Dearest GRuBbers,

The spring equinox just passed, and y'all know what that means – it’s just about time to get growing! One thing that a gardener never forgets is to take time to reflect on successes, learn from mistakes and vision the next crop of garden-raised bounty. Over the winter, we’ve spent the darker days of the season looking back on our work over the past year and marveling at how much this community has accomplished.

One of the core values that frames GRuB’s work is the belief that everyone is powerful regardless of current life circumstance and that our work and community thrives by including diverse experiences, cultures, opinions and beliefs. In 2015, this community rallied around GRuB’s food justice work to prove that forging partnerships between youth (many of whom have had to grow up fast), transitioning veterans (some of whom are struggling with post-service physical, emotional and psychological disabilities), families living in the “war-zone of poverty” (as Dr. Donna Beegle puts it), and a wide variety of volunteers, donors and partners truly can help us reach our full potential as a community. And the growing demand for our “pollination” work (coaching communities to replicate GRuB-like programming), gives us hope that we can grow together across the state and the nation to build a just and sustainable food system where all people contribute to and reap the benefits of good, fair food.

As the 2016 growing season kicks off, we have so much to celebrate and appreciate. We are thankful for the tremendous outpouring of community support – both financial & moral, for community members willing to undergo the powerful personal growth processes that will ultimately transform our community, and for the deepening of a shared vision in which all of us see ourselves as contributors to the profound work of beating hunger and squashing injustice. Truly and deeply, thank you all for working alongside us to grow healthy food, people and community. Please read on and take a moment to relish what you’ve helped achieve this past year and join us in celebrating our 20th anniversary of youth engagement work in 2016. We look forward to deepening our roots on the farm and in community, side by side with you in the year ahead.

Yours in health & bounty.

Katie Rains
Executive Director
Gail Gosney-Wrede
Board President

2015 Financials

In 2015, we changed our fiscal year to July 1 to June 30, rather than a calendar year. This change reflects the seasonality of our programs including the flow of bounty into our organization. For this annual report, the graphs below reflect the bounty and expenses that were most recently reported to the IRS, which is only six months (1/1/2015 to 6/30/2015). Future annual reports will again reflect 12 months of financial activity.

In the meantime, we thought you should know that our total income for 2015 was $751,548 while our total expenses were $713,455. GRuB’s Harvest Soirée, our annual farm-to-table fundraising feast, brought in $67,633 which is a record high. Of special note, the Estate of Katherine Hayes generously gifted us $203,500, which enabled us to pay off our mortgage in full and establish reserves for future capital projects. We are proud to honor her legacy through continued service to our community.

Bounty and Expenses

Yours in health & bounty,
“I had so much food I could share with neighbors and friends. I’m very grateful. I really hope you encourage your veterans program to expand. The vets have a better way with low-income people because they understand challenges.” – Eve, 2015 KGP Gardener

“I became more confident with people. I learned how to better communicate. I grew an even deeper appreciation for my community as well as my family.” – Eliana, 2015 GRuB School Peer Crew Lead

In 2015, our bees produced 22lbs of honey and survived the winter!

GRuB School hit a stride in 2015. Sixteen youth graduated last spring. Last summer, 24 new students and 7 returning leaders spent 7 weeks strengthening their own ability to make a difference. Our youth crew connected with their counterparts in GRuB-like projects in Aberdeen, Centralla and Shelton. Four returning youth represented GRuB at the national Rooted in Community (RIC) youth Summit in Detroit. RIC’s 2015 theme was water rights, and it was powerful for youth in Olympia to stand in solidarity with the youth in Detroit.

In 2015, we hosted two place-based youth engagement Institutes. In this three-day intensive introduction to GRuB’s model, 29 educators and administrators from across the country and Canada got the chance to experience the best of GRuB.

The Freedom Farmers, our pollinated site serving Olympia High School, grew 11,000 pounds of produce, providing almost 20% of all the vegetables needed by the district’s nutrition program.

Additionally, our 2014 sister projects thrived in 2015! They grew food for themselves, local food banks, hospitals, and low-income housing developments. The crew in Grays Harbor County maintained a large raised-bed garden; Mason County students expanded from a garden into a farm; in Pacific County, students farmed on the Sea School Cooperative’s homestead.

This year, in addition to building 68 Kitchen gardens for families, we reconstructed a school garden at Meadowes Elementary and built gardens at the downtown Olympia Timberland Regional Library and the Salvation Army Community Kitchen on Plum Street.

One of our most exciting projects in 2015 was launching the Victory Farmers pilot. The Victory Farm is a safe, non-confrontational place where veterans, active duty service members and their families work shoulder to shoulder with community. Last year 118 veterans immersed themselves in the healing nature of the outdoors, growing good food and re-establishing a sense of self.

We also cultivated new partnerships with SeaMar Community Health Center, Olympia Pediatrics and others to lay the groundwork for a future Prescription Garden project.

This year, 21% of our produce went to the Food Bank, 36% of our CSA went to our community, 11% of our produce went to GRuBbers, 11% went to our youth crew, 11% went to WOLY’s Market and 9% went to Marketstand.

Where does our GRuB go?

Our Cultivating Community & Leaders (CCL) programming creates opportunities for transformation at the intersection of food systems and community development. Based on GRuB’s multicultural framework and communication tools, we launched a 5-part workshop series Roots, Shoots & Fruits as a key strategy to grow a just & sustainable community. In 2015, 39 stakeholders attended the introductory Roots training, 12 of whom later attended our first Shoots training.

Through CCL, we also hosted 96 adults on the farm for service-based, educational field trips. Participants dug in and engaged deeply with GRuB’s history, organizational model and the cultural context that makes the work of food & social justice relevant to our community.

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### Grants and Community Donors

**Katherine Hayes Estate, Medina Foundation, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Tides Foundation, The Chehalis**
