



WASATCH  
COMMUNITY  
GARDENS

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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





# FROM THE DIRECTOR



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*



# COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM

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*



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

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*



39

**WORKSHOPS** were offered



96

**COMMUNITY GARDENERS** participated in a workshop in their garden



677

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS** attended one or more workshops



65

**VALLEY PLAZA RESIDENTS** with severe mental illness had regular access to organic produce and healthy snacks through our Farm Fresh Program



# YOUTH AND SCHOOL GARDEN 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



**OF PARTICIPANTS** liked the healthy snack they ate at the garden



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



**STUDENTS** had access to a school garden through our School Garden Network



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



**PARENTS/FAMILIES** participated in monthly Parent Garden Club gatherings and received fresh produce from our Green Phoenix Farm





# JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

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 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*



**GREEN TEAM PARTICIPANTS** successfully secured housing and employment



**WAS THE INCREASE** in aggregate annual wages earned by Seeds of Success participants following completion of the program



**OF SEEDS OF SUCCESS PARTICIPANTS** (7 of 8 women who started the program) completed their training as Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs)



**WORTH OF ORGANIC PRODUCE** grown at the farm was consumed by program participants and donated to other WCG programs and nonprofits serving low-income individuals and families



*“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*



# WASATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS' CAMPUS

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.



**RAISED FOR THE CAMPUS  
CAMPAIGN** in 2019



**COMMUNITY PARTNERS** engaged



**CHALLENGE GRANT  
SECURED** from the  
Alternative Visions Fund



**DONORS** contributed to the  
Campus in 2019

"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





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Shelley Erickson  
Shellie and Eric Eide  
Susan and Kevin Motschieder  
Susan Schulman  
Teresa Hall  
Toby Larson  
Tonya and Bartley Pickron  
Troy Gorman  
Virginia and Bill Gowski

## \$100 - \$249

Alison Barrington  
Amnon Schlegel and Denitza Blagev  
Amy Albo and John Liston  
Andrea and John Owens  
Anne Kirchhoff and Nels Elde  
Barbara and Joseph Andrade

Camille Winnie  
Chuck and Judy Smith  
Cindy and Stive Burian  
Dale Burtch  
Diane Banks  
Donald and Alice Lappe  
Doug Rollins and Cathy Cunningham  
Edith Hammond  
Evan Connell  
Gale Feandsen  
Hal Robins  
Helen Peters  
Illene Dansie  
John Rasmuson  
JoLynn Miller  
Jonathan Zadra  
Joshua Van Inwagen  
Julianne Lundberg  
Julie Edwards  
Justin Lebron  
Kate Kopischke and Ralph Becker  
Katy Andrews  
Kim Wirthlin  
Kristin Streukens  
Lockwood Giving Fund  
Lynn and Bruce Cohn  
Maria Vyas  
Mary Youngkin  
Marybeth and Dwight Janerich  
Michael Brehm  
Michael Stahulak  
Mike and Katie Lewis  
Mimi and Cory Sinclair  
Monica Hilding  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gauvin  
Patrick and Susan Miller  
Paula Compton  
Rebecca Noonan Heale and Bret Heale  
Rebecca Utz and Steve Altman  
Robert Fujinami  
Sandra and Ted Sweetland  
Shelby and Coleman Herrod  
Sophia Nicholas and Paul Abate  
Sue Gerber  
Susan and Chris Cochella  
Susie and Rober Bolte  
Tamara & Randy Hed  
Tiffany Pett  
Tiffany Shewell  
Tom Stillinger  
Tomas Johnson  
Trish Wesson  
Troy and Melissa Knighton  
Victoria Bourns  
Vivian Shell  
Wendy Zeigler and Jamie Longe  
Wyatt Oswald and Heather Eliassen

## \$1 - \$99

Akemi Louchheim  
Andrea and Mike Heidinger  
Anonymous  
Audrey Self  
Bill and Pauline Cordray  
Bill Davis  
Catherine King  
Chris Riggie  
Cindy Owens-Baird and David Baird  
Colin Ferguson and Ayla Khan

Diane Forster-Burke and Christopher Burke  
Doug Stark  
Elizabeth Brosseau  
Elizabeth McCoy and Brian Doubek  
Eric Petajan  
Heather Bruce  
Henry B. Parry II  
Janet Jamison  
Jeff Schmidt  
Jeremy Spekman  
Jen Jastremsky  
Jennifer Ludlow  
Jeremy Spekman  
Joan Degiorgio  
Joelle Dickson  
John Bevan  
Julie and Greg Livers  
Julie and Steve Jones  
Karen Hyde  
Kathryn Howes  
Kathryn Jones  
Lauren Andalora and Justin Lebron  
Levi Pace  
Lisa Sewell  
Lori Hayes  
Lynn Lonardo  
Lynn Siodmak  
Mary and Phil Helsley  
Matthew and Shannon Hegewald  
Matty Branch  
Melissa Jensen  
Michael Ensign and Richard Cottino  
Michael Fife  
Michele Gray  
Nancy Becker  
Nicole Meagan  
Pattie DeNunzio  
Rachel Adams  
Rachelle Boulanger  
Raquel Cook  
Renae Richards  
Robert Spigle  
Sheldon Litwin  
Sherri Clark  
Shirley Hughes  
Steve Bloch and Kara Pettit  
The Olson Family  
Wynn and Lesli Shooter

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

Individual Donations	\$173,338
Sponsorships	\$40,423
Grants	\$367,905
Program Services	\$327,970
Investment Income	\$70,822
(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)	
Fundraisers	\$32,677
In-Kind Donations	\$98,375
Capital Campaign Donations	\$3,755,033
(construction to begin in 2020)	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$4,866,543</b>

## EXPENSES

Community Garden Program	\$201,270
Youth and School Garden Program	\$263,955
Job Training Program	\$234,910
Community Education Program	\$230,541
Administrative	\$114,650
Fundraising	\$125,701
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,171,027</b>

## 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*