



COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVES

2016 Annual Report

Contents



Vision, Mission & Values.....	3
Letter to the Community.....	4
Programs-	
Community Gardens.....	5
Workshop Series.....	6
Donation Station.....	7
Discovery Kitchen.....	8
School Gardens.....	9
Ridge & Hollow Seed Alliance.....	10
Seed & Plant Give-Aways.....	11
YEAH! Kids.....	12
Financial Report.....	13
Who We Are.....	15
Business Sponsors.....	16

Our Vision

Our vision is a resilient region in which everyone in our community has access to an equitable, inclusive, and thriving local food system.

Our Mission

Our mission is to support a local food system that assures and expands access to fresh, healthy foods for all people in our region.

Our Values

Culture & Community— We value naming our assets--soil, seeds, and an Appalachian heritage of food production and preservation--so that everyone can see their place in strengthening our assets and our community.

Education & Empowerment— We believe that by sharing the knowledge to grow and prepare wholesome foods, people become empowered to feed their families, improve their health, and their community.

Justice— We are rooted in the belief that equitable access to fresh and nutritious local food leads to a safe and clean environment, meaningful work with living wages, and fulfills the needs & rights of all people.

Collaboration— We believe in the strength of collaboration and doing better together.



Letter to the Community



Dear Friends,

Community Food Initiatives maintains that true justice is in our own hands. We have the wealth and skills needed to solve our problems and create a future for ourselves. This is what community is about—being engaged, having a voice and personal agency. There are so many things in life that are uncertain, national and global problems that can leave us feeling powerless. How can one person make an impact? The answer is working alongside others in your community.

This is why membership to Community Food Initiatives is inherent in its design. Membership provides connection, action, and impact. From the organization's petals to its deepest roots, members are there. They're growing food, teaching others, sharing stories and wisdom, and making room at the table for everyone, regardless of their income, gender, religion, ethnicity or any other perceived difference. Food access is a basic human need and therefore a basic human right for everyone.

I want to thank all our members, past and present, for keeping Community Food Initiatives alive and thriving for the past 24 years. True stories: members who began as community gardeners have become city council members and county commissioners, school garden volunteers have helped start food policy councils, a student intern who wrote CFI's seed saving guide was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and helped the guide be translated for farmers in rural India. Together, food justice for all is within our reach.

See the change you make in the world by making change at home.

Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Nally".

Mary Nally, Executive Director

Community Gardens

Community Gardens provide space for neighbor interaction, skill sharing, and the growth of local food for families. We manage community gardens that provide people with the space, tools, water, mulch, and opportunities to interact with other local gardeners.

In 2016-

- 20,000 Square Feet Under Production
- 64 Gardeners at 5 community garden sites
- 565 lbs grown in Donation Station Garden Plots
- Built garden plots at Blue Line Drive Apartments, in partnership with Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority

“You see everything grow, and then you harvest it — and that’s rewarding. But the most rewarding part is getting [the food] to all the families in need.”
-Hunter Winegar, Ohio University Intern



Garden & Culinary Workshops



"When you support local agriculture, the community grows, and when the community grows, everybody prospers."

-David Doddridge, School Garden Coordinator

Gardening and Culinary Workshops provide hands-on opportunities to learn about gardening, food preservation, cooking, and so much more.

Topics can include: season extension, wild and medicinal foods, soil health, maple tree tapping, composting, seed saving and storage, garden planning, healthy cooking, pressure and water bath canning, freezing and dehydrating foods and fermentation.

In 2016-

- 25 Workshops
- 322 Participants

Donation Station

Healthy, fresh food is a right, not a privilege, and everyone deserves to have that in their lives."

-JaMilla Holland, Donation Station & Discovery Kitchen Coordinator

The Donation Station fights hunger while supporting the local food economy. We collect donations and purchase food from farmers to distribute to food pantries feeding those who are hungry today.

In 2016-

- 84,011 lbs distributed to food pantries in Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Vinton and Washington Counties
- \$12,769 invested into the local food economy



Discovery Kitchen



"I think that it is important to grow and share the harvest because food insecurity and hunger are pressing issues that a lot of people in our community face, and we should work together as a community to help them with the resources that we have."

-Marianne Jacobs, Ohio University Intern

Discovery Kitchen educates the public on how simple and delicious it is to eat healthy using seasonal local ingredients. As the educational outreach of the Donation Station, Discovery Kitchen supports food pantry patrons as well as the general public.

The Athens County Public Libraries host Discovery Kitchen Tasting Tables, offering samples and recipes, while other locations may provide for a lengthier interaction, helping inform participants on how what we eat impacts our health.

In 2016-

- 34 Discovery Kitchen Events
- 684 participants

School Gardens

"CFI is important to me because it gave me an outlet to help people by teaching them about food as well as finding ways to give them better access to it."

-Anonymous Ohio University Volunteer

Gardens teach school children about the importance of healthy, fresh foods and give them an excuse to spend time outside. We partner with local schools to provide resources, technical support, and consultation to make School Gardens available as a classroom.

In 2016-

- 39 School Garden Lessons Taught
- 886 Students Reached



Ridge & Hollow Seed Alliance



"Seed is not just the source of life. It is the very foundation of our being."

-Dr. Vandana Shiva

Building upon years of work with regional seed savers, Ridge & Hollow Seed Alliance is dedicated to increasing food security for future generations by supporting the preservation of regionally adapted, open-pollinated seeds.

We partner with skilled growers to make locally hardy seeds available in retail locations to the public.

In 2016-

- Attended the National Organic Seed Growers Conference and met Carey Fowler, creator of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault
- Featured in Edible Columbus Magazine, Spring 2016 Edition
- Created a seed cleaning equipment lending library for participating growers
- Hosted technical seed saving workshops at the Real Food Real Local Institute Conference and Paw Paw Festival, reaching over 140 people
- 100% Growth in number of participating growers for 2017



Photo Credit: Sarah Warda

Seed & Plant Give-Aways

"I think that helping others grow and sharing what you have is a great way to grow and share yourself."

-Kailee Slusser, Graphic Design Intern

As a way to empower members of our community to garden and grow their own food, we host Seed and Plant Giveaways each spring.

In 2016-

- Distributed **42,500** lbs of seed potatoes to over 678 families across 12 counties in Ohio and West Virginia
- Gave away **1,562** plant starts to families across 7 SE Ohio counties
- Distributed **3,765** seed packets of 228 different varieties to people in partnership with the Athens OSU Master Gardeners and the Athens County Public Libraries



YEAH! Kids: Youth Entrepreneurs at Hope



YEAH! Kids coaches low-income youth in gardening, culinary skills, money management, and professionalism. They grow produce and have weekly kitchen workshops to make tasty treats such as kimchi, sauerkraut, jam, and baked goods. They sell their produce and products at the Athens Farmers Market as a summer job experience.

Kid Power is new program that runs over the winter months to provide all youth at Hope Drive the opportunity to play games, practice healthy life skills, go on field trips and have positive adult mentorship. Both projects are in partnership with the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority.

In 2016-

- YEAH! Kids field trips to Chesterhill Produce Auction, Vest Berries Farm, Integration Acres, and Snowville Creamery
- Trainings on Professionalism, Hygiene and Best Practices in a Commercial Kitchen, Knife Safety & Food Handling Safety, and Best Practices for Organic Gardening
- Attended 13 Athens Farmers Markets and made **\$1,304** in profits that go directly to the youth participants

Financial Report

In 2016-

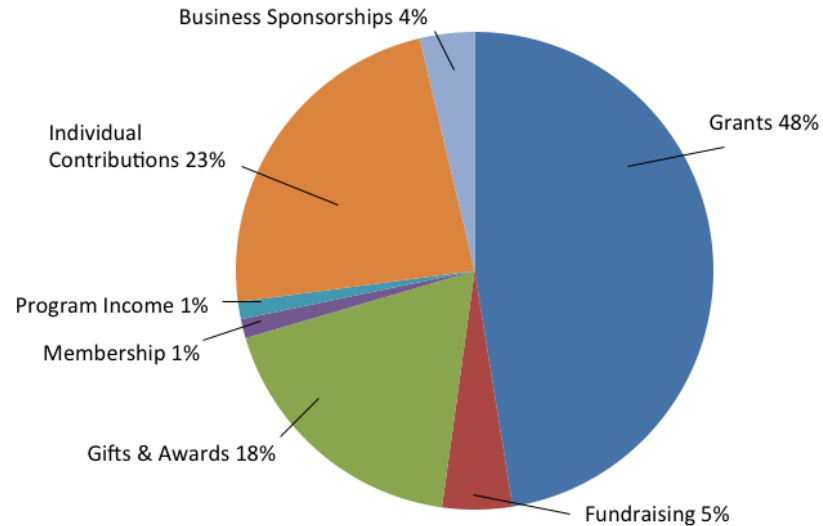
- Board achieved annual fundraising goals
- Revised Business Sponsorship Benefits
- Purchased a truck thanks to support from the Ohio Health O'Bleness Sponsorship Committee

Special Thanks to Our Funders-

Athens County Foundation, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, Sister's Health Foundation, USDA Rural Community Development Initiative, Grow Appalachia, Sugar Bush Foundation, Stinner Summit, Edward Lamb Foundation, Kleinpenny Educational Fund, Brown/Holroyd Family Fund, Kramer Family Foundation, Leona Cibrowski Trust and each and every community member who helps grow and share the harvest through your membership and donations!



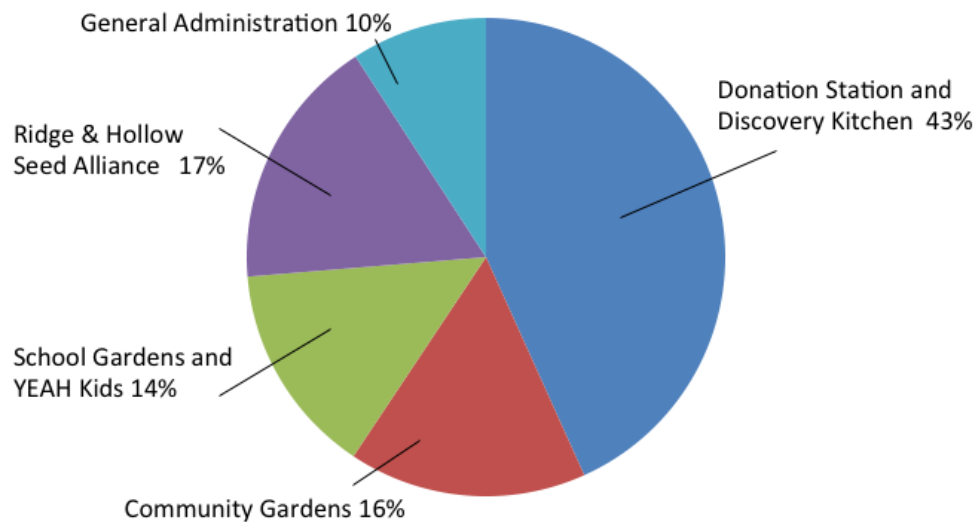
2016 Income



2016 Income	Amount
Grants	\$84,984
Fundraising	\$8,471
Gifts and Awards	\$32,700
Membership	\$2,325
Program Income	\$2,087
Individual Contributions	\$41,871
Business Sponsorships	\$6,630
Total Income	\$175,068

*Income doesn't show 2015 carry-over

2016 Expenses by Program Area



2016 Expense by Program Area	Amount
Donation Station & Discovery Kitchen	\$79,056
Community Garden Programs	\$29,399
School Gardens & YEAH Kids	\$26,222
Ridge & Hollow Seed Alliance	\$31,298
General Administration	\$16,771
Total Expenses	\$182,746

Special Thanks to the 340 Volunteers who put in 1,952 Hours of Service!

Board of Directors

Ann Brown ♦ Sarah Conley-Ballew ♦ Ruth Dudding ♦ Lee Gregg ♦ Lori Gromen ♦ Nancy Pierce
Brian Plow ♦ Steve Scanlan ♦ Kira Slepchenko ♦ Rick Vest ♦ Keith Wilde

Staff

Mary Nally, Executive Director

Ryan Leach, Donation Station Program Manager

Jess Chadwell, Ridge & Hollow Seed Alliance Developer

Bekky Hobson, Donation Station Regional Developer

Kerrigan Boyd (through July 2016) & Janice Brewer, Community Garden Coordinator

Dandelion Duff (through June 2016) & David Doddridge, School Garden Coordinator

Javi Devia (through July 2016) & JaMilla Holland, Donation Station & Discovery Kitchen Coordinator

Allison Hall, AmeriCorps VISTA Strategic Plan Coordinator

Margaret Hoff, Fiscal Administrator

Ohio University Student Work Study, Summer Service Corps, Food Studies & Interns

Megan Almeida, Bethany Bella, Stephen Board, Morgan Brenner, Roni Clark, Kelly Fernandez,
Kara Frisina, Jordyn Henderson, Marianne Jacobs, Mikayla Liston, Megan Rose, Ian Slifcak,
Kailee Slusser, Hunter Winegar

Our Business Sponsors

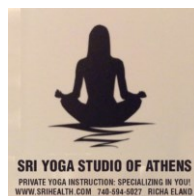
Platinum Sponsor



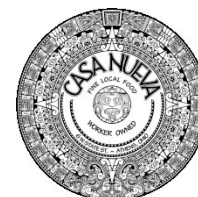
Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



The Farmacy

Cool Digs

Dr. Jane Z. Woodrow



Carpet One Floor & Moore

Sole & Bloom Realty



GERIG and GERIG

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THANK YOU!

Mary Nally
Executive Director



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