

# Annual Report 2014



# Letter from the Board...

Dear Friends,

*It has been a little more than a year since we last wrote to tell you how your support contributes to our efforts to "Grow the Movement". I am so grateful for the dedication, work and contributions of our staff, youth, board and community (that means you!) who never waver in their support of our efforts. The board and staff of GTC understands that our work is only possible because of our many "friends" who are as committed as we are to growing the movement around an economically & racially inclusive and just food system. Thank you never seems like enough, but I say it anyway, THANK YOU!*

*In our last annual report we told you that we were working to expand our capacity by identifying and purchasing an additional farm site so that we could build infrastructure that would enable us to plant earlier and harvest longer. Well we did it! For the first time ever the City of Springfield sold a plot of land in the heart of our city for the purpose of Urban Agriculture, and they sold it to GTC!*

*Now that we have it, the real work begins. Our staff and youth have been working diligently this past year to prepare the land for its 1st growing season in the Spring of 2016. In addition to our regular development efforts we are working to develop a plan for good stewardship of the Walnut Street site. I am so proud that this land is only a stone's throw away from where I was first recruited into the GTC family, by GTC youth who were in the neighborhood asking critical questions about food access nearly six years ago.*

*In 2014, our partnership with the Next Barn Over enabled us to provide an additional 15,000 pounds of fresh produce on top of the 5,000 pounds of food that our youth and staff grew themselves. Our partnership with Springfield's Go Fresh! Mobile Market was solidified further through our mutual efforts to secure a fully outfitted vehicle permanently dedicated to help distribute fresh produce to neighborhoods across the city.*

*We also engaged 27 youth in our 2014 summer program. While the summer work is intensive, our year-round youth leadership program offers city kids (12-20 years old) both academic and professional experience. GTC youth work on our farm sites and in the office. They build competencies in sustainable food production, marketing, and local food distribution. In addition to these hard skills, youth learn life skills critical to effective planning, communication, a good work ethic, and time and money management.*

*We closed our books in the black for 2014, nearly doubling both contributions and sales. We leveraged every dollar received through grants and donations with those we earned from our Farmers Markets and Farm Stand sales. Financing operations remains a challenge, and while we are working to close the gap, we may experience an operations deficit for 2015. The GTC staff, board and committee members all contribute to GTC financially as well as with their time and talents. We hope that our friends and supporters will do the same to help us to end 2015 on good footing.*

*Recently I have come to understand that GTC is not just of and for the community, it is the community. Like so many members of the GTC family, my life has been forever changed by the work that we do. If you are just learning about GTC, come join us, I promise you will never be the same.*

With love and in solidarity,



Elizabeth O'Gilvie  
Chair

# Urban Agriculture



Central St (2005)



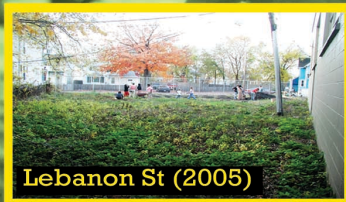
Central St (2014)



Hancock St (2005)



Hancock St (2014)



Lebanon St (2005)



Lebanon St (2014)

**3** GTC Farm sites  
**Walnut St** development  
starting in 2015  
**5500** lbs of food grown  
**60%** increase over 2013  
**33,554** sq feet farmed

Transforming once vacant lots into productive farms where pesticide-free fruits and vegetables are grown has been the core of our activities since 2002. Our sites are valuable in more ways than just growing food, they offer a way to bring engaged people together. This often intergenerational exchange assists in growing leadership and activism among our youth and the wider community. GTC regularly hosts student groups and organizations from Springfield and around the region who learn about the importance of urban agriculture in community transformation.

# Walnut St. Purchase and Development

In the spring of 2014 we presented the Springfield City Council with a draft of our plan to develop the vacated property at 200-206 Walnut St. The plan included a rain garden, farmstand, tool shed, greenhouse, and 90 additional beds. Molly Burhans- a graduate student from the Conway School for Sustainable Landscape Design- helped us create a design for the land. We began work on the site a few weeks after signing the contract. One of the tasks was to clear the site of over 8 tons of debris, trash and trees. We are encouraged by the progress made so far, and are excited by what the next few years will yield from this journey.



# Markets



**18 weeks** of farm fresh vegetables  
**5,000lbs** of vegetables sold  
Total vegetable sales of **\$5,712**  
**450+** people reached

**GTC Youth participate in 2 local farmers markets and 1 city-wide mobile market where we sell our produce directly to individuals and families at affordable prices. We run the Six Corners Farm Stand every Thursday afternoon from June – October at our Hancock Street site. Every Saturday during the summer and fall we also have a farm stand at the Mason Square Farmer’s Market. We also grow for Springfield’s Go Fresh! Mobile Market which travels to housing developments and health and community centers throughout Springfield. We are excited to sell our food to Felix’s Family Ristorante in Springfield and several other restaurants and places of worship in the community.**



# GTC Eats!

**GTC Eats! is our Farm Share Program which brings local, fresh food to families in Mason Square and surrounding neighborhoods.**

**91%** of members\* report that the amount of fresh fruits & vegetables they have eaten has increased due to GTC Eats!

**87%** report that the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables they have eaten has increased due to GTC Eats!

**78%** report that, as a result of participating in GTC Eats! they feel more connected to the Mason Square community

**96%** report that, as a result of participating in GTC Eats! they feel more informed about urban agriculture and sustainable living

\*responding to end of year survey

**19 weeks** of farm fresh vegetables

**14,000lbs** of produce distributed, a **27%** increase over 2013

**62** families join as share members, **177** people served

**42%** of members received a subsidized share so that they could afford to participate

**2 youth bike teams** delivered farm shares to nearby homes



**"The produce is exceptional and the variety is amazing. I have learned to cook with so many new vegetables."**

**"This is an excellent program that connects and supports the community in many ways. Thank you!"**

**"Organic and local that is easily available and at a great price - what more could you ask for?"**

# Youth Development

GTC sees our youth as being prominent in every aspect of our organization and they do more than just grow food with us each season. Youth are voting members of the board, serve on committees, and manage events and markets. We also provide them meaningful experiences with community organizing, public speaking, and engaging community leaders and their peers.

Throughout the year we organize field trips to farms, other non-profits, community groups, and local universities and colleges, as well as attend lectures given by leaders in related fields. All of these opportunities deepen our youth's knowledge of agriculture, social change, community service and the world.

During the winter months particularly, we explore topics ranging from healthy cooking with fresh vegetables to structural racism and the food system. Youth tell us they learn things they don't necessarily get in school. This knowledge informs how they choose to eat as well as how they think about their future and the world around them. GTC youth become engaged leaders, both in and out of school, and are proud to give back to their community.



**One of the things that keeps me here is that the mission of GTC is about youth development. We are not treated like kids. People here try to empower me as well as other youth to stretch our boundaries, giving us leadership roles. It's a place where you're looked at almost as an equal. We are learning here but we are not treated like a child at school. That's why I'm still here.**

**-D. Brown**

**4** youth participated actively on GTC Board of Directors

GTC hosted **10** youth summer jobs

**27** youth participated in GTC programs throughout the year

**7** field trips and **36** winter training sessions offered

**\$19,000** in stipends provided

# Community Building and Food Justice

GTC weaves opportunities to learn and share knowledge about food, food justice, urban agriculture and sustainability into all we do, building what we call our teaching and learning community across race, age, class, religion and neighborhood borders.

We participate in community-wide education efforts, like Live Well Springfield which works to build a healthier Springfield community. GTC staff are also active in the Springfield Food Policy Council's Urban Agriculture Committee and the city's Green Committee where we work to enhance community gardens and urban agriculture in

Springfield and advise on sustainability issues.

Organizing for a more just and equitable food system is at the heart of our vision and work. GTC is a proud member of the Mason Square Food Justice Initiative, a network of groups and individuals working to bring a full line grocery store back to the Mason Square neighborhood and to open up greater healthy food access for neighborhood residents.

- o 12 elementary school aged children attended the summer program at the Mason Square Public Library introducing them to the joy's of growing and eating fresh food
- o 150 people joined our third annual plant sale in conjunction with the Springfield Food Policy Council's Gardener's Gathering in May
- o Organized 8 recipe tastings and cooking demonstrations on our farm share distribution days
- o Supported the creation of a school garden at Commerce High School





# Environmental Sustainability

We build environmental sustainability into our farming and food distribution, so that we reduce our carbon footprint and take care of the land for the long term.

We use no pesticides or herbicides, deliver food by bike whenever possible, farm by hand, and rely on compost and rainwater to sustain our gardens.

We are undertaking a soil nutrient initiative with the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) and Project Bread that we hope will continue to improve our soils so that we will rely less on bringing in compost.



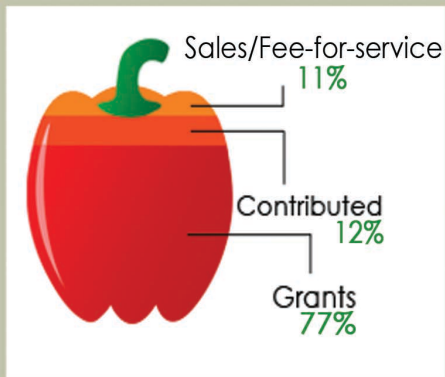
25 yards of compost added to GTC farm sites  
8,000 gallons of rainwater harvested  
375 bike miles logged in food delivery

# Financials

Thanks to your generous support, 2014 was another year of growth for GTC as we diversified and built our revenue over multiple sources. We are especially proud of expanding our individual and organizational contributions by 70% and our sales revenue by over 40%, exceeding our goals in these areas. If you were one of our many contributors or customers, we thank you! In 2015, technical assistance from the Peace Development Fund and a one time grant with the Gone Giving Circle of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, we hope to continue this growth as we work to build a more sustainable funding base for GTC.

2014

## Operating Revenue

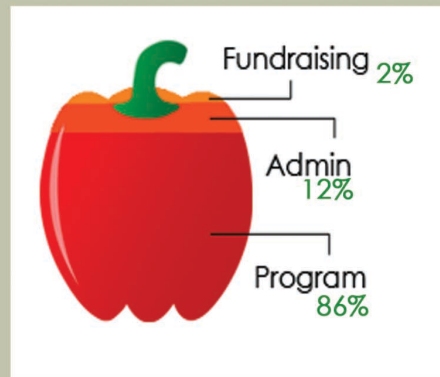


	2013		2014	
Individual Contributions	16,293	7%	25,146	8%
Organizational Contributions	2,479	1%	6,782	2%
Foundations	155,035	64%	187,700	59%
Government	35,968	15%	41,454	13%
Fee-for-service	4,443	2%	1,095	0%
Events	5,021	2%	3,993	1%
Sales	21,473	9%	30,941	10%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>240,712</b>		<b>292,111*</b>	

\* Includes \$45,000 received in 2014 for expenses in 2015

2014

## Operating Expenditure



	2013		2014	
Wages,Salaries Benefits	127,343	59%	129,705	54%
Stipends & Consultants	19,376	9%	23,562	10%
Office & Admin	4,141	2%	6,891	3%
Occupancy & Utilities	7,248	3%	9,196	4%
Equipment	915	0%	4,351	2%
Travel&Meeting	6,508	3%	4,494	2%
Supplies&Materials	23,531	11%	30,719	13%
Management Fees	26,469	12%	29,178	12%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>156,885</b>		<b>238,096</b>	

### Non-operating expenses

Capital Awarded: \$58,860

Capital Released: \$20,326

# **Thank You**

*Out deepest appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who supported out work work*

## **Grantors and Organizational Contributors**

Ben and Jerry's Foundation  
Cedar Tree Foundation  
Cynthia C. Mason Foundation  
Community Foundation of Western Mass.  
Deupree Family Foundation  
Haymarket People's Fund  
Franklin Philanthropic Foundation  
Friends of the Springfield Library  
Greater Cincinnati Foundation / Crosset Family Fund  
Green Leaf Foundation  
Lawson Valentine Foundation  
Live Well Springfield Collaborative  
Lydia B. Stokes Foundation  
Mason Square Health Task Force  
Merck Family Foundation  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (Gone Giving Circle)  
Peace Development Fund  
Project Bread  
Resource Generation Giving Circle  
River Valley Market  
Rose Community Foundation  
Spirit of the Hills  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield  
Vervane Foundation  
Whole Kids Foundation  
Wholesome Waves Foundation  
Food Bank of Western Mass.

## **Walnut Street Land Donors and Partners**

Bartlett Family Foundation  
Beveridge Family Foundation  
Common Capital  
Community Foundation of W.Mass (Anonymous donor)  
Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources

# ***Thank You***

## **Event Sponsors and Contributors**

Behavioral Health Network  
Brookfield Farm  
Brown's Auto Body  
Dean's Beans  
Equal Exchange  
Felix's Family Ristorante  
The Green Bean  
GZA Geoenvironmental  
HAPHousing  
Health New England  
The Jablonski Family  
Marie Angelides  
Maurice 'Soulfighter' Taylor  
M. Smith Consulting  
Miller Worthy Center for the Environment  
at Mount Holyoke College  
Nature of Africa  
Next Barn Over  
P & S Tree Service  
Pioneer Valley Growers Collaborative  
Red Fire Farm  
River Valley Market  
The Roost  
Springfield College  
Springfield Food Policy Council  
Tom's Wildflower Honey  
Touch of Class Balloons  
Wanda Givens

## **Sustaining Partners\***

**\*donors who gave on a monthly or quarterly basis**

Michael Abbate  
Todd Crosset  
Gabriella della Croce  
George Esworthy and Sharin Alpert  
Jacob Fine  
Juliet and Bart Hansen  
Holly Hanson  
Hermine Levey-Weston  
Anna and Keith Muhammad  
David Nitka and Rebecca Wong  
Debbie Murray  
Donna Meller  
Jacqueline Odess-Gillett  
Pamela Peck  
Laura Porter  
Craig and Sue Richmond  
Risa Silverman  
Robert Stien  
Hajarah Taylor  
Liz Wills-O'Gilvie  
Luke Woodward and Dori Midnight

# Thank You

## Individual Donors

Anonymous  
Jordan Abbot  
Nancy Adams  
Ayesha and Kamal Ali  
Ibrahim Ali  
Tim Allen  
Qamaria Amatul Wadud  
Alice Armen  
Lisa Armstrong  
Arlene Avakian and  
Richard Thayer  
M. V. Lee Badgett  
Andrew Balder and  
Cynthia Sommer  
Linda Bartlett  
Lisa Baskin  
Gwen and Ralph Bates  
Victoria Beckley  
Joe Berger  
Carrie Bergman  
Julie Bermant  
Ellen Berry  
Alice Bers  
Michaelann Bewsee  
Hilary Bickford  
Kathleen Biron  
Alan Bloomgarden  
Joseph Blotnick  
Meredith Boone  
Mitch Boucher  
Elizabeth Boyle  
Jane Braaten  
Trina Bryant  
Jane G. Bryden  
Rebecca Busansky  
Katherine Campbell  
Tiffany Carr  
Jacqueline Castledine  
Tusi Castonguay  
Angelica Castro  
Hilary Caws Elwitt  
Gillian Cennon

Rachel Chandler-Worth  
and Ruth Hazzard  
Ferdene Chin-Yee  
Margaret Christie and  
Nicholas Jones  
Malcolm Chu  
Robin Claremont  
Elizabeth Coe  
Bernie Cohen and  
Jane Lindfors  
Kelly Coleman  
Jessica Collins  
Loleta Collins  
Donna and Jon Conlogue  
Michelle Cotugno and  
Susan A. Zegarra  
Abby Getman  
Sarah Concannon  
Deborah Cook  
Mary Cooper  
Betsy Corner  
Sarah Creighton  
Mary and Bob Crosset  
James Crosset and  
Cindy Mason  
Kristin DeBoer  
Caroline Deltoro  
William Dempsey  
Chris Desisto  
Lore Detenber  
Chandlee Dickey and  
Larry Panych  
Kerry Dietz  
Karen Dionne  
Diane and Paul Doherty  
Kathleen Dowd  
Gregory Drew  
Holly Drew  
Stacey Drew  
Kelly Erwin  
Sarah Etelman  
Jacalyn Factor  
John Fanton

Ann Ferguson  
Tiffany M. Field  
Colleen Filler  
Deborah Fine  
Patrick Fleming  
Bruce Frankel  
Joanne Fraser  
Sarah Etelman  
Jacalyn Factor  
John Fanton  
Ann Ferguson  
Tiffany M. Field  
Colleen Filler  
Deborah Fine  
Patrick Fleming  
Bruce Frankel  
Joanne Fraser  
Bettye Frederic  
Ellen and Richard  
Freyman  
Peter A. Gagliardi  
Carol Garner  
Jonathan Ginzberg  
David Glassberg  
Joanne Gold  
Michael Goldman  
Zaida Govan  
Alisa Greenbacher  
Arjuna Greist  
Joan Grenier  
Ellen Grobman  
Hope Guardenier  
Jennifer Guglielmo and  
Laura Paul  
Shirley Guidry  
Molly Hale  
Karen Hansmann  
Donnie Hatten  
Anne Hazzard  
Marlo Henderson  
Pam Hoffman  
Pam Howland  
Sarita Hudson

## ***Thank You***

Steve Jablonski  
Rainelle Jackson  
Rebecca Jackson  
Susan Joel and  
    Dan Fraizer  
Betsy and Doug  
    Johnson  
Karin Johnson  
Robert Jonas  
Miriam Kaplan  
Kelly Klein  
Randi Klein and  
    Scott Barton  
Michael Kocsmiersky  
Phil Korman  
Katherine Kruckemeyer  
Andrew P. Lacasse  
Roxanne M. Langevine  
Norman Levey  
Hermine Levey Weston  
Andrew Loew  
Lilly and John Lombard  
Doris Madsen  
Sita Magnuson  
Margot Malachowski  
Janet Marquadt  
Curtis Martin  
Frank Martinez Nocito  
Randy S. Massey  
Elizabeth McAnulty  
Mary Jane McGuire  
Sarah McMullen  
Cynthia Melcher  
Liz Merrill and Ben Mardell  
Wendy Messerli  
Marla Michel  
Kelvin Molina  
Adriana and Andrew  
    Morehouse  
Ellen Moorhouse  
Claire Morenon  
Jenny Morrison  
Meredith Morrison

Toni Murray  
Mary Neil  
Kristin Nelson  
Kristin Neville  
Paula Nieman  
Kathleen Norton  
Maxine Oland  
Ruth Oland  
Maura Osborne  
Nancy Otto  
Helen Owens  
Sarah Page  
Marian Parker  
Kathleen Plante  
Pamela Porter  
Nancy Posnick  
Karen Rafferty  
Ellen Rainville  
Melissa Redwin  
Tracy and Russ Richmond  
Kris and Steve Richmond  
Kelly Rimondi  
Lisa Ritchie  
Jennifer Rogers  
Laurie and Janusz  
    Romanowski  
Margaret Rooks  
Johanna Rosen  
Catherine Rossi  
Caroline Roszell  
Lynn Russell  
Rachel Rybaczuk  
Amy Sackman and  
    Josh Bogin  
Carolyn Sadeh  
Catherine Sands  
Kelly Savitri  
Lauret Savoy  
Sigrid Schmalzer  
Beryl Schmitt  
Eva Schocken  
Ariella Schwell  
Elizabeth Schwellenbach

Mary E. Shaughan  
Meg Sikes  
Martin Silberberg  
Michael Sjostedt  
Julie Skogsbergh Pimentel  
Jeremy Smith  
Will Snyder  
Besty Sokol  
Bill Spirer  
Margaret Schultz  
Elizabeth Spong  
Sarah Springer and  
    Dom Pedulla  
Sam Stegeman and  
    Leslie Chaison  
Shelley Steuer  
Karen A Stevens  
Josh Stewart  
Jane Taubman  
Earlene Taylor  
Rachel Telushkin  
Millicent Thayer  
Rebecca Thibault  
Sara Tower  
V.L. Turtle  
Elaine Ulman  
Jason and Jennifer Seymour  
Elizabeth Veillette  
Naomi Volain  
Dorothea von Goeler  
Abbe Vredenburg  
Carol Wasserloos  
Molly Watkins  
Julia Wells  
Kathy Wicks  
Kristen Wilmer  
Laura Winter  
S.J. Wolfson  
Margot Woodworth  
Ray Young  
Leigh Youngblood  
Susan Zarchin  
Katharine Zobel

## ***Staff, Board, Youth***

### ***Staff***

Ibrahim Ali  
Anne Richmond  
Qamaria Amatul-Wadud  
Talib Toussaint Paskins

### ***Board***

Hajarah Taylor  
Liz Wills-O'Gilvie  
Ruby Maddox  
Tory Field  
Tyrra Minto  
Sister Anna Muhammad  
Robin Claremont  
Glenroy Buchanan  
Steve Jablonski  
Tyler Martin  
Moises Ramos  
Debbie Murray  
Jesszmeraldy Lopez

### ***Youth***

#### ***(High School)***

Olivia Brown  
Danielle Brown  
Kyle Richmond-Crosset  
Moises Ramos,  
Tyler Martin  
natasha perez  
Dondre Scott  
Jewel Melendez  
Jesszmeraldy Lopez  
Tatiana Silva  
Imani Bourdeau  
Fatiha Muhammad  
Bahu Abdul-Wadud  
Exavier Lopez  
Parris Heath  
Jose Lopez  
Giovani Lopez  
Ky Lindsey  
Chad McGrew  
George Anderson  
Axel Gonzalez  
Andre Hibbert  
Muhamed Abbas  
Muhammed Mire  
Marquell Higgins  
Jocelyn J  
Junior Youth Farmers  
Safiyah Bey  
Hector Rodriguez  
Jabba Muhammed  
Gabriella "Gabby" Ruiz  
Khamron Willis  
Keith Bozeman  
Javahn Bozeman

### ***Youth Farmers***

Safiyah Bey  
Hector Rodriguez  
Jabba Muhammad  
Gabriella Ruiz  
Khamron Willis  
Keith Bozeman  
Javahn Bozeman

### ***Junior Youth Farmers***

Luis Rodriguez  
Malik Muhammed  
Fahsha Muhammed  
Sean Hallowell  
Seth Bozeman



**Gardening the Community**

**PO BOX 90774**

**Springfield, MA 01139**

**413.693.5340**

**[www.gardeningthecommunity.org](http://www.gardeningthecommunity.org)**

**[gtspringfield@gmail.com](mailto:gtspringfield@gmail.com)**