



# GRUB

GROWING HEALTHY FOOD, PEOPLE, AND COMMUNITIES.

## 2010 Annual Report to the Community

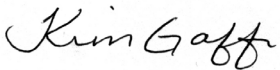
DEAR GRUBBERS,

Thank you for believing in our work this last year! While the world was going through dramatic changes, we at GRuB were looking for ways to make a greater impact. In addition to the on-the-ground accomplishments highlighted in this report, we also began building a strong framework for GRuB's future, or what we've been calling our "Second Story". In August, we learned new ways to work together and to build a multicultural, anti-oppression organization through an incredible workshop hosted by Jim Turner and Greg Gale from Visions, Inc. This learning became the heart of our strategic planning work last fall where staff, board members, youth crewmembers, and to some extent KGP gardeners came together to articulate the values and culture that make our work powerful. We've already created a vision statement that will inspire and inform our organization's future direction. We'll be sharing more with you about our plan and gathering your thoughts and support this summer.

This year we also played a bit of musical chairs, saying good-bye to wonderful staff members Jackson Sillars and Rochelle Gause as they left to pursue new adventures. We welcomed Kerensa Mabwa as our new Community Engagement Coordinator. Blue Peetz, my partner-in-crime for all these years, stepped away from the Co-Directorship to prepare for and steward our new partnership with local high schools as our Youth Programs Director.

I hope that as you're reading about some of GRuB's accomplishments this last year, you see yourself in these celebrations. Your volunteered time as a garden-builder, guest chef, or committee member made these things possible. The check you wrote and sent us, when things were tight for all of us, bought meaningful and positive change in our community. And now my questions for you are: **How would you like to be a part of GRuB's Second Story? What can we all do together over the next few years to create a community where everyone has a place at the table?** We have some cool ideas and we'd love to hear yours.

Bountiful Harvests,



Kim Gaffi  
Executive Director



We envision a world where everyone has a place at the table. Everyone is nourished by healthy, sustainably grown food. Everyone has a sense of belonging. And everyone is an honored contributor to our community.

## YOUTH ON THE LAND

**Education Program** - You helped us bring 500 students out to the Farm for hands-on field trips this last year! Our highlights included working with several pre-school classes as well as a group of home-schooled students who had just finished reading *The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids* by Michael Pollan. We teamed up with Americorps members from Native Plant Salvage for a week of garden education at Boston Harbor Elementary where 20 students planted their food bank garden, made herbal crafts, learned about bugs, salamanders, & plants, planted conifer trees, and kept a nature journal about what they learned. Throughout the field trip season kids learned about where food comes from and how much work it is to feed a community through the power of outdoor education.

**Employment Program** - 39 teens worked hard at GRuB in 2010. They harvested & donated thousands of pounds of produce for market and the Food Bank, grown here at the GRuB Farm and the Kiwanis Food Bank Garden. They partnered with Kirsop Farm to harvest an acre of garlic, some of which was then donated to us to make garlic braids. Youth led the coordination of our Seed Sorting Party, engaged in service work at Evergreen Vista & Sunrise Community Gardens, provided childcare at our workshops, and built 37 KGP gardens! They also hosted a harvest work party with crews from Left Foot Organics, Growing Places Farm, & Foodworks, and took field trips to work with youth at all 3 farms.

One theme that arose from these incredible youth was "*it takes more than growing food to end hunger*". To put this idea into practice, the crew spoke at over a dozen community events, sorted donations at the Food Bank, and spent time building their own non-violent communication skills. The crew built powerful community partnerships, leading volunteers from Temple Beth Hatfiloh, Olympia Action Network, Komachin Middle School, Boy Scouts, CYS's Street Outreach Program, Junior League of Olympia, & Planned Parenthood! They did all these things while becoming powerful self-advocates and working on their own personal success, earning their GED, or graduating from high school.

*Before I came to GRuB, I was stressed out 24/7 and when it came to food and money, I didn't know where things would end up... I didn't think that I could really be a powerful member of society... Now, I feel like I can provide myself with food, even if there is no money... I also know that I can rely on other people. I feel like the people I have met at GRuB will help me through anything. - 2010 Youth Crewmember*



**GRuB School Pilot Project** - 2010 included a lot of important planning for an exciting new partnership to bring our successful youth program model to the local school system (and beyond!). Thanks in part to a planning grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in addition to your ongoing support, we will conduct a two-year pilot with Olympia High School where struggling students will participate in a part-time school program based on our current employment program. Neighboring districts are already excited to replicate the program in their high schools. Our current youth crew has been instrumental in the planning of this new project, keeping us true to our roots and making sure we don't lose the best of who we are. We welcome any feedback on the project you may have before the pilot kicks off in July!

**Spreading the GRuB Love** - Last spring, folks from 13 youth & agriculture organizations (from as near as Mason County to as far as Australia!) attended our first ever Institute series. We offered curriculum, staff training, and consulting for groups looking to work with youth using our model. Several of these agencies have already moved forward with planning to begin their own youth employment programs.

## FOOD IN THE FIELD

**Kitchen Garden Project** - You made it possible for GRuB youth, volunteers, and staff to construct 100 gardens in 2010! Of those, more than ever before were built at institutions that serve many more folks than a typical home garden.

**City of Olympia:** Bread & Roses House of Hospitality, Madison Elementary, Drexel House, and St. Mike's Tikes

**City of Tumwater:** Michael T. Simmons Elementary

**City of Lacey:** Behavioral Health Resources, as well as The Mockingbird Society & Chinook Middle School, which both raised their own funds to cover the cost of their gardens!

**Greater Thurston County:** Chehalis Tribal Elder's Center



*We pursued GRuB because we wanted to start the process of having some good healthy food to have for these residents who usually only buy the cheapest food money can buy. We have been making sack lunches and breakfasts for them 4 times every week. This garden has helped ease the financial burden of this lunch program. We take what the garden gives us and put it in our meals to residents, so it's been really great. It has also given our residents a great sense of accomplishment and pride when they see their garden growing and overflowing!* - Bary Hanson, Drexel House

**Trainings & Workshops** - In conjunction with building gardens, we also like to help folks become better food-growers. In 2010, as part of the *Skills for Healthy, Sustainable Living Community Education Series*, we held a series of basic gardening workshops in Olympia, Rochester, and Shelton. We also held two *Start Your Own Community Garden* workshops attended by local groups as well as representatives from Spanaway Elementary and the Mossyrock Police Department. Because there are only so many gardens we can build, this last year we offered a *Build or Expand Your Backyard Garden* workshop to give people the skills to build gardens on their own! We also collaborated with the City of Olympia Parks Department to present at the annual Washington Recreation and Park Association, giving a talk entitled *Good Food for All: Building Community Gardens in Parks*.

## DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

The work that GRuB does in our community would not be possible without the support of hundreds of individual donors, volunteers, and grantors like you that partner with us each year. We find that it's no longer possible to publish this list as part of our annual report while still keeping our printing costs down and we can't think of a better problem to have! Instead, we'll be posting our supporter list on our website and/or would be happy to email a copy to you upon request.



## FINANCIAL HEALTH

2010 Income: \$489,000

2010 Expenses: \$542,500

*Over the last couple of years we've lost federal workforce and later USDA funding that covered most of our youth wages -20% of our budget! Nationally, 1/3 of non-profits reported a budget deficit in 2008, 42% in 2009, and 2010 likely will be comparable since federal stimulus funding that was propping up many state budgets mostly ended in 2009. A huge THANK YOU to our awesome community and the wonderful supporting foundations that have seen GRuB through some years that forced a lot of organizations to close their doors. We invite everyone to send the message to our national and state legislatures that "a cuts-only budget" is not in line with our community values. It's time to close loopholes and raise revenue.*