

"WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER"

ach year, we open our gardens and farms to thousands of our neighbors. Families of all income levels, elementary students, college students, teens without a home, senior citizens, refugees to name a few: a cross section of our town. You, all of you, are partners in this work. We give up a little control, we listen, we offer a chance to invest in our shared soil. In other words, we are stronger together. These spaces come alive in their glorious, colorful, muddy beauty because of the people that join us. The result is healthier minds, bodies, and a more connected group of people.

In 2017 we took that to a new level, building a permanent organizational home at our farm on River Road. The farmstead will serve as a hub where food is the great connector bringing our wonderful community together in even bigger ways.

I talked to a lot of you last year as we funded the farmstead. It strikes me as I look back on those conversations, read through our participant surveys, check gardeners in at Community Garden opening day, participate in cooking classes in school gardens - that when we offer a place to grow (in more ways than one), and ask our community to dig in, we are richer for it, and so are you.

I am so incredibly grateful to be a part of this community - and that YOU are a part of what we grow!

Jean 300e

FARM TO SCHOOL

Teaching the next generation the value of local nutritious food and how it is grown.

NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

Growing food and community for all, regardless of income.

WE DON'T HAVE ONE SOLUTION TO FOOD ISSUES

WE HAVE MANY

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Giving all Missoulians the land, tools, and knowledge to grow their own food.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Changing lives of teens struggling with personal challenges by growing food together.

THE NEED FOR THIS WORK:

- in missoula county ——

Residents are considered food insecure

in children is food insecure

in children lives in poverty

of third graders are overweight

of adults are overweight

montana ranks in the nation in children's health

of Americans reported they had no one with which to share a personal problem and have higher probabliltiy of suicidal thoughts, depression and anxiety.

solution:

YOUTH

means to me -

e had a youth join us a few weeks into summer, which can be hard. To welcome him, we orchestrated a team building activity, "River-Crossing". Working together, the youth get everyone across the "river" with a few stepping stones. Initially reserved in his participation, our newcomer took cues from his teammate.

Within the hour, this young man transitioned from quiet observer to problem solver. This activity served as a metaphor for his participation and growth throughout his work with us.

When I asked him how he felt he'd grown, he said he'd gained confidence, become comfortable using his voice, and discovered his leadership abilities. I saw this, too, in his work with seniors, in running our Mobile Market, and in his interactions with peers and

> - Tami McDaniel Youth Development Director



solution:

COMMUNITY GARDENS

means to me -

eaving our garden weekly with arms full of fresh food that WE grew.

- Susan Ritchey River Road Community Gardener

ove coming to the garden and having our kids run to their appointed jobs: retrieving the spray nozzle, checking for new strawberries, and seeing if one of our friends happened to be there too. Often when watering I try to take it all in and really try to commit to memory just how beautiful, how peaceful, and how happy we all are at this time in the garden as a family. We are making family memories there.

> - Rebecca Pettit River Road Community Gardener

oved seeing an older man come to he garden and meditate, he'd sit with nis face to the sun, as if something is really inviting in that space, not just for kale and beans, but for us as humans to

> - Emily Walter Northside Community Gardener



GARDEN plots

GARDENS including tools, water & land

each plot can produce

pounds of food



GARDEN plot retention rate

WAIT LISTED for gardens

solution:

NEIGHBORHOOD FARMS

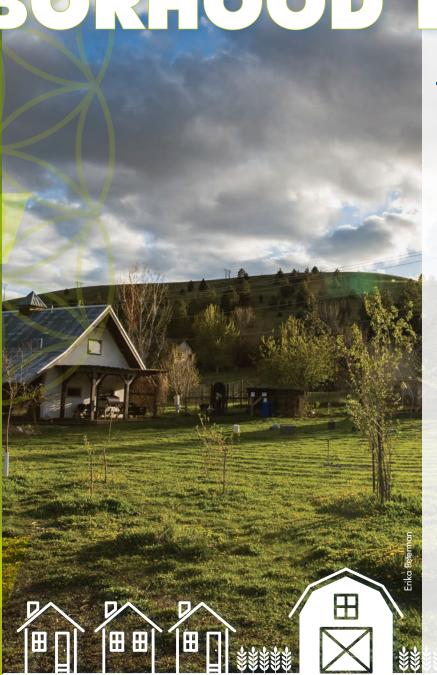
means to me -

his became a central part of our family's summer. We built our family dinners around our haul, experimented with many different recipes, challenged our kids to try new things and sparked conversations about local ag and healthy eating.

-CSA Customer

earned a lot about how I want to ive my life after my gap year and even after college. I spent 3 months watching my mentors live their lives so intentionally and meaningfully; it was incredibly inspiring. . . . It made them happy to work with the land, learning from it and growing with it and using it to inspire and help others. I'm not sure exactly what I want to do with my life, but I do know that I want to live a meaningful life, intentionally, just like the members of Garden City Harvest.

> - Olivia DiMichele a recent graduate of Hotchkiss and Gap Season program.



POUNDS of healthy, fresh local produce feeding

PEOPLE in need through

PARTNER organizations including Missoula Food Bank, Poverello Center & Youth Homes

that's almost —

POPULATION

CSA veggie subscription programs retention rate solution:

means to me -

e have about 8,900 students in our school district that are supported by our partnership with Garden City Harvest. They have access to farm visits, farmers in the classroom, and school gardens. Students not only have that curricular tie in terms of lessons in science or health, or even social studies, they are also getting the opportunity to learn outside amongst the vegetables in the gardens that are created on their school sites.

We had one particular young man who actually came to our school board meeting. He was a student who had experienced some trouble with the law, some behavioral challenges at home and his time on the farm changed his whole life. He came back to tell us about how that impacted him and community became so rich in his life.

> - Hatton Littman, CSA Member & Director of Communications Missoula County Public Schools



-educating **MISSOULA students**

farmer in the classroom teaches

SECOND graders in Missoula schools

STUDENTS experience farm field trips

SCHOOL gardens

STUDENTS

WHAT THE REW FARMSTEAD MEANS
TO THIS COMMUNITY

hanks to our generous community of givers, volunteers, staff, and board we have a new farmstead at River Road, one of our 20 sites in Missoula. We will use this new year-round facility to deepen our work

A KITCHEN - for teaching classes on cooking and food preserving, making food with friends and neighbors bringing people together with food on another level.

COLLABORATION

SPACE - The farmstead's community space and commercial kitchen allow our gardeners, CSA members,

volunteers, partners, staff, and the greater community to join us in growing, learning about, preparing and preserving whole foods.

SUSTAINABILITY -

This is one of the most sustainable sites in the state of Montana: using double-wall construction, triple pane windows, a solar array to offset the electrical needs of the site, reclaimed wood, and more.

HEATED INDOOR

SPACE - allows us to work even when the snow flies. Whether it is teens learning job skills by cooking a meal for seniors or staff teaching new gardeners how to start their seeds indoors.

We did all of this without sacrificing any growing space!





THANK YOU

vou are the soil that nourishes **GARDEN CITY HARVEST** Good soil is the

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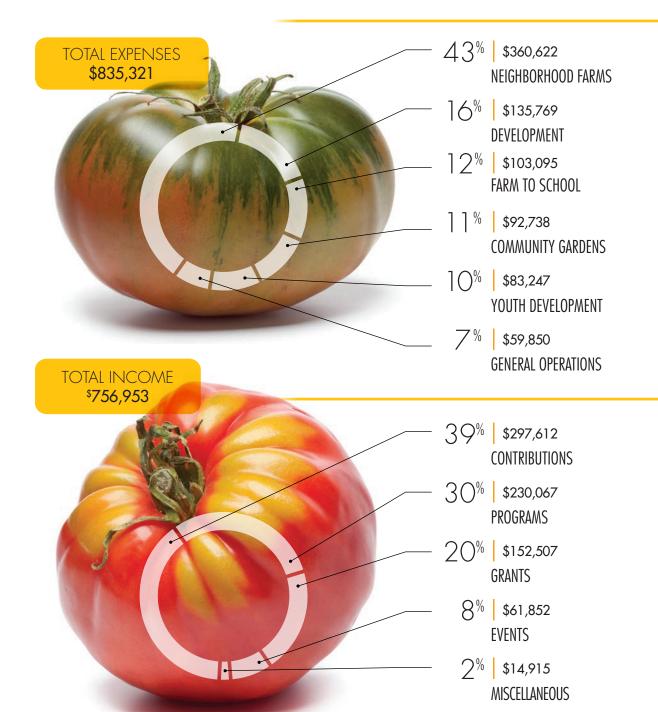
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2017 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME: \$577,035

