





From Seed to Plate: Growing Healthy Kids and Communities



Green Mountain Farm-to-School

Annual Report 2009-2010



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Annual Report 2009-2010

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A Letter from the Executive Director and Chair of the Board

Dear Friends:

he need for improved child nutrition has never been greater. The statics about the health of our children are striking: one third of all children born in 2000 or later will suffer from diabetes at some point in their lives, and many others will face chronic obesity-related health problems like heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer and asthma. Researchers estimate that for the first time in American history, today's generation of children will live shorter lives than their parents, due to the health consequences of obesity. Now, more than ever, we need to make changes that help kids lead healthier lives.

This past year has brought remarkable attention to the issues of children, school food and health in America. We are particularly inspired by Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign and Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution. At Green Mountain Farm-to-School, we are proud that our work in the rural Northern Vermont is part of a national effort to address the obesity crisis and increase access to fresh, local foods for all community members. Working in an area where 55% of students qualify for free or reduced price meals, we are providing schools with healthy, delicious foods from local farms. At the same time, we offer hands-on learning opportunities that educate students about nutrition and promote healthy food choices.

In the past year, our ability to realize our mission has grown and we are reaching more children than ever before. Through our Sprouts After-School Program, we planted 5 new school gardens this spring to extend our impact to over 3,000 students in 20 schools across Northern Vermont. We expanded our successful Green Mountain Farm Direct local food distribution system to serve not only school cafeterias but also senior meal sites. Through our Farm-to-School Network, we worked with school staff to integrate farm-to-school activities such as farm field trips, cooking activities and nutrition and agriculture education into the school curriculum. Throughout the year, we brought the community together to celebrate food, farming and community through Harvest Festivals, Community Dinners and Garden Dedication Ceremonies.

This report tells the story of our efforts and how they are making a real difference in the lives of Vermont's children. We are deeply grateful to the tremendous support of donors, administrators, staff, students, farmers and community members who have come together to give life to Green Mountain Farm-to-School's ambitious vision to change the way we eat and think about our food. We hope that you are inspired by this report and join us in celebrating our accomplishments and plans for the future.



Katherine Sims



David Stackpole

Sincerely,

Katherine Sims

Founder and Executive Director

David Stackpole

Board Chair

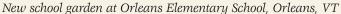


A Year in Review

uring the 2009-2010 academic year, Green Mountain Farm-to-School partnered with schools and farms across Northern Vermont to promote the health of Vermont's children, farms and communities.

- 1 new website: www.GreenMountainFarmDirect.org
- **4** senior meal sites partnered with GMFTS to purchase and serve local foods
- **20** school gardens: designed and planted by GMFTS staff and students in 2010
- **20%** improvement between pre- and post- test scores in after-school program
- **26** field trips to local farms
- **39** different local food products served in school cafeterias
- **403** students participated in the Sprouts After-School Program
- **655** hours of after-school programming by GMFTS staff
- 1,968 pounds of food grown in 15 school gardens for school cafeterias in 2009
- **3,000** student benefited by GMFTS Programs
- **\$6,686** worth of food purchased from local farms through GMFTS' Green Mountain Farm Direct











GMFTS School Partners 2009-2010









A Typical GMFTS School Garden

- Is designed entirely by students
- Features a wide variety of fruits and vegetables
- Produces an average of 350 pounds of food, which is donated to the school cafeteria
- Is located on school property and averages 30 feet x 40 feet.

My favorite memory of the garden was finding out that carrots can be purple too!

- Allura, 3rd grade



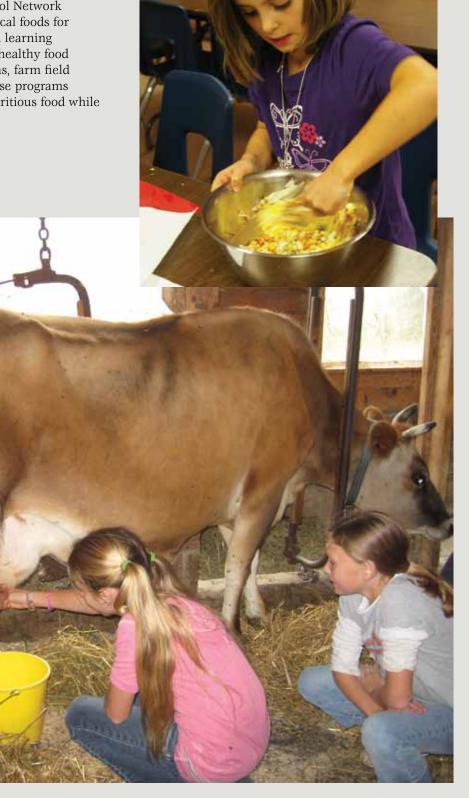
I liked knowing that the foods we harvested were being used in the school lunch.

- Tristan, 7th grade



Green Mountain Farm-To-School Network

he Green Mountain Farm-to-School Network provides Vermont schools with local foods for the school cafeteria and hands-on learning opportunities for students that promote healthy food choices such as taste tests, school gardens, farm field trips, nutrition education and more. These programs ensure that every child has access to nutritious food while simultaneously benefiting local farmers.



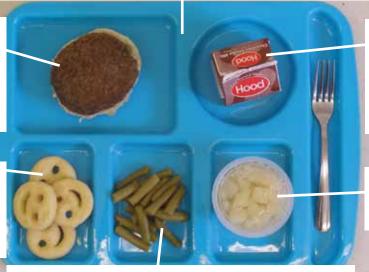


The Current School Lunch: The food served in school cafeterias today has significant consequences for the health and wellbeing of our children.

Schools are reimbursed by the federal government for meals they serve and the current reimbursement rate for a free lunch is \$2.68. After labor and other costs, schools have less than a \$1 to spend on food.

Schools receive free commodities from the Government, like frozen beef patties and other processed foods, which have a high salt content and added preservatives and flavors.

Foods like smiley fries, chocolate milk, frozen chicken nuggets, and canned fruit cocktail all qualify as a healthy lunch under current federal guidelines.



The food industry spends \$20 billion a year on marketing foods of little or no nutritional value to children.

13% of the daily caloric intake for children now comes from sugar-sweetened beverages. Chocolate milk contains the same amount of sugar as a Classic Coke.

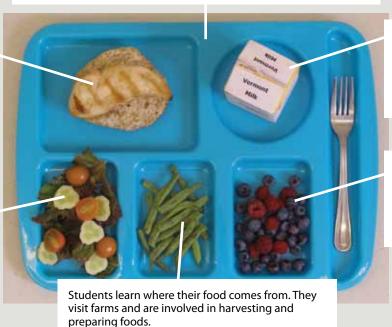
The average American meal travels 1,500 miles from farm to plate.

Our Vision for School Lunch: If we can change the way that children eat and think about food, we can make a positive impact on children and families.

The cafeteria becomes a classroom where students and staff learn about nutrition and become partners in the food cycle.

The majority of food is purchased from farms within 100 miles of the school.

All schools have gardens that serve as outdoor classrooms and produce food for their school cafeteria.



Schools invest in the health of their students and farms and purchase locally-produced milk, meat and produce for their school food program.

Students consume more fresh fruits and vegetables because they are served local foods harvested when nutritional content and flavor are at their peak.

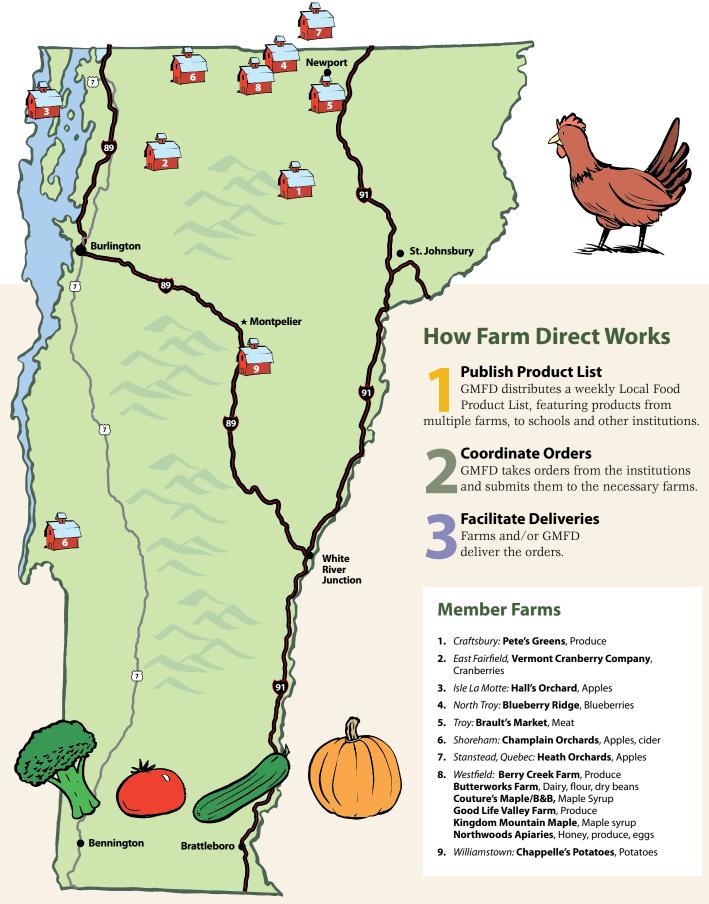


Green Mountain Farm Direct

reen Mountain Farm Direct is a regional food distribution system that delivers Vermont farm products to schools and other institutions. Through easy ordering and coordinated delivery, these purchases strengthen our local economy, provide Vermonters with healthy, fresh food, and build lasting relationships in our communities.









Highlights from 2009-2010



Grow-a-Row: Through our Grow-A-Row Program, we encourage community members to plant an extra row in their home garden and donate the produce to the school meal program.





Harvest Festival: The whole school comes together to celebrate food, farming and community during Fall Harvest Festivals; Participants enjoy a local food meal prepared by students, live music, a mini farmers' market, displays of student work, petting zoos, slideshows, and more.







Composting: GMFTS is working with schools to implement composting programs that divert food waste from the landfill and turn that waste into a valuable resource.





Senior Meal Sites: Through a partnership with the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont, GMFTS is providing fresh, local foods to senior meal sites in Northern Vermont.





Farm Field Trip: Farm Field Trips give students the opportunity to visit the places where their food is grown and meet the people who grow it.



Wheat Patch: During an in-class workshop on wheat, students learn about the benefit of eating whole grains while grinding wheat grown in the school garden and making pretzels.



Eat Local Poster Series

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Green Mountain Farm-to-School launched a new poster campaign designed specifically for school cafeterias to promote the use of local foods and highlight individual Vermont farms. We expect to add new posters to the series in the coming year.



Berry Creek is a small, diversified family farm located on 158 acres in Westfield, Vermont, Owners Gerard and Rosemary Croinst tend three acres of mixed vegetables, one acre of strawberries, five greenhouses and a few animals The farm has been certified organic since 1993.





www.gmfts.org



Why Eat Local Food?

Eating local food is good for you and your community. Local food:



Did you know? Buying local food also has these benefits:

Butterworks Farm, Westfield, Vermont

Jack and Anne Later have been operating Butterworks Farm, an organic dairy farm in Westfield, Vermont, since 1979. The farm produces a variety of products including milk, yogart, heavy cream, dry beam, comment, whole wheat thour and sunthower oil.



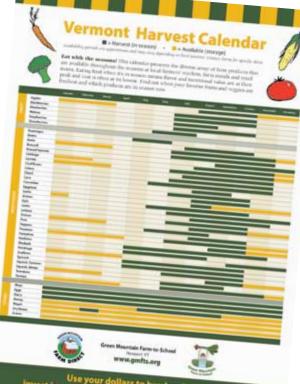


www.gmfts.org



Use your dollars to buy locally — invest in your health, your community and the future

This project was made possible thanks to generous support from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation and the Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont.





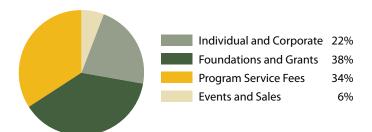
Financial Report

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

REVENUE

Total Revenue	56.024.20
Events and Sales	. \$8,880.45
Program Service Fees	\$52,460.71
Foundations and Grants	\$59,472.59
Individual and Corporate	\$35,210.45



EXPENSES

Total Expenses\$	154,550,61
Development	. \$7,344.14
Management and General	\$19,508.47
Program Services S	\$127,698.00



SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

As of June 30, 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets

Total Current Assets \$33,445,19
Other Assets
Accounts Receivable \$4,799.85
Checking/Savings

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$2,210.20
Other Liabilities	\$1,897.01
Total Current Liabilities	\$4,107.21
Total Net Assets \$2	29,337.98

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$33,445.19



Vermont Farm-to-School, Inc., DBA Green Mountain Farm-to-School is a 501(c)(3) organization.



Supporters

We are thankful to our community of new and long-time friends who have generously supported Green Mountain Farm-to-School between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010 as we seek to promote the health of Vermont's children, farms and communities.

Major Funders

Anonymous (1)

Adm. Wm. Nelson Foundation American Medical Association

Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

Bezamat Foundation

Delmer R. Barrows Charitable

Fund

Green Mountain Fund of the Vermont Community

Foundation

Jay Peak Resort

Wild Branch Solutions, Inc.

Contributors

Anonymous (4)

The Abbey Group

Natalie Albers

Mark Angeloni

Applecheek Farm

Abigail Austin

Jim Axley

Merlin Backus

Caroline and Thomas Bailey

Judy and Gerry Ballinger

Alexandra and Mathias Bannach

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Barnett's, Inc.

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Yoshi and Kate Belash

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Suzanne Christensen

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John and Lynda Cluba

Community National Bank

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Couture's Maple Shop/B&B

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Irene and Daniel Dagesse

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Lynch

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Farney

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Jim and Barb Flint

Laini Fondiller

Food Works at Two Rivers

Center

Sally Fraize

Friends of Burlington Gardens

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Ben-Ami Friedman and Carla Hall

Paul and Shari Gagne

Natalie Gaines

Michele Gerin-Lajoie

Vera Gerrity

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Meredith Hall

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Sally Hensley and Michael Kalil

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Margaret Lee

William and Leslie Lee

Albert and Eleanor Leger

Rebecca Leventhal

Eugene Levine

Eleanor Lintner

Mary Ellen and George Linton

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Denis and Carolyn Lyster

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Emma Pollack-Pelzner

Daniel Pollack-Pelzner and

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Carl and Susan Taylor

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Kris Waagen and Megan Barcelos

Brian and Claire Walsh

Jacob Webster and Michelle Legault

Edward and Mary Wendell

Robert and Barbara White

Ethan and Anne Winter

Paul Wolfe

Enid Wonnacott

Rick and Frances Woodward

James and Holly Wyllie

Yankee Farm Credit

Christopher and Meredith Young

Keith and Gloria Young

Honorary Gifts

In Honor of Anna Mary Anderson Jon and Kathryn Osborne

In Honor of Amy Bahrenburg Jesse and Anna Stein

In Honor of Peggy Coutu Laurent and Catherine Potdevin

In Honor of Erika Bellavance Jon and Kathryn Osborne

In Honor of Cher Feitelberg Laurent and Catherine Potdevin

In Honor of Abby Klein Jesse and Anna Stein

In Honor of Nathaniel and Katherine Sims Heidi Fiske

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of James Erwin Eric Erwin

In Memory of Sylvia T. Ferry Elizabeth Ferry

In Memory of Hugh Putnam Benjamin and Barbara Phinney L. Tucker Smith

In-Kind Gifts

Dan and Kim Backus Roy Barnett Berry Creek Farm Marcel Bonin Bob Booth John Desjardins Marc Farrow Dave Gallup Terrance and Stacey Glodgett

High Mowing Seeds

Doug James

Paul and Sonya Kittredge

Dylan Laflam

Jason Lefebure

Bert Letourneau

Ken Mason

Jeanine and Michael Morelli Newport Natural Foods, LLC

Pick and Shovel

Benjamin and Barbara Phinney

Scott Reed

Steve Schlipf

Bill Stevens

Andre Tetreault



Amanda Tilton-Martin and Carlos Martin Wayside Restaurant and Bakery Rick Woodward Vermont Compost Company Vermont Highland Cattle Company

The accuracy of this listing is very important to us. Please let us know if you can't find your name or if you are listed incorrectly so that we can correct our records. Thank you!





Taking Root in 2010-2011

In the 2010-2011 academic year, we are poised to have a greater impact than ever before. With your support, GMFTS is expanding our successful program model to provide fresh, local food and nutrition education to more children and community members. As we look ahead, our top priorities for the 2010-2011 academic year are to strengthen our relationships with our existing partners and reach more community members by:

- Doubling the number of schools and senior meal sites purchasing local foods through Green Mountain Farm Direct.
- Offering more standards-based nutrition and agriculture workshops during the school day.
- Adding new infrastructure to enhance our school gardens capacity to serve as an outdoor classroom.
- Expanding our pilot FarmCorps Program, which brings youth from diverse backgrounds together to build a sustainable local food system through hands-on gardening and farming activities.
- Increasing volunteer participation in our programs through summer garden and monthly taste tests programs.
- Disseminating best practices to other communities in Vermont and across the country.









Invest in our children's future by becoming a supporter of Green Mountain Farm-to-School and its efforts to promote the health and wellbeing of Vermont's children, farms and communities. Gifts of all amounts are appreciated.

Please make checks payable to Green Mountain Farm-to-School and mail to: Green Mountain Farm-to-School 194 Main Street, Suite 301 Newport, VT 05855

or donate online at **www.greenmountainfarmtoschool.org.**



We serve all the food from the garden to our students. They are always eager to eat the food that they helped grow and now they are more willing to try other new foods.

- Debbie, food service director

Graphic Design: Newcomb Studios and Katherine Sims

Photography: Taylor Burt (4); Joanna Dillon (10); Julie Jack (6, 17, back cover); Don Landwehrle (1); Bree McKenney (1); Emily Mehr (cover, 4, 10, 11, 15, 16); Pete's Greens (8); Katherine Sims (cover, i, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11); Sarah Vecci (cover, 6, 10)

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Green Mountain Farm-to-School 194 Main Street, Suite 301 Newport, VT 05855

802-334-2044 Green Mountain Farm to School.org

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