



Our mission is simple.
We farm to grow.

We farm to grow food,
community, and, most
importantly, young leaders.

Youth Farm's Community:



In 2021, Youth Farm served hundreds of youth ages 9-24 throughout North Minneapolis and St. Paul through employment programs, school partnerships, community engagement, and plant/food distribution. At Youth Farm, we aim to engage youth who may have barriers to accessing high quality programming elsewhere. In addition, place matters to us and our participants reside in, attend school in, and/or have a strong connection to at least one of the neighborhoods we serve.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kenneth Edwards: Board Chair; Director - Innovation, Technology, & Quality, General Mills

Nathan Moen: Board Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair; Business Operations Analyst, Life Time, Inc.

Genevieve Saldibar: Development Committee Chair; Associate Director of Human Resources, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Alex Lange: Teacher, Whittier School

Shanna Woods: Political & Community Organizer

Dorothy Dahlenburg: Financial & Development Professional, Retired

STAFF:

Gunnar Liden: Executive Director

Amanda Stoelb: Associate Director

Sarah Sarzoza: Director of St. Paul Programs

Marcus Kar: Director of North Minneapolis Programs

Heather Wiitala: Business Director

Jesus Perez: Program Specialist

AJ Zozulin: Program Specialist

Yasmin Banishoraka: Program Specialist

Erin Finneman: Development & Communications Associate

Programs & Accomplishments:



In 2021 Youth Farm continued to work through new challenges and opportunities, and maintained safety and equity as our top priorities. Throughout the year, we continued to work with young people through employment programs, school partnerships, community engagement, and plant/food distribution. Our progressive program model remained central to our youth development work. Through this model, youth work together while finding challenging and age-appropriate opportunities as they mature, including:

YOUTH FARMERS (AGE 9-11) & ALL STARS (AGE 12-13): Youth Farmers and All Stars participate in farm, food, and cooking classes, learning to hone their gardening and cooking skills while becoming role models, working within the food system, and making decisions regarding programming and food distribution. Work with Youth Farmers and All-Stars was limited due to Covid-19 restrictions in schools and across our communities, but connections were maintained virtually through school partnerships and staff outreach. Additionally, a small group helped Youth Farm's Project LEAD and Farm Steward team plant, maintain, and harvest the Nellie Stone Johnson Farm in North Minneapolis.

PROJECT LEAD (AGE 14-18): Project LEAD participants take on part-time employment in which their role is to lead programming for younger youth, assist with farm design, and co-host community events. In 2021, the Project LEAD team was integral in managing garden spaces, harvesting produce, and distributing plants and food. Additionally, they participated in virtual meetings, cook-alongs, and mini projects.

FARM STEWARDS (AGE 19-24): Farm Stewards participate in employment opportunities and take on the leadership of overall farm and program design. They also serve as mentors to younger youth and community connectors between Youth Farm and local businesses, schools, and organizations. During the 2021 growing season, Farm Stewards managed garden spaces and partnerships, even among shifting safety procedures. Additionally, Farm Stewards used distanced time to produce a new Youth Farm greenhouse catalog that streamlined seed orders for the 2022 growing season.

Cost of year-round programming (Form 990, not including in-kind): \$548,650

Financial Review for 2021:

INCOME

Total Support	\$523,875
Total Revenue	\$354,021
Total Support & Revenue	\$877,896

EXPENSE

Program	\$613,255
Management & General	\$96,828
Fundraising	\$43,068
Total Expenses	\$753,151

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets, beginning of the year ...	\$82,694
Net Assets, end of the year	\$207,439

FINANCIAL POSITION, END OF THE YEAR

Assets	\$438,276
Liabilities	\$58,337
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$172,500
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$207,439
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$438,276

Outcomes & Significant Events:

In 2021, we continued to work in ways that focused on flexibility and maintaining connections with Youth Farmers in new ways. Because all of our partner schools in both Minneapolis and St. Paul were in distance learning for the majority of the year, our staff connected throughout the school year virtually and supported programming for teachers. Additionally, during the growing season, we grew over 15,000 plant starts in our greenhouse for Youth Farm gardens and farms, school partners, and other community partners.

Throughout the continued challenges that 2021 brought, we did not stray from our mission and kept our focus on the needs of youth and community. Our youth and staff leadership in both North Minneapolis and across St. Paul worked to develop and organize around two large scale projects for Youth Farm's future, the Northside Youth Greenhouse in North Minneapolis, and the Space and Place Project in St. Paul. These projects will guide our work in the coming 5-10 years across Youth Farm.