

2016-2017

ANNUAL REPORT

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES THROUGH FOOD AND EDUCATION









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INTRODUCTION

A LETTER FROM THE **ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR**

Dear Friends.

This spring, Green Mountain Farm-to-School turns a decade old! As we reflect on the past ten years, we are reminded of our successes; growing from a single school garden to a leader in the national farm-to-school and local food movements.

We are reminded of how important it is that every child has access to healthy food and the contributions we have made.

Over the last ten years, we've distributed over \$1.4 M in local food via Green Mountain Farm Direct, facilitated the production of over 21,000 pounds of produce for cafeterias from school gardens, conducted over 4,200 school workshops with students, provided over 6,000 free summer lunches to children from the Lunchbox food truck, and reached over 31,700 students.

We are so proud of what we've done thus far! Now is the time to look ahead and plan for the next ten years.

Currently, we are focused on implementing our 2018-2021 strategic plan*. This plan provides a path forward to building a local food system in Vermont that promotes environmental stewardship, creates a sustainable local economy, and nurtures the health and well-being of our children and community.

Through holistic, high-quality and high-impact programming, strong community partnerships, strategic communication, effective engagement with employees and board of directors, along with financial strength and stability we believe we can meet our goals and build the Vermont we dream about - one where all children enjoy healthy, local food and farms thrive.

This annual report provides a snapshot of the successes of the last year and serves as an inspiration for future growth and collaboration with the community in the year to come. Thank you all for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Board Chair

Hope Colburn Catherine Cusack Acting Executive Director*

* Learn more about our strategic plan on page 11!

* We'd like to thank James Hafferman for serving as Executive Director of Green Mountain Farm-to-School through April 2018. We welcome in Catherine Cusack as the Acting Executive Director as GMFTS enters into a new chapter of development. In July, 2018, our Board of Directors will determine next steps.

2016-2017 Staff

James Hafferman, Executive Director Catherine Cusack, Assistant Director Maire Folan, Farm-to-School Program

Edifice Jengo, Finance Coordinator

Kendall Lambert. Consumer Education and

Food Access Coordinator

Amrita Parry, Farm Direct Coordinator Shane Rogers, Communication and **Development Coordinator**

AmeriCorps Farmto-School Coordinators:

Meg Steward Jeyna Diallo **Caroline Aubry** Herb Page

Carolyn Richards **Aude Girin**

Natalie Bekkouche 2016 Summer Intern

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Hope Colburn - Board Chair Merlin Backus - Treasurer Sarah Baughman - Secretary

Steve Breault John Castle

Amv Crank

Dr. Robert Kern

Colleen Moore de Ortiz

Dr. Thomas Moseley

Mary Parent

Dr. Kathie Sims

David Stackpole - Board Chair Emeritus

Steve Wright

Holly Wyllie



Changing the way kids eat and think about food.

Farm-to-School partners with schools throughout the Northeast Kingdom to increase healthy. local foods in the cafeteria and provide experiential learning through school gardens, on-farm field trips, and nutrition and agriculture lessons.

In 2016-2017, AmeriCorps members,

serving through the Lyndon Economic opportunity AmeriCorps Program (LEAP), engaged with

students through hands on learning to increase knowledge of healthy, local foods.

AmeriCorps Farm-to-School Coordinators conducted

educational workshops in the classroom,

and, took students on

field

Schools supported the local economy and made local food accessible to students by purchasing over

in local food from Green Mountain Farm Direct.

Our school gardens produced over



of food for school cafeterias.

Taste-tests introduced students to new foods



of our schools integrated compost food scraps into science lessons then fed product back into the gardens.

What Farm-to-School means to the community

"THE KIDS ARE ALL THAT MATTER BECAUSE THEY ARE THE NEXT GENERATION"

"I think most of us that are in the local food movement would say that the kids are all that matters because they're the next generation. And for me, it's not only that I am interested in the health of the kids, but I am interested in changing habits over time."

Pete Johnson Pete's Greens | Craftsbury, VT







Farm-to-School strengthens the connections communities have to fresh, healthy, local food by engaging students in hands-on education and empowering families and educators to make healthy food choices.

Tell us what Farm-to-School means to your community at www.facebook.com/Greenmountainfarmtoschool



GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM DIRECT

Fresh. Local. Direct.

Green Mountain Farm Direct links regional food producers with schools, grocery stores, hospitals, and institutions in the Northeast Kingdom and beyond. Together, we are strengthening the local food system by selling and distributing fresh, Vermont food.

In FY 2017, Green Mountain Farm Direct sold

\$373,801

worth of product from .





to over

100



Northeast Kingdom schools, grocery stores, hospitals, and other institutions. Green Mountain Farm Direct created and distributed marketing material for

24

producer partners,



helping to promote and sell more local food in the community.



Vegetable sales grew

ZU 70

over FY 2016.

"IT'S EASY TO GROW STUFF, THE HARD PART IF FIGURING OUT THE OUTLET"

Molly Willard of Willow Brook Farm in Peacham, VT



The Green Mountain Farm Direct Effect

Started in 2006, Sharon and Greg "Smitty" Smith, have grown Smitty's Farm from 2,000 berry plants to over 35,000 today. They grow raspberries, black berries, and blueberries on 11 acres of land in Newport, VT.

For Smitty and Sharon, it's about more than just the farm it's also about sharing their love for the land and food with the community.

Smitty's berries can be found across the Northeast Kingdom. While Smitty's Farm does distribute directly, they also work with Green Mountain Farm Direct. They say their relationship with Green Mountain Farm Direct has helped their business tremendously. "It has a further reach," says Smitty. "It's the distribution feature, that can move (the berries) around."





"WITH GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM DIRECT, WE HAVE FURTHER REACH - IT'S THE DISTRIBUTION FEATURE THAT CAN MOVE THE BERRIES AROUND."

Greg 'Smitty' Smith, Smitty's Farm, Newport, VT

How does Green Mountain Farm Direct Support GMFTS Programming?









Over 2,000 lbs of December's Vermont Harvest of the Month - squash - was sold to Northeast Kingdom institutions through Farm Direct.

65 schools in the Northeast Kingdom participating in farm-to-school purchased regional, Vermont food for their school lunches.





The Lunchbox prominently sourced and featured six producer partners in it's free, healthy lunches served to kids over the summer.



VERMONT HARVEST OF THE MONTH

Be a part of the Harvest.

Vermont Harvest of the Month (VTHOM) is changing the way Vermonters eat and think about food. VTHOM is guiding the community through a year of cooking, eating, and exploring Vermont's local and available harvest.



Each year, stakeholders take the VTHOM pledge in commitment to local, seasonal eating.

Who took the pledge in 2017?



Schools and educational institutions.



healthcare providers,

retailers and restaurants,





non-profit organizations.



Retailer taste-tests and cooking demonstrations with local food coupled with marketing material aim to promote and increase sales.



Ready-to-go, free, teaching materials and resources make it easy for educators to integrate VTHOM into classroom learning, teaching kids about local foods







VTHOM saw a

growth in sales 47% of VTHOM crops through GMFD in FY 2017.

2017 Harvest of the Month Crops!













January

February

March

April

May

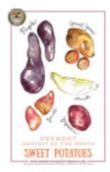
June













July

August

September

October

November

December

How does Harvest of the Month support GMFTS programming?









Thousands of pounds of VTHOM related product are provided to schools, businesses, and other institutions from Green Mountain Farm Direct farmers.

Partner schools feature a unique VTHOM dish each month in the cafeteria and conduct thousands of VTHOM taste tests each year with students.





VTHOM taste tests and monthly activities help continue the students' nutrition and agriculture education in the summer months.



THE LUNCHBOX

Feel good lunches for our kids and community.

The Lunchbox partners with communities throughout the Northeast Kingdom to serve free summer meals to children that feature locally-grown food and to provide food-based education during the summer months.

In 2017, the Lunchbox served more than

1,534



free meals to local children.

During summer meal service, the Lunchbox collaborated with

7 community organizations,

to provide bike safety training, literacy awareness, and other health-related educational opportunities. In addition to free kids meals, the Lunchbox sold

835



meals to adults, with all proceeds going to support the summer meals program.

The Lunchbox purchased

60%



of ingredients from local farms.



The Lunchbox in Action!

Did you know school meals can contribute as much as 50 percent of a child's daily caloric intake during the school year?

During the summer, this source of nutrition is missing for many children. The Lunchbox aims to address this deficit.





For ten-weeks in the summer, the Lunchbox visits three different communities - Barton, Newport, and Island Pond - providing free lunches, engaging with families, and providing fun, hands-on food and nutrition education.



Green Mountain Farm-to-School partners with The Abbey Group, a Vermont food service company who is committed to supporting local farmers and communities, to bring the Lunchbox to towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom.









FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE COUPON PROGRAM

Fresh food for all Vermonters.

The Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Coupon Program makes accessing fresh fruit and vegetables easier for Vermonters.

In partnership with national nonprofit, Wholesome Wave, the program is helping Vermonters enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or 3 SquaresVT, stretch their food dollars, purchase fresh Vermont produce, and keep money in the local economy while supporting farmers in the area.

In 2017,

85% of the coupons were redeemed, totaling

\$27,705

of fresh food purchased from local retailers in the Northeast Kingdom.

taste tests and cooking demos at participating stores encouraged the sale of local, fresh produce.

900 hor par 350 rec

households participating in 3SquaresVT received coupons.

In 2018.

\$60,000



in fresh fruit and vegetable coupons are available to residents in the Northeast Kingdom.



Participating retailers

Kingdom Market | Island Pond, VT Vista Foods | Newport, VT Craftsbury General Store | Craftsbury, VT C&C Supermarket | Barton, VT Ray's Market | Irasburg, VT



LOOKING AHEAD...

2018-2021 Strategic Plan

In October 2017, we convened with staff and our board of directors to develop a robust strategic plan to guide our work in the coming four years. With this plan in hand, our organization strives towards achieving our vision to build a local food system in Vermont that promotes environmental stewardship, creates a sustainable economy, and nurtures the health and wellbeing of our children and our community.

Our strategic plan identified five high-level goals for the next four years:

- DELIVER AND CONTINUALLY IMPROVE A HOLISTIC SET OF HIGH-QUALITY, HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMS.
- 2 STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP STRATEGIC AND COMMITTED PARTNERSHIPS THAT CAN SERVE AS A PLATFORM FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR MISSION AND REALIZATION OF OUR VISION.
- 3 ARTICULATE THE ENTIRETY OF WHAT WE DO AND POWERFULLY COMMUNICATE IT TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY.
- 4 ENHANCE THE HEALTH AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORGANIZATION BY SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES AND DEVELOPING BOARD ENGAGEMENT.
- 5 ENSURE LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND STABILITY.



Thank you to our 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, 2016, and June 30, 2017, as we seek to promote the health of Vermont's children, farms, and communities.

Major Funders (>\$2,000)

The Abbey Group Anonymous Cellars at Jasper Hill-Charles and Violet Schafer CoBank Community National Bank Emily H. Dreissigacker The Fountain Fund Granite State Development Corp. The Holborn Foundation High Meadows Fund Jay Peak Resort Kathie and Nat Sims Norman J Fisher & Doris Fisher North Country Hospital Northeast Kingdom Waste Management Group Peter and Diana Poulin Rona Jaffe Foundation Stony Point Foundation Sustainable Future Fund The Roessner Family Foundation USDA Agricultural Marketing Service USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture USDA Rural Development Vermont Community Foundation Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund Yankee Farm Credit

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In honor of:

In appreciation of all that David Stackpole does for Farm to School Marie and Som Bartlett In honor of Jeyna Diallo Tracy Perry In honor of Katherine Sims Heidi Fiske In honor of Katherine Sims Barbara and Benjamin Phinney In honor of Maegan Brown Judy and Frank Filipkowski In honor of Sally Nichols Emily Jacke In honor of Jack and Anne Lazor Anne McKay In honor of Herb Page's work Debra and Gregory Page

In memory of:

In memory of Alex Duranleau Allen and Kathleen Yale In memory of Dr. Ethan Sims Arthur Kunin, M.D. In memory of Howard Reynolds Rebecca Reynolds In memory of Marguerite Rosenthal Meghan Stotko In memory of R. Bruce McKay Anne McKay In memory of The Taisey Family North Robert Taisey In memory of Tom Nelson Tyler and Marie Bean In memory of Tom Nelson Kimico Perry In memory of Tom Nelson A. Richard and Ruth E. Richard In memory of Victor Andrews Sheila MacFarlane In memory of Raymond Hall Allen Hall, Hall's Orchards

Join our Legacy Society

Everybody can make a lasting and meaningful gift through their will. When you include GMFTS in your will, your vision for a healthy local food system can live on forever in our work. Let us know your intentions and we will include you in our Legacy Society. To find out more, or to obtain a copy of our gift acceptance policies, please contact Catherine Cusack at 802 334 2044 or ccusack@gmfts.org

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!

Special Thanks to Our Monthy Donors

Our monthly donors provide reliable, secure funding that GMFTS can mount on all year long. To find out more about becoming a monthly donor contact Catherine Cusack at 802 334 2044 or ccusack@gmfts.org

Merlin Backus and Rebecca Velazquez
Sarah and Matthew Baughman
Sean and Christie Brown
Amy and Andy Crank
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Brian and Karen Zecchinelli



In Kind Donations

All About Home Ardelia Farm & Co. Bella Doni Pottery Berry Creek Farm Buffalo Mountain Coop Built by Newport Burke Mountain Confectionery Butterworks Farm Caledonia Spirits
Champlain Valley Equipment
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FINANCIAL REPORT

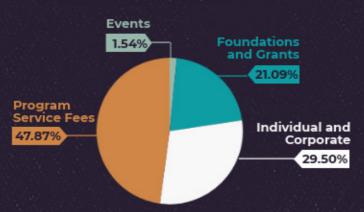
Statement of Activity

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Revenue

Individual and Corporate: \$ 269,075 Foundations and Grants: \$ 192,296 Program Service Fees: \$ 436,534 Events: \$ 14,071

Total Revenue: \$ 911,976



Summary Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2017

<u>Assets</u>

Current Assets:	
Checking/Savings	39,322
Accounts Receivable	97,363
Vehicle and Equipment	\$ 12,491
Other Assets\$	117,750

Total Current Assets...... \$ 265,926

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 16,857
Other Liabilities	
Total Current Liabilities	24,266
Total Net Assets\$	241.660

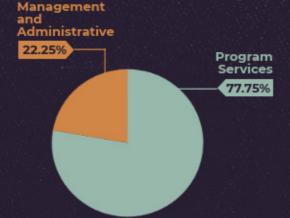
Total Liabilities and Net Assets...\$ 265,926

Expenses

Program Services: \$714,485

Management and Administrative: \$ 204,469

Total Expenses: \$918,954











JOIN US!

Help strengthen your community through food and education by becoming a supporter of Green Mountain Farm-to-School and its efforts to promote the health 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 115 2nd Street, Newport, VT 05855

or donate online at: www.GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org









Green Mountain Farm-to-School 115 2nd Street Newport, VT 05855

www.GreenMountainFarmtoSchool.org | 802. 334. 2044













