



GRuB's
2003 End-of-Year
Report to the
Community





Youth worked together to grow over 5,500 pounds of vegetables at our westside garden this season for themselves, their families, and the food bank, where they volunteered every Wednesday in the summer.

"We truly feel blessed that our daughter is a part of this program. We have seen her grow in confidence and self-esteem, awareness and compassion... and become aware of her own trials and her ability and resources to make herself and her life what she wants it to be."

- Mother

Cultivating Youth Employment Program

"I would highly recommend the GRuB program to others. It is a program that teaches kids how to grow food and where food comes from. It teaches compassion and the importance of volunteering in the community. It teaches these kids to feel good about themselves, to become better people."

- Mother



In the Spring, crewmembers helped coordinate the KGP, organizing our annual seed-sorting party and physically building 35 of the total 85 gardens for low-income families and seniors.

"Empowering gardeners to be able to grow food in a situation no one would have thought possible, empowered me to be able to grow and do things that never seemed possible."

- crewmember



Youth grew flowers for, artistically created, and sold 182 bouquets to 26 local businesses, raising \$3,100 for GRuB. Youth's entrepreneurial efforts also included crafts such as garlic braids, potpourri, holiday wreaths and lip balms.

"My son was eager to attend the garden each and every week. It makes him light up when he knows he's going! I believe the garden has made him appreciate living, growing things through his stories...this is an awesome program for disadvantaged and troubled youth."

- Mother



Cultivating Youth School Program

Our amazing college interns & staff taught over 85 middle & high school youth hands-on science at our westside garden. These young people come from a variety of schools and groups, including BHR's Youth Enhancement Partnerships, which serves emotionally & behaviorally challenged youth.



"I believe that all of the kids felt welcomed and liked, which is important with this type of student. All of the interns took their responsibilities very seriously, showed enthusiasm, and genuine interest in the students and the subject matter. The workshops were well presented and received...we want to come out for a longer commitment."

- Teacher



School program youth lent their energy to growing 500 pounds of gourmet salad greens which were bagged and distributed at the food bank. Each bag advertised our Kitchen Garden Project so salad eaters might grow their own next year.



"This has been a great growing season. Just watching the garden grow was delightful. There are several people living on my property, and we all enjoyed caring for it. Most of the peas were eaten right out of the garden! It's a riot of greenery, pleasing to the eye and to the soul. Thank you so much for including me in the garden project."

- Jane A. Cuzick, Shelton



Kitchen Garden Project



Each garden we install comes with 3 4'x10' raised beds, an assortment of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds, and a growing manual with easy-to-follow suggestions for a bountiful and chemical free garden.

Families can grow as much as \$650 worth of vegetables during the season, making a significant dent in their yearly grocery bill.

"My children were so excited when they saw the raised beds! It filled my heart to see how proud they were when it was time to harvest. They are so proud to share their goodies with neighbors and extended family. We plan to make it even bigger and better next year. Thank you for bringing my family closer and for helping to boost the self esteem and pride on my children's faces! These lessons will last a lifetime!"

- Kim Lucas, Shelton

Families receive plants starts in the late spring and cover crop seeds in the fall. Many of our garden recipients volunteered their time at our seed-sorting party in February and at the Plant Give-away events in June. This fall we resurrected the ol' KGP Seeds newsletter which will keep gardeners connected through stories, recipes, and gardening tips.

"This is our first garden and we absolutely love it! It's so awesome to be able to grow our own food. Now we can afford to eat healthy every day! Thank you so much." - Ellen Zito, Olympia



In addition to improving the health of our program participants, the board and staff at GRuB are consciously working to nourish the health and longevity of our organization. We are working to send down more roots into the community to secure our financial health... and we are sending out branches around the country to strengthen the effectiveness of our work through coalitions and partnerships.



Growing GRuB

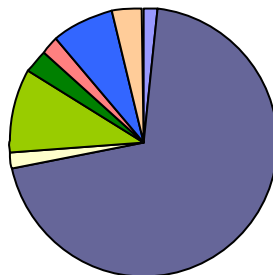
Income (2002 & 2003 year-to-date)



Our primary financial goal for 2003 was to increase our community giving income, which we have so far by 68%. This last year youth, staff, and board members spread the word about GRuB's work at over 40 outreach events, including civic clubs, houseparties, city council meetings, and national conferences.



2003 Expenses (12/1)



"I've been a crew member with GRuB for about nine months. Nine months of my life that I wouldn't change for anything. The garden and staff have given me numerous gifts to nurture my growth as a community leader, woman, youth, as well as a person contributing in society."
- Noel, age 16



In partnership with the new NW Youth Gardening Network, youth at GRuB will be hosting the Annual Rooted In Community Conference in July of 2004, attracting over 200 youth and adults from around the country to Olympia. Our 2nd year crewmembers: Josh, Noel, Elaina, Tyna, Adrian, and Jennie (pictured left) are heading up the planning.