

GROWING FOOD FOR OUR COMMUNITY

CITY SOUL! FARMERS MARKET

Partnered with the Springfield Food Policy Council to create this **new market**, connecting many Springfield families with local farms from August - October

GREW GTC EATS!

to 80 families, including 25 farm shares for just \$10 for low income elders supported by CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture) & Springfield's Department of Elder Affairs

BY THE NUMBERS

\$32,391.....Produce & plant sales

3,000.....lbs of food grown by GTC youth

23,700.....lbs of fruits & vegetables sold

19,750.....Equivalent number of meals

450.....Families served

2016 INNOVATIONS

WINTER FARM SHARE

12 GTC EATS! members with monthly pick ups, December - March

CREATED

6 paid summer internships for GTC youth alumni who came back to lead and mentor the next generation



GTC is proudly building a just, locally controlled source of fresh, healthy food for the community. We reconnect youth and adults alike to where their food comes from and we prioritize access for communities of color and low income families.

GTC feeds the food justice movement by growing strong anti-racist leaders and advocates, whose work ripples throughout Springfield and the region.

Having access to fresh fruits and vegetables has made all the difference when it comes to my health. I am now diabetes free and my blood pressure has gone down, thanks to GTC! ----Awilda Sanchez

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

An energetic team of 35 youth worked with us during the growing season; 15 continued in our winter leadership program. From middle school to early college, they learn and lead, growing thousands of pounds of produce and mentoring one another along the way. They learn about the food system, racial justice, community development, sustainability, and health. Many have developed into articulate public speakers and advocates for a healthier and more equitable community.

Jihan Stone, age 15, is one such powerful leader. After only 2 years with us, she quickly became skilled at growing food, running markets, public speaking, and leading her peers. This year she was unanimously elected to serve on our Board.

"I was very surprised when I got on the GTC Board. I have learned more responsibility and am so happy to have the opportunity to be on the Board with great people." --Jihan



FINANCES

GTC experienced another strong year, increasing revenue by 42% and further diversifying our funding base. This included a 96% growth in contributions as well as strong market sales. Expenses also increased as we created a year-round position for a youth leader and provided hourly jobs to an additional 5 youth over the summer. We also became a Living Wage workplace to better model our commitment to just food.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we ended 2016 with a \$32,445 surplus. We will invest this in building our operating reserves, establishing a travel fund for educational trips, and funding Walnut St. infrastructure improvements and future land acquisition.

OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM 78%

ADMINISTRATION 12%

FUNDRAISING 12%

OPERATING REVENUE

GRANTS 68%

CONTRIBUTIONS 22%

SALES/OTHER 11%



GARDENING THE COMMUNITY

2016 IMPACT REPORT



Gardening the Community is a food justice organization engaged in youth development, urban agriculture and sustainable living to build healthy and equitable communities. We grow food, leadership and community.

Gardening the Community.....PO Box 90774, Springfield, MA 01139.....413.693.5340.....gtcpringfield.org

2016 WAS ANOTHER BIG YEAR FOR GTC!



It was a year of

GROWTH - as we extended our season and markets, opened a new farmers' market, grew our funding base, and built new infrastructure on Walnut St.

CHALLENGES - as we lost our Lebanon St. Farm and wrestled with serious soil health issues

DREAMING BIG - as we designed a permanent Farm Stand on Walnut St. and prepared for a strategic planning process in 2017



WALNUT STREET FARM

We made major progress developing our new Walnut St. Farm.

A large, beautiful greenhouse now stands, and we installed a thermal barrier along its perimeter to keep the frost out. This, and 3 large rainwater storage tanks inside the greenhouse, will allow us to grow certain crops throughout much of the winter! We also completed work on electricity, irrigation and soil fertility.

Watching the Walnut St. Farm take shape has had a tremendous impact on all of us -- staff, youth and Board members alike. It buoys us up during hard times and gives us a sense of stability and control of our own destiny.

We know we can make big changes for our neighbors, the city and the food sovereignty movement with Walnut St. as our base.



GTC is beacon of light in Mason Square. When I look at the youth with such a strong sense of community, the fresh food that is being provided through the GTC gardens, GTC EATS! and City Soul Market, it reminds me everyday of why I support this tremendous organization. Thank you GTC for all that you do!

---Sister Anna, GTC Sustainer



What a year! We are tremendously grateful to our community for supporting us in countless ways. Thank you to our youth and their families, our Board members, our staff, volunteers, interns and other community supporters. We appreciate all of you who've pitched in to strengthen GTC and build a better food system alongside us. A special shout out to our 48 sustainers, who gave monthly or quarterly to support our work! View a longer list of partners and grantors at gtcpringfield.org.

400
VOLUNTEERS

46
SUSTAINING DONORS

19
GRANTS

388
DONORS

414
DONATIONS