



# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



**Growing good eaters throughout Whatcom County!**



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Friends,

As we look ahead to our 20th anniversary in 2026, I'm filled with gratitude for the community that has grown alongside Common Threads Farm. What started as a small summer camp on Lummi Island has become a countywide food education and access organization serving thousands of kids each year.

2025 also marked an important moment for our organization — the first leadership transition in our history. I'm proud of how our team, partners, and supporters came together to ensure a smooth and successful year of growth, learning, and impact.

In 2025, our team reached 3,758 students across five school districts, supported after-school clubs and camps, and served 3,700 nourishing meals through our mobile food truck. More than the numbers, we're proud of the curiosity, confidence, and connection kids build when they learn about food in the garden, in the kitchen, and at the table.

This work is only possible because of you — our supporters, partners, educators, and volunteers. Your belief in our mission helps ensure kids across Whatcom County grow up with the knowledge, confidence, and access they need to make healthy food choices for life.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Pal  
Executive Director



**We're on a mission to connect kids to nourishment, from seed to table.**

In the future we envision, all children grow up with access to healthy food and the skills to prepare it.

# OUR WHY

**68%**

of Whatcom County Kids don't eat enough fruits & vegetables on a daily basis.

-2023 DOH Healthy Youth Survey



**75%**

of Whatcom County teachers say their students increased fruit & vegetable consumption as a result of Common Threads Farm programs.

**91%**

of teachers say that their students have an increased sense of excitement or adventure when trying new foods with Common Threads Farm.



**Did you know?** A growing body of research supports that students who spend more time outdoors during the school day have lower cortisol levels, increased academic engagement, and improved social skills!

Food is a fundamental aspect of our daily lives, and we believe that **children deserve for food to be an integral part of the curriculum.**

**School gardens are a critical tool** – from the wonder of watching a seed's transformation to the pride of biting into a hand-grown tomato, involving kids in growing and making their own food makes a difference in creating a healthier future.



# WHAT WE DO

We reconnect children to nourishing food in the garden, in the kitchen, and at the table.

## SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM



We go to where students already are--at school!--and provide **food education throughout the whole school year**.



During growing seasons, our garden lessons increase classroom teacher capacity to provide **state standards-aligned science education** in a rich, hands-on setting.



In the winter, students cook delicious recipes featuring garden produce. “Adventure bites” **expand their palates**, and teamwork reinforces **social - emotional learning**.

**75%** average improvement in students' Next Generation Science Standard performance across our classes.



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## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We provide **high-quality childcare when it's most needed**: after school and during school breaks.

By deepening skills around cooking, gardening, and life sciences via fun projects, students build **improve their self-esteem** and walk away with an increased **sense of agency**.

### Cooking Club Skill Development

- Cutting and dicing
- Peeling and grating
- Mincing and chiffonade
- Following recipes and measuring
- Assessing and adding spices
- Teamwork



### Garden Club Skill Development

- Planting and packaging seeds
- Plant identification
- Soil composition testing
- Project planning
- Weighing and pricing produce
- Farm stand economics



**100%**

of after school cooking club parents said their child was more willing to taste new foods & gained culinary skills.



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## SPRING & SUMMER CAMP

### Favorite Camp Day Activities

- Exploring With Five Senses
- Insect Investigation
- Plant Technologies STEM Challenge
- Nature Journaling
- Soil Art
- Veggie Print Making

### Lunches and Snacks Campers Loved To Make!

- Rainbow Rice
- Garden Herb Popcorn
- Homemade Pasta With Kale Pesto
- Root Vegetable Latkes
- Fresh Spring Rolls



**“I’ve never seen our kids so happy after camp. They learned so much and came home eating much healthier.”**

-2025 Summer Camp Parent

**84%**

of camp parents said their child is more interested in the outdoors as a result of camp.

**100%**

of camp parents said they were very likely to sign up their child for our camp again!



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## FOOD TRUCK PROGRAM

“Basil” the Food Truck isn’t just a tool for fighting food insecurity--it’s also a **mobile classroom** that expands our reach!

We understand that **food is more than just fuel**, so when we serve free after-school meals at low-income housing sites, we connect with community & learn together.

“

The Food Truck has had a **significant impact** on our community by providing access to fresh, healthy food for so many children who would otherwise not have this option.

What I personally enjoy the most is seeing those kids outside, already waiting in line, waiting anxiously for the windows to be open.”

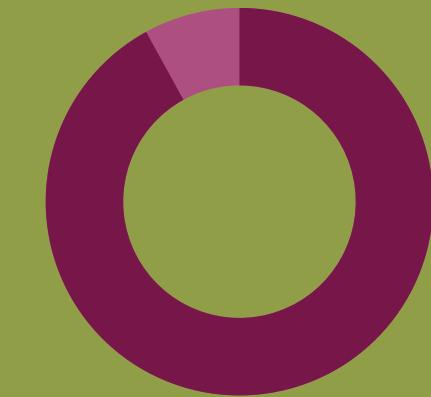
-Griselda Mendoza Vargas, Community Health Worker



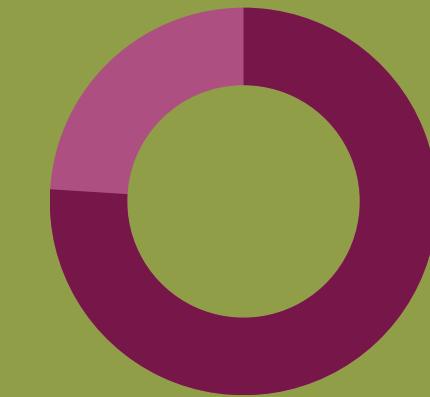
Veggie Wrap  
from “Basil”



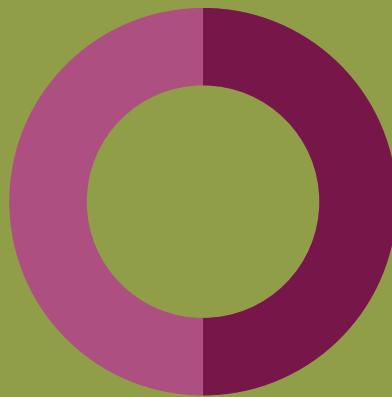
# WHO DO WE SERVE?



**91%**  
of school sites are  
Title I Schools



**76%**  
of participants qualify  
for free & reduced  
lunch



**50%**  
of schools are located  
in USDA food desert  
regions

**We prioritize serving in times and areas of need.**

## School Day Program:

Acme Elementary	Lummi Nation School
Alderwood Elementary	Kendall Elementary
Birchwood Elementary	Nooksack Elementary
Cordata Elementary	Roosevelt Elementary
Everson Elementary	Sumas Elementary
Harmony Elementary	Skyline Elementary

## Food Truck

Villa Santa Fe Apartments  
Trailview Apartments  
Sterling Meadows Apartments

*100% of residents at these sites  
are identified as belonging to  
vulnerable populations.*

# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



**3,758 students engaged**



**1004 school day lessons taught**



**516 hours of outdoor education during the school day**



**87% of teachers say students who are typically less engaged can shine during our classes**



**100% of club parents agree their child is more interested in cooking at home as a result of cooking club**



**92% of teachers say their school garden is an asset to the school community that would be challenging to sustain without Common Threads Farm**

# STORIES FROM THE FIELD



“During a cooking lesson with a third-grade class, I asked a student what he usually ate at home. His response was “McDonald’s!” I then asked if he ever ate vegetables like the ones we were preparing (carrots, onions, and cabbage), to which he said no.

After the class had prepared and tasted the Garden Stir-Fry, I checked back in with him. He responded with an enthusiastic nod, smile, and a double thumbs-up. I believe this small moment captured something that we work towards at Common Threads Farm: bringing joy to cooking and eating healthy, nutritious food, while **expanding kids' horizons.**”

-Ro Hyatt, Food Educator, 2025

“The **connection to our science standards** has been really wonderful. The Common Threads Farm lessons integrated perfectly with what we were working on in science.”

-Bellingham School District Teacher



“My students tried sorrel in the garden, a vegetable that none of them would have willingly tried otherwise - and they liked it. This has helped one of my children, who had a fear of foods, realize that **food is not scary.**”

-Ferndale School District Teacher



“Hearing comments like. ‘**My child has never eaten so many veggies!**’ and, ‘My kiddo loved your meal last week and wanted to make it at home!’ is common on the food truck. Community members often come up to thank us for serving their community. I have never doubted the impact of my work at Common Threads Farm”

-Mary Klingelhoefer, Food Truck Team

# LOOKING AHEAD

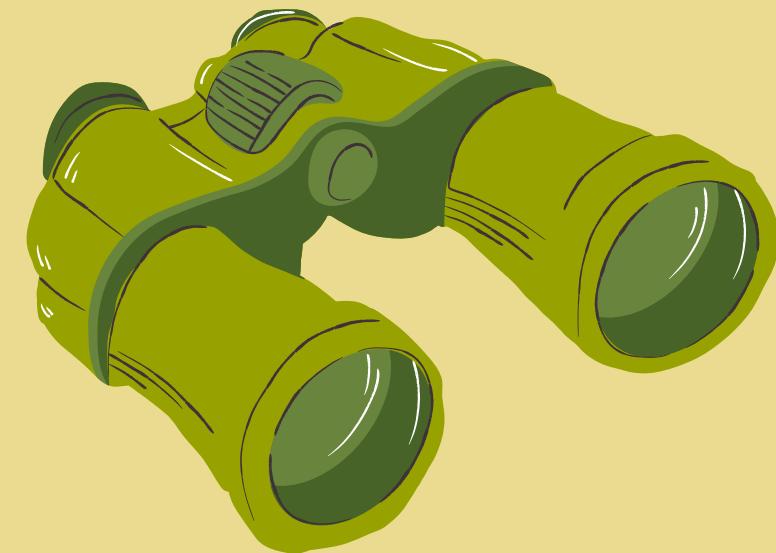
As we look to the future, our focus is on strengthening what we do best: delivering high-quality food education and access programs for kids across Whatcom County. We are prioritizing financial sustainability, program quality, and strong organizational systems to ensure our impact continues for years to come.

In 2026, we will also complete a required name change due to legal considerations. While our name will evolve, our mission remains the same: to nourish kids and connect them to healthy food in the garden, in the kitchen, and at the table.

We're grateful to walk into our next chapter with the support of a community that believes in the power of food to teach, connect, and inspire.

With gratitude,

Stephanie Pal  
Executive Director



# THANK YOU!

## FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

ClimeTime  
Connections: Mount Baker School District  
Dudley Foundation  
John E Goerlich Charitable Trust  
Mount Baker Foundation  
OSPI Outdoor Learning Grants  
SNAP-Ed  
Washington National Park Service Foundation  
Washington Service Corps  
Whatcom Community Foundation  
Whole Kids Garden Grants  
WSDA Resiliency Grant  
WTA Community Van Grant

## BUSINESS & COMMUNITY FUNDERS

Align Pilates Studio  
Assistance League of Bellingham  
Bar Cicotti  
Birchwood Garden Club  
Cafe Blue  
Catholic Community Services  
Christ the King Community Church  
Community Food Co-op  
Crescent Specialty Foods  
Fiamma Pizza  
Hammer Head Coffee  
Kroger  
Kulshan Brewing  
Larrabee Lager Co  
Lowell Elementary PTA  
Mercy Housing  
PeaceHealth  
Steve & Eileen Nelson Charitable Fund  
Stones Throw Brewing  
SuperFeet

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bellingham Public Schools  
Carl Cozier Elementary PTA  
Catholic Community Services  
Foothills Community Food Partnership  
Irene Reither Elementary PTA  
The Kitchen  
Lummi Nation  
Mercy Housing  
Mount Baker School District  
Nooksack Tribe  
Nooksack Valley School District  
NWESD 189  
Opportunity Council  
Roosevelt Elementary PTA  
Skyline Elementary  
Vamos Outdoors Project  
Wade King Elementary PTA  
Western Washington University  
Whatcom Coalition for Environmental  
Educators

## VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who supported our lessons, showed up to work parties, and helped our efforts in any way! We couldn't achieve our mission without you!

Aden Houran-Corkum  
Alasia Canares  
Alison Sokol  
Alyssa Deroco  
Amy Mann  
Aneka Sweeney  
Asha Grossberndt  
Ashlee Beld  
Ashley Dahl  
Barbora Skacelova  
Brenda Wilder-Brown  
Carrie Johnson  
Casey Kelley  
Casi Herrera  
Cecilia Britten  
Charlotte Bauckman  
Cherryne Kravitz  
Christine Kessler  
Christine Zimmerman  
Cierra Morris  
Claire Bloom  
Courtney Wylie  
Dawn Anderson  
Debbie Knudsen  
Demaris Peterson  
Dmitri Januszewski  
Elizabeth Middlebrooks  
Emily Nader  
Emily Bonenfant  
Evie Gray  
Faye Gallant  
Feng Zhao  
Gavin Rappe  
George Zavakos  
Gerlinde Culler  
Gianna Bauchman  
Gurarsh Grewal  
Hailey Heinrich  
Hannah Wadsworth  
Hannah Tyler  
Jadyn Deroco  
Jamie McMillen  
Jeffrey Werring  
Jennifer Grahame  
Jessica Mase  
Jessica Engholm  
Joan Parker  
Jodi Hammond  
Kaiwyn Harary-Palacios  
Kaley Porter-Perry  
Kara Harrison  
Karen Knitter  
Kate Darby  
Katherine Louzao  
Katheryn Bachen  
Kathy Boland  
Katie Bergley  
Katie George  
Kelly Balzer  
Kelsie Ferry  
Kristin Riley  
Leann Kanda  
Lindsey Leak  
Lisa Tiemersma  
Liz Rogers  
Marissa Sheley  
Mary VonKrusenstien  
Matthew Rhynas  
Maya Hanson  
Mercedes Kim  
Molly McKinney-Holcomb  
Nate Hampton  
Nova Gump  
Paige Swift  
Paige Yerton  
Patty Proctor  
Pearl Petaia  
Rachel Yonemura  
Racquel Muncy  
Reace Brown  
Ri'En Clarke  
Sabine Hopper  
Sam Knowles  
Sandi Mitchell  
Sara Ullman  
Sharon Avolio  
Shruti Kapoor  
Stu Johnson  
Talia Frank  
Will Middlebrooks

...and many more who joined us for work parties and helped care for gardens!

## 2025 BOARD

Maria MacPherson  
Kate Teele  
Mikaela Foster  
Janet Englehart  
Nolan Davidson  
Olivia Knitter Schmoe  
Jess Meyer

## STAFF

Stephanie Pal  
Emily Hie  
Sarah Wheatley  
Cam McMaster

Carly Renner  
Eric Guiang  
Sky Bressette  
Clara Wallner  
Claire Harris

## AMERICORPS

## SERVICE MEMBERS

Ro Hyatt  
Talia Frank  
Grace Wark  
Mary Klingelhoefer

Sabine Hopper  
Eva Solevad  
Olivia Luplow  
Tess Reeber

**Growing good eaters is not possible without your support!**

Thank you to everyone who nourished us with time, energy, and resources in 2025.

YOU make the magic happen!



# FY2025 DONORS

## \$1000 & ABOVE

Anonymous Donor  
Bob Pritchett  
Cheryl Hirss  
Clay & Hap Wertheimer  
Gail and Joost Knops  
Graham Smith  
Heather & Matt Oulette  
Jeanne M Nelson  
Julie Friesen  
Laura Plaut  
Margaret Metzger  
Rainbow Koehl  
Susan Jensen  
Thiran Udwatta

## \$500 - \$999

Anonymous Food Truck Donors  
Beth Bloom  
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Brian and Beth Rusk  
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Jonathan Carlson  
Jovan Hall  
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Kim Warshawer  
Maggie Kinsella & Jim Hopper  
Micah Jones  
Mike Hammes  
Sandi & Keiji Fukumoto  
Ted and Nancy Seifert

## \$100 - \$499

Alan Connor Smith  
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Alyssa Leon  
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Amy Saltzman  
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Martha Brown  
Max Silverman  
Mia Hellman-Crump  
Mira Gregory  
Natalie Charbonneau  
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Romay Nichols  
Ron & Sue Roberts  
Roshni Adi Jokhi  
Samantha Spaeth  
Sandra Little  
Sean Kanda  
Seana Olberg

Shannon Buckley  
Sue Webber  
Susan Mathews  
Sylvia Graham  
William Sandeno

## \$1 - \$99

Alex Charbonneau  
Alicia Toney  
Allison Williams  
Amanda Savery  
Amy Blom  
Andy Brew  
Auresa Nyctea  
Bethany Arnason  
Carolyn Eller  
Casey McGinnis  
Chelsea Messer  
Claire McElroy  
Courtney Pineau  
Danielle Morgan-Scharhon  
Danny Van Dale  
Desi Hutchins  
Diane Norman

Edward Matts  
Eileen Malloy  
Elise Evans  
Elizabeth Donovan  
Emily Hie  
Grace Wang  
Jackie Schoonover  
Jennifer & Travis Tennesen  
Johann Neem  
Josh Cihak  
Josh Walz  
Julie Schmitt  
Kalyn Luten  
Katherine Kauffman  
Kathleen Murphy  
Keegan O Hebert  
Kirstin Gruver  
Kristen Wegener  
Kristin Barber  
Kristine Matijascic  
Leslie Hill  
Kristen Wegener  
Kristin Barber  
Kristine Matijascic

Leslie Hill  
Linda Williams  
Lynn Rowbotham  
Mandi Kido  
Maressa Valliant  
Marissa McGrath  
Melinda McCutcheon  
Melissa Miner  
Melodee Sweet  
Molly Bressers  
Mychel Cortese  
Nika Spaulding  
Olesia Januszewski  
Olivia Schmoe  
Pam Sinnott  
Robby Sheils  
Robin Russell  
Rodd Pemble  
Sally Runestrand  
Sasha Leaman  
Selva Wohlgemuth  
Sonja Wingard  
Stuart Daubenmire  
Susan Roberts

## IN-KIND

Bellingham Yoga Collective  
Booda Organics  
Brandywine Kitchen  
Chckanut Builders  
Habitat for Humanity  
Kent's Garden  
La Fiamma Pizza  
Legacy Tree Care  
Peoples Bank  
Samish Bay Soaps  
Sirena Gelata  
Sunseed Farm  
Sweet as Waffles

And many more who made  
garden and cooking lessons  
possible!

# THANK YOU!



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possible without your support!**

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# GET CONNECTED



[www.commonthreadsfarm.org](http://www.commonthreadsfarm.org)



(360) 927 - 1590



@commonthreadsfarm



Common Threads Farm



Have an event coming up? **Make a difference and book Basil the Food Truck to cater**--all catering income supports our core programs!

Volunteer



Donate



Interested in board service?

Email:  
stephanie.pal@commonthreadsfarm.org