



GARDEN CITY
HARVEST
ANNUAL REPORT 2013

grow. feed. inspire.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Opening Day for our Community Gardens is the day when new and returning gardeners come to one of nine community garden sites to start their season together. New gardeners get an orientation from their garden leaders; returning gardeners see old friends, meet new ones, and peel back the straw on their plots for the first time that year. Everyone digs in, turning the soil and maybe even planting a few things that won't succumb to the spring frosts yet to come.

This year, I was struck by a young boy, maybe eight or 10 years old, who showed up at one of our gardens on Opening Day. He wanted to rent a garden plot. All the plots were taken, so we gave him an application for his mom or dad to complete, and told him we would let him know if a plot became available.

He left and quickly returned, form completed. It was obvious he had filled out the form himself, and was serious about getting a plot. His family had fallen on hard times and this was a way for him to help out – by growing food for his family's table.

He asked if there was any work he could do to help that day, almost as if to prove himself as a hard worker, someone to be trusted. As he finished helping a young couple clean out their plot we assured him we would find a way to include him and his family in the fabric of that garden.

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.

mission

This young boy had initiative and persistence. Hard times moved him to action – a powerful thing. I am so thankful that I work at a place that not only rewards this boy's instinct to feed his family, but also gives him the ability to feed himself for the rest of his life. Gardening is a life skill, and food is one of the necessities of life. These gardens, with the tools, the water, the soil and so many knowledgeable gardeners all around make starting a garden easy. Check out page five if you don't believe me.

There is room for everyone – no matter how young or old – at our farms and gardens. They are places where people from all walks of life work together in meaningful and empowering ways. These are sites where community members can gather, grow food, work and learn on the land. And these experiences help to create a richer, more connected community for us all.

Thank you for being part of what we grow!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Jean Zosel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a light green color.

Jean Zosel | Executive Director

letter



SITES

With nine community gardens, eight mobile market sites, seven school gardens, and four neighborhood farms, we are making community connections all over town.

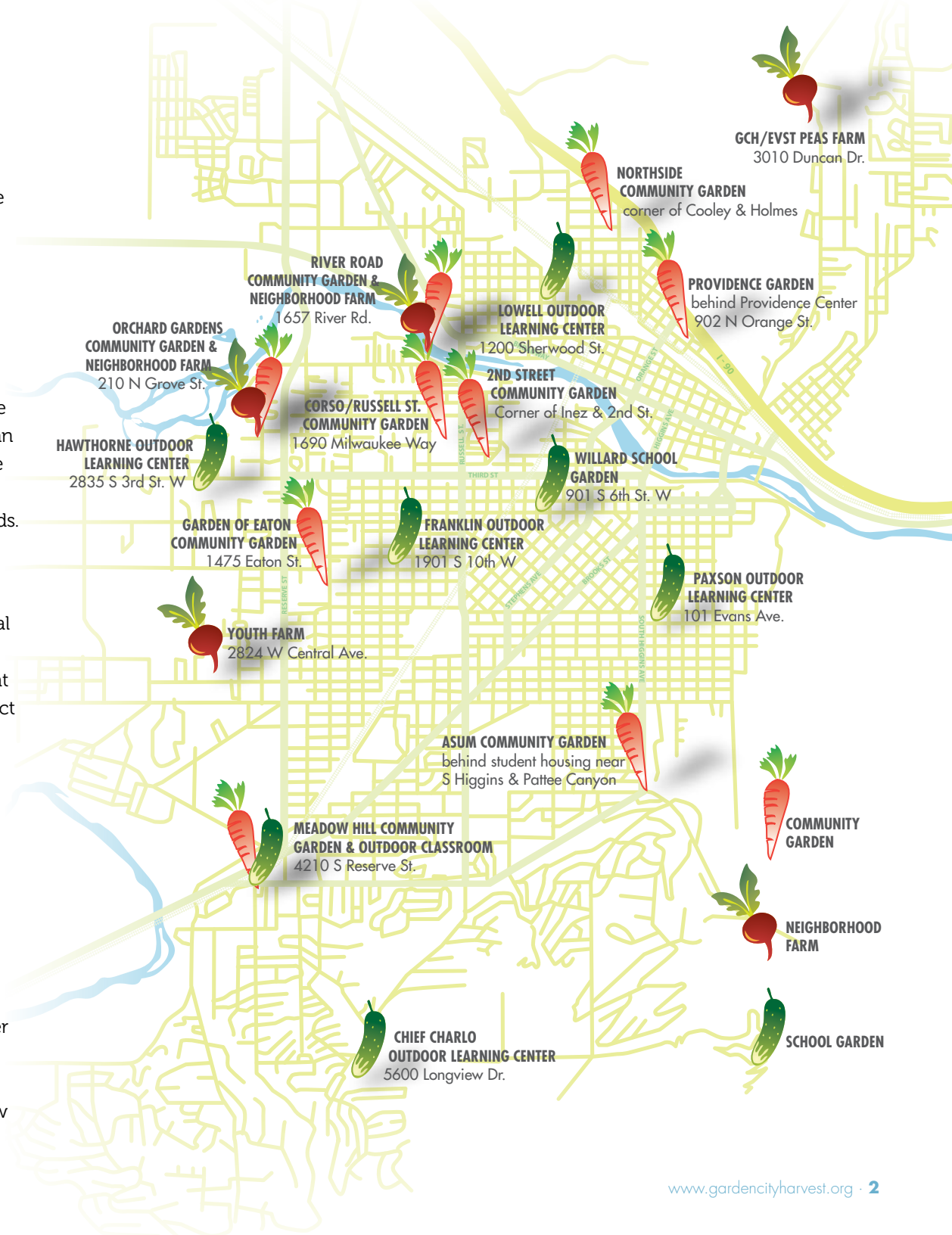
CURRENT PROGRAMS

community gardens - 354 plots in nine gardens allow Missoulians to be no more than a mile from a garden. Each plot can produce over 300 pounds of food at \$0.13/lb. Each garden has everything you need but the seeds.

farm to school - Teaching kids about food, farming, gardening and nutrition by hosting 4,000 kids and adults on educational farm field trips in the spring and fall, three week-long summer camps, running an eight month educational program for every District One second grade classroom, and growing kale for all elementary and middle school lunchroom in Missoula.

neighborhood farms - Our Neighborhood Farms grow over 44,000 lbs of food for people in need each year and provide outdoor classrooms for university students and kindergarteners alike.

youth development - 45 youth from challenging backgrounds spend the summer employed or volunteering on two farms, learning life and job skills by growing high quality, low cost food for 300 senior and low income households.



programs

COMMUNITY GARDENS

74% of gardeners earn low to moderate incomes

97% of gardeners found gardening improved their quality of life

Growing their own saved gardeners as much as \$20 per week on groceries

74% of gardeners participated for its therapeutic elements

Began work on two new community gardens to open spring 2014



FARM TO SCHOOL

4,000 kids and adults took field trips to the PEAS Farm

50 youth participated in 4 Little PEAS Summer Camps

Over 1,000 students participated in educational school garden programming

Every single second grader enrolled in Missoula's District One Public Schools participated in the Farmer in the Classroom program.

Opened a new school garden at Franklin Elementary and started talks with Hawthorne for spring 2014



c larrance

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We employed 15 teens, six at the Youth Farm and nine through Youth Harvest Project

30 Youth Homes residents volunteered every week at the Youth Farm

Mobile Market made weekly visits to eight subsidized housing facilities mostly serving senior citizens

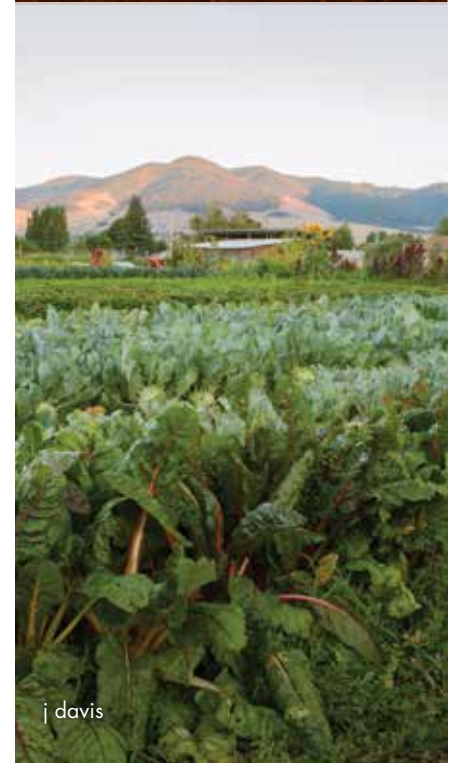
Youth Harvest Project teens distributed 5,200 pounds of fresh produce through their five Mobile Market sites and the WIC program

Youth Farm teens distributed over 1,170 pounds of produce to patrons of their Mobile Market sites



NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

Our four neighborhood farms grew tons of food for several local service agencies. Each farm sold CSA's to farm subscribers (members) to supplement our work. Combined, the four farms grew 101,220 pounds of delicious, healthy produce. (See next page for details on each of our farms.)



j davis

neighborhood farm projects

ORCHARD GARDENS COMMUNITY GARDEN & NEIGHBORHOOD FARM

Grew 5,380 pounds of food for the Missoula Food Bank – often delivered by bicycle!

Grew 4,913 pounds of produce for Mobile Market and Orchard Gardens Farm Stand

23 CSA members received 6,520 pounds of veggies

Total veggies grown: 16,813 pounds

Total volunteer hours: 1,230



GCH/EVST PEAS FARM

Grew 13,457 pounds of food for the Missoula Food Bank

Grew 5,200 pounds of produce for Mobile Market and WIC.

4,100 pounds of veggies were sold to UM Dining Services, the Western Montana Growers' Coop and the Good Food Store

97 CSA members received 24,124 pounds of veggies

Total veggies grown: 56,306 pounds



RIVER ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN & NEIGHBORHOOD FARM

Grew 3,456 pounds of food for the Poverello Center

6,679 pounds of produce went to the Volunteer for Veggies program and Mobile Market

53 summer CSA members and 16 winter share members received 18,340 pounds of veggies

Total veggies grown: 28,745 pounds

Total volunteer hours: 1,165



YOUTH FARM

Grew 7,275 pounds of food for all seven Youth Homes, the Partnership for Children, InnerRoads Wilderness Program of Youth Homes, Mountain Home, the Carole Graham Home, Recovery Center Missoula, Council Groves After School program, the Poverello Center, and Missoula Aging Service's Congregate Meals

Grew 1,170 pounds of produce for the Mobile Market

45 summer CSA members and 12 winter share members received 14,491 pounds of veggies

Total veggies grown: 22,936 pounds





a river road family

Julie and Chris started gardening at River Road Community Garden while Julie was pregnant with their first child, Isabelle. Isabelle is now seven, and they've gone from one plot to two, from newbie gardeners to garden mentors. They had another child, Benjamin, along the way as well. Their kids have grown up knowing what it meant to grow their own food, put it up for the winter, depend on seasons, and shed tears over weeding in the hot sun.

"It has been great for us," says Julie. I mean, I gardened a little before I came here, like in the Peace Corps, but never had a big garden. I've been getting better at it over the years and it has been really satisfying."

"Everything is here," says Chris. "The water, the tools, the knowledge. You know --- everything."

The shared tools and knowledge made this, as Julie said, an easy start in gardening.

They have a long, skinny lot at home with lots of trees, so growing something at home wasn't an option.

A big part of the garden for Julie and Chris is that gardening is a way of life for their children.

"[The garden is] great for the kids to experience," says Julie. "To learn about where our food comes from, have that be a part of their growing up. They have a great time digging in the dirt."

This kind of education wasn't part of Julie's childhood or family. She recalls first seeing an orange tree, she was at a friend's house in Florida. "I remember thinking oh, wow, they do grow on trees. You know they grow on trees, but to actually see one -- it was amazing to me. That is a weird disconnect that we have with our food. It is cool that our kids see this stuff and, you know, know that's where it comes from and that's how people work on it."

And while the kids generally enjoy the garden, there have been times when they have shed tears over having to come weed and water.

"And that's good too," says Chris. The lesson for the kids isn't just the life cycle of the food and where it comes from, but what goes into growing it -- that food takes work, water, weeding, good soil, sun. "That self sufficiency that it teaches them is pretty important. It is something that I don't remember learning as a kid. . . It is probably the cornerstone of how we try to teach self sufficiency to our kids. And responsibility."

Chris and Julie love that there is a connection to the life cycle – that food is part of a season, that birds and bees and microbes are all part of making our food possible. “You see how the two work together,” says Chris.

There is a sense of wonder to being at the garden. From a seed turning into a giant climbing bean plant, to listening to a pileated woodpecker make its monkey call or a kestrel hunting over the kale and collards. Simply watching the ducks fly over from the Clark Fork.

“We’ve been able to meet people from all different parts of the community,” says Chris. “People that we really like, but wouldn’t see in our daily lives”

Like their plot neighbor, who has over the years come to be like a grandmother to their kids. She tells them stories, they share plants, they get excited about seeing her on the car ride over.

“This is the definition of building community,” says Chris. “Over the 9 or 10 years we’ve been here – been able to meet people from all different parts of the community, people we wouldn’t see otherwise. To me that is the definition of building community. It is such a great asset to the whole community.”



c bingham

Community gardens

farmer in the classroom

– GETTING TO THE EEEWW!!

This was Garden City Harvest's third year running Farmer in the Classroom. As the name suggests, several of our farmer-educators take our farms to the classroom in the winter months. It's about learning the lifecycle of a farm – something we all depend on for our health and well-being.

The students keep farm journals, get in-classroom lessons each week, and end the curriculum with a field trip to the PEAS Farm to see some of it in action.

This year, Garden City Harvest was in all of the Missoula County Public School's District one second grade classrooms.

"Food is part of the second grade curriculum," says Mrs. Krause, a second grade teacher at Hawthorne Elementary. "It meets part of the children's learning objectives for the year, and fits so well."

Mrs. Krause's farmer is Jason Mandala, Director of the Farm to School program. He's helped plan most of the school gardens in town and wrote the school garden and Farmer in the Classroom curriculum.

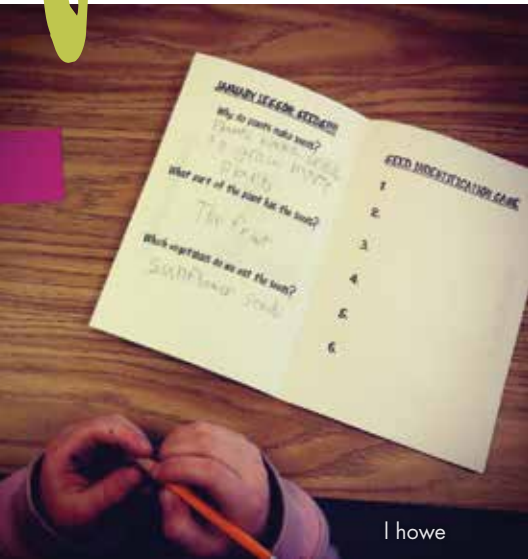
When I asked Mrs. Krause why she takes part in this program, and does it with such contagious enthusiasm, she said, "many of these kids don't know where their

food comes from – you know, they think food comes from Wal-Mart." There is a mix of kids in her classroom. Some go to the farmers' markets, some have gardens of their own, so they, as Mrs. Krause says, "live local food everyday." There are other children in her class whose "families that think that fruit comes from a can."

When Jason comes in the room, the kids get excited. He puts things in second grade terms. Plus, as Mrs. Krause says, "he's a natural. They worship the ground Jason walks on."

This combination of dynamic teacher and tangible subject matter packs a punch. It engages the senses: they snack on sunflower sprouts, kale and locally made cheese, they grind wheat into flour, they spy on seeds to sleuth out which seed makes what plant. It is the full circle – not just of the plant or animal, but how they interact together, how we all depend on each other to eat. First you grow the wheat, then you grind it, then you bake it, then you eat it. The cow eats the grass, poops, fertilizes the soil, eats the healthy grass.

Farmer in the Classroom "gets to the eeew things," says Rhonda. "but they are cool eeew things – like cows fertilizing the grass that they then eat."



FINANCIAL REPORT



EXPENSE

Youth Development	=	\$87,559
Community Gardens	=	\$53,030
Development	=	\$92,187
Farm to School	=	\$65,589
Neighborhood Farms	=	\$211,196
General Operations	=	\$62,549
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TOTAL EXPENSES	=	\$572,110



INCOME

Individual Contributions	=	\$239,732
Grants	=	\$229,635
Miscellaneous	=	\$6,126
Events	=	\$37,856
Program Income	=	\$192,055
<hr/>		
TOTAL INCOME	=	\$705,404



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c hardwer



d dickey

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

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IN MEMORY OF

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j davis

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