes from.
- 91% of Urban Farmers in Training participants tried a vegetable from the garden that they had never had before and 100% of participants learned new ways to prepare fresh fruits and vegetables.
- 12 garden workshops were taught to over 190 participants.
- Connected Urban Farm Apprentices with 20 local farms and farmers as part of their training.
- Organized the 2nd Youth Garden Summit bringing together 50 youth across the city who spent their summer focused on various food growing projects.
- Conducted 6 garden classes at Shuman Juvenile Detention Center to establish a vegetable and herb garden in a central courtyard as a therapeutic garden site.



**“I WOULDN’T HAVE HAD
A GARDEN THIS YEAR
WITHOUT THE GARDEN
RESOURCE CENTER.”**

—Garden Resource Center Member

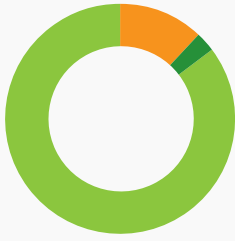
WE BUILD AND SUPPORT GARDENS

- Garden Resource Center registration increased 300% in 2015.
- Started 3 new gardens and supported 25 established community gardens throughout Allegheny County.
- Grew over 8,000 pounds of produce at community gardens that went directly to their families, friends, and neighborhood food pantries.
- Gave out 12,920 seed packets, 7,559 plants, and 496 planter buckets to 4,016 people at 4 locations as part of the Great Garden Giveaway with partner Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.
- Expanded the amount of healthy vegetable-growing space in low income communities by over 1/2 acre.
- Reached over 815 participants at gardens through workshops, events, volunteer days, and meetings.
- Residents donated over 3,780 work hours to community gardens.
- Piloted How to Start a Community Garden workshop series.
- Worked with local government to pass one of the most progressive Urban Agriculture Zoning Codes in the country!

“THE DILWORTH GARDEN HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR MY SON. HE IS EXCITED TO START HIS OWN GARDEN AT HOME. HE’D ALWAYS BEEN RELUCTANT TO EAT GREENS, BUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO HE RAN TO THE SCHOOL GARDEN AND PICKED ME A BABY BEET LEAF, SAYING THEY WERE SO YUMMY AND INSISTING THAT I TASTE IT, TOO!”

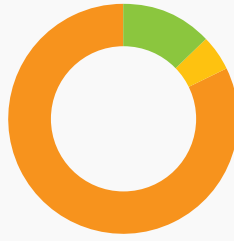
— Dilworth Parent





INCOME*

- MEMBERSHIP: 3%
- GRANTS: 86%**
- EARNED: 12%



EXPENSES:

- OPERATIONS: 13%
- FUNDRAISING: 5%
- PROGRAMS: 82%

* Figures based on un-audited financial statements

** Includes multi-year grants

WE GROW FOOD

- Installed a shipping container to add secure packaging and storage at Braddock Farms.
- Built a worm bin to create compost for Braddock Farms.
- Started 17,265 organic seedlings at the Frick Greenhouse, including 1689 for community gardens and 971 for school gardens.
- Added a greenhouse so seedlings can be started at Braddock Farms.
- 66 people volunteered 1,018 hours to our farm sites.
- Donated 2,017 seedlings.
- Hosted 28 educational tours at our farm sites including the Shiloh Fall field trip with 80 second graders from Pittsburgh Faison.
- Grew 11,227 pounds of produce representing 82 varieties of crops at Braddock Farms, Shiloh Farm, and the Frick Greenhouse.

“MY KIDS AND I ARE EATING BETTER THAN I WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE. THEY ARE ENGAGED IN THE FOOD GROWING PROCESS AND SO THEY LIKE VEGETABLES.”

— MLK Garden participant



THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

ORGANIZATIONS:

Agrecycle	Eisler Landscapes, Inc.	Legume Bistro	Revive Marketing Group LLC
Avenue B	Engine House 25 Wines	Levin Furniture	S & T Bank
Bear Left Bear, LLC	Ethos Collaborative	Marcus Studio	Seeders & Weeders Garden Club
Bible Center Church, Inc.	Evey True Value	McAuley Ministries	Square Cafe
Big Burrito Restaurant Group	Hardware Co Inc	Modesto Studios	Squaw Run Garden Club
BJF Consulting	Field Environmental Instruments	Nature's Way	Superior Motors LLC
Black and White Reunion	Fairmont Hotels Pittsburgh	Market of Greensburg	Sweet Peaches, LLC
Borough of Mt. Oliver	Fairview Capital Invest Mgmt	Nine Mile Run	The Consortium
Braddock Free Store	Franktuary	Watershed Association	for Public Education
Braddock Neighborhood	Frick Art & Historical Center	Pennoni Associates	The Environmental Charter
Screen Printing Shop	Garden Club	Pennsylvania Association for	School at Frick Park
Braddock Redux	of Allegheny County	Sustainable Agriculture	Pennsylvania State University
Braddock Youth Project	Greater Pittsburgh	Penn State	The Porch at Schenley
Burgh Bees	Community Food Bank	Cooperative Extension	Tree Pittsburgh
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	Green Building Alliance	Penn's Corner Farm Alliance	Thoughtful Balance
Carnegie Mellon University	Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP	Phipps Conservatory and	Urban League of Greater
Chatham University	GTECH Strategies	Botanical Gardens	Pittsburgh Charter School
Children's Museum	H. John Heinz III College	Pie Bird	Village Garden Club
Churchill Garden Club	High Mowing Seeds	Pittsburgh Colfax K-8	Western Pennsylvania
Community College	Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5	Conservancy
of Allegheny County	Hillcrest Nursery	Pittsburgh Distilling Company LLC	Whole Foods Market
CTC Electric LLC	Hilltop Alliance	Pittsburgh Faison K-5	YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
Cure Restaurant LLC	Homewood Children's Village	Pittsburgh Montessori	
e2	Johnny's Selected Seeds	Point Breezeway	
East End Food Coop	La Prima Espresso Company	Propel Charter School	
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group	Lawrenceville United	Red Oak Café	
		Repair the World, Inc.	

FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

Allegheny County	Church Brew Works Foundation	Henry L Hillman Foundation	Planting Foundation
Economic Development	Colcom Foundation	Laurel Foundation	The Forbes Funds
Allen H. & Selma	Dollar Bank Foundation	Network for Good	The Futrell Foundation
W. Berkman Trust	Edwin R. Crawford	Nina Baldwin Fisher Foundation	The Grable Foundation
Benter Foundation	Estate Trust	McCune Foundation	The Heinz Endowments
BNY Mellon	Gillman Family Foundation, Inc.	McSwigan Family Foundation	The Pittsburgh Foundation
Community Partnership	H.J. Heinz Company Foundation	RK Mellon Foundation	The Sampson Foundation
Calihan Foundation	Henry John Simonds Foundation	The Fruit Tree	
Carol Lang Family Foundation			

THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS!

INDIVIDUALS:

Please forgive us if we missed you in these pages, it was not intentional.

Brian Allenby	Marie Fechik-Kirk	Judy Kelly	John Savedge
Nancy & John Artz	Thomas Ferguson	Jonathan King	Katherine Schott
Sherry Atri	Jay and Barbara Feuer	Milton & Lynn Klein	Marc Schwartz
Jacob Bacharach	Susan Fineman	David Kneppshield	Mim Seidel
Susan Bails	Lauri Fink	Chris Kosin	Morton Seltman
David Baker	Leonna Fisher	Sandra Kretz	Martin & Janet Seltman
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Jeralyn Beach	Leslie Fleischner	Gina Lasky	Gregory Short
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Tina Bialek	Samuel Franklin	Susan Leff	Carol Smith
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Andrew Butcher	Katie Griffin	Emily S. Medine	Sr. Lyn Szymkiewicz
John Canning	Jennifer N. Grippo	Patricia Milford	Carol Tabas
Njide Chukwume	Ben Grocholsky	Surh Miran	JoAnna Taylor
Amy Cohen	Thomas & Jennifer Hay	Ryan M. Misenheimer	The Mabon Family
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Mary Conti	Kathryn J. Heidemann	Daniel Murtha	Sal & Lin Toder
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Michele Rone Cooper	Mike Henry	Peggy J. Ott	Helen Wachter
Justin Cummings	Catharine Hickey	Mary Beth Pastorius	MaryRose Walko
Ernersto Cupo	Erin Hughes	Rachel Pecker	Diane Walter
Michael D'Acunto	Bernadette Hurst	Carl & Maddy Pezzino	Randi S. Weinstein
Jack & Joan Dedrich	Elaine Hyder	Jeffrey Prem	Rebecca Weisberg
Jessica Demoise	Ori Hyman	Jehnie Reis	Sharon L. Weisberg
Alexander Denmarsh	Cindy Jacobson	Piper Rexford	Kimberly Williams
Christen DiClaudio	Rebekah and Peter Jenkins	John Rhoades	Emily Winn
Elizabeth Donaldson	Edward Jones	Jeffrey Ritter	Beverly Wolfson
Julie Donohue	Maria Joseph	Jean Robinson	Elisa Yukstas
Sarah and John Drake	Wayne Juchno	Karen & Tony Ross	Sharon Zeronis
Samantha Dye	Susan Juchno	Joshua Bellin & Christine Saitz	
Lisa Favorini	Jane Kaminski	Lois J. Saladin	

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Outreach Coordinator*

Paul Pagoda
*Edible Schoolyard Pittsburgh
Garden Educator*

Special thanks to all of our volunteers!

APPRENTICE TEAM:

Nick Hagan
Braddock Farms Apprentice

Brittany Bankert
Greenhouse & Shiloh Farm Apprentice

Alyssa Kail
Braddock Farms Apprentice

Cheryl Sedlock
Greenhouse & Shiloh Farm Apprentice

THANKS TO OUR STAFF, APPRENTICES, VOLUNTEERS, AND BOARD FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN 2015!



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“THE ATTENTION TO EDUCATION THAT GROW PITTSBURGH OFFERS IS ABOVE AND BEYOND WHAT OTHER APPRENTICESHIPS ARE DOING.”

— Urban Farm Apprentice

“I SAVED HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS ON HEALTHY FOOD FOR MY FAMILY.”

— Mount Oliver Borough gardener



“I’VE NEVER GARDENED BEFORE, BUT I DIDN’T FEEL LIKE THE MATERIAL WAS BEYOND ME AT ANY POINT.”

—Garden Primer participant

