



2021 - 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Cultivating Healthy Communities
Through Food and Education



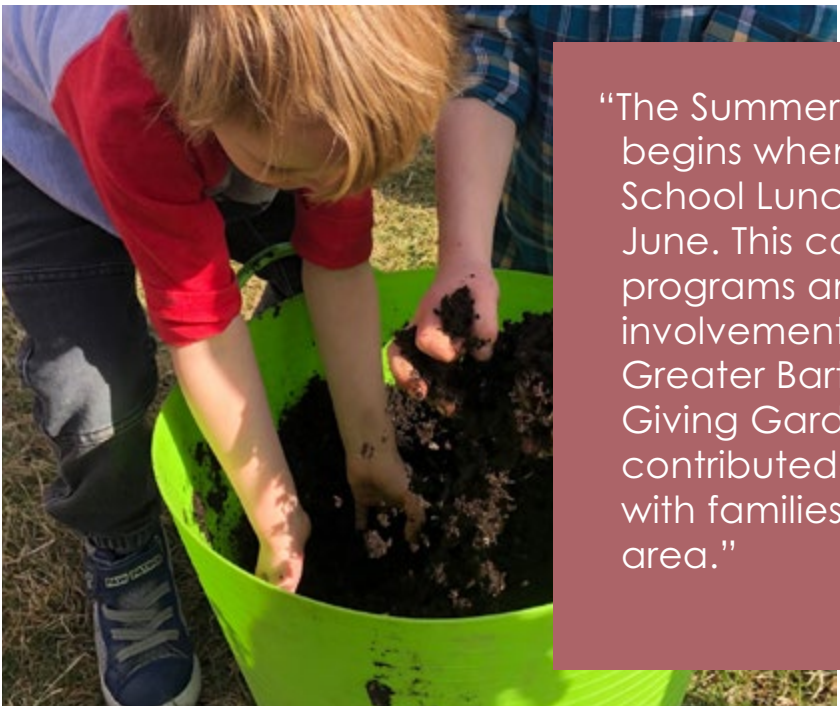


JOE'S BROOK FARM, ST JOHNSBURY, VERMONT



"Working with Farm Direct has enabled us to offer our customers a wonderful variety of Vermont products that would otherwise be inaccessible to our farm market. Out of all the distributors that we work with, Farm Direct stands out in customer service."

- Alisha at Arbor Farm Market



"The Summer Program at the Barton Public Library begins when the first Green Mountain Farm to School Lunchbox arrives on a Wednesday in June. This collaboration is the heart of our summer programs and allows us to encourage community involvement including a strong relationship with Greater Barton Arts and the Barton Community Giving Garden. The GMFTS Lunchbox Program has contributed so much to strengthening the bonds with families and other community programs in our area."

- Pam Kennedy, Barton Public Library



VERMONT SOY, HARDWICK, VERMONT



"The Nulhegan Education and Cultural Center has had the pleasure of working with the Green Mountain Farm to School Program over the last year. The collaboration has benefited both programs introducing the 'Land Acknowledgement' to area schools. We look forward to more years of collaboration."

- Lucy Neel, Nulhegan Education and Cultural Center

REACHING ACROSS THE CLASSROOM, CAFETERIA, AND COMMUNITY

Our Farm-to-School program partners with schools throughout the Northeast Kingdom to increase the amount of healthy, local foods in the cafeteria and provide experiential learning opportunities through school gardens, on-farm field trips, and nutrition and agriculture lessons. We believe that if we can change the way that kids eat and think about food, we can help build healthy and resilient children and improve farm vitality.



282 school workshops and **2,412 students served**

27 field trips, including many to the Abenaki Cultural Center in Holland. Out of this partnership an AmeriCorps member created a new Land Acknowledgement curriculum for grades 5th-8th.

School gardens produced **2,178 lbs. of food, valued at \$5,138**, all donated to cafeterias, food shelves, and the Lunchbox.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Last year, GMFTS partnered with Charleston Elementary to build a grow lab to enhance their garden program using a seed grant from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (Grassroots Fund).

This past spring, AmeriCorps member, Erin Katz developed a new unit lesson for 5th-8th grade classes on Land Acknowledgments. This new three-part unit lesson explores with students what a Land Acknowledgment is, the purpose of a Land Acknowledgment, and how to create one. We are excited to be offering this new opportunity to the schools this year.



SOURCING AND DELIVERING MORE LOCAL FOOD

People are showing up for local food! Through one-stop, easy ordering and coordinated delivery, purchases through Farm Direct strengthen our local economy, provide Vermonters with healthy, fresh food, and build lasting relationships in our communities.

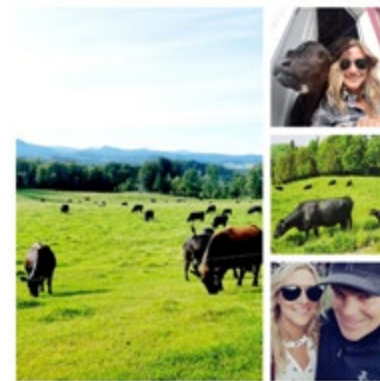
The food hub continues to grow! We distributed \$542,938 worth of food (up 15% from last year!) from 45 local farmers to 116 wholesale and institutional customers.

Farm Direct added 14 new customers in FY22!

- Seven of those new customers were schools from towns across northern VT: from Canaan to Northfield, to East Burke, to Winooski
- Schools are bouncing back from pandemic limitations - sales to schools were up 28%
- Three new producers joined the Farm Direct family in FY22. We welcome Creek Valley Farm, Reinberger Nut Butter, and Wilson Herb Farm. These farms represent the diversity of agriculture throughout the Northeast Kingdom. From dairy to value-added to specialty crops, our Farm Direct product line is growing!



FARM SPOTLIGHT



NORTHEAST KINGDOM PROCESSING
 JOINED AS PRODUCERS IN 2021

Scott & Tara Oeschger, owners and operators of Northeast Kingdom Processing, focus on making sure that local meat producers are able to have a USDA processor to get their products to restaurants, markets and farmers markets.

"It is a pleasure working with Green Mountain Farm Direct. Their focus on helping local producers' products get to schools, markets and restaurants around several counties is remarkable. Our products have now entered into markets that I never thought we would be able to sell to. I truly value their commitment and continuous hard work on behalf of all of the local producers."

- Tara Oeschger

CLOSING THE SUMMER NUTRITION GAP

The Lunchbox is a summer meal site and mobile learning kitchen. In Summer 2022, the Lunchbox hit the road for its **10th year serving the Northeast Kingdom's** children by providing free, healthy meals to those 18 and under. Affordable meals for adults were also available for purchase. The famed "Outside-the-Truck" experience was more robust than ever with GMFTS facilitating nutrition education activities that engaged children and celebrated summer in Vermont.



The Market Basket was back and more in demand than ever! Through donations and the bounty of our school gardens we were able to distribute more than **50 coolers of garden produce, local milk, and eggs to community members.**

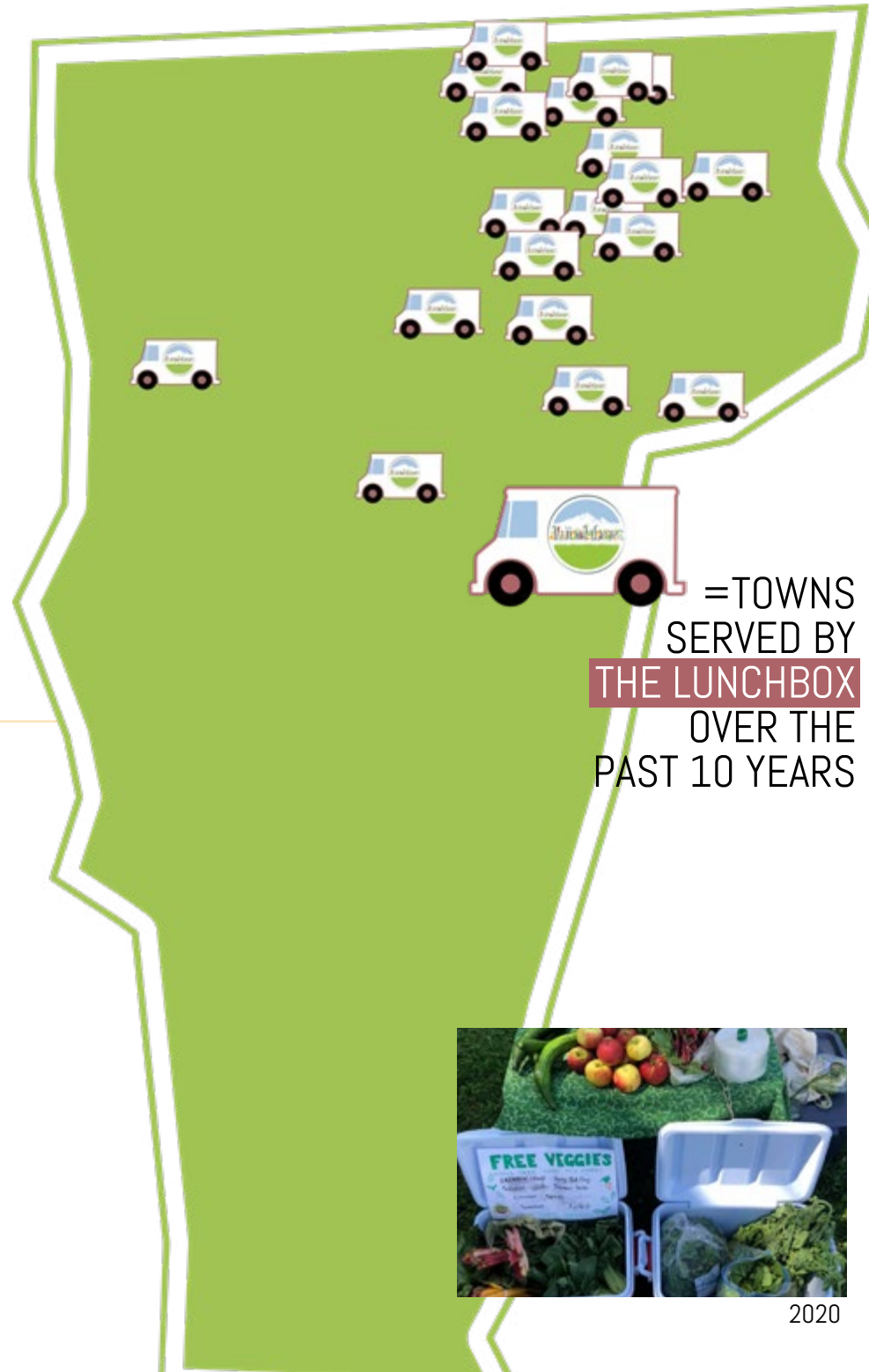
This summer, the Lunchbox served **nearly 4,000 free meals** to children 18 and under

Partnerships make it happen! Thank you to the Old Stone House Museum, Barton Public Library, Barton Community Garden, Greater Barton Arts, the Goodrich Memorial Library, Memphremagog Water Association, NSCU Traveling Playgroup, and Northern Counties Health Care for their contribution to the Lunchbox summer program!



10 YEARS OF THE LUNCHBOX

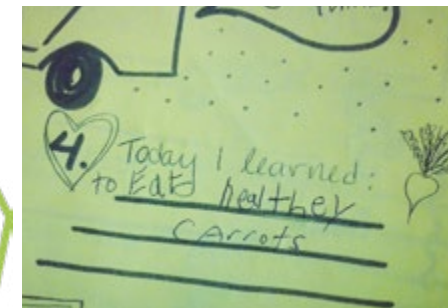
OVER 30,000
MEALS SERVED
10+ LOCAL FARMS
SUPPORTED



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022

MORE FROM THE YEAR

Grace Brouillette from St Lawrence University interned with us this summer. She literally "dug right in" and co-led students in planting three of the school gardens. Emma Trainor, Erin Katz, and Addie Irvin were the superstar AmeriCorps team.



We supplied holiday baskets in partnership with **Northeast Kingdom Community Action.**



As part of Everyone Eats, we delivered **130 free meals per week directly to 65 migrant farmworkers** located at 10 different farms in Orleans County.

Our Backpack Program delivered **over \$2,000 in local food during** April vacation, providing veggies, cider, apples, yogurt, sweet potatoes, cheese spreads, carrots, potatoes, and sausage.

HARVEST OF THE MONTH



Have you heard of Vermont Harvest of the Month?

Fun, easy to use resources for parents, teachers, farmers and business owners alike! Harvest of the Month provides ready-to-go materials for the classroom, cafeteria, and community promoting the use of Vermont foods.

Resources include posters, artwork, shelf tags, lunchline signs, and in-depth, downloadable harvest lesson plans and guides for educators, food service professionals, and parents.



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Each year, the connection to farming and the Vermont way of life weaves its way through our communities. And Green Mountain Farm to School is proud to be a part of that way of life in each community we serve. We value this place we call home and we look for new ways to inspire the next generation of Vermonters to celebrate our local Vermont harvest.

So many connections happen in a year, sometimes it can be difficult to pick one to highlight. One example that stands out happens during our work with farm partners growing food for school cafeterias. Over 30 schools receive vegetables and other Vermont products each month from across the Kingdom and beyond; from Barnet all the way down to Pawlet. Once at the school, our valued food service professionals cook hearty meals for lunch. Tosca Smith, a long-time advocate of from-scratch, local cooking, is proud to feed the students at the Jay/Westfield school food from farms they know by name and visit during the school year with our team of AmeriCorps farm-to-school coordinators. This feeling of connectivity creates a sense of place and purpose at the center of our work.

I find it amazing that schools and farms engage with our community in so many ways: field trips, public dinners, school lunches. It truly shows how much of our community revolves around Vermont's rich agricultural landscapes, and we are grateful to be here to nurture those relationships.

I am also grateful for the hard work and dedication of our team; they remain focused, honest, and flexible, with kindness in their hearts and progress in their minds. Along with you, our supporters, they make our work possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Catherine Cusack
Executive Director, GMFTS



WHAT BRINGS YOU THE GREATEST JOY AT GMFTS?

Answered by GMFTS Staff And Board

"The broad scope of the positive work that GMFTS does in the Northeast Kingdom is breathtaking. Most importantly to me, GMFTS supports our local farmers by giving them ready markets for their products, while also providing locally grown and healthy food to schoolchildren."

- Geoffrey Bok, Board of Directors

"I love being part of an organization that has a direct impact on the daily lives of the students. Our educational programs offer students a deeper connection to local food systems, the land, and agricultural history of Vermont"

- Elyse Perambo, FTS Program Manager

"One of the things that has inspired me is meeting GMFTS Americorps members – hearing their stories and learning about their work in our area schools."

- Tracy Zschau , Board of Directors

"One of the many ways that GMFTS inspires me is to know how hard they work everyday to bring quality education about the importance, nutrition and value of local food to the NEK community."

- Katherine Sims , Board of Directors

"I recognize the need for a collective effort in making the Northeast Kingdom and Vermont a great place to live, work, and raise children, and value Green Mountain Farm to School's contribution to that effort."

-Catherine Cusack , Executive Director

"I've been an educator for over 30 years and love to see students connect with gardens, food, and their worlds through this program. They have a great amount of pride when they help create the taste test or harvest the garden."

- Sherrie Gentry, Board of Directors

"I love my work at GMFTS because I know that I am directly benefiting people in my own community! Working in the Farm Direct program is a win-win for everyone; I get to see first hand how fresh local produce is distributed to families who need it while helping our local producers and businesses at the same time."

- Cheryl Galipeau, Logistics Manager

"My favorite part of working with GMFTS is the opportunity that my job provides to engage directly with the people we hope to serve. There is nothing more rewarding than watching NEK kids get excited about sampling local, Vermont apples, or shaking up their own whipped cream from Vermont dairies."

- Meggie Patton, Food Access and Logistics Coordinator

"My favorite part of working for GMFTS is being part of a larger, very exciting goal to strengthen our local food system. I'm inspired by how dedicated this group of people is to our goals of creating a healthy and strong food system in Vermont and making our state a better place for all!"

- Becca Perrin, Food Hub Account Manager

STAFF

Catherine Cusack, Executive Director
Nicole Davis, Finance Manager
Alida Farrell, Food Access Coordinator
Maire Folan, Farm to School Program Manager (Through Nov 2021)
Cheryl Galipeau, Food Hub Logistics Manager
Elyse Perambo, Farm to School Program Manager
Becca Perrin, Food Hub Account Manager
Jessica Weston, Communications and Development Coordinator
Grace Brouillette, Summer Intern

AMERICORPS FARM TO SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Addie Irvin
Erin Katz
Emma Trainor
Sean Morrissey

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Geoffrey R. Bok, Esq.
John Castle, Vice Chair
Dr. Kristy Ellis, Chair
Dr. Thomas Mosely, Secretary
Dr. Kathie Sims, Treasurer
Steve Wright
Tracy Zschau



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

WE ARE THANKFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED
GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM-TO-SCHOOL BETWEEN JULY 1, 2021 AND JUNE 30, 2022

Anonymous (13)
AG New England
Susan Aldrich and Winnie Jones
John Alexander
Jean and Nick Arcangeli
Lawrence and Joan Austin
Shawn and Kathryn Austin
Luke and Olivia Backus
Merlin Backus and Rebecca Velazquez
Judy and Gerry Ballinger
Alexandra and Matthias Bannach
Susan Kelley and Kevin Harkey
Reeve Basom
Fran and Ben Batchelder
Tyler and Marie Bean
Claire Beaulieu
Eric Becker
David Beller and Brigid Ducey, The Langworthy Foundation
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
Don and Christine Berthiaume
Geoffrey Bok and Marion Monaghan Bok
Marc and Laura Bouchard
Carol Briere
Arthur and Anne Brooks
Heidi Brown
Buffalo Mountain Coop
Built By Newport
Cabot Cheese
Joan Camp
Andrea Carbine
Janet and Roger Cartee
Century 21 Farm & Forest
Chaput Family Farms
Chelsea Green Publishing
Merle Chilcott
Betsy and Daniel Chodorkoff
Christensen Dunn Early Foundations Fund
Jeffrey Coburn
Mark and Hope Colburn
Community National Bank
Jaime Comtois
Concept 2 Rowing
Kathryn and David Converse
Ed and Starr Crane
Amy and Andy Crank
Gerard and Rosemary Croizet
Curtis-Britch Funeral Homes
Donald Dahlin, DDS

Amy and Steven Dalpe
Robert and Jennie Davis
Virginia Davis
Derby Village Store
Leanne and Michael Desjardins
Karin and Robert Doane
Micky and Peg Doheny
Francie and John Downing
Emily Dreissigacker and Alexander Howe
David Ellenbogen
Susan and Michael Epstein
Abby and David Evankow
Sam and Carmen Evrard
Siobhan Farwell
Donna and William Fellingner
Erika Fellingner
Judy Filipkowski
Heidi Fiske
Barbara and Jim Flint
James Folan
Joanne Folan
Maire Folan
Fountain Fund
Four Season's Dermatology
Randy and Caren Friedman
Harold and Beverly Frost
Paul and Shari Gagne
Janet Garrow
Judy Geer and Dick Dreissigacker
George W. Mergens Foundation
Jane Greenwood
GSDC-Granite State Development Corp.
Hall's Orchards
Katherine Hall Friedman
Greg and Chris Hamblett
Nina Hansen and Craig White
Amalia Harris
Dr. Peter and Louise Harris
Margaret Hartman
Harvest Equipment
Sally Harvey
Oz and Judy Henschel
High Meadows Fund
Shaun Hill
David and Anne Patrice Holdridge
Anne Hopkins
Susan and Ned Houston
Patricia Hunt Vana
Donald and Andrea Hunt
Jay Peak Resort

Lynn Jenness and Don Hendrich
Theodore Jewett
Carolyn Kehler
Frank and Alicia Knoll
Jocelyn and Gary Laber
Paul Labounty
Monique and Art LaPlante
Carol Lawlor
Anne Lazor
Big Bear Real Estate
Marcy Lindstedt Orlickas
Tom, Stacy and Jaden Liu
Peggy Loux
Lucy Downing Nisbet Charitable Fund
Anh-Thu Luu and Lester Greenberg
Frederick Lyster
Henry & Jean Macler
Emily Maclure
Jim and Susan Malloy
Steve Malshuk
Howard Manosh
Lucy and David Marvin
Alyssa May
Tim and Betsy McKay
Bonnie and James McWain
Memphremagog Rentals, LLC
John and Millie Merrill
Jane Miller
Jesse and Barbara Miller
John Miller
Sustainable Future Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation
Miso Hungry Ramen, LLC
Marguerite Moffett
John and Janet Monette
Dr. Thomas and Christine Moseley
Brian Mulcahy
Patrick Murphy and Ellen Quinn-Murphy
Nadeau's Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Neil and Louise Tillotson Foundation
Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District
Dr. Niemira
Beth and Kris Norris
North Country Hospital
Northpoint Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Organic Valley New England
Gail Osherenko and Oran Young

Laurel Ostrow
Passumpsic Savings Bank
Kristina Pearson
William and Martha Peck
Christopher Peer and Holly Savage
Adam Perrin
Tom and Donna Petit
Poulin Lumber Inc.
Bob and Ellie Primeau
Rachel Proctor
Lesley and Aaron Rae Larsen
Hal Reinauer
Rebecca Reynolds
Bill and Sally Rivard
Shane Rogers
Rotary Club of Newport
John Ruggles
Laural & Tim Ruggles
Rusty's Electric
Cheryl and Douglas Safford
Charles and Violet Schafer
Anne Segal
Liz Serotte and Richard Campbell
Arlene Shannon
Dave and Barbara Siegel
John Simons and Eileen Wolfe
Kathie and Nat Sims
Katherine Sims and Jeff Fellingner
Greg and Sharon Smith
Sarah Smith
Ellen and Michael Stanley
Durward and Lorraine Starr
John and Claudette Starr
Stony Point Foundation
Stowe Insurance
Peter and Lona Stuart
The Abbey Group
The Roessner Family Foundation
The Rona Jaffe Foundation
Laurence and Barbara Thompson
Emily and Greg Tocci
Town of Coventry
Town of Craftsbury
Town of Glover
Town of Jay
Town of Lowell
Town of Westfield
Union Bank
Upper Valley Food Coop
Allison VanAkkeren
Vermont Foodbank
VSECU
Jay Walsh
Wayside Restaurant Inc.
Mary and Ted Wendell
Christina and Eric Weston
Jake and Cathie Wheeler

Richard and Kathy White
Sarah White
Keri Willey
Paul and Lois Wolfe
Steve and Brooke Wright
Allen and Kathleen Yale
Kemberly Ziegerhofer
Dennis Ziegler
Tracy Zschau

In Honor of:

Heidi Brown, *Orleans County Farmers*
Heidi Fiske, *Katherine Sims*
Anne Hopkins, *Katherine Sims*
Hank and Jean Macler, *Aaron and Rory Carr*
Anonymous, *Maire Folan*
Laurel Ostrow, *River Ostrow*
Rebecca Reynolds, *Howard Reynolds*
Jake and Cathie Wheeler, *Katherine Sims*
Anonymous, *Dorothy N Baxendale*
Katherine Hall Friedman, *Katherine Sims*

In Memory of:

Leanne and Michael Desjardins, *Barbara and Leonard Sogoloff*
Allen Hall, *Ray Hall*
Steve Malshuk, *Step and Alma Malshuk*
Rebecca Reynolds, *Howard Reynolds*
Sarah Smith, *David Stackpole*



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

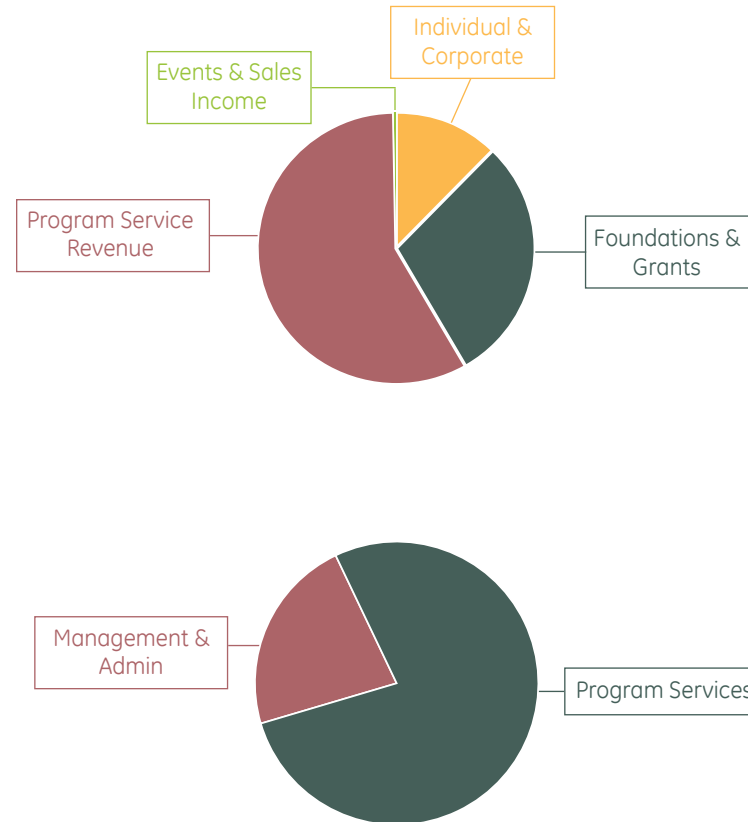
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Revenue	FY 2022	FY 2022 %
Individual and Corporate:	\$140,597	12.42%
Foundations & Grants:	\$331,653	29.31%
Program Service Revenue:	\$656,289	58.10%
Events & Sales Income:	\$2694	0.17%

Total Revenue: **\$1,131,230** **100%**

Expenses	FY 2022	FY 2022 %
Program Services:	\$823,056	75.89%
Management & Admin:	\$261,465	24.11%

Total Expenses: **\$1,084,521** **100%**



BALANCE SHEET

As of June 30, 2022

Assets	FY 2022	Liabilities and Net Assets	FY 2022
Current Assets:		Current Liabilities:	
Checking/Savings	\$91,424	Accounts Payable	\$38,249
Accounts Receivable	\$114,439	Other Liabilities	\$12,080
Other Assets	\$56,530	Total Net Assets	\$248,686
Total Current Assets	\$299,015	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$299,015





JOIN US!

Help strengthen our community through food and education by becoming a financial 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 and make an impact.

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

Or make a gift by phone at: (802) 334-2044

Green Mountain Farm-to-School's mission is to strengthen local food systems in Vermont by promoting positive economic relationships, education, and access between schools, farms, and communities.

