



GROW IT GREEN MORRISTOWN

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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Grow It Green Morristown, Inc. 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization

IMPACT IN 2022

2,291 STUDENTS

779 VOLUNTEERS

13,000 PARTICIPANTS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

8 HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS SUMMER & FALL

1 FARM APPRENTICE FOR 7 MONTHS

19 - NEWARK URBAN FARMER TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

8 TEEN BOMBA- INSPIRED CLASSES

**NEW FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS AT NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSE AND SO MUCH MORE...**



OUR MISSION

GROW IT GREEN MORRISTOWN PROMOTES COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH URBAN AGRICULTURE, DISCOVERY-BASED LEARNING AND EQUITABLE FRESH FOOD ACCESS.



PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

STUDENTS OF ALL AGES



- PARTICIPATED IN WELLNESS DAYS AND SCIENCE DAYS WITH SUPPLIES FUNDED BY MORRIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
- FULL YEAR OF LLC PRESCHOOL STUDENT LESSONS AT FARM
- KINDERGARTEN SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS- NEW IN 2022
- PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS AT SHALOM YELADIM AND PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL
- WORK STUDY PROGRAM WITH MHS STUDENTS AT COMMUNITY GARDEN

"I am an educator in Morristown as a teacher at the high school, and a director at the kindergarten summer school. In the past year, my older students had the opportunity to volunteer at the Early Street Garden, and my kindergartners were able to take field trips to the Urban Farm. At both locations, the staff was welcoming and fostered enriching nature based activities. Jenna went out of her way to create a nurturing, educational environment for my students of all ages to develop a deeper connection to the farms and nature."

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

INCREASING FRESH FOOD ACCESS



- 21 WEEKS OF PRODUCE FOR ATLANTIC HEALTH FAMILY CARE & GUIDANCE FAMILIES
- 20 WEEKS OF PRODUCE FOR NEWARK SAS FARM TO TABLE SHARES
- LOW COST PRODUCE TO NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
- NEW SLIDING SCALE CSA
- PREPARATIONS BEGIN TO INCREASE VARIETY & PRODUCTION ON NEW FARM LAND IN MENDHAM
- DOUBLE BUCKS SNAP PROGRAM
- DOVER FOOD ACCESS GROUP

During a very challenging year with drought and high temperatures, adjustments were made to continue to make fresh food accessible.

Food prices skyrocketed this year, making fresh food even more challenging for community families.

Discussions with Neighborhood House this summer about new programs revealed supply chain challenges in the fall for fresh food for their hot meal and snack programs. We began selling them produce below cost. "The kids are inhaling the produce- they love it!" was the response in the first week. We have plans to work with their chef next year as well!

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS - FRESH FOOD PROGRAMS



nourish.NJ
feed lives . fuel futures



**Interfaith Food Pantry
and Resource Center**
25 years of "neighbors helping neighbors"



Table of HOPE



**cornerstone family programs
& morristown neighborhood house**
Better Lives, Stronger Communities

- 6,500 LBS. OF PRODUCE DONATED
- SUPPLY SHORTAGES SOLUTIONS
- LOW COST PRODUCE PROGRAMS TO NEWARK SAS & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE
- 24 FAMILIES WITH 21 WKS. OF FREE PRODUCE AT FARM

 **Atlantic Health System**



PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

TYKE TIME



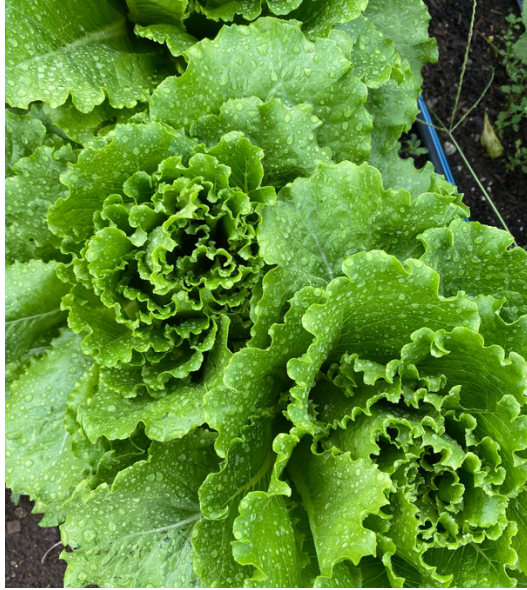
- **135 CHILDREN**
- **9 NEW ON THE FARM PROGRAMS**

"I loved taking my children (2 & 5) to Tyke Time. It encouraged us to talk about the food we eat, and we even started our own garden at home. They even tried and loved Sugar Snap peas from the farm stand!"

"Our 2 children (now 4 and 6) have been participating in Tyke Time for the past 2 years. We love the engagement, crafts, engaging staff, and general community feel at Grow It Green. Our kids learn tons about variety of topics and have fun in the process. We highly recommend the classes and continue to support and participate in the organization's activities."

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

CSA MEMBERS



- **21 WEEKS OF PRODUCE**
- **110 MEMBERS**



"I love knowing where the food is grown. Having volunteered on the farm in the past, I really appreciate the hard work and care taken to grow these delicious local veggies! I love that so much is also given to local food charities and that SNAP dollars go further for families. Farmer Shaun and the team are a blessing."

"We are learning so much, from how to identify vegetables by their leaves to enjoying new recipes. I love our CSA!"

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

FARM APPRENTICES



- **ENHANCED 2ND YEAR OF APPRENTICE PROGRAM WITH NEW FUNDING SOURCE FROM AN INDIVIDUAL DONOR**
- **EMANUEL WORKED THE FULL SEASON ON THE FARM EXTENDING INTO 2023**
- **ATTENDED NOFA CONFERENCE**
- **PREVIOUS YEAR APPRENTICE, CHRIS, RETURNED TO FARM LEADING BOMBA PROGRAM**

Emanuel was recently selected as one of ten applicants nationally to be a Power in Land, Agriculture, Climate and Equity (PLACE) Fellow for the National Young Farmers Coalition!

He is actively working with us and collaborative partners to increase food access in Dover, his hometown. Dover is the only town in Morris County designated as a food desert this year. The town and schools do not currently have community garden programs, and we are working to change that!

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

PAID HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



- **OUR SECOND YEAR WITH EIGHT PAID INTERNS**
- **120 HOURS A WEEK OF HANDS-ON LEARNING AT THE URBAN FARM**



"Farming is hard, fun, accomplishing and I really love it."

"Like many places, you are scared walking in, cause you don't know anyone. The people you meet are the ones that make it all better. I built friendships that I'll probably have forever."

"What surprised me the most? How much I loved it!"

"It's a great kind of small community- a great place to learn."

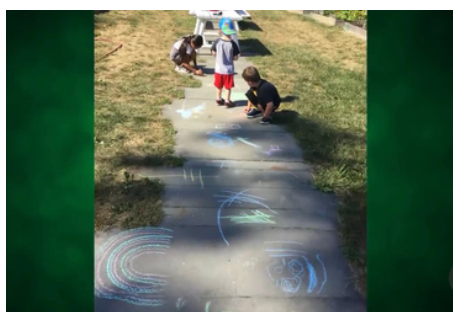
"Cucumbers are my favorite to harvest. I don't know why the cucumbers- but it's usually quiet and it's soothing."

"It's make you get to know new people and different people- they are way different- and that's good for me."

"This had me more in tune with nature. It opens you and makes you want to do more outdoors."

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

EARLY STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN



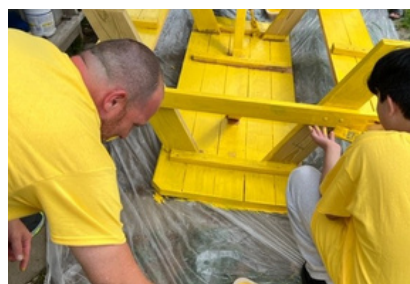
- **83 GARDEN PLOTS/ 14% SUBSIDIZED PLOTS; COMMUNITY BEDS FOR SPECTRUM, MORRIS COUNTY HISPANIC AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, ST. MARGARET'S, MHS COLONIAL L.I.F.E. AND WIND OF THE SPIRIT**
- **NEW CHANGES TO EXPAND & CREATE NEW PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SPACES TO ENGAGE MORE OF THE PUBLIC**
- **FRESH PRODUCE SHARED IN DONATION BIN ON EARLY STREET**
- **SEED AND SPROUT SWAP AND SHARE PUBLIC EVENT IN SPRING**
- **COMMUNITY FREE YOGA & QI GONG CLASSES, YOUTH GARDENER CRAFT ACTIVITIES, PUBLIC GARDEN LESSON AND WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AT ESCG PARKLET WITH YOGA, GRATITUDE PRACTICE AND INTENTION SETTING**

"I grew up as a kid in an apartment and always wanted to have a garden.

Gardening here is a dream come true."

PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

NEW PARTNERSHIPS



- **IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY TO FARM WITH REDESIGN OF FARM ENTRANCE**
- **NEW WORK STUDY PROGRAM WITH MHS STUDENTS**
 - *"The Community Garden was welcoming and very open. Volunteering there was cool because it reminds me of being a kid."*
 - *"It was calming being at the Urban Farm, and it was enjoyable to be with my friends and looking at the beautiful plants."*
- **COHOME PARTERSHIP RECYCLING COLLECTION VOLUNTEERING AT SEEDLING SALE**
- **URBAN FARM AS SITE FOR MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION PEOPLE'S PICNIC TABLE PROJECT**
- **MORRIS YOUTH SHELTER VOLUNTEERING AT FARM**
- **COLONIAL L.I.F.E TRANSITION STUDENTS PROGRAM EXTENDED TO SUMMER**
- **NEW PRESCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMMING WITH STUDENTS AT LLC**
 - *"I am an educator in Morristown as a teacher at the high school, and a director at the kindergarten summer school. In the past year, my older students had the opportunity to volunteer at the Early Street Garden, and my kindergartners were able to take field trips to the Urban Farm. At both locations, the staff was welcoming and fostered enriching nature based activities. Jenna went out of her way to create a nurturing, educational environment for my students of all ages to develop a deeper connection to the farms and nature."*
 -

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALFRESCO AT THE FARM



- **435 ATTENDEES/VOLUNTEERS**
- **5 NEW FARM EDUCATION STATIONS INCREASED PARTICIPATION & COMPLETION OF THE WHOLE PASSPORT!**
- **STATIONS PLANNED TO REACH MULTIPLE AGES OF CHILDREN**
- **INCREASED ATTENDANCE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF NEIGHBORHOOD**
- **PIZZA DONATED BY MILLIE'S OLD WORLD MEATBALLS & PIZZA USING GROW IT GREEN PRODUCE**
- **ADDED APPLES FROM A LOCAL FARM WHICH WERE A BIG HIT!**
- **FREE FOR COMMUNITY DUE TO GENEROUS SUPPORT OF KINGS FOOD MARKETS!**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WINTER FARMERS MARKET



- **12,350 PARTICIPANTS IN 2021-2022 SEASON AT NEW LOCATION AT CONVENT TRAIN STATION PARKING LOT**
- **MOVE CREATED GREATER ACCESS WITH INCREASED TRANSIT OPTIONS**
- **43 LOCAL VENDORS- INCREASED NUMBER OF WOMAN AND MINORITY OWNED VENDORS**

"Thank you so much for moving the market. I stopped coming last year, because it was so hard for me to get up the ramp. It really means a lot that you moved to this new location." -Winter Market shopper

"The grouchiness & bad tempers I too often see these days at supermarkets were nowhere to be found. Happiness is all around at the Morris Winter Market."

COMMUNITY EVENTS

GREEN SPACES AS PLACES TO HEAL AND GATHER



- **PARTNERED WITH STORYTELLING ARTS AND MORRIS ARTS AS AN OUTSIDE VENUE FOR PERFORMANCE ART TITLED "UNTOLD STORIES"**
- **REACHED OVER 120 PARTICIPANTS PARTNERING WITH MORRIS COUNTY HISPANIC AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WITH 2 NEW COMMUNITY EVENTS TO CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH SPANISH YOGA SESSION AND A CULTURAL CELEBRATION EXPLORING AFRO-PUERTO RICAN DRUMMING AND A NUTRITION SESSION ON THE ORIGINS OF CORN**

All elements of these events celebrated the diversity of Morris Community, including the musicians, and the food vendors.

COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS



- **PILOTED NEWARK URBAN FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM - 19 NEWARK URBAN FARMERS CAME TO THE GREENHOUSE AND FARM FOR 5 TRAINING SESSIONS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE NEW SKILLS**
- **SCOUT PROJECTS- MENTORED 1 GIRL SCOUT TROOP TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR BRONZE AWARDS BY BUILDING A NEW POLLINATOR GARDEN ACCESSIBLE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND THE URBAN FARM**
- **PLAYED A ROLE IN TWO "SOW WHAT" JOURNEYS LEADING TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS THE HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT WITHIN GIRL SCOUTS WITH PROJECTS AIMED AT THE IMPACT OF LOCAL FOOD CHOICES**
- **FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING IN MORRISTOWN COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY**

COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS



Action Scholar interns from Drew University & dietician students from Saint Elizabeth return to farm and greenhouse

“This was my first day at Grow it Green, Morristown. We were assisting with harvesting bell peppers & various tomatoes. We even got to uproot carrots and take one home! An incredible immersive and educational experience. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the farm. I was delighted by the other volunteers and customers, especially those that brought their children as I feel it sows an important seed from an early stage about sustainable food sources. The Grow It Green staff were exceptionally welcoming; I learned so much from them. It’s unfitting to call them staff, because my experience there felt so much more personal. I am pleased to be part of Grow It Green and look forward to returning in Spring :).”
- Action Scholar Intern

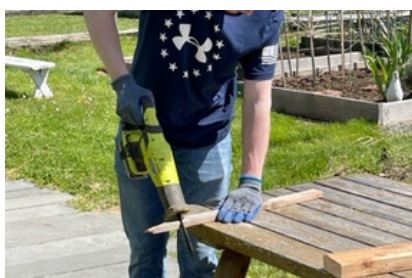
COMMUNITY OF LEARNING



- **ACTION SCHOLAR INTERNS FROM DREW UNIVERSITY & DIETICIAN STUDENTS FROM SAINT ELIZABETH RETURN TO FARM AND GREENHOUSE**
- **FARMER SHAUN RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA**
- **TOWN OF MORRISTOWN DECLARED AUGUST 16TH AS FARMER SHAUN DAY IN RECOGNITION OF HIS IMPACT ON LOCAL STUDENTS, ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD ACCESS**
- **"LOCAL GARDENS ACROSS THE COUNTRY SHARE USDA'S GOALS OF BUILDING MORE DIVERSIFIED AND RESILIENT LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO COME TOGETHER AROUND EXPANDING ACCESS TO**
- **HEALTHY FOOD, ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADVANCING EQUITY." - EARLY STREET DESIGNATED AS USDA PEOPLE'S GARDEN!**

COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES



- **FIRST FULL YEAR WITH MOVEABLE HIGH TUNNEL**
- **NEW LOWERING AND LEANING VERTICAL GROWING SYSTEM FOR TOMATO PRODUCTION**
- **BUILT A DRY WELL AT OUR WASH AND PACK STATION**
- **USAGE OF SILAGE TARPS TO TERMINATE WEEDS AND SPEED UP TURNOVER OF CROPS**
- **SHADE CLOTHS OVER TUNNELS AND AT GREENHOUSE HELP WITH WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECT CROPS AND PEOPLE FROM HEAT**
- **BUILT STATIC AERATION COMPOSTER AS PART OF NEW COMPOST SYSTEM AT GARDEN POWERED FROM SOLAR PAVILION**
- **NEW POLLINATOR GARDEN BUILT OUTSIDE FARM FENCE FOR LOCAL NEIGHBORS TO ENJOY AND CUT FLOWERS**
- **UPDATED THE URBAN FARM HERB AND FLOWER GARDEN TO INCREASE VARIETY**
- **NEW RAIN GARDEN TO BE BUILT AT COMMUNITY GARDEN**

WHAT WILL WE DO IN '23!



- **EARLY STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN- NEW ENGAGING PUBLIC SPACE**
- **NEW LAND TO FARM IN MENDHAM TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND VARIETY**
- **INCREASING DEMAND FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES- CALENDAR IS PACKED WITH MORRIS SCHOOL DISTRICT TRIPS AND LESSONS**
- **NEW COLLABORATIVE INTERNSHIPS**
- **AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR TEENS**
- **DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH PARTNERS**
- **DOUBLING FOOD SHARE PROGRAM WITH NEWARK SAS**
- **CREATING FOOD ACCESS PROGRAMS IN DOVER**
- **WHAT MORE WILL YOUR FUNDING AND PARTICIPATION MAKE POSSIBLE?**

