

GROWING TOGETHER FROM THE GROUND UP



GARDEN CITY
HARVEST

ANNUAL REPORT
2018

A YEAR AT THE FARMSTEAD

LETTER FROM JEAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In the past year, I have watched gardeners come to River Road, some dressed in pressed slacks on their way to work, some in sweatshirts and jeans, some with canes, some with kids. At the end of the season, a Syrian couple took over a plot, giddy with possibility, and I snapped a picture of them and the baby-sized zucchini they discovered abandoned in their new garden.

The River Road Farmstead has been an eye opener for me. In 2018 we moved into our permanent home and I've loved every minute of discovery since. In the Community Barn meetings, trainings, and celebrations took place by partners like the Neighborhood Council, Missoula County Public Schools, and First Security Bank. The caretaker has made a home in the apartment. Our staff gathered for farm lunch each Wednesday of the growing season. Thousands of pounds of food cured in the second floor loft. Teens learned the basics of cooking, made a feast, and served it at a community dinner as the snow fell.

I am incredibly grateful to all who give life to our work and to this place. It is clear to me that we're planting seeds and growing together, creating a healthy Missoula.

Jean Zosel



MISSION:

We plant seeds and grow together to create a healthy Missoula.

VISION:

A connected Missoula where everyone values and has access to healthy, local food.

COMPASSION

Our work is grounded in compassion. We are empathetic and kind.

COLLABORATION

We work cooperatively rather than competitively at all levels, building relationships and partnerships that are mutually beneficial. We communicate frequently and openly with community members, neighbors, partners, and with each other.

RESPECT

We respect ourselves, others, and our ecosystem. Respect cultivates trust and a safe space for program participants and our staff.

VALUES:

These six words are Garden City Harvest's guiding principles. We live these values and continually weave them into our culture each day.

TRUST

From our open farms and gardens to our open hearts and minds, we trust in our community members. Community and togetherness are only possible when lined with trust.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to investing in this organization and its people by promoting a positive work-life balance, providing suitable wages and benefits, and long-term employment opportunities for all staff members.

STEWARDSHIP

We are caretakers of the land. In everything that we do, we consider the impact on our environment. We respect and honor the ground that grows our food, the water that keeps it alive, the air that we breathe while farming, gardening, and living.

GROWING TOGETHER FROM THE GROUND UP

FARM TO SCHOOL

FAN MAIL

LETTER TO LORI, SCHOOL GARDEN MANAGER, ON HER FARMER IN THE CLASSROOM LESSONS.

Our farmer educators teach Farmer in the Classroom in every second grade classroom in Missoula's District One schools. With lessons ranging from seed identification to grinding wheat into flour, even in the off-season children are learning (and always tasting!) about the source of the food on their plates.

Plum was so excited you came to Mrs. Manning's second grade at Paxson today. She told me all about bees, the queen, the workers, that there are like 120 bees in a hive she talked the entire walk home about it. We are going to the library this weekend to get some books on bees and do more research. The honey was a big hit too 😊. She loves every time you visit.

— Elizabeth Stuckey, parent at Paxson Elementary



We grew **3,000** pounds of veggies for kids to taste in class and on the farm *(we grow a carrot for every kid who visits the PEAS Farm on an educational farm visit)*

Our **7** school gardens reach **2,950** students

Farmer in the Classroom teaches **700** second graders each school year

We grow veggies in **16** raised garden beds at the Central Kitchen, where all K-8 lunches for Missoula County Public Schools are made.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

CONVINCED I WOULD FAIL

COLIN CORBETT

In 2012 I was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis (arthritis of the spine) and Crohn's disease. I had to quit my job at the time, leave college, apply for disability, and was bedridden on and off for most of the year.

As my physical health eventually started to stabilize, my mental health lagged behind—when you lose months or years of your life at a time, it's hard to trust that you are somewhat able-bodied again.

My partner, Kim, noticing I was really struggling, decided to sign me up for a community garden plot. At first, I was terrified. My body had been acting so unpredictably for so long. Regardless of what it was, I was convinced I would fail.

It turned out that when it came to community gardening, I didn't fail. Sure, I had bad days, but when I did, there were people and resources to help me succeed. It played a major role in bringing positivity and confidence back in to my life, helping me to recover.

I am disabled, have many medical expenses, and live on a fixed income. We relied on food stamps to make ends meet over the years. But, because of the garden, instead of cutting back on vegetables, we've expanded our horizons. We cook with a larger quantity and variety of vegetables. We've been introduced to a whole array of vegetables: kohlrabi, dinosaur kale, and purple beans. Instead of failing, we've thrived.



Gardeners saved up to **\$100**/month on groceries

363 garden plots rented by **813** gardeners at **10** gardens in Missoula (+1 under construction in 2018)

10% of gardeners are veterans

99% shared food with friends/neighbors/food bank and **100%** shared gardening knowledge with others

Over **90%** of gardeners valued the social interaction and having control over their food

Over **90%** of gardeners gained mental/emotional wellbeing, ate more fresh veggies, and got more exercise because of their garden plots.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

DESIGNING FOR HOPE

“When I first started working here, I didn’t know how to express myself. I would get angry I would scream and break things. I don’t have a closet door anymore because I ripped it off the hinges and kicked it into billions of pieces.”

When Sylvianne came to Garden City Harvest, she was in what she calls her “whatever” phase. In other words, she didn’t have much faith in herself. “The first day I was like, ‘this is going to suck’ and then two hours in I was like, ‘this is awesome.’”

Sylvianne took a leadership role in the Youth Harvest program in the past year as the group took on an ambitious project. Homeword, on land owned by Trust Montana, is building small homes adjacent to the Missoula Food Bank. Garden City Harvest teamed up with Homeword to create a community friendly, edible greenspace designed by Youth Harvest teens.

The teens met with Homeword, Missoula Food Bank, and Garden City Harvest staff. “They were coming up with questions that were above and beyond what I had thought of,” said Youth Harvest Director, Tami McDaniel.

You can see the plans come to life this spring along with the Montana Street Homes – just north of the Missoula Food Bank parking lot!



55 teens

worked on **2** of our farms, learning life and job skills

Youth operated

7 mobile farm stands, with **972**

customer visits by seniors and low income families

They grew

21,000 pounds of food

for **10** partner agencies serving children and families

NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

COME AS YOU ARE

MICHELLE PARISI

When I moved to Missoula almost ten years ago, I was admittedly a bit lost. I had a job but didn’t really know anyone in town, and it was actually a pretty lonely time. I heard about the Volunteer for Veggies program and called Greg who runs the River Road Farm. He told me to, “just show up.” And, luckily for me, I did.

It was a lifesaver.

Having somewhere to be, good work to be a part of, and people to be with rescued me from a difficult time. The people I met that first year, I still count among my closest friends. And, ten years later, that same farm is my actual home.

I have seen this farm have a similar effect on many volunteers throughout the years. Of course it is a farm and farms are about food. But, so many volunteers come back week after week and never take so much as a carrot.

So, what are they finding at the farm?

A place to be any day of the week, where you come as you are, where you are guaranteed at least a few friendly faces and something meaningful to do.

Maybe you’re having a bad day and don’t want to talk to anyone . . . Maybe social interaction makes you anxious . . . Maybe you feel lost, lonely, or don’t even know where to begin . . . We have a place for you! For me, it turned a difficult year into a new direction in life. Next season, while I won’t be caretaker at River Road, I will be working at one of our other farms, Orchard Gardens, continuing to work in the soil and enjoying friends new and old.



We grew **170,294** pounds of produce

Of that, **46,128** pounds was grown for those in need,

Including seniors, volunteers, prescription produce recipients, and our **17** partner agencies.

219 volunteers help us grow this food

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Emily & Solon Linton
Jack Lawson & Sasha Bell
Kali & Rob Lindner
Sarah Lederman
Andrea & Michael Manship
Christine Merriman
Heather McMilin & Jenn Clary
Helena S. Maclay &
John W. Larson

Laura Morris
Laval & Kent Means
Marilyn Marler & David
Schmetterling
Nora McDougall-Collins
Diana & Rick Nash
Karen & Tim Neel
Martha Newell & Mike Kadas
Peggy H. Newell
Wendy Ninteman
Julie Osborn & Scott Pankratz
Marit Olson
Meredith Printz
Susan Hay Patrick
Paula Raines
Ruth & Kim Reineking
Ann Sharkey
Beth Schenk & Robert Gentry
Jeremy Smith & Crissie McMullan
Kate Sutherland &
Shayne Williams
Kelsey Stamm Jimenez &
Ben Jimenez
Marguerite Smith
Ginny & Chuck Tribe
Lynn Tennefoss &
Johnnie Moore
Robin Tawney Nichols &
William Nichols
Connie & Robert Voth
Kathy Veazey
Marci & Jim Valeo
Pam & Sandy Volkmann
Watson Family
Bente & Don Winston
Jaime Ward
Jessica & Brandt Welborn
Rick & Rika Wishcamper
Sally Weaver
Beverly Young & Tom Javins
Jean R. Zosel
Jeane L. Zosel
Kathleen Diepenbrock
John Engen
Patience Grant
Maureen Grumbly
David Haddon
Bradley Layton
F. Taylor Pape
Terry & Patt Payne
Dorothy Salmonson
Jim Sayer & Wendy Calvert

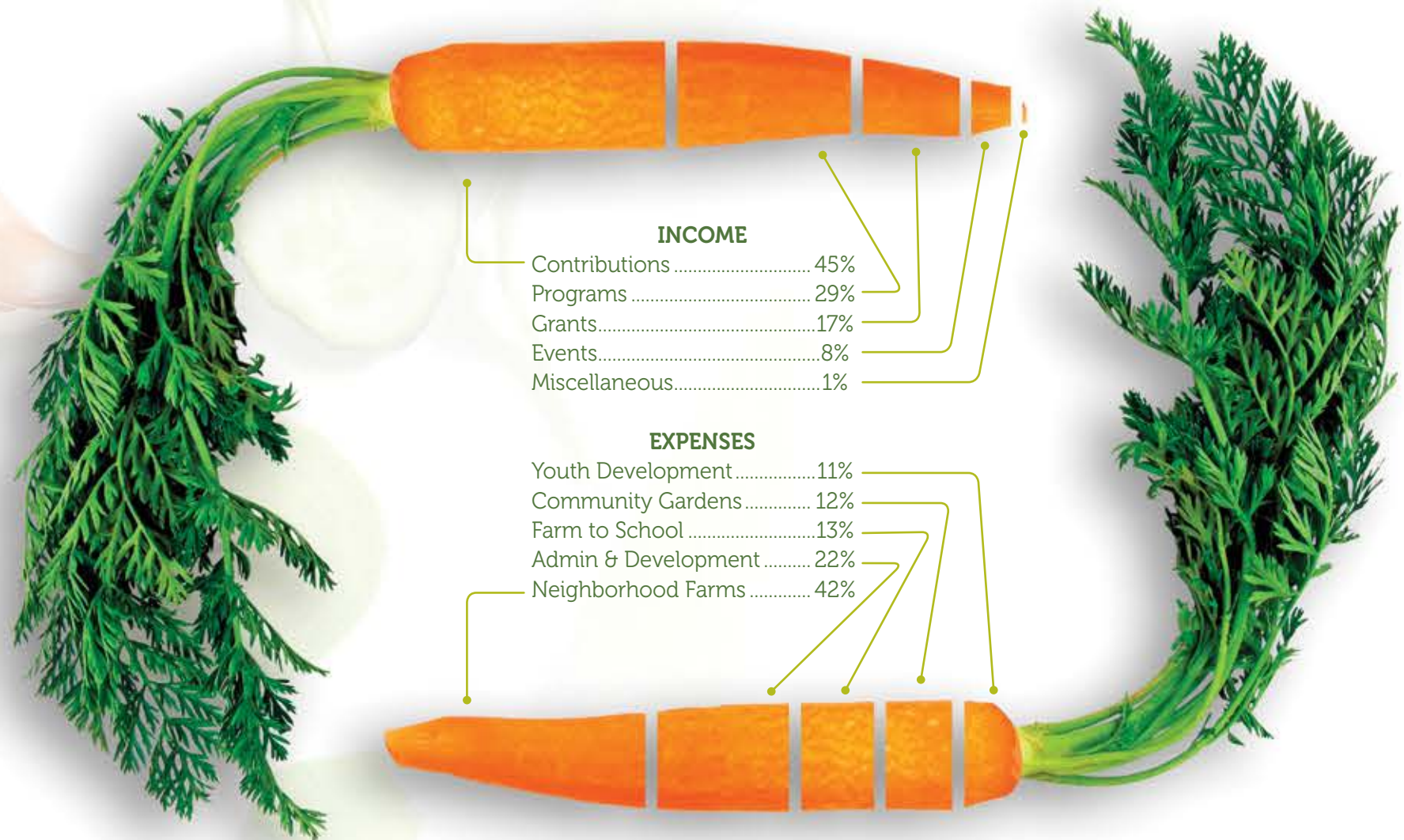
FINANCIALS

INCOME

Contributions 45%
Programs 29%
Grants 17%
Events 8%
Miscellaneous 1%

EXPENSES

Youth Development 11%
Community Gardens 12%
Farm to School 13%
Admin & Development 22%
Neighborhood Farms 42%



GARDEN CITY HARVEST

MISSOULA · MONTANA



ADMINISTRATION

Ruth Crystal + Administrative Coordinator
Maria Kendra Netzloff + Development Director
Laura Lee + Bookkeeping
Ethan Smith + Operations Director
Jean Zosel + Executive Director

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Emily Kern + Community Gardens Manager
Genevieve Jessop Marsh + Community Outreach Director
Lauren O'Laughlin + Community Gardens Assistant

FARM TO SCHOOL

Mary Auld + School Gardens Manager
Lori Blumenthal + School Gardens Manager
Hannah Boe + Farm to School Assistant
Jason Mandala + Farm to School Director

NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

Miriam Harris + PEAS Farm Caretaker
Kaya Juda-Nelson + River Road Farm Caretaker
Michelle Parisi + Orchard Gardens Farm Assistant
Tracy Potter + Youth Farm Apprentice
Greg Price + River Road Farm Director
Harrison Schutt + Orchard Gardens Apprentice
Caroline Stephens + PEAS Farm Lecturer
Clare Vergobbi + Orchard Gardens Farm Manager
Dave Victor + PEAS Farm Director
Ian Wilder + River Road Farm Assistant
Peter Wilson + PEAS Farm Assistant

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Samantha Cypher + Youth Farm Field Manager
Tami McDaniel + Youth Harvest Project Director
Marit Olson + Youth Harvest Project Coordinator
Mark Wayne + Youth Farm Youth Manager

BOARD MEMBERS

Winona Bateman + Piece A Cake Media
Blake Bentley + Timberline Cleaning & Maintenance
Tom Boone + Boone Karlberg, PC
John Boyle + Boyle, Devery, & Meyer, PC
Donna Erickson + Consulting
Steve Hiro + Retired Physician
Heather McMilin + Homeward
Martha Newell + Freelance Catalyst
Geoff Peddicord + First Security Bank
Olleke Rappe-Daniels + Communications Consultant
Seth Swanson + AEssenceGrows
Virginia Tribe + Virginia Tribe Professional Facilitator, Inc.