



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the School Gardens Team:

We hope what you read in our Annual Report brings you pride, joy and encouragement; *you* (yes, you!) are a big part of our story, and as always you are instrumental in deepening the impact we have in our community.

In 2021, we grew more food than ever before, and we supported students and families through some incredible challenges. We were so excited and grateful to be back in the gardens with kids this fall. But we also said goodbye to Karen Clark, who retired in November, and we're in the midst of transitions that we hope will make our team even stronger and more resilient for the future.

There is much to look forward to in 2022. LCSG is one of nine recipients nationwide of a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program grant. This funding will allow us to hire additional staff and ensure that we're not just building gardens, but that we're dedicating time to building meaningful relationships with kids and families, bringing learning to life, connecting kids with real food and experiences in nature, and most of all giving youth a space where they are warmly welcomed as themselves.

Through both the challenges and the absolute joys that are sure to come, we know one thing for sure: **we can't do any of this important, life-giving work without you.** Whether it's your time volunteering, your monthly support or contribution during Give More 24!, your advocacy for our programs, your willingness to bring your class out to the garden, your business sponsorship, or your mention of us to your neighbor, we are so very grateful for all of it, and feel what an honor and privilege it is to engage with this beautiful community in School Gardens every day.

From all of us at Lower Columbia School Gardens, thank you and let's keep building a better world together!

Gratefully,

Emily Anderson, Julia Brice, Lauren Henricksen, Hillary Jensen, Dexter Kearny, Erin McKee, Ian Thompson, and Sam Rabbit and Satou Rabbit



Did you know that in 2021...

Our staff engaged **2,100+** elementary students in garden activities.



We stewarded **115 different varieties** of trees, vines, and shrubs, including pluot, paw-paw, persimmons, gooseberry and hazelnuts in our gardens, along with **215 varieties** of annual and perennial veggies, herbs and flowers.

Our staff worked with **639** students in academic garden-based lessons over **26** days this summer to help with recovery from lost learning during the pandemic.



School Gardens grew and distributed more than **6,850 pounds** of fresh produce to our community.

School Gardens staff facilitated **5 After-School Garden Clubs** this Fall, one at **EVERY** middle school in Longview and Kelso, reaching more than **100 students**.



182 volunteers supported our gardens and programs with **2,450 hours** of their time and energy.

Students and LCSG staff planted **465 cloves** of seed garlic this Fall for harvesting in Summer 2022.



School Gardens purchased **1 new-to-us truck** to join the farm fleet, thanks to your support during the Fall Fundraiser!

Meet JJ Bobadilla!

Tell us about yourself

I enjoy a lot of activities and I like to include my family. I'm outgoing, I like nature, cooking and expressing myself through drawing.

What made you decide you wanted to be a part of School Gardens?

I saw all the plants in the garden and knew it would be fun. It's important that we use all of our opportunities in this world because sometimes there's something inside us that we love and can change our lives but we haven't even been exposed to it yet.

What have you learned because of your time in School Gardens?

I know how to plant peas now. I'd never planted peas in my life! I also know how to pick asparagus and that you have to wait 3 years to harvest it the first time. I learned about different kinds of cabbage. I thought there was only one kind and now I know there's lots and some are even red. There's white strawberries too.

How does being in the garden make you feel?

I feel good inside after being with people in the garden. And I get to experience new things outside my comfort zone. It's changed the ways I act in the outside world. I get to enjoy



JJ has been helping to care for the same school garden for more than 4 years

nature, see plants evolve, feel them. I used to be afraid of bugs and worms. Things can gross us out but we shouldn't think that way. We learn how they live and that they're just trying to be here too.



JJ helps prepare Garden Club snack

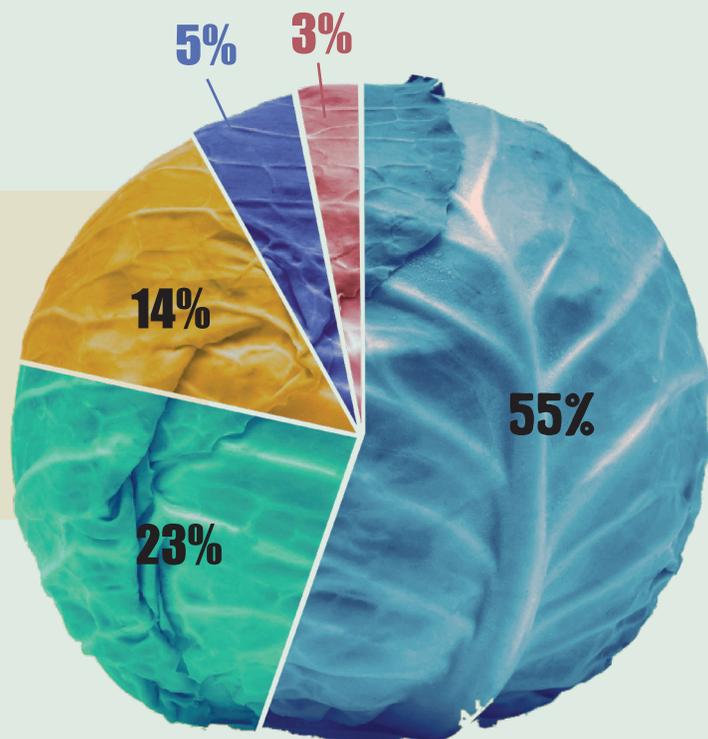
How do you feel about cooking?

I really love cooking. I've never heard of that African stew that we made and it was really good. We also made tortillas in Garden Club. My family makes blue tortillas because my mom likes using the black corn. We use a tortilla press at home but we used a different method in the garden and rolled out our flour tortillas.

Budget Snapshot

2021 TOTAL REVENUE: \$390,750

- Grants
- Private Donations
- Corporate Donations
- School District Funding
- Program Revenue (Plant and Produce Sales)



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“I chose to be a donor because I’m passionate about health and wellness for not only myself but my community. In an age where our food supply has become the farthest thing from real food and our health as a nation is in peril, I believe programs like these are the imperative to getting us back to being healthy and living as one with our earth.”

- Perennial Donor, Keli Hancock

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“I have never seen a program with this level of success in creating and nurturing a community of people invested in food security, justice, and health.”

- Perennial Donor, Marcelo Diversi

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Become a Perennial Donor Today!

Donors who make a monthly contribution to LCSG help us tremendously. You can sign up for a monthly debit from your checking account or credit card on our website www.lcschoolgardens.org by clicking the ‘Donate’ button. Thank you!

Interested in including LCSG in your will? Send a note to info@lcschoolgardens.org for more information.





THANK YOU

Thank you to our major sponsoring partners!
We are very grateful for your support.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture * Community Foundation of SW Washington * Washington State Department of Commerce * Wollenberg Foundation * PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center * JH Kelly * Norpac * Jammie's Environmental * The Health Care Foundation * UNFI Foundation * Weyerhaeuser * The Honorable Frank and Arlene Price Foundation * Child and Adolescent Clinic * Kaiser Permanente * Cowlitz Indian Tribe * Peter Mason Family Charitable Foundation * United Way of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties * Willapa Hills Audubon Society * The Kirchner Foundation * Boyd Family Foundation * Catlin Properties, Inc. * BNSF Foundation * Molina Healthcare * Diamond Showcase * Fibre Federal Credit Union * American Workforce Group * Kellogg Garden Products * Law Office of Meredith Long * 4 Corners Organics * Medical Staff of PeaceHealth St. John * Service League Lower Columbia * Longview Early Edition Rotary * Kiwanis Club of Kelso * Dick Hannah Dealerships * Longview Rotary Foundation * Longview Public Schools * Advantage Chiropractic and Massage * Kelso School District * Sierra Pacific Foundation * Bank of America * US Bank * Erosion Control Specialties * Three Rivers Christian School * Weatherguard Inc. * Wood & Wood Storage * Tierra Busby Child Focused Law * HudsonLake * Financial Life Dimensions



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.

Growing Food and Community on Cowlitz Tribal Land



Lower Columbia School Gardens

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Follow Our Adventures!

- "Steve the Rabbit"
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- www.tinyurl.com/yycfscpb or search "Lower Columbia School Gardens"

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