

2012 annual report



Because gardens grow good people!



WHY CONNECT KIDS WITH HEALTHY FOOD FROM SEED TO TABLE?

IT'S A GREAT WAY TO LEARN...gardens are a great context for teaching math, science, social studies, nutrition, fitness, language arts, and more!

IT'S IMPORTANT...in a time of obesity, diabetes, food insecurity, and climate change, raising kids who think carefully about their daily food choices really matters!

IT'S FUN...we haven't yet met a child who isn't delighted to pull a beet out of the ground, eat the delicious soup she helped cook, or gently cradle a newborn turkey in her hands.

GARDENS GROW GOOD PEOPLE...patience, teamwork, care for living things, and community...these are among the most important things growing in our gardens!

Six years ago, when kids first started putting seeds in the ground and veggies in their mouths at Common Threads Farm, Michelle Obama hadn't yet broken ground on the White House garden. Michael Pollan hadn't yet begun urging us to "Eat Food. Not Too Much. Mostly Plants." The Farm to School movement, though very much alive in some parts of the country, was only a glimmer in the eyes of a few in Whatcom County.

The landscape is deliciously different now. Let us raise a toast to school gardens, farm field trips, Harvest of the Month, seed exchanges, and community and backyard gardens. Let us dance in gratitude for the authors, gardeners, chefs, teachers, artists, and activists working to shape a FoodScape that's good enough to eat.



And then let us take a big stretch toward the warm sun, pick up our tools, and get back to work lovingly shaping the way that our next generation will think and act about food.

Thank you for joining us in this important work!

Warmly,

Laura Plaut, Executive Director



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school gardens, farm camp,

The School Garden Collective supports garden-based learning for kids in a growing number of local schools. Our 2012 partners included Alderwood, Assumption, Carl Cozier, Columbia, Fairhaven, Geneva, Happy Valley, Kendall, Lummi, Parkview, Roosevelt, and Whatcom.

The kids at schools with gardens make better choices in the lunchroom. I see this so consistently.

— Beth Schramer, WSU FoodSense Nutrition Educator

Results from a recent survey of teachers participating in Common Threads School Garden Collective showed:

- ✓ **86.6% of teachers agree or strongly agree that garden-based learning supports understanding of nutrition.**
- ✓ **91% agree or strongly agree that their garden is helping to build a sense of community within the school.**
- ✓ **78.6% agree or strongly agree that the garden had increased their students' ability to work as part of a team.**

camp pizza, youth grown

- ✓ **More than 2000 students studied math, social studies, language arts, and life science in our school gardens.**
- ✓ **151 Farm Camp and Camp Pizza participants collected eggs, planted spinach, ground grain, and ate rainbow salads.**
- ✓ **114 low-income youth living in high-risk environments grew an abundant crop of pride, team-spirit, and self-confidence while gardening, cooking, and eating healthy foods in our Youth Grown programs.**
- ✓ **Volunteers donated over 1500 hours of time because, as they tell us again and again, connecting kids with healthy food just feels so good!**

thank you donors

INDIVIDUALS

Harriet & Alfred Arkley

Joe Bennett

John Blethen

Mary Bourm

Alex Brede

Evan & Jenalyn Bush

Terry Carter

Soren Cunningham

Michelle Davis

April & Carlos de Montiel

Kerry Dolan

Barbara Doubet

Terry Drussel

Anne Marie Faiola

Dean Fearing

Sylvia Fragner

Charles & Donna Freeman

Deborra Garrett

David Goldman

Sylvia Graham

Gladys Hyatt

Mary Jensen & Fumio Otsu

Alexandra King

Gary Koch

Dale and Kelly Krause

Jean Kroll

Rebecca Krueger & Carter Maden

Susie & Doug Landsem

Sarah Lane

Gerrit Loman

Derek Long

Scott Mauermann

Carolyn & Bill McGowan

Lisa & Dan McShane

Timothy & Angela Mooney

Shannon Moore

Jamine Moss-Owen

Adam Nash

Patricia Otto

Laura Plaut

Linda & Frank Plaut

Tom & Johanna Plaut

Steve Price

Mary Redman

Elie Samuel & Lisa Dixon

Ted & Nancy Seifert

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Mardi Solomon & Gene Myers

Cynthia St. Claire

Mark Storkel

Paula Stratman

Angela & Rich Taylor

Pamela Terhorst

Terry Vandenberg

Bobbi Vollendorff

Phoebe Wahl

Annie Welch

Susan West

David Westerlund

Renee and Jonathan Wilgress

John Williams

James Winchester

Jill Wolfson

Suze Woolf

Jennifer & Damien Wright

FOUNDATIONS

Charis Fund

Elizabeth A. Lynn Foundation

General Mills Foundation

Mary Redman Foundation

Norcliffe Foundation

Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation

Paul Glaser Foundation

Whatcom Community Foundation

(Sustainable Whatcom Fund)

Whole Kids Foundation

Your support grows
our vegetables, feeds our
animals, stocks our kitchen
and art supplies, buys us the
books we love to read with
children, and supports the
wonderful staff who are
helping to grow happy,
healthy kids.

BUSINESSES

Bellingham Community Food Coop

Book Fare Café

Boundary Bay Brewery

Brandywine Kitchen

Ethosco

Fred Meyer

Great Harvest Bread

Homestead Habitats

Joe's Garden

Joy of Pilates

La Vie en Rose

Old World Deli

Pretty Little Feet

Quel Fromage

Rabbit Fields Farm

Scratch and Peck

Silver Springs Creamery

Starbucks Coffee Company

Terra Verde Farm

The Table

Trader Joe's

Uprising Seeds

Village Books

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Mauermann, President

Lisa Dixon, Vice President

Jennifer Wright, Treasurer

Alex Brede, Secretary

Dale Krause, at large



thank you partners

A great big thank you to our 2012 community partners including Northwest Youth Services, Rebound of Whatcom County, the Max Higbee Center, and all of our partner schools.

Our partnerships with you mean that a lot more kids are getting their hands in the dirt, good food in their tummies, and big smiles on their faces.

A special thanks to Bobbi Vollendorff, and to Charlie and Donna Freeman. Words cannot express our gratitude for your generosity in sharing your Bobbibrook home space with us.

thank you volunteers

Jean Andreson
Kelly Antolic
Jimmy Austin
Ryan Bainbridge
Emily Barry
Chantelle Benecki
Molly Benjamin
Sarah Bolton
Alex Christoforou
Emma Brice
Caroline Correa
Sarah Covert-Bowlds
Charlie and Donna Freeman

Francesca Gareri
Emily Geddes
Asheton Gilbertson
Kether Gray
Donna Hazleton
Megan Heer
Izzie Hough
Tanner Humphries
Jennifer Humphries
Comfort Israel
Paul Kearsley
Elsie Konzelman
Jean Kroll

Miranda Laine
Sarah Lane
Alice Lazzar-Atwood
Courtney Leake
Christiana Mattea
Greg Meyer
Jeva Morton
Haley Nelson
Jeremy Niles
Casey O'Brien
Miranda O'Donnell
Susan Palmer
Beth Parker

Meichen Plumhoff
Thomas Roen
Callie Schmidt
Joe Spring
Mark Storkel
Katie Storrs
Linda Versage
Bobbi Vollendorff
Nolan Winger
Olivia Yates
Noah Young
Raechel Youngberg



Without volunteers,
our coops would need cleaning,
our birds would be hungry, our kids
wouldn't get the quality of care that
they, their parents, and their teachers
have come to expect in our programs.

Thank you for the 1500+ hours
of service you contributed
in 2012.

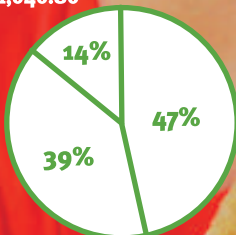
COMMON THREADS FARM BY THE NUMBERS

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INFLOW

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
\$21,040.80

PROGRAM REVENUE
\$59,870.97

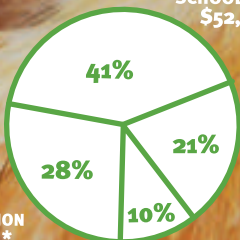


GRANTS
\$70,500.00

OUTFLOW

SCHOOL GARDENS
\$52,243.76

ADMINISTRATION
\$35,481.14*



BOBBIBROOK FARM
\$26,458.04

YOUTH GROWN
\$13,537.32



*High as a percentage of the total because our programs have tremendous volunteer support!

COMMON THREADS FARM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

www.commonthreadsfarm.org

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