

From Seed to Plate: Growing Healthy Kids and Communities



Green Mountain Farm-to-School

> Annual Report 2010-2011





















Green Mountain Farm-to-School's mission is to restore and strengthen local food systems in Vermont by promoting positive economic and educational relationships between schools, farms, and communities. Our vision is to build local food systems in Vermont that promote environmental stewardship, create sustainable local economies, and nurture the health and well-being of our children and our communities.

A Letter from the Executive Director and Chair of the Board

Dear Friends:

reen Mountain Farm-to-School was launched with the simple idea that we can give children the healthy future that they deserve. Change is urgently needed. 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. The number of farms in Vermont is rapidly declining. Limited access to affordable healthy food remains a problem for millions, including many in northern Vermont where 55% of children qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

Over the past year, thanks to your support, we've done so much. Our theme for this past year was "Taking Root", which for us meant significantly expanding our programs to provide more children than ever before with fresh, healthy foods and the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy food choices. We took root by planting more gardens, delivering more food, and providing more educational programming (see page 7). In addition to our school-based programs, we recruited and trained AmeriCorps volunteers for a yearlong term of public service in school food systems. After this work we are poised to have an even greater impact next year when we seek to "Bear Fruit" (see page 14).

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 the next generation of kids eat and think about food. We hope that you are inspired by this report and join us in celebrating our accomplishments and our plans for the future.



Katherine Sims



David Stackpole

Sincerely,

Katherine Sims Founder and Executive Director David Stackpole
Board Chair

2010-2011 Staff

Katherine Sims, Founder and
Executive Director
Amy Crank, Education Director
Paola Aliaga, AmeriCorps Nutrition
and Agriculture Educator,
FarmCorps Coordinator
Elizabeth Alexy, AmeriCorps Nutrition
and Agriculture Educator
Khristopher Flack, AmeriCorps

Farm-to-School Coordinator

Emily Rose, AmeriCorps
Farm-to-School Coordinator
Andy Testo, AmeriCorps Nutrition
and Agriculture Educator
Kate Page, Intern
Emily Portman, Intern
Audrey Post, Intern
Michelle Skolnik, Intern

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Rosemary Croizet
Lisa Daigle-Farney
Robert Kern
Anne Lazor, Treasurer
Katherine Sims, Founder and Executive Director
Dean Vervoort
Steve Wright
Holly Wyllie, Secretary



Our Vision: Growing Healthy Kids

We believe that all children should have access to fresh, healthy foods and the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy foods choices.

We hope to achieve this vision by:

School Garden: By actively engaging students in the food system through planting, maintaining, and harvesting a garden, we find that they are more likely to make healthy food choices.

Cafeteria: By offering healthy foods in schools, we can ensure that all children have access to the nutrition they need to be successful in school and life.

Community Events:

By hosting community events that celebrate food, farming, and community, we can engage everyone including parents, farmers, legislators, health care professionals, community-based organizations, and businesses in our effort to reduce childhood obesity.

Hands-on Education:

Through inquirybased activities in the classroom, kitchen, garden, and farm, we can engage students in interdisciplinary learning.

Food Distribution:

By delivering local foods to schools, we can make healthy foods accessible and affordable for all and simultaneously support the local economy.





Why Eat Local Food?

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

Tastes better and promotes health

Locally grown produce ripens naturally in the field, not in a truck or warehouse. It is harvested when nutritional content and flavor are at their peak. And, since local food doesn't travel long distances, it is fresh, healthy and tasty when it reaches your plate.

Strengthens community and builds trust

Learning the story behind your food – and the people who nurtured it – makes our food traditions more meaningful and enjoyable. On a larger scale, eating locally helps strengthen the overall food safety and security of our country.

Supports local economy

When you buy food directly from farmers, such as at farmers markets or through farm shares, farmers get full retail price for their food. This not only helps the farmers, but also keeps money circulating through your community because local farmers invest back into local businesses for feed, seed and other materials.

Green Mountain Farm-to-School, Newport, VT www.gmfts.org

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

Protects open spaces

Vermont has a unique and beautiful landscape of green fields, red barns and forests. By supporting local farms, you help ensure that farms can continue working the land, which preserves these well-loved views and open spaces.

Reduces our carbon footprint

The average food product travels 1500 to 2500 miles before reaching your plate – the distance from Vermont to Colorado! Transportation is the largest consumer of energy in the food sector, which puts a big strain on the environment. When we buy locally, transportation – and fossil fuel usage – are greatly reduced.

Benefits the environment and wildlife

The farming practices of small-scale, local farms are gentler on the environment; by using traditional techniques like rotating crops and often avoiding herbicides and pesticides, local farms protect water quality, improve soil condition and maintain wildlife habitats. Buying local food supports these environmental efforts.

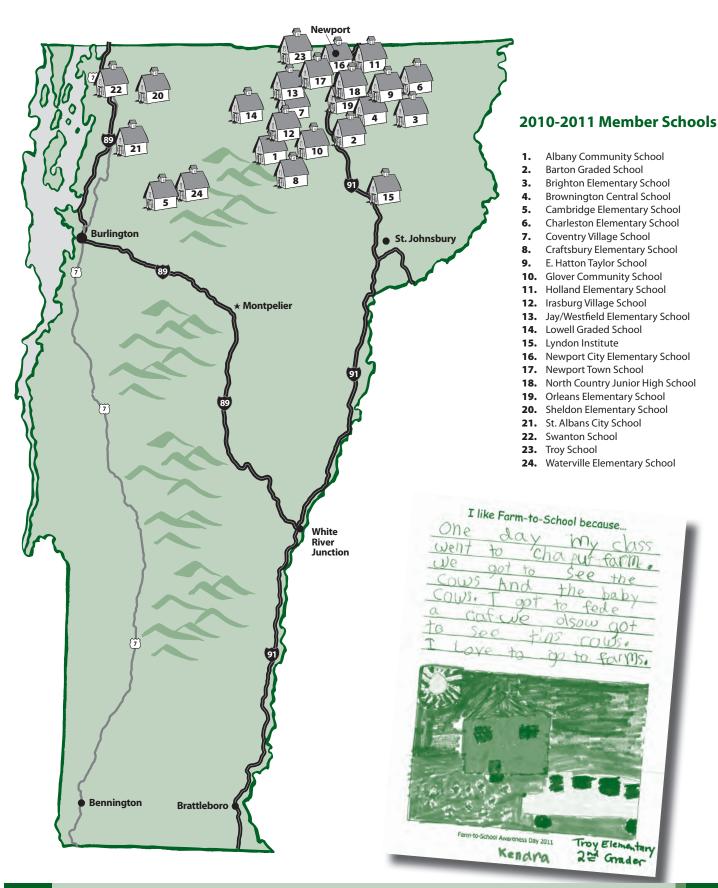
Promotes a diversity of plants and animals

Large, industrial farms ship food long distances and grow varieties that are easy to produce and transport. When farms sell their products locally they can diversify and grow a variety of food – selecting the types that are most delicious and best suited for each regional climate and cultural traditions. Buying local foods helps preserve the diversity of plant and animal species.

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



GMFTS School Partners 2010-2011





A Year in Review

During the 2010-2011 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 through four signature programs:

Sprouts After-School Program

Sprouts is a year-round afterschool program for grades 2-6 that promotes healthy lifestyle choices through gardening and cooking activities. As a part of the program, students design, plant, and harvest a school garden.

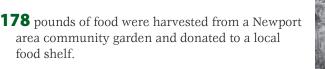
Green Mountain Farm-to-School Network

GMFTS Farm-to-School Coordinators work with school staff to procure local foods for the school cafeteria and provide hands-on learning opportunities such as taste tests, farm field trips, nutrition education, and community events.

Green Mountain Farm Direct

Green Mountain Farm Direct is a regional food distribution system that delivers Vermont farm products to schools and other institutions.

- **23** school gardens were designed and planted by GMFTS staff and students in the spring of 2011.
- **397** students participated in the Sprouts After-School Program.
- **2,631** pounds of food were harvested from 20 school gardens and served in their school cafeterias in the fall of 2010.
- **41** field trips to local farms.
- **341** in-class workshops including the science of composting, plant lifecycles, From sheep to sweater, and the seasons of the apple orchard.
- **109** taste tests of local food recipes in school cafeterias.
- **8** school launched or continued school composting programs with support from GMFTS.
- **32** schools, senior meals sites, and other institutional buyers such as restaurants and stores purchased local food from 20 farms.
- **68** different local food products were purchased by institutions including apples, meat, eggs, produce, maple syrup, and flour.
- \$14,406 worth of food purchased by schools. senior meal sites, and other institutions.
- **31** offenders participated in hands-on agriculture work, community service, and skill building workshops.
- area community garden and donated to a local food shelf.





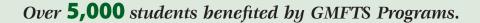






FarmCrops is a job and life skills training program for at-risk youth and young adults that combines hands-on agriculture work, community service and skill building workshops.

*A new program in 2010-2011





GMFTS Farm Partners 2010-2011



2010-2011 **Member Farms**

We are grateful to the following farms and food producers who hosted a farm field trip, helped with a school garden, or provided food for an event or school cafeteria as a part of GMFTS' programs during the 2010-2011 academic year.

- Apple Ledge Farm, Coventry
- Berry Creek Farm, Westfield
- Black Sheep Sugarhouse, Orleans
- Border Maple Farm, Derby Line
- Boyden Farm, Cambridge
- Boyden Valley Winery, Cambridge
- Brault's Market and Slaughterhouse, Troy
- Butternut Mountain Farm, Johnson
- Butterworks Farm, Westfield
- Cellars at Jasper Hill, Greensboro
- Champlain Orchards, Shoreham
- Chandler Pond Farm, South Wheelock
- Chappelle's Potatoes, Williamstown
- Chaput Family Farm, North
- Chateau Tarbox, Orleans 15.
- Couture Family Farm, Westfield
- Deep Root Cooperative, 17. Johnson
- Derby Pond Farm, Derby 18.
- Doncaster Family Farm, Coventry
- Eden Ice Cider, West 20. Charleston
- 21. Eric Lanoue's Sugarhouse, Glover, VT
- 22. Farm and Forest Ranch, Orleans
- Flack Family Farm, Enosburg
- Green Wind Farm, Fairfield
- Hall's Orchards, Isle La Motte

- Heath Orchards, Stanstead Quebec
- 27. Highfields Composting, Hardwick
- High Mowing Seeds, Wolcott 28.
- Hollandeer Farm, Holland
- Jed's Maple Products, Westfield
- 31. Kingdom Bounty Bakery, Newport
- Kingdom Mountain Maple, 32. Westfield
- Lazy Lady Farm, Westfield
- Manning Asparagus Farm, Lowell
- 35. Maple Brook Farm, Bennington
- Maple Meadow Farm, Salisbury 36.
- 37. Mike Roots Orchard, Brownington
- Monroe's Sugaring, Orleans 38.
- 39. Morningstar Meadows, Glover
- Northeast Kingdom Mustard, Westfield
- Northwoods Apiaries, Westfield 41.
- Patenaude Maple, Holland 42.
- Peace of Earth Farm, Albany 43.
- Peak View Berry Farm, Orleans 44.
- 45. Pete's Greens, Craftsbury
- Ploughgate Creamery, Albany 46.
- Randall Family Farm, Troy 47.
- 48. Red Hen Bakery, Middlesex
- 49. Sunset View Farm, Derby
- Tamarlane Farm, Lyndonville 50.
- Vaillancourt Orchard, Enosburg 51. Falls
- Vermont Cranberry Company, East Fairfield
- Vermont Compost Company, 53. East Montpelier
- Vermont Highland Cattle Company, Orleans
- Vermont Smoke & Cure, South 55. **Barre**
- Vermont Soy, Hardwick 56
- Workrow Farm, Barton

Annual Report 2010-2011



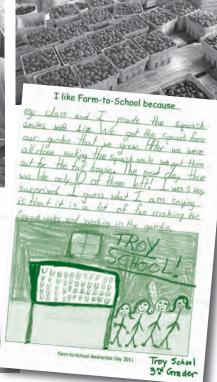














Vermont Harvest Calendar

Eat with the seasons! This calendar shows the diverse array of farm products that are available throughout the seasons at local farmers markets, farm stands and retail stores. Eating food when it is in season means flavor and nutritional value are at their peak and cost is often at its lowest. Find out when your favorite fruits and veggies are freshest and which products are in season now.

January

- Apples
- Beets
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Garlic
- Onions
- Potatoes
- · Winter Squash
- · Rutabaga

May

- · Asparagus*
- · Radishes*
- · Rhubarb*
- Scallions*
- Spinach*
- Meat

Apples

Beans

• Beets

Broccoli

• Brussels

Sprouts*

Cauliflower

Cucumbers

• Eggplant

Cabbage

Carrots

Celery

Chard

Corn

Garlic

Greens

Kale

Blackberries

Blueberries

Raspberries

- Turnips Meat
- Egg
- · Dairy
- Honey
- Maple
- · Dry Beans
- Grains

• Eggs

Dairy

Honey

Maple

• Grains

September

Leeks

Lettuce

Onions

Peppers

Potatoes

• Radishes

Scallions

Spinach

Tomatoes

Turnips

Meat

Eggs

Dairy

Honey

Maple

Grains

• Dry Beans

• Summer Squash

Winter Squash*

· Pumpkins*

· Dry Beans

February

- Apples Beets
- · Winter Squash
- Cabbage
- Meat
- Carrots
- Garlic
- Onions
- Potatoes

Strawberries*

• Asparagus

· Chard*

Greens*

Radishes

• Rhubarb

Scallions

• Peas*

- Turnips
- · Eggs
- Dairy
- Honey
- · Dry Beans

Spinach

Meat

• Eggs

Dairv

Honey

Maple

Grains

· Dry Beans

· Rutabaga Grains

June

Meat

- Apples
- Beets Carrots
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Rutabaga
- · Winter Squash
- Eggs Dairy

March

- Honey
- Maple
- Dry Beans Grains
- Turnips

- Blackberries* Radishes
- Blueberries*
- · Melons*
- · Raspberries*
- Strawberries · Beans*
- · Beets*
- · Broccoli*
- Carrots* · Cauliflower*
- Chard
- Greens
- Kale* • Lettuce*
- Peas Potatoes

July

- Rhubarb Scallions
- Spinach
- · Summer Squash*
- Tomatoes*
- Turnips* Meat
- Eggs
- Dairy
- Honey Maple
- · Dry Beans
- Grains

- Apples
- Beets
- Brussels Sprouts Winter Squash
- Carrots

- · Winter Squash
- Turnips
- Celery
- Eggplant
- · Greens
- · Leeks
- Lettuce

October

- Peppers Apples Raspberries
- Potatoes Beans Pumpkins Radishes
- Beets Broccoli
- Rutabaga • Brussels Sprouts Scallions Spinach
- Cabbage Carrots
- Cauliflower Meat
- Chard • Eggs
- Cucumbers Dairy Honey
- Maple Garlic · Dry Beans
- Kale Grains
- Onions

November

- Pumpkins
- Rutabaga
- Cabbage
- Chard Garlic
- Kale
- Leeks
- Honey Maple Onions
- Potatoes
- Dry Beans Grains

Turnips

Meat

• Eggs

• Dairy

April

- Potatoes Dairy
- Rutabaga
- Turnips Maple
- Meat • Eggs
- Dry Beans Grains

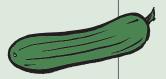
Honey

August

- · Apples* Lettuce
- Blackberries
 - Onions* Peas
- Blueberries Melons · Peppers*
- Raspberries Potatoes
- Radishes Beans
- Rhubarb • Beets
- Broccoli Scallions
- Cabbage* Spinach
- Carrots Summer Cauliflower Squash
- · Celery* Tomatoes
- Chard Turnips · Corn* Meat
- · Cucumbers* Eggs
- Eggplant* Dairy Garlic* Honey
- Maple Greens • Kale Dry Beans · Leeks* Grains

December

- Apples
- Turnips • Beets • Meat
- Cabbage • Eggs Carrots Dairy Garlic Honey
- Onions Maple
- Dry Beans Potatoes Grains
- · Pumpkins Rutabaga · Winter Squash



*New this month

For local food recipes and seasonal tips, order your copy of the 2012 GMFTS calendar now at www.GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org/donate



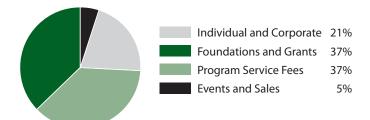
Financial Report

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

REVENUE

Total Revenue \$190,011.16
Events and Sales
Program Service Fees \$70,807.54
Foundations and Grants \$69,837.00
Individual and Corporate \$40,742.35



EXPENSES

Total Expenses\$186,510.28
Development
Management and General \$16,821.29
Program Services





SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

As of June 30, 2010

ASSETS

Curren	+ /	100	ate
Curren	T. /	188	CTS

Total Current Assets	\$35,382,97
Other Assets	\$4,020.00
Accounts Receivable	\$10,550.00
Checking/Savings	\$20,812.97

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable\$60)9.21
Other Liabilities \$1,96	61.65
Total Current Liabilities \$2,57	0.86
Total Net Assets \$32,81	2.11

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$35,382.97



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

Graphic Design: Newcomb Studios and Katherine Sims. Photo credits: GMFTS staff except Kathie Sims (1) and Don Landwehrl (1) This report was printed in Vermont with soy-based inks on recycled paper containing 30% post-consumer recycled fiber.



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, 2010 and June 30, 2011 as we seek to promote the health of Vermont's children, farms and communities.

Major Funders

The Abbey Group Agriculture Innovation Center Anonymous (1) Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont Frances R. Dewing Foundation Green Mountain United Way Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Vermont Community Foundation

Contributors Anonymous (7) Natalie Albers Mary Anderson and David Cacciamani Christy Anderson and Kevin Gallagher Jean and Nicholas Arcangeli James Axley Luke Backus and Sarah Bryant Karen and Bart Bacon Eliott Badgley Foundation Caroline and Thomas Bailey Judith and Gerald Ballinger Barnett's, Inc. Susan and Roy Barnett Frances and Benjamin Batchelder Thadd Beebe Colin Benjamin Don and Christine Berthiaume Julie Bomengen Paul Bosco

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Anne and Richard Brown

Sean and Christie Brown Annie and Jason Brueck

James Burton Jr. and Paula Bailly-

Burton Donald Bustin Butternut Mountain Farm

Mary Butler and Daniel Hebert Cabot Creamery

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Country Thyme Vermont Judith and Daniel Coquillette Mary Kay Courson

Pauline and Jacquest Couture Couture's Maple Shop/B&B

Maritta and John Cronin

Louise E. Davis Richard and Barbara Del Favero

Carol Delanev Derby Village Store Joanna Dillon

Sharon and Murray Diner

Susan Dixon

Dick Dreissigacker and Julia Geer

Kitty and Spud Edwards John and Frances Elliott Susan and Michael Epstein Lisa Erwin-Davidson

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Brenda and Claudio Fort

Sally Fraize

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Kathryn and Ellwood Guyette

Meredith Hall Pamela Harmon

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Newport Natural Foods, LLC

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North Country Hospital

Organic Valley New England/ CROPP Coop

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Passumpsic Savings Bank

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Katherine Sims

Annual Report 2010-2011



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Honorary Gifts

James and Holly Wyllie

Keith and Gloria Young

Allen and Kay Yale

Yankee Farm Credit

Young Farm

In honor of Katherine Sims *Connie Isabelle*

In honor of Rosemary and Gerard Croizet Anne and Bruce McKay

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!

In honor of Emily Rose Fifi and Mark Rose

In honor of Kathy Yale Barbara Whitehill

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Gage Hebert
Mary Butler and Daniel Hebert

In Memory of Mary Edwards Spud and Kitty Edwards

In Memory of Sylvia T. Ferry Elizabeth Ferry

In Memory of Eva Brabant Sunshine Fund

In Memory of Gary Osborne *Paige Savage*

In-Kind GiftsApple Ledge Farm

Alice's Table at Jay Peak Resort Berry Creek Farm Boyden Valley Winery and Farm Butternut Mountain Farm Butterworks Farm Cellars at Jasper Hill Champlain Orchards Clubhouse Grille at Jay Peak Resort Couture's Maple Shop/B&B Craftsbury Outdoor Center Lisa Daigle Eden Ice Cider Company Farm & Forest Ranch Sally Fraize Heath Orchards High Mowing Organic Seeds Jay Peak Resort Jay Village Inn Jed's Maple Products Kingdom Mountain Maple Lazy Lady Farm Montgomery's Café Northeast Kingdom Mustard Northwoods Apiaries Parker Pie Company Pete's Greens, Inc. Roberta Pheiffer Ploughgate Creamery Red Hen Bakery Mark Uddo Vermont Compost Company Vermont Cranberry Company Vermont Smoke & Cure

Vermont Sov

Dean and Pamelyn Vervoort



Garden Volunteers

We want to extend a big thank you to all the wonderful people who volunteer to help tend our school gardens during the summer. Together with our staff, our volunteers help our gardens thrive and produce a bountiful harvest for the school cafeteria.

Jacob and Joshua Baker Rov Barnett Kayla Birk Margo and Leilani Blanchard Marcel Bonin Louise Bouffard Tara Bredice Annie Brueck Rosalle Brulotte Jessica Burdick Camille Campanile Chloe and Leah Coleman Jessica DiMartino Sara Doncaster Amanda Elie Marc Farrow Brian and Dianna Fecher Stephanie Foster Michael Ghosn Terrance and Stacey Glodgett Bonnie Godin Sally Guebara Doug James Emily Johansen

Bonnie Kipp Paul and Sonya Kittredge Catherine and Sebastian

Krueger
Patricia Lackie
April Lane
Connor and Liz LaPlume
Jason Lefave
Bert Letourneau
Emily-Lynne Letourneau
Ned and Jana Lovejoy
Amy Maher
Lynley Maher
Lynley Maher
Amanda Tilton-Martin and
Carlos Martin
Ken Mason

Josh Mason Laurie Savage Meunier Heather Miller Mickey Morelli Travis Pepin Julie and Sydney Poulin Meghan Reese Rachel Rose Art Ross Ranee Russell Mike Sharon Anna Schulz Manny Ste. Marie Bill Stevens Susan Taylor Andy Tetreault Julie Thompson Emily Waterman Talia White Keri Willey Kem Ziegerhofer



Bearing Fruit 2011-2012

e're gaining momentum and seeing increased reason for hope. At the same time, we know there is still a long way to go.

In the year ahead, we are poised to have a greater impact than ever before. Our theme for the coming year is "Bearing Fruit" and our top priorities for the year include:

- **Supporting healthy schools.** We will provide more hands-on learning opportunities that promote healthy food choices such as taste tests, farm field trips, nutrition education, and community events. By providing standards-based, hands-on activities that integrate farm, farm and nutrition into the curriculum, we will ensure that all children have the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy food choices.
- Making healthy food accessible and affordable. We will provide more fresh, nutritious, locally-grown foods to schools and other institutions by growing food for the school cafeteria, coordinating local food purchases, and providing resources for food service staff and farms. By expanding our gardens and Farm Direct program, GMFTS will ensure that every student, regardless of her socioeconomic group, has access to fresh, nutritious foods.
- **Spreading the message.** We will document and disseminate our program tools and resources in order to advance other Farm to School Programs in Vermont and beyond. Over the next year, GMFTS will further hone, document, and share our work through several toolkits. Developing these toolkits will enhance our ability to deliver services in our immediate area, support program expansion to new areas, and serve as a resource for other programs.





To observe a group of eager students carefully plant seedlings they nurtured to life brings joy to our work. To see the looks on students faces when they finally taste the harvest brings a true sense of hope and possibility for the future. "

> — <u>Katherine</u> Sims, **Executive Director**

- **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 m eal program.
- Harvest Festival: 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.
- **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 to meet the people who grow it.
- schools to implement composting programs that divert food waste from the landfill and turn that waste into a valuable resource.



















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

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