

Impact Report | 2021

MISSION:

We plant seeds and grow together to create a healthy Missoula on our over 20 neighborhood farms, school gardens, and community gardens.

VISION:

We envision a connected community where everyone values and has access to healthy, local food.

**grow. feed.
inspire.**



**GARDEN CITY
HARVEST**

Financials



INCOME

- 45% grants
- 26% contributions
- 23% programs
- 3% events
- 3% miscellaneous



EXPENSES

- 4% general operations
- 10% development
- 12% youth development
- 12% community gardens
- 13% farm to school
- 49% neighborhood farms

Farm to School

PURPOSE:

To inspire students to explore connections between food, agriculture, science, and their everyday lives through experiential learning on the farm, in the classroom, and in school gardens.

1
LEARNING
FARM

2,578
PARTICIPANTS

4
STAFF
MEMBERS

7
SCHOOL
GARDENS

GARDEN CITY HARVEST



2021 highlights

87 families adopted their school garden for a week, and **513** visitors came to open garden hours.

648 second graders participated in Farm to School classroom lessons

1,320 students on educational farm field trips in the summer and fall of 2021

2,691 pounds of produce harvested from **6** school gardens, filling the bellies of many kids, parents, and teachers.

2 gardens built in 2021

2,842 students took part in **148** lessons in **6** school gardens

3 pigs, **9** chickens, and **4** honey bee hives help illustrate what it takes to grow food for us humans

7 gardens used by: Garden City Harvest teaching kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 4th grades, afterschool programs, staff & student groups, outdoor therapy sessions, recess & outdoor lunches.

"I think our school garden program is an essential link between students' local food production and understanding how we fit into the world. It creates stewardship and connection you can't get inside a building. The farmers and the program support for teachers models how partnerships within our community are essential for us to thrive."

– **Frances Bonnett**, Teacher,
Franklin Elementary School



Community Gardens

PURPOSE:

To create and maintain growing spaces equipped with shared resources and cultivate community connections.

679
GARDENERS

392
PLOTS

11
GARDENS

GARDEN CITY HARVEST



2021 highlights

94%
of gardeners had
a good or excellent
experience in the
garden

65%
of gardeners
are of low or
moderate
income

Each garden plot
can produce over
300 pounds of food
at around **6¢** per
pound

“I was going through a rough patch in my life and being able to ground and throw myself into the garden was a lifesaver! It was a beautiful metaphor for my growth as a human as I watched this piece of earth flourish and become incredibly lush and produce such abundance.”

- Andi Jo Siegle
2021 Community Gardener



Youth Development

PURPOSE:

To build resilience in teens through meaningful work, community connection, and personal development.

6
MOBILE
MARKETS

APPROX
200
PEOPLE
SERVED

18
TEENS

GARDEN CITY HARVEST



2021 highlights

Youth Harvest Project partnered with **8** organizations (including EmpowerMT and Oxbow Beef) to conduct **34** workshops in the spring and summer, incorporating job, life, and social-emotional skills training with farm work.

Youth participants run Mobile Market for **13** weeks, at **6** sites, selling **4,180** pounds of produce to seniors where they live and for the change in their pockets.

5,393 pounds of fresh vegetables donated to local youth and family service agencies, and the indigenous community through weekly donation.

19,142 pounds of Youth Farm produce was sold to the Missoula community through weekly CSA shares and Garden City Harvest's annual Fall Veggie Sale.

"The day after All Nations gave a guest lesson on Indigenous foods, BH shared with the group that he had just realized that learning could be a lot of fun. He explained that he had struggled with lessons and school for years, and is now excited and inspired to learn new things."

- **Tami McDaniel**, Garden City Harvest's Youth Harvest Project Director



Neighborhood Farms

PURPOSE:

To make local food accessible for all!

APPROX
20,000
PEOPLE SERVED

4
FARMS

17
ACRES

291
CSA
MEMBERS

GARDEN CITY HARVEST



2021 highlights

36,783 pounds of food grown and donated to human service organizations such as the Missoula Food Bank, All Nations Health Center, Mountain Home, and Youth Homes, through **7** farm stands, and a Volunteer for Veggies program at **2** farms.

140,168 pounds of regeneratively farmed food grown at **4** farms on **17** acres right here in Missoula

Expanded our local food distribution network to **13** partners including Lowell School Food Pantry, Missoula Free Fridge, Missoula Head Start and the UM Food Pantry.

“I was in the fields of our CSA farm, the River Road farm, starting when I could walk, planting, weeding, and harvesting alongside my parents and other adults. My childhood is marked by the seasonal rituals of the farm. On onion planting day, the breeze ruffled the seedling tops around me and I can clearly picture my small hands cupping a tender onion seedling, placing it in the soil carefully, tamping the earth around it and repeating the ritual again and again. I not only learned where my food came from, but also how it was grown, how to cook it, pickle, or freeze it. But most importantly I learned how to enjoy it... My passion has led me to continue to cook, eat, and think local.”

- **Camas Allison Bunnell**, life-long CSA member & Volunteer, excerpt from his college entrance essay