Here at The Growing Project, our emotions are connected to the wind and rain, the sun and hail, and the frost and snow. We live a life so connected with the seasons that each time they change we are washed over with a bittersweet, yet lovely feeling. This feeling is of hope and growth.

We have ended our 6th season as an organization and we are thrilled and invigorated, inspired and tired. We look towards the future as the snow falls, hoping to take solace in the cold nights and empty gardens. We watch the wind blow through bare branches and we reflect on our impact this season. With few financial resources, some ingenuity, and a lot of heart, here is what we have accomplished in 2014:

- Food Finders rescued and donated over **12,000** pounds of locally-grown produce to families and individuals in need and were **85%** bicycle-powered.
- We managed **13** community gardens, **8** of these gardens are in low-income neighborhoods.
- Each of these gardens produced between **150-350** pounds of fresh produce.
- Our Garden Time Horticultural Therapy program has engaged with over **75** at-risk youth to teach them gardening, cooking, and nutrition.
- Our home base garden produced over **4,000** pounds of veggies that was all donated back into our community.
- Over **200** volunteers worked at our home base garden.
- We taught **18** public workshops this season and had over **185** participants.
- We received funding to expand our horticulture therapy program to work with youth at The Family Center/La Familia

We have created a great momentum this season, growing more food, reaching more people, implementing more meaningful programs, and dreaming bigger. And while it seems that we may be hibernating for the winter, I ensure you we will be here, working harder, with more insight, intensity, and passion, looking forward to sowing seeds and cultivating community in the spring. Thank you for helping us grow!

Peace, love, and produce,

Dana Guber
Executive Director
The Growing Project

PROGRAMS

Garden Time
A Horticultural Therapy program which is educationally based, serving at-risk youth ranging in age from 10 to 18. This program partners with CSU Campus Corps which is a multidisciplinary service learning course at CSU where undergraduate students serve as mentors to at-risk youth. Both the students and youth participants gain basic knowledge of horticulture and nutrition through teaching plant parts and their function on the plant and as food. In 2014, a grant was received to expand Garden Time programming to The Family Center/La Familia.

Urban Foods Outreach
Urban Foods Outreach (UFO) provides the materials, the education and the volunteer help to install and maintain community gardens in low-income areas. We work with Fort Collins Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, and various mobile home parks. TGP provides a garden mentor to guide residents through the growing season. The goal of this program is to create self-sustaining, neighborhood gardens that residents can maintain without the help of TGP within 3 years of installation.

Food Finders
Food Finders is a network of volunteers picks up and distributes unwanted/excess produce from local growers to nonprofits that feed the hungry. The majority of these pick ups are done by bike with trailers. Drop off locations include Food Bank for Larimer County, The Family Center, Crossroads Safehouse, Catholic Charities, Fort Collins Rescue Mission and The Matthew’s House.

TGP University
TGP University offers a wide variety of classes and hands-on workshops. Class topics include growing with season extenders, composting, natural building, food preservation, native food foraging and much more.
The Growing Project

PROGRAMS

Continued......

The Mother Ship Educational Garden

Our educational garden is located at Shire CSA, a local farm, and includes our hoop house and an 1/8 of an acre dedicated to growing food. Classes and events are also held at this location. In addition, volunteer hours are held three times a week during the growing season. Volunteers may take produce in exchange for their help and the rest of the food produced is donated to local agencies that feed the hungry.

Sproutin’ Up Youth Program

The Growing Project works with the nonprofit Sproutin’ Up to host an 8 week session with at-risk middle school youth at our home base garden. Youth come out to the garden once a week to partake in an hour of educational work in the garden, they receive a 15 minute nutrition lesson, and then they harvest produce from the garden to bring back to their neighborhood (Collins Aire Mobile Home Park) where they set up a free market stand for their families and neighbors. Youth participants receive a $10 stipend each time they are in the garden.

The Family Center/La Familia

The Family Center / La Familia is an affordable, high quality family and early childhood center that strengthens all families and has a great working relationship with The Growing Project. Not only does Food Finders donate weekly for a free farmers’ market stand at their center but TGP is taking on a bigger role in their garden program. TGP is assisting with maintenance, running volunteer hours, workshops and food distribution.
The Growing Project

FUNDING

31% Foundations
18% Corporate Donations
23% Fundraisers
20% Individual Contributions
8% Earned Income

Foundation and Corporate Support 2014

Bohemian Foundation  Horsetooth Half Marathon
Cargill  Jax Fish House
Chinook Fund  New Belgium Brewing Company
Colorado Garden Foundation  Odell Brewing Company
El Pomar Foundation  Savory Spice Shop
FoCo Food Truck Alliance  Simply Organic
Fort Collins Nursery  Wells Fargo
Foundations Church  Whole Foods Fort Collins