

YOUTH FARM ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Our mission is simple.
We farm to grow.

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

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

Zach Binsfeld; Program Specialist

Erin Finneman; Development & Communications Associate

Youth Farm's Community:

In 2020, 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.

YOUTH FARM

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Programs & Accomplishments:

In 2020 Youth Farm faced new challenges, continuously shifted, 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. At the beginning of 2020, this group of youth was engaged in greenhouse programming and helped kickstart the growing season by choosing which plants they were interested in growing and helping to seed those plants. When we were no longer able to gather in person, our staff team shifted and worked to distribute plants and recipe kits to Youth Farmers and All Stars that they could engage with at home. Additionally, a small group helped Youth Farm's Project LEAD and Farm Steward team plant, maintain, and harvest the Nellie Stone Johnson Garden 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 2020, 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 2020 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 2021 growing season.

Cost of year-round programming (Form 990, not including in-kind): \$487,954

Financial Review for 2020:

INCOME

Total Support	\$524,074
Total Revenue	\$236,623
Total Support & Revenue	\$760,697

EXPENSE

Program	\$557,809
Management & General	\$102,373
Fundraising	\$45,748
Total Expenses	\$705,930

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets, beginning of the year ...	\$27,927
Net Assets, end of the year	\$82,694

FINANCIAL POSITION, END OF THE YEAR

Assets	\$593,558
Liabilities	\$156,773
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$354,091
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$82,694
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$593,558

Outcomes & Significant Events:

In 2020, Youth Farm celebrated a major milestone - our 25th anniversary. Established in 1995, Youth Farm has developed from an upstart garden program into a multi-faceted youth development organization. Alongside young people, community members, and partners, we are building a youth-led food movement.

Throughout the challenges that 2020 brought, we did not stray from our mission and kept our focus on the needs of youth and community. The effects of COVID-19 and the murder of George Floyd were felt deeply in our communities. Much of our work involved simply being there for the families we serve, listening, and working together to heal. As we continue to focus on equity and building strong organizational values statements, we are also working to strengthen relationships with our partners, build new relationships, and continue to refine our program development model.