

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL

FOR OUR SPONSORING PARTNERS AND THE MANY OTHER FOLKS WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK!

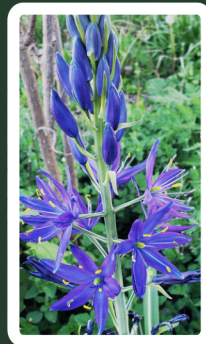
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The Health Care Foundation ★ The Rose Foundation ★ PeaceHealth ★ Jammie's Environmental Inc ★
Weatherguard, Inc. ★ Longview Public Schools ★ Barnes-Allison Labor Management Coop Committee ★ JH Kelly ★
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Kelso Garden Club ★ Kiwanis Club of Kelso Longview ★ Law Office of Meredith Long ★
Nippon Dynawave Packaging Co. Charitable Giving Foundation ★ Kellogg Garden Products ★
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American Workforce Group, Inc. ★ Anderson & Anderson Advisory ★ Early Bird Lions Club ★ Longshoremen's Credit Union ★
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Sloan's Floor Covering ★ The Roof Doctor ★ Twin City Dental ★ Kroger ★ Kitchens Etc. ★ Grocery Outlet ★
American Family Insurance ★ Pal's For Hair ★ Adaptive Seeds ★ Allen Creek Farm ★ Botanical Interests ★
Cloud Cap Mushrooms ★ Columbia Groundwork ★ Cowlitz PUD ★ Durant Oregon Olive Mill ★ Flat Tack Farm ★
Kelso Public Schools ★ Little Barn Farm ★ OBC Northwest, Inc. ★ Peaceful Valley Farm Supply ★ Red Truck Farm ★
Renee's Garden ★ Roland Wines ★ Scythe Brewing ★ Summerland Enterprises ★ Three Rivers Christian School ★
Tsugawa Nursery ★ Vibrant Greens ★ Walmart #2469 ★ Wilco ★ Willow Grove Gardens



It is vital to honor those who came before us and acknowledge the long history of what is now SW Washington state. This area has been home to ancestors of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe for thousands of years. The land, with its rich resources, enabled the Cowlitz People to flourish, and they stewarded the land with their traditional culture. Today we must appreciate the persistence of the Cowlitz People and the important role they play in our region as together we steward the land for all our descendants.

From the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Cultural Department



LOWER COLUMBIA SCHOOL GARDENS
empowers our community by connecting kids and families with real food and hands-on learning. Through dynamic garden and cooking programs, we cultivate health, equity, life-long learning and stewardship of the world around us.



Get in touch!
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DESIGNED BY HILLARY JENSEN

A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

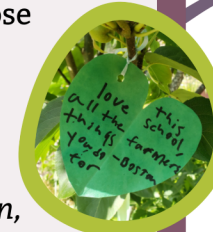


Hello Garden Friends, old and new!

Our small but mighty team continues to hold a lot of gratitude in our hearts for the many ways this community supports our work, and in even simpler terms, makes it possible for School Gardens to exist in this place we call home.

Over the past several years, **"reciprocity"** as a word and way of being has become a deeper part of our work. We are grateful to the *Tend, Gather & Grow* curriculum from GRuB in Olympia, and Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* for this concept that we get to share with students again and again. The garden, nature, the Earth generously provide us with gifts every day; air to breathe, food to nourish us, and beauty to behold. We have many opportunities to, and ways we can reciprocate these gifts; **slowing down and sharing our attention is one great place to start.** Along with hands-on activities in subjects like math, science, history and social studies, school gardens are a space where we all have those opportunities to slow down and give closer attention to the world around us.

With deep gratitude,
Emily Anderson, Jorge Brito, Hillary Jensen, Jennifer Johnson, Dexter Kearny, Hannah Long, Robert Loren, Erin McKee, Ian Thompson, Satou Rabbit and Synnamon Rabbit



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



HIGHLIGHTS

- Three full-time team members speak Spanish and one of them is a native Spanish speaker
- Welcomed two new team members; Jorge Brito and Jen Johnson
- Transitioned from GiveMore24 to GiveBIG
- Facilitated a workshop at the EPIC Youth Summit
- Hosted two Family Cooking Nights in partnership with FCRC
- Welcomed Synnamon Rabbit to our garden family
- Participated in Ethnic Support Council's International Festival
- Started seasonal garden programs at Lexington
- Planted a micro-garden at new Link-Wallace site
- Grew, cooked and shared Epazote
- LCC Int'l Students made miso soup at Northlake
- Received Nissan truck from Wheels of Hope
- 3rd year at Longview Library Little Monster Mash
- 2nd year at Cowlitz Indian Tribe Harvest Fest
- Planted Camas bulbs with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Started & finished the Barnes Pavilion
- Hosted Planet Neptune at Solstice Lantern Walk



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HECTOR GARCIA

6TH GRADE MEMBER OF COWEEMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

How did you hear about Garden Club and why did you join? Over the intercom at school and back when I was at Wallace. I wanted to be outside a bit more, and learn about the environment.

Does your family have a garden? Yeah, we only grow things in the springtime; flowers, pumpkins and tomatoes. I help with putting soil in the pots; we mostly grow in containers. It's really fun to help.

What would you tell a friend about Garden Club?

If you wanna join, we cook and can socialize with others and make new friends, and also be outside more, instead of being on game consoles. We can pick and grow more fruits and vegetables. Also learn to take care of the environment.

Didn't you take home some tomatillos last season? Yes! I took home a whole bag. My Mom loved it, she used them all to cook. I'm not old enough to help cook yet, but when she's making tortillas I always help her. When I'm 12 I'll help with cooking more.

What could we grow more of for your Mom to cook with? Celery would be one, radishes, cabbage, tomatoes, tomatillos, cilantro. Carrots, potatoes and cucumbers are my favorite. My Mom put potatoes in tacos with chorizo. We like to eat the cucumbers fresh and in cucumber water with lemon.

What was your favorite thing we cooked at Garden Club

The tortillas with beans! (For snack during one week of Fall Garden Club, LCSG staff made and brought flour tortilla dough. Students rolled them out and cooked them on a griddle. They also made fresh salsa, and chopped veggies to go inside the tortillas with the beans and cheese.)

Yesenia, is there anything YOU want to share about Hector? He loves Garden Club; he started doing garden when he was still at Wallace. He came home and told me, "Hey Mom, I can do Garden Club at the middle school" and I said, "OK!" He's always sharing with me what he does. I was very excited to hear about the tortillas he got to make, and he's brought home potatoes and other things.

He really likes posole, so when he brought me the whole bag of tomatillos I told him I would make the green posole he likes.

BECOME A PERENNIAL DONOR TODAY

Consistent monthly contributions of any amount help us tremendously! Visit LCschoolgardens.org and click the 'Donate' button to get set up. Thank you!



RESPONSES FROM OUR FREE FARM STAND SURVEY

PERENNIAL DONORS

MARCELO SUAREZ & CAITLIN DOUGHTY

M: I'm a civil engineer by trade; in Spring 2016 I was assigned to a 2-year project in Kelso, and found out about LCSG. One time Ian approached me at Roland Wines, and I quickly learned he knew Spanish and of my homeland. He told me about this amazing org that worked with kids, and had work parties community members could attend. It was such good vibe of people doing various things, and probably things I may have done before but not in this community way. It evolved into me volunteering time and donating.

C: I'm a social scientist working at The Nature Conservancy. Even though I never lived in the area per se, I immediately fell in love with LCSG and I think educating youth about where our food comes from is a fantastic mission.

What motivated you to become supporters?

M: It's a really well-run org; from that standpoint you know your dollars are well-spent. We believe in the mission and we've seen how the financial aid has gone a long way.

C: The community-building that it does is so visible every time we have the privilege to come down and attend an event. Fun side note: we were inspired by the Fall Gathering's decorations, for our wedding!

What else should others know about LCSG?

C: The first thing that comes to mind is not quite a secret: the Spring Plant Sale is absolutely amazing and can set your garden up for success from the get-go!

M: How LCSG is transforming households from the "bottom up", from kids sharing their new-found knowledge with the household. We also keep track of the resources; you pull up the website and look at the planting guide and you can see everything you could plant each month.



- 270 of our volunteers gave 2,300 hours of time and heart to support our work
- Partnered with 24 local orgs
- Set out our fresh produce on Free Farm Stands 54 different times between May and Nov
- Washed 600+ bins during harvest season
- Facilitated 9 days of Longview Summer School for 115 students
- Hosted 172 Community Garden Days over the summer, with 170 different students
- Distributed 3,160 free seed packets to the community
- 165 middle school students built community together during 65 days of Garden Club
- 25 of our volunteers were alumni from garden programs
- 47 of our volunteers were family members of current garden students
- Our staff engaged 4,000 K-5 students in dynamic garden activities and lessons during 104 Garden Days

WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS
Would you like to support our gardens and programs in person? Visit <http://tinyurl.com/3hwxtzm> to get started!

2023 BUDGET: \$553,064

- Grants 65%
- Private Donations 24%
- Corporate Donations 6%
- School Districts 3%
- Program Revenue 2%