

...the first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind.
Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world.
-Norman Borlaug



If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.
- Mother Teresa



GRUB
Garden-Raised Bounty



If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger.
- Buzz Aldrin





GRUB

2009 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



OUR STAFF

- Kim Gaffi, *Co-Director*
- Blue Peetz, *Co-Director*
- Wade Arnold, *Farm Manager, CY Alum 00/01*
- Rochelle Gause, *Kitchen Garden Project Coord.*
- Sylvia Green, *Office Manager*
- Anders Gurda, *Education Program Coord., Americorps, 08/09*
- Lily Hynson, *Education Program Coord. & CY Counselor, Americorps, 09/10*
- Rachel Milford, *CY Counselor & Backyard Garden Coord., Americorps, 09/10*
- Anna Robinson, *Grants & Special Projects*
- Jackson Sillars, *Community Engagement Lead*
- Justin Umholtz, *Facility & Staff Development*
- Katie Wolt, *Backyard Garden Coord., Americorps, 09/10*

OUR BOARD

- Leanne Strait-Kramer, *President*
- Adrienne Drewe - *Outgoing VP*
- Noel Parrish, *Incoming VP, Out. Secretary*
- Susan Bogni, *Outgoing Treasurer*
- Steve Byers, *Incoming Treasurer*
- Stephanie Brodin, *Incoming Secretary*
- Jim Grant, *Outgoing Member*
- Nita Rinehart, *Outgoing Member*
- Chris Wickham, *Outgoing Member*
- Phyllis Edwards, *Board Member*
- Beth Halpern, *Incoming Member*
- Raymond Perez, Jr., *Incoming Member*
- Ellen Shortt-Sanchez, *Incoming Member*
- Haylee Tiner, *Incoming Member*

OUR MISSION

We're a grassroots non-profit organization located in Thurston & Mason Counties in Washington State. We dedicate ourselves to nourishing a strong community by empowering people and growing good food.

GREETINGS GRUB FRIENDS,

You can tell it's been a full year considering that it's summer and we're just now getting out our Annual Report for 2009. Thinking back, the theme is clear; POLLINATION. No, I'm not referring to plant sex. I'm talking about GRuB's version of replication. We're not McDonald's (in so many ways!). We don't need to see GRuB franchises everywhere, but we love to see folks taking the best of what we do and adapting it to their unique communities. Throughout this report you'll see bits of what I'm talking about, starting with a few of my favorite pollination stories from 2009.

A couple of years back, community leaders approached GRuB about expanding into Lewis County to help with what had become a crisis of disengaged youth. Rather than spreading ourselves too thin, we decided to partner with the community (the flower) to start their own youth empowerment program. GRuB provided training & curriculum (the pollen) and under the initial visionary leadership of the late John Austin Smith and the ongoing compassionate stewardship of Danielle Craig (the bees), Growing Places Farm's employment program is a reality!!!

This last year GRuB continued to empower West Olympia neighbors to steward the Sunrise Park Community Garden. This garden has served as a successful test case of sorts for the Olympia Parks Department and now with our technical support, they are launching their own community garden program this next year. This will mean hundreds more families having access to the physical and emotional benefits that come with growing and eating fresh veggies, not to mention the community-building that happens as folks work on something together. Go Oly!!

So where can we pollinate next? For nearly fourteen years, Blue & I have thought the idea of a GRuB School was inspiring, logical, and (of course) just a pipe-dream. Turns out it's just the first two. Intrigued? Stay tuned for more exciting news about GRuB's emerging partnership with our local school districts.

We hope you enjoy this report and we hope you will find yourself inspired to continue rolling up your sleeves and joining us in the creation of a better world.

Kim Gaffi
Co-Director

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"GRUB HAS THE BEST YOUTH PROGRAM I'VE SEEN IN MY TEN YEARS AT CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL...THE STUDENTS I'VE KNOWN HAVE GAINED CONFIDENCE IN WHO THEY ARE; SEEING THEIR OWN UNIQUE PERSONALITIES, THOUGHT PROCESSES, TALENTS AND ABILITIES AS QUALITIES TO BE APPRECIATED AND DEVELOPED ...THEY ARE EMPOWERED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEIR ACTIONS, WORDS, AND THOUGHTS CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE THEIR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN UNLIMITED POSITIVE WAYS."
- SHANNON GARRETT, COUNSELOR, CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL



Wade Arnold (2nd from left), our new Farm Manager Apprentice works alongside crewmembers. Wade was a crewmember 8 Years ago and now brings his life experience and passion back to GRuB as a permanent staff member.



Co-facilitating with the Native Plant Salvage Project, our new classroom space was the perfect venue to bring together passionate school gardeners who share the vision of getting good food into the hands of kids of all ages.

CULTIVATING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

In early 2009, 17 high school students from across Thurston County wrapped up an amazing year in our Cultivating Youth Program. This particular crew took on the distinction of the "record breakers", engaging in the most backyard garden builds of any crew (57 gardens!) and leading hundreds of volunteers on our farm. They hosted our first ever Comcast Cares event, bringing over 100 volunteers from Comcast Cable to expand our farm fence line and upgrade our food bank greenhouse. Only 6 of our 17 participants entered our program on-track to graduate or in school at all. Today, 16 have either graduated high school, earned their GED, or are now on-track to graduate.

GRuB hired 21 new youth in the summer (5 from Lewis County as part of our "pollination" pilot). Additionally, 9 youth who had completed a full year with GRuB returned as important project leaders, including one as a Lead Grower at the Kiwanis Food Bank Garden.

On the GRuB Farm, our 2009 crews led the production and harvest of 12,000 pounds of produce for the community. Over 55% of the harvest was distributed to our crewmembers and their families and to the Thurston County Food Bank. Youth involvement in our neighborhood market stand, vegetable CSA program, and bouquet delivery service brought in over \$14,000.

For the 13 youth continuing on with our organization this past fall, the evolution of our program allowed us to push our young leaders to new heights. As part of our leadership development curriculum, extra attention was given to group facilitation and collaborative communication skills. Fall and winter activities included expanded volunteer outings for large groups (Temple Beth Hatfiloh, Growing Places, Foodworks) and a hefty number of community outreach events.

CULTIVATING YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

In addition to bringing out 700+ students for hands-on field trips, GRuB hosted the first ever *South Sound School Garden Summit*. It brought together 20 representatives from 9 schools that use food & native plant gardens and water-wise landscapes as educational resources. Teachers highlighted critical needs, success stories, lessons learned, and were introduced to a variety of resources. The endeavor was so successful that the Thurston County Food Bank now has a staff member dedicated to supporting School Garden programs.

KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT

In 2009, over 100 families throughout Thurston & Mason Counties became gardeners with GRuB. 34% of gardens were built for people with special needs, 26% were built for families with children, 16% for single parents, and 15% for seniors. At our Sunrise Community Garden on Olympia's westside, 36 families cared for their garden patches and grew food for their kitchen tables. KGP gardeners from previous years attended our workshop series and accessed free seeds and starts.

Through a partnership with Patty Suskin, Diabetes Coordinator for the Squaxin Island Tribe, we built a record gardens for 15 Squaxin families! According to Patty, families that received gardens ate more vegetables, tried new varieties, discovered new ways to cook and combine veggies, shared food with other community members, saved gas because they didn't need to go to the store, and watched their kids picking carrots and eating them right out of the garden!

Results from our year-end survey backed up Patty's testimonial, showing that: 30% of gardeners cooked more homemade meals, 25% ate less pre-packaged meals, 22% ate out less, 61% had increased access to fresh produce, and 44% showed an increase in how often they ate 2-3 cups of fresh vegetables daily.

POLLINATION PROJECT

Having tackled issues of hunger & poverty for over 13 years, we are now evolving into a community organizer, educator, and consultant. By providing mentoring & replication tools to groups looking to create their own programs, more teens will gain meaningful employment and more families will get the resources to grow good food and build self-sufficiency.

After two years of extensive editing and testing, we completed the first draft of our employment program manual & curriculum in 2009 and began shaping our garden-building manual! Both have already become valuable resources as part of our 2010 institute and workshop series, we'll share more next time!



GRuB piloted a new "Double Digging" technique this year with a few of our new Kitchen Garden Project Gardeners. GRuB staff, interns, and youth crewmembers worked alongside gardeners to install these labor intensive, but well worth it in-ground beds. Thanks to our friends at Growing Gardens in Portland, OR for showing us the ropes!



Crewmembers from GRuB and Growing Places Farm work alongside farmers at Kirsop Farm in Tumwater during their annual garlic harvest. Kirsop supplies much of the garlic for GRuB's famous youth-made garlic braids.

"I NEVER FEEL SCARED ABOUT HAVING NO FOOD ANYMORE. EVEN IF THERE'S NOTHING IN THE KITCHEN, I CAN LOOK OUTSIDE AND SEE ALL THE GOOD THINGS TO EAT. NOW I NEVER HAVE TO BUY VEGETABLES, I JUST GROW THEM. MY GARDEN GIVES ME A FEELING OF SECURITY. BEING DISABLED, SHOPPING CAN BE DIFFICULT BUT PICKING GREENS IS EASY. THANK YOU FOR MY WONDERFUL GARDEN!"
- 2009 GRUB BACKYARD GARDENER

FINANCIAL HEALTH

SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE

AGENCY CONTRACTS	\$54,984
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Special Events	\$41,926
Community Donations	\$129,105
Total Contributions	\$171,031
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	\$81,943
GRANTS	\$173,025
MARKETING INCOME	
Community Supported Agriculture	\$9,080
Marketstand	\$5,050
Giving Gardens	\$5,150
Other Marketing Income	\$5,593
Total Marketing Income	\$24,873
PROGRAM FEES	\$1,623
UNITED WAY	
Community Investment Grants	\$13,854
Individual Designations	\$4,104
Total United Way	\$17,958
TOTAL REVENUE	\$525,437

USES OF FUNDS

PAYROLL EXPENSES	
Staff	\$290,352
Youth	\$104,422
Total Payroll Expenses	\$394,774
CULTIVATING YOUTH	\$28,633
FARM	\$11,454
KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT	\$32,071
MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION	\$41,155
SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$24,030
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$532,117

CORE SUPPORT

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, grantors, government agencies, and non-profit partners that support us each year. As our work grows, it's no longer possible to publish our full supporter list in our Annual Report, however, we would be happy to email you a copy upon request. We would like to especially thank the following partners for their significant contributions in 2009. Their commitment to our work is instrumental in everything we accomplish.

Ben B. Cheney Foundation, Bonbright Family Foundation, Chehalis Indian Tribe, City of Lacey, City of Tumwater, Colin Barricklow & Genine Bradwin, Comcast, Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, Community Youth Services, Dianne Ludwig, Discuren Foundation, Freas Foundation, Growing Places Farm, Irving A. Lassen Foundation, Jeffris Wood Foundation, Knapp Meyer-Knapp Family, Mannix Canby Foundation, Mary & Roger Dean, Medina Foundation, Michael Moore & Laura Wiggans, Nita Rinehart, Olympia Choral Society, Olympia Federal Savings, Olympia Hostel Club, Olympia Supply Co., One Family Foundation, Peach Foundation, Rotary Club of Olympia, Satterberg Foundation, Squaxin Island Tribe, United Way of Thurston County, USDA Community Food Project, Yes To Carrots Seed Fund



Jackson Sillars facilitates a workshop on stereotypes and oppression for GRuB Crewmembers and Staff. This workshop is one of many powerful elements of our now completed youth program curriculum.

