



GARDEN CITY  
HARVEST  
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

**grow. feed. inspire.**

# mission

**Garden City Harvest** builds community through agriculture by growing produce with and for people with low incomes, offering education and training in ecologically conscious agriculture, and using our sites for the personal restoration of youth and adults.

We use the act of growing food as a way to build a stronger, more cohesive community. We connect people who otherwise wouldn't cross paths and deepen those connections through the act of growing food together. We believe that it's not so much about food as it is about what happens when we grow food together.

– Josh Slotnick, Director, PEAS Farm

t bauer/the missoulian

## NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

We run four neighborhood farms in Missoula. While each farm is unique, they all share a common goal: to grow food for Missoulians in need. That food is distributed by our Mobile Market, the Poverello Center (Missoula's homeless shelter), the Missoula Food Bank, Youth Homes, and many other partnering agencies around town.

t bauer/the missoulian

## COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community Gardens create access to nutritious, affordable produce by teaching people to grow food to feed their own families using sustainable methods. There are eight community garden throughout the city. Each of our community gardens provides participants with a 15-by-15 foot plot, tools, water, compost, straw, common space, and the knowledge and guidance of a garden leadership team. We strive to foster community in our gardens through work parties, shared meals, seed exchanges, and more.

silver



## FARM TO SCHOOL

**F**arm to School teaches Missoula's youth through educational farm field trips, in-class lessons, structured school garden programming, summer camps, and classes on cooking, gardening, and farming. We connect Missoulians to their food and the place it is grown. Taking a hands-on, farm-based approach, our Farm to School program encourages youth and adults to explore connections between food, agriculture, science, and their everyday lives. We offer place-based education programs at the PEAS Farm, in seven school gardens, and in MCPS classrooms. The Farm to School program is a partnership with the Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) and Montana FoodCorps.



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

**O**ur Youth Development program helps teens find a better path in life through farming. We offer this program at two sites: the Youth Harvest Project based at the PEAS Farm, and the Youth Farm. Each site employs teens who are referred by our partners: Youth Drug Court, Youth Homes, Willard Alternative High School and the Human Resource Council. Through their work in the program youth learn life and job skills that set them up for success as they transition into young adulthood. Participants learn how to run a small farm, from planting and weeding to customer service and marketing. The program runs the famous Mobile Market – these youth run mobile farm stands at housing facilities for seniors and low income families. The Youth Harvest Project also offers therapeutic support in addition to the employment opportunity to project participants. Garden City Harvest youth development efforts provide at-risk youth with this potentially life-changing employment opportunity.

Youth Harvest participants reported that they had gained valuable skills in general farming practices, use of farm tools, customer service, and job readiness skills such as money handling. All youth who completed the summer and fall seasons were able to successfully balance the Mobile Market bank and submit a deposit without support, as well as count back change confidently without help.

# 2014

## A LANDMARK YEAR FOR MISSOULA (& US) THANKS TO MANY SUPPORTERS IN THE COMMUNITY, WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS LAND SECURITY

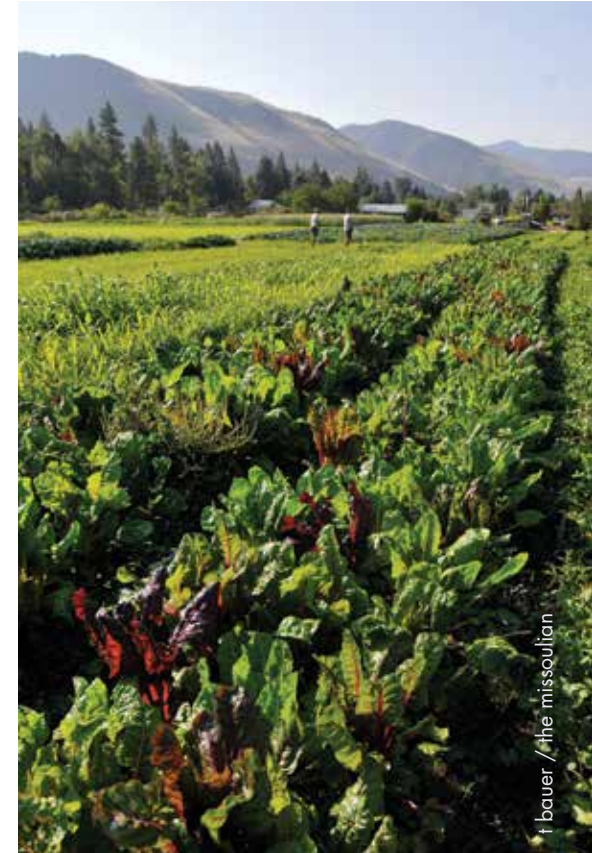
**T**his year, we took two huge strides for the quality of life and community in Missoula – we purchased the River Road Neighborhood Farm and Community Garden land AND we gained approval from Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) for a 40-year lease on the PEAS Farm property. This was in huge part owing to the City, school district, many wonderful, deeply invested donors, and many PEAS and River Road family members (you know who you are – you who spoke up at public meetings, helped spread the word, and gardened side by side with us – in your own plot or in our fields).

River Road is the first farm we have ever owned. It is 3.5 acres of prime farmland in the heart of Missoula. It's where Garden City Harvest got its start almost 20 years ago, beginning with a few community garden plots the summer before the PEAS Farm got going. Today, that garden has grown to 55 community garden plots and the rest is rich, thriving farmland. We're proud that River Road is the first urban farm and

community garden protected under Missoula's 2006 Open Space Bond. This is history in the making; we're preserving this land for generations to come. So, Missoula, this is for you, forever. Holy cow, that's huge.

Land security for the PEAS Farm has been a long term project. We often refer to the PEAS Farm as our flagship farm – many of our programs are based there, many community members come to the farm for work, food, respite. The parcel, located on Duncan Drive, is owned by Missoula County Public Schools. MCPS has leased the land to the City of Missoula who, in turn, subleased 10-acres of it to Garden City Harvest for operation of the PEAS Farm. But the lease terms offered little security for the long term. Now we have a 40-year lease to operate the PEAS Farm -- a win for all of Missoula.

We hope you will come visit these two neighborhood farms. There is nothing like time spent among rich soil, growing things and a diversity of people learning together.



t bauer / the missoulian

“We’ll see thousands upon thousands of those little legs trundling around this farm knowing who their farmer is. (It’s a) big, big deal.”

– Mayor John Engen

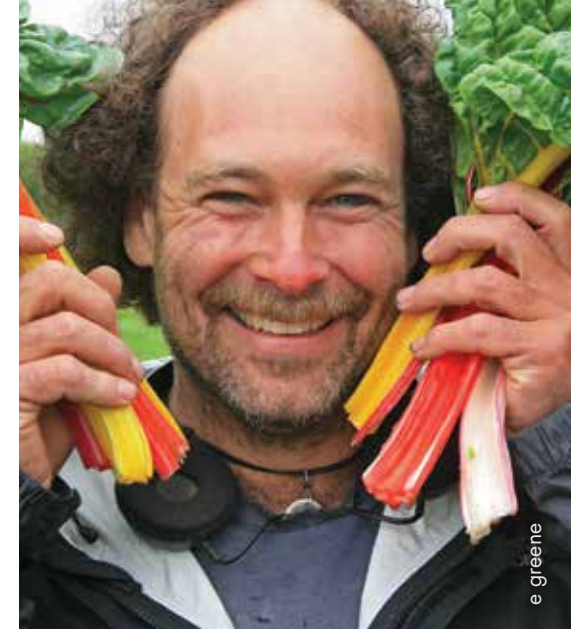
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j gallus

“It remains the last bastion of our social safety network. ...It’s tasked now to educate not just the mind, but the heart and soul. This endeavor up here is about as clear-cut an example of educating the mind, the heart, and the soul as one exists in our community.”

– Joe Knapp, Chair of Missoula County Public School Board



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c harder/s jannoita

# 2 NEW GARDENS IN THE GARDEN CITY



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**CORSO GARDEN** – Along the Milwaukee Trail, just west of Russell Street, this 25 plot garden thrives with gardeners hailing from the neighboring Corso Apartment Homes, Garden District Apartments (Missoula Housing Authority), and the surrounding neighborhood. The garden got its start in 2014 thanks to funding and great enthusiasm from the Farran Realty Partners along with help from the Missoula Redevelopment Agency. The garden sits on an easement with the City of Missoula.



## **PROVIDENCE GARDEN**

– Through an exciting new collaboration with Providence St. Patrick Hospital, we created a garden that grows vegetables and herbs for the Missoula Food Bank and provides a healthful green space for Providence Center patients and staff. Healing was central to our planning of the space. From the moment you walk through the gates, the plants appeal to all your senses – soft lambs ear, bright flowers, rich smells of oregano and thyme, and (of course) tasty vegetables and herbs. Plus, many of the flowers are medicinal, thanks to the guidance of the Green Path Herb School!

# Q: HOW HAS GARDEN CITY HARVEST IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?



YOUTH FARM CREW LEADER

**A** "For some reason, when I tell my friends about the Youth Farm, I feel kind of proud because learning how to be a farmer, growing food for CSA members and Mobile Market, and everything at the farm is awesome."

**A** "The PEAS Farm taught me about growing food, mostly vegetables. I loved getting really dirty! I made some new friends. I tasted some new kinds of vegetables, some I did not like. Carrots are my favorite. I know a lot more about chickens and how to (almost) catch them. We got to check for eggs from the chickens. The pigs are really stinky! It's fun to cool off in Rattlesnake Creek on hot days. Jason is fun AND funny. Of the camps I have done, PEAS camp is my favorite one!"

LITTLE PEAS CAMPER



NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY GARDENER

**A** "As a result of our first harvest season, we filled our cupboards, refrigerator and freezer from our garden and even as we approach a new planting season, we still have some bags of green beans from that second planting I was sure would never grow. We no longer rely on the food bank to get us through the month and things are looking up for us. The Northside Community Garden has been a source of food for us but it's also been a source of hope and renewal and we're grateful to be a part of it."

# Youth Harvest

IN THE NEWS:



In 2014, the *Missoulian* newspaper dedicated photographer Tom Bauer and reporter Keila Szpaller to follow the Youth Harvest Project, part of our Youth Development program, at the PEAS Farm for the season. The result was a 13 article series, many video interviews, and thousands of photos following these teens as they grew, laughed and learned their way through the season. Here's a sample – go to [gardencityharvest.org](http://gardencityharvest.org) for more.

## KARRINA CAMPOS 16, YOUTH HARVEST CREW MEMBER

"She dished up the tastiest mashed potatoes her brother had ever devoured. 'He was in my room playing video games, and I brought him a plate,' Campos said. "He said, 'Oh my God. These are amazing. What did you put in them?' " Said Campos. 'Oh, just stuff I brought home from the farm.' . . . "

"In 2012, Campos, her two little sisters, her brother, and her parents piled into a five-seater car with a dog named Lucca and a hamster named Jelly Bean, and they drove from Arizona to Missoula. . . For six months, she turned to alcohol almost every day to forget about the way her life had been uprooted."



t.bauer/the missoulian



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t.bauer/the missoulian



e.greene



# FINANCIAL REPORT



## EXPENSE



36%	Neighborhood Farms	= \$242,128
16%	Development	= \$111,567
16%	Youth Development	= \$106,044
15%	Community Gardens	= \$103,124
10%	Farm to School	= \$68,727
7%	General Operations	= \$47,905
TOTAL EXPENSES		= \$679,495

## INCOME



36%	Program Income	= \$268,894
33%	Grants	= \$247,117
23%	Individual Contributions	= \$171,358
6%	Events	= \$42,267
2%	Miscellaneous	= \$15,820
TOTAL INCOME		= \$745,456



t bauer/the missoulian



Making a donation is one of the most powerful ways to take part in Garden City Harvest. Thank you to these donors for making this work possible. These donors make up the biggest slice of our income pie.

# THANK YOU

## INDIVIDUALS

### FRIENDS OF THE HARVEST

Those who make a commitment to give \$1,000 or more to **Garden City Harvest** for three years

Julia & Derek Baggerly  
 Julie & Summerfield  
 Baldridge  
 Crackle & Don Bingham  
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Thank you



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- Laura Lee**  
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## COMMUNITY GARDENS

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Community Outreach Director
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Youth Farm Manager
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Youth Farm Assistant



## FARM TO SCHOOL

- Jason Mandala**  
Farm to School Director
- Katie Mikelsons**  
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Orchard Gardens Neighborhood Farm Manager
- Michelle Parisi**  
Orchard Gardens Neighborhood Farm Assistant
- Josh Slotnick**  
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