Empowering people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food.
Dear Friends,

2019 was a whirlwind year for Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG). We celebrated 30 years of empowering people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food, capped off by an amazing celebration at the Union Event Center with 500 of our supporters. We added a second program to our Job Training Program in partnership with a successful organization called Climb Wyoming, focusing on single moms in poverty. And, we piloted a new effort in partnership with Artes de México en Utah called Sabores de Mi Patria (Flavors of My Homeland). I can’t express enough enthusiasm for this program and the partnership with this amazing organization, through which we celebrated “The Three Sisters” gardening tradition with community members at the Mary W. Jackson Elementary School Garden and the Rose Park Community Garden.

I sound like a broken record, but we continued to deepen and expand our community partners in order to get to the core of the work we do: building and nurturing community connections through gardening and healthy food. We so value these partnerships with other nonprofits, businesses, and governmental entities that allow us to not only reach more people, but also to reach a wider diversity of people so we can focus on what we do best: empowering people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food.

These partnerships are also key to our plans for the soon-to-be constructed Wasatch Community Gardens’ Campus. 2019 saw some very successful fundraising efforts for this exciting and transformational project. At the same time, we worked through the design process, engaging our staff, board, and community in this vision for a 1.2-acre educational garden space. As we complete the design of the garden and get ready to open the Campus in 2021, we feel excited by its potential to so visually connect people to their food, their place, and each other. I wish I could tap my heels and take us immediately to our ribbon cutting with community members from all backgrounds joining together to celebrate gardening and local food in Salt Lake City.

We are at a crossroads along the Wasatch Front with the built environment increasingly encroaching on our farmlands and green spaces. I greatly admire the ideals of the Plat of Zion, a plan implemented by the first Mormon settlers, where agriculture, community, spirituality, and connection to our place were all valued. The Wasatch Community Gardens’ Campus project helps to bring these ideas forward again to a unifying vision for our city and region moving forward. The shared values of healthy and local, family and neighbors, appreciation for the land, self-sufficiency, and community are all central themes for the new Campus.

For 30 years, WCG has built, and continues to manage, a significant network of thriving urban agriculture projects in Salt Lake County. We have seen over and over again the way that this work can bring together people of all different cultural, religious, and social backgrounds. The common values of fresh and delicious food, grown on land in neighborhoods by people we know and respect, brings people together in a simple and beautiful way. Gardening and healthy food nourish our bodies, minds, souls, and communities. As we head into our next 30 years, we will continue to use the power of growing and eating fresh food together to improve the health of individuals and the community. Let’s keep growing!

Thanks so much for your continued support of our work.

Ashley Patterson
Executive Director
The mission of Wasatch Community Gardens (WCG) is to empower people to grow and eat healthy, organic, local food. Since 1989, we have provided children, adults, and families in Salt Lake County with access to land and education for growing and eating fresh produce, while building and nurturing community connections through gardening and healthy food. Our hands-on, garden-based programming takes place in our community gardens, school gardens, youth teaching gardens, demonstration garden, and job training farm.

Our programming is effective largely because of the strong community partnerships we have developed over the years. This includes partnerships with Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, the Salt Lake City School District, and numerous nonprofits, social service agencies, and businesses.

WCG hosts community events throughout the year aimed at educating Salt Lake County residents about gardening and healthy eating and building community. Annual events include the Plant Sale in May, Urban Garden & Farm Tour in June, and Tomato Sandwich Party in September.

2019 NUMBERS

- 8,535 YOUTH AND ADULT COMMUNITY MEMBERS participated in a WCG program
- 4,000 PEOPLE attended a WCG event
- 1,475 VOLUNTEERS contributed 8,776 hours of service to WCG
- 60% OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS were from low- to moderate-income households
- 500 COMMUNITY MEMBERS joined us for our 30th Anniversary Celebration
- 6 ACRES of urban green space exists as beautiful and productive gardens through WCG’s programs

“We love and support Wasatch Community Gardens because they live up to their name so beautifully, offering knowledge, life skills, hope for the future, and a chance for everyone to find a little peace working the soil.” — Kay Brown and Ellen Bloedel, Donors and workshop attendees
In 2019, WCG managed 15 community gardens throughout Salt Lake County, with two more in development, and provided community members with garden space, resources, and education. These community gardens help to preserve urban green space, strengthen community bonds, promote healthier living, and provide access to fresh, healthy food for Salt Lake County residents. WCG also provided leadership training, resources, and garden materials to independent garden projects through our Garden Leadership Network.

**HOUSEHOLDS** — 46% of which are low- to moderate-income per federal standards — grew their own food in our community gardens

**GARDENERS** of refugee background participated in our gardens through our partnership with the International Rescue Committee

**POUNDS** of organic produce, valued at $125,118, was grown by our community gardeners

**AWARDED** through our Mini-Grant Program to three community and school gardens for infrastructure improvement

“I enjoy getting outside and digging in the dirt (we live in a condo), taking my toddler to the garden and encouraging him to explore, eating delicious homegrown fruits and veggies, and chatting with community garden members.” — Rebecca, Community gardener, 4th East Garden
In 2019, WCG empowered community members with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to successfully grow and eat healthy, delicious food through a diverse offering of classes and hands-on workshops. Taught by expert staff and volunteer instructors, WCG’s workshops covered topics ranging from basic organic gardening and backyard composting to fruit tree pruning and DIY solar. Through a partnership with Valley Behavioral Health, we also provided low-income individuals with severe mental illness with opportunities to grow and eat fresh, healthy food.

“Thank you for sharing your gardening wisdom through WCG classes this year! It was my first year of serious gardening, and I was thrilled with the results. My tomatoes thrived, and I had lots of herbs and beans. My squash threatened to take over the entire yard, and never succumbed to pests!” — Marina, Workshop attendee

WORKSHOPS were offered

COMMUNITY GARDENERS participated in a workshop in their garden

COMMUNITY MEMBERS attended one or more workshops

VALLEY PLAZA RESIDENTS with severe mental illness had regular access to organic produce and healthy snacks through our Farm Fresh Program
In 2019, WCG connected children, teachers, and parents to healthy, local food through hands-on, garden-based learning. Our programs helped to cultivate a curiosity about food and inspired participants to make healthy choices for themselves, their community, and the environment. Our garden-based programming included:

- Weekly Youth Garden Club classes in partnership with social service agencies that serve primarily youth from low-income families
- School field trips to our Grateful Tomato Garden that meet grade-level science and nutrition standards for grades pre-K through 8
- Summer camps in partnership with other local nonprofits
- Support for school gardens in the Salt Lake City School District, including garden maintenance and resources (seeds, tools, and curriculum)
- Sabores de Mi Patria (Flavors of My Homeland) workshop series in partnership with Artes de México en Utah to celebrate food, culture, and tradition
- Parent Garden Club potluck gatherings to engage parents in preparing and sharing fresh, healthy food and getting involved in their children’s school garden

“I picked 12 radishes because there are 12 people in my family and I want to share!”
- Thomas, Youth Garden Club participant, YouthCity

“[Growing food] is part of my culture and I wasn’t aware. I can’t wait to start my own Three Sisters garden with my family.” – Alicia, Sabores de Mi Patria workshop participant, Mary W. Jackson Elementary School parent
CHILDREN participated in our garden-based programming

89% OF PARTICIPANTS liked the healthy snack they ate at the garden

30% OF PARTICIPANTS tried a new fruit/vegetable that they had never experienced before

3,254 STUDENTS had access to a school garden through our School Garden Network

249 COMMUNITY MEMBERS attended a Sabores de Mi Patria workshop or event

68 PARENTS/FAMILIES participated in monthly Parent Garden Club gatherings and received fresh produce from our Green Phoenix Farm
In 2019, WCG continued to provide opportunities for women living in poverty at our 1.4-acre Green Phoenix Farm in downtown Salt Lake City. The farm provides a safe place for participants to restore their sense of confidence and re-establish their lives and livelihood while learning about growing and eating fresh, healthy food. The program has two components:

- Green Team is a 10-month program that provides employment and mentoring to women experiencing homelessness through a partnership with Advantage Services
- Seeds of Success is a 10-week program that provides job training and placement for low-income single mothers through a partnership with Climb Wyoming

"The farm crew became my new family. They helped me find my confidence. They helped me realize I could do this on my own."

— Shannon, Green Team participant

**“Since getting my CNA, I get to work and be with my kids. It allows for me to be a better mom and to make a difference in people’s lives. I am financially independent, stronger within myself, and I am able to take time to rediscover and enjoy the things I love in my life.”— Maggie, Seeds of Success participant**
Our flagship Grateful Tomato Garden is open to the public and features demonstration gardens where community members can see firsthand a variety of organic vegetable gardening techniques. This garden also hosts many of our hands-on workshops and free community events. We have embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds to create the Wasatch Community Gardens’ Campus on the properties adjacent to the garden at 629 E 800 S in Salt Lake City (purchased by WCG in 2017). With expanded demonstration and teaching gardens and indoor/outdoor workshop and event spaces, the future Campus will serve as an urban agriculture center, providing Salt Lake County residents with enhanced opportunities to grow, eat, and prepare fresh, healthy food.

“Building on our longstanding history of support for WCG, our directors are pleased to join with others in the partnership of support to ensure the success of your expansion plans. We continue to appreciate the part you, your staff, and dedicated volunteers play in providing individuals and families in our community with enriching and educational gardening knowledge, hands-on experiences, and a ‘bounty’ of vegetables grown. We share your belief that the impact of their involvement with the Gardens will be beneficial and long-lasting!”

- Lisa Eccles, President & COO, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
**2019 CAMPUS CAMPAIGN DONORS**

**$1,500,000+**
- Alternative Visions Fund
  - Peter and Susan Weaver
  - Peter and Greta Martin
  - Paul Kelley and Susan Olson
  - Mike and Val Hadley

**$500,000 - $999,999**
- The Sam and Diane Stewart Family Foundation
- McCarthey Family Foundation
- Peace & Possibility Project

**$250,000 - $499,999**
- Willard L. Eccles Foundation
- McCarthey Family Foundation
- George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Family Foundation

**$100,000 - $249,999**
- Tom Hamilton
- Victoria Bourns
- Vivian Shell
- Wendy Ziegler and Jamie Longe
- Wyatt Oswald and Heather Elsasser

$1 - $99
- Akemi Louchheim
- Andrea and Mike Heidinger
- Anonymous
- Audrey Self
- Bill and Pauline Cordray
- Bill Davis
- Catherine King
- Chris Rollig

Please contact Laura at 801-359-2658 ext. 14 to learn more about supporting WCG or to report an error in your listing.

“We love supporting Wasatch Community Gardens because of their multi-dimensional approach. In addition to providing garden spaces in the community, they provide fun, educational programs and events around fresh, healthy food.” — Tim and Candace Dee
2019 FINANCIALS

REVENUES

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<td>Sponsorships</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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(includes rental income from WCG Campus property while waiting for construction to start and Gain on Disposal of Assets due to fire at Green Phoenix Farm)

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<td>Capital Campaign Donations</td>
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(construction to begin in 2020)

TOTAL REVENUES $4,866,543

EXPENSES

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TOTAL EXPENSES $1,171,027

WCG PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sean Thompson, Chair
Ian Davis, Vice Chair
Brittan Browning, Secretary
Lance Heaton, Treasurer
Meghan Higgins, Past Chair
Jani Akagi
Madison Denkers
Mitch Dumke
Josette Formosa-Ryan
Laynee Jones
Amy McMinn
Ashley Peck
Rosie Reeve
Lauren Scholnick
Josh Stewart

STAFF

Ashley Patterson, Executive Director
Susan Finlayson, Community Garden Program Director
Van Hoover, Green City Growers Program Manager
Marybeth Janerich, Community Education Program Director
Maddie Judge, Youth Education Manager
Giles Larsen, Parks for Produce Program Manager
Laura Leach, Director of Individual and Corporate Giving
James Loomis, Green Team Director
Ana Martinez, School Garden Manager
Susie Marvin, Seeds of Success Director
Andrea Melliadis, Associate Director
Amber Nichols, Outreach and Volunteer Director
Maria Schwarz, Youth and School Garden Program Director
Lindsey Smith, Director of Foundation Giving
Hayley Waldbillig, Youth Garden Manager