



# GROWING PLACES

PLANT A SEED,  
GROW A COMMUNITY



Fern, Leominster Teaching Gardener, celebrates her successful summer harvest.



Dorothee, Teaching Garden Graduate from 2014, helping install her own backyard garden.



Students and staff from Shriver Job Corps pause during one of their many volunteer efforts.

# GRATITUDE REPORT 2015



**GARDENS CHANGE HOW WE EAT**

Since starting gardening:

**92%** TRIED NEW OR PREPARED FAMILIAR VEGETABLES IN A NEW WAY.

**96%** ARE EATING VEGETABLES AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, WITH 92% AT LEAST 3 TIMES A WEEK.

**85%** BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FOOD AND HEALTH.

**73%** SAW CONSUMPTION OF PRE-PACKAGED FOOD DECREASE.

**50%** COOK HOMEMADE MEALS MORE OFTEN.

**77%** SAY THEIR FAMILY IS EATING MORE VEGETABLES AS A RESULT OF THEIR GARDEN.

*"The Teaching Garden experience has given me an exposure to new crops that I wasn't familiar with in Africa."*

FIONA, TEACHING GARDENER

"I am so pleased to be able to try new foods and find out what I had been missing. The garden has opened me up to new adventures." SHERYN, TEACHING GARDENER



**GARDENS HELP US CONNECT**

**"I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY FOUND MY TRIBE!"**

ERIKA, TEACHING GARDEN VOLUNTEER

**83%** SHARED PRODUCE WITH NEIGHBORS.

*"The Teaching Garden experience...has given me the opportunity to share our produce, which was a new experience for us. We gave produce to friends at the garden when we had too much and they shared with us."*

FIONA, LEOMINSTER TEACHING GARDENER

**43%** MET MORE PEOPLE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD.

*"LOVED networking with other gardeners!"*

MARY ALICE, TEACHING GARDENER



**GARDENS HELP US GROW**

**ROOTS OF OUR FOOD PROGRAM – DAY 1**

**Q:** Do you have a favorite food, fruit or vegetable?

**A:** Hot dogs, pizza, McDonalds, rice & beans, burgers, chicken nuggets.

**ROOTS OF OUR FOOD PROGRAM – DAY 6**

**Q:** Do you have a favorite food, fruit or vegetable?

**A:** Fruit or pizza, apples, snow pea pods, beets, squash/pumpkin seeds, beans, chicken, rice!

**"SINCE HAVING A GARDEN, MY KIDS WANT VEGGIES IN THEIR DINNER EVERY NIGHT!"**

KRISTEN, TEACHING GARDENER



# GARDENS ALLOW US TO GIVE

Among the nearly **200 volunteers** who gave close to **750 hours** of their time and who shared their talents this year were students, Scouts, congregations, individuals, businesses and other nonprofits. Together they have built and installed **29 garden beds**, **8 compost bins**, **4 accessible garden beds**, **3 pollinator gardens**, a new **community garden** and restored and helped maintain **3 community gardens!** They also provided hands-on education to **106 gardeners**, led **14 educational workshops**, helped maintain our website, completed our tax returns, designed marketing materials, reconciled our accounts, tabled at outreach events, and raised money to support our mission.



# GARDENS CHANGE HOW WE ACT

*"If it weren't for Growing Places and this garden, I literally wouldn't have gotten out of bed this morning."*

ADELE, TEACHING GARDEN VOLUNTEER

**96%** REPORT SPENDING MORE TIME OUTDOORS.

**77%** HAVE NOTICED AN INCREASE IN THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS' TIME OUTSIDE.



# GARDENS CHANGE HOW WE FEEL

**69%** FEEL MORE RELAXED AS A RESULT OF THEIR GARDEN.

*"Having a garden has given me a space of my own which I've never really had before – thank you!"*

JENN, TEACHING GARDENER

**65%** SAW THEIR STRESS OR ANXIETY LEVEL DECREASE AS A RESULT OF THEIR GARDEN.

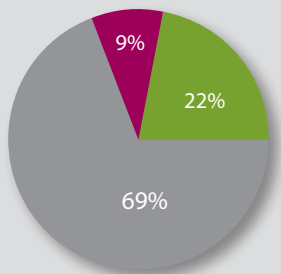
**"EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY KNOWS – SUNDAYS ARE MY GP TIME."** GRACE, TEACHING GARDEN VOLUNTEER

# BY THE NUMBERS

## FY 2015 OPERATING INCOME

Program Income: 9%  
Contributions: 22%  
Grants: 69%

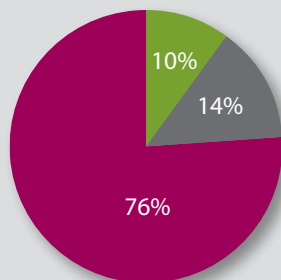
**INCOME \$194,451**



## FY 2015 OPERATING EXPENSES

Programs: 76%  
Fundraising: 10%  
Administration: 14%

**EXPENSES \$141,058**



## ASSETS

Total Current Assets	\$ 123,210
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 341
Total Other Assets	\$ 970
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 124,521</b>

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

EQUITY:	
Retained Earnings	\$81,566
Net income	\$ 42,955
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 124,521</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 124,521</b>

THESE FIGURES ARE BASED ON OUR INTERNAL ACCOUNTING RECORDS AND HAD NOT BEEN REVIEWED BY OUR ACCOUNTANTS AT THE TIME OF THIS PRINTING. OUR MOST RECENT 990S AND A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, AND FOUNDATIONS WHO HAVE LENT THEIR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES TO MAKE THIS WORK POSSIBLE, CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.GROWINGPLACES.ORG](http://WWW.GROWINGPLACES.ORG)



THANKS TO  
OUR KEY  
SPONSORS



At Growing Places (GP), we believe in the power of gardening to changes lives and use gardening as a platform for social change. We help low-income communities in North Central Massachusetts realize the many health, economic, and social benefits of growing and consuming healthy fruits and vegetables by building food gardens and teaching the skills to grow, harvest and use fresh produce.

325 LINDELL AVENUE LEOMINSTER, MA 01453  
TEL: 978.598.3723 GROWINGPLACES.ORG