

# GRuB



2007 END-OF-YEAR REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



## OUR STAFF

Kim Gaffi, *Co-Director*

Blue Peetz, *Co-Director*

Carlin Briner, *Americorps, Education Program Coordinator - '07/'08*

Bethany Diehl, *Interim Office Manager*

Rochelle Gause, *Kitchen Garden Project Coordinator*

Pila Laronal, *One Neighborhood at a Time Project Coordinator*

Anna Robinson, *Grants Coordinator*

Jackson Sillars, *Employment Program Director*

Stephanie Snyder, *Americorps, KGP - '06/'07 & CY - '07/'08*

Justin Umholtz, *Farm Manager*

Joellen Wilhelm, *Grants & Capital Campaign Coordinator*

## OUR MISSION

We're a grassroots non-profit organization located in Thurston & Mason Counties in Washington State. We dedicate ourselves to nourishing a strong community by empowering people and growing good food.

## CONTENTS

Letter from the Co-Directors . . . . .	1
Cultivating Youth. . . . .	2
Kitchen Garden Project & One Neighborhood . . . .	4
More 2007 Accomplishments . . . . .	6
2007 Donors. . . . .	8
2007 Volunteers . . . . .	10

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# LETTER FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS



## LOVING GRUB SUPPORTERS.

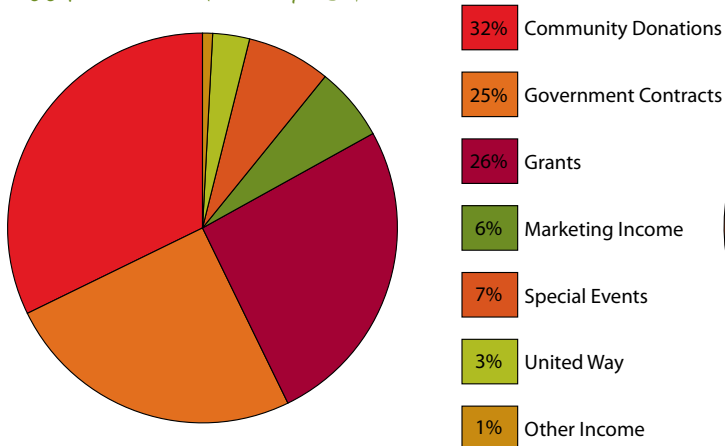
As I write this, I'm sitting on a cloud. 2007 was a good year in GRuB land, capped off by one of those unforgettable phone calls. As many of you know, for the past 2-plus years we have been working hard on our campaign to preserve our small farm in west Olympia and build a permanent home for our staff and programs. Thanks to the deep support of an array of individuals, foundations, and even the State of Washington, the end of '07 has culminated with reaching our goal. With 2008 in sight, I received a call from a longtime friend of GRuB that went something like this: "I know you all are close to completing the campaign, let me know how much more you have to raise and I'll meet it"! My dear GRuB family, we- and for those reading this report, this includes you - have completed the campaign! GRuB has a home.

As I sit on this cloud, I am not only inspired by this amazing accomplishment but also by what it unleashes. We now are in a position to engage with our strategic vision of serving more youth. In 2008, with a farm that we can fully invest in and an indoor space made for organizational growth, our goal is to expand our employment program to 25+ youth and our education program to 500! We're gearing up to build our second community garden and 100 new backyard gardens in targeted low-income neighborhoods. It is an exciting time to look ahead. It is also an appropriate time to reflect on a fantastic year. A campaign complete, our first new community garden on park property, over 670 new backyard gardeners growing food for their families, and a crew of stellar teens finding their voices, their power, and directing it to community work. We have much to share in this end-of-year report and much to be thankful for.

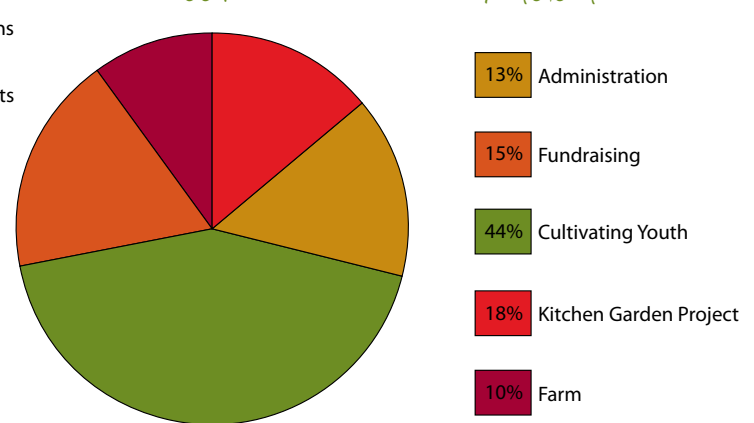
Much Love,

Blue Peetz  
Co-Director

## 2007 INCOME - \$351,938



## 2007 EXPENSES - \$340,084



# CULTIVATING YOUTH



## FARMING LAND

The year of 2007 was BIG on the farm. Twenty-two teenagers from low-income families worked to produce over 10,000 pounds of food for market, their families and the Thurston County Food Bank. That's over 5 tons produced on less than an acre of cultivated land. Along with the hard physical work, youth exercised their minds - learning about cover crops, garden planning, soil science, and sustainable pest management.

During the summer, GRuB youth were responsible for the successful operation of three farm-based entrepreneurial activities. The hard work of youth in the field transplanting, sowing, weeding, and harvesting resulted in beautiful fresh food for our CSA customers and our neighborhood Marketstand. The same effort and love was poured into the creation of flower bouquets every week that were delivered to businesses throughout the community.

Perhaps more beautiful than ever in 2007, the physical feel and appearance of the GRuB Farm is a direct result of the care and energy of the youth who work there.



## FARMING SELF

At the root of any solid crew are trust, safety, and love. During 2007, youth worked hard to build these qualities with one another. They engaged in regular team-building activities including a trip to the Panhandle Challenge Course. Youth took part in workshops on non-violent communication, healthy relationships, anti-oppression, and the roots of hunger. While building positive relationships with each other, youth learned self-care through participation in workshops on nutrition and herbal medicine. They then put knowledge to action by partnering with Guest Chefs to prepare healthy, delicious meals for the entire crew.



*"GRuB changed my life. The work is beautiful and I love the way it's made me grow. I am now a competent public speaker. I can lead dozens of volunteers on the farm and accomplish meaningful work. GRuB has made it possible for my life to bloom."*

*- Ashley, 2nd year crewmember*



## FARMING COMMUNITY

GRuB youth have a profound and positive impact on their community. Throughout the year they worked with the Gleaners Coalition at Helsing Junction Farm and Circle Hawk Farm to glean food for local food banks. They also planted a winter garden at the WCC Food Bank Garden.

The 2007 youth crew was also an integral part of the Kitchen Garden Project. They installed 30 back-yard gardens for low-income families and took part in the construction of the new Sunrise Community Garden. At the GRuB Farm, youth led over 100 volunteers in work that directly supported GRuB's efforts to produce food for the community.

*SPECIAL THANKS TO:* Jodi Berstein & Planned Parenthood The Speaker's Bureau at Stonewall Youth Tobacco Free Thurston County Snowboard Outreach Society (SOS) Community Youth Services Paul Martin & WA State Parks Corinne Boyer (Herbal Medicine) Summer Bock (Nutrition) Dianne Cockrell (Drugs & the Brain) Cynthia Major of Capitol Florist (How to make amazing flower bouquets) ...and all of our amazing Guest Chefs!

## EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Education Program has been strengthened over the past year with increased volunteer involvement, new staff, and a record number of students visiting the GRuB Farm! Thirteen classes of more than 290 elementary school students explored the GRuB Farm, participating in inquiry-based investigations of the plants, animals and earth in our productive urban gardens.

In our sixth year of collaboration with BHR's Youth Enhancing Partnerships (YEP), 18 middle school students visited the GRuB Farm weekly throughout the spring. They developed a deeper understanding of food systems as they assisted with crucial farm chores and projects. Twenty-one additional middle school students engaged in service learning field trips, helping with activities such as chicken care, transplanting, and food bank harvests.

*"The GRuB field trips helped my students understand more about where our food comes from."*

*– First grade teacher at Pioneer Elementary School*

# KITCHEN GARDEN PROJECT



## THURSTON COUNTY

This year we built 63 backyard gardens in Thurston County, serving more than 433 people. Our first annual "Day of the Bed" in West Olympia built an amazing eight gardens in one morning and raised over \$2,800 to help cover the cost of the builds! Institutions receiving gardens through the KGP included the Lacey Boys & Girls Club, Olympia's Haven House, Tumwater's SPSCC Head Start, and the Nisqually Tribe's Intergenerational Center.

These gardens impact members of our community who need support with 68% of our gardeners currently using food stamps or frequenting the Food Bank.

**93% of recipients reported eating more fresh vegetables thanks to their gardens.**

**67% of gardeners who reported utilizing the food bank said they used it less after receiving a garden.**

**86% of garden recipients grew enough that they gave vegetables away to friends and neighbors.**



*"People came [to visit my garden] and were inspired to grow food in their own yards. I shared food with neighbors and friends, ate food in season, and expanded the growing space so next year I can grow even more! I think what you guys do is the BEST way to heal the world. Thank you so much."*

*- Chriset Palenshus, 2007 GRuB Backyard Gardener*



## MASON COUNTY

Mason County is now home to 23 new KGP gardens! In 2007, at least 236 Mason County residents were served through backyard and institutional gardens. We were pleased to build gardens this spring at Harmony Hill Retreat Center and Olympic College Head Start.

Of the Mason County gardens that were built this year, 55% served people with special needs. Next year we look forward to growing our Mason County funding and volunteer base, working with United Way of Mason County, and partnering with other Mason County non-profits to reach more residents in need.

# ONE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A TIME PROJECT



## SUNRISE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our new 5,000 square foot garden made up of 37 raised-bed plots is beautiful to behold. It's the first community garden to be located on Olympia Parks' property and we're very proud of that accomplishment. As many of you know, this new project is part of a larger GRuB initiative to locate high-yielding backyard and community gardens in Thurston County areas experiencing high-rates of malnutrition and hunger. Over 47 families and individuals are lovingly caring for their own plots at the garden. Of those individuals, at least 40 of the gardeners actively utilize food stamps and/or the Thurston County Food Bank.

If you had a chance to visit the garden this growing season, you saw the abundance of beauty, food, and life swelling in each plot. It has been a true community effort to put together. We partnered with the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, & Recreation Department, TOGETHER!, and the Community Food Project Program of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). We also couldn't have done it without the hard work of a great batch of gardeners and volunteers who put hours into projects like garden design-work and fence-building.

*"...I was totally amazed at how the garden grew so quickly. I was also amazed at the difference that fresh veggies tasted over canned veggies. I worked in the garden 30-50 hours a week. I also helped them to build all the garden plots. It was a lot of work, but the proceeds were well worth it. I had enough veggies that they will last almost all the way through the winter. I made a lot of new friends out there. I also learned a whole lot about gardening...I also help most of the people out there. My doctor was very pleased that I was getting a lot of exercise. I lost around 29 pounds with all the work I was doing...I also cut way back on my smoking."*

*- Kim Hines, 2007 Sunrise Park Community Gardener*

# MORE 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## HUNGER FREE THURSTON COUNTY

What would Thurston County look like, if for one day, no one was hungry? Every child would come to school ready to learn that day. No parent would have to worry about not having enough food for their children, lessening stress at home and ultimately relieving issues of neglect and abuse. Human relationships would grow stronger as hope increased, leading to greater civic engagement and a community less polarized by fear and disconnection.

In 2007, The Hunger Free Thurston County Coalition, which includes GRuB, the Thurston County Food Bank, the Gleaners Coalition, Left Foot Organics, faith organizations and governmental agency interests, began developing a long-term strategic plan for making this vision real. As part of this process, HFTC teamed up with The Evergreen State College's Master of Public Administration program, envisioning a series of community-wide "listening sessions," designed to gather input into the strategic planning process and to engender engagement around reducing hunger at a neighborhood-community level.



## 'TAKING ROOT' CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

For over 10 years, GRuB has operated its programs on 1.86 acres of urban farmland in West Olympia. For the past 2 years, we have been working to raise \$725,000 through our 'Taking Root' Capital Campaign to purchase this land and build a 3,000 sq. ft Farmhouse.

Thanks to support from foundations and our community, we have officially reached our goal and have successfully completed our Campaign! Funds raised include \$170,000 from the WA Dept. of Community Trade & Economic Development and a \$75,000 matching grant from the Paul G Allen Family Foundation.

Having encountered unexpected delays in the permitting process, we finally broke ground this December! Our new green-built facility will provide adequate indoor classroom space for our programs and finally allow our full staff to work under one roof. This ADA compliant facility will also reflect our commitment to providing access to all community members.





## ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This past year, after identifying an organizational need, GRuB's staff participated in an intensive series of Leadership and Management trainings. The initial workshops resulted in the development of a first draft of our organizational Vision Statement (which incorporates our core values and anti-oppression work) and a clear picture of our strengths and weaknesses as leaders and managers. All staff are now working on individual Action Plans based on goals identified through our organizational and program visions.

As we grow, providing our staff with this needed leadership and management training puts us in a better position to help GRuB live up to its powerful potential. Our decision-making tools are now based on our organizational vision and strategic plan, allowing for confident and bold reflection to shape organizational change. GRuB staff at all levels now have access to the tools and skills they need to feel confident in their roles within the organization.



## FARM PRODUCTION & MARKETING

We had our most productive season yet at the GRuB Farm despite the cool summer, harvesting 10,000 pounds of produce from our small acre of cultivated soil. 65% of our harvest went to marketing programs and 35% went to low-income youth and families.

This fall we began an intensive evaluation of our land programs and will soon be restructuring farm marketing activities to more powerfully support our organizational visions. In the next two years we envision major infrastructural and program changes as the GRuB Farm is transformed to best serve the GRuB mission. The first step is our new farmhouse!

*"The veggies themselves had all the energy of the youth crew's energy and growth process – that was the best connection."*

*"We eat not only many more vegetables (I didn't imagine it was possible!), but a much wider variety of vegetables."*

- 2007 CSA members

# OUR DONORS

**\*We have such a great family of supporters you may need a magnifying glass!**

## ONGOING PLEDGERS

Alicia & Jason Seegers-Martinelli, Angie Grant, Anna Robinson, Barb Rohe & Willie Dickerson, Barbara Temple, Beth Lovelady & Florian Leischner, Betty Livingstone & Lois Blank, Blue Peetz, Bob & Mary Wildenhaus, Catherine Suter, Cathy Gudge! & Tom Groenwal, Crystal Ashley, David & Lisa Smith, Dick & Jackie Wilhelm, Elizabeth & Gordon Beck, Erin Majors & Zach Stewart-Glazer, Gene Little, Gita Moulton, Greg Starling, Guzoto Family, Heather Ringwood, Holly & James Gadbaw, Jackson Sillars, Jean Reynolds, Jennifer & Jim Grant, Joan Thomas, Joellen & Dave Wilhelm, Juliet & John Van Eenwyk, Katherine White & Gregory Tudor, Kim Gaffi & Clayton Majors, Knapp Meyer-Knapp Family, Larry Eickstaedt & Joan Lynch, Laura & Peter Cannon-Robinson, Linda Donaldson, Mary Steers, Matthew Reineck, Nancy & Joe Nishida, Nasue Nishida & Drew Wellner, Nita Rinehart, Paul Callison, Peter Kardas & Lin Nelson, Pila Laronal, Richie Pokaka'a, Robin Hunt & Mike Groesch, Sarah Bracken & Mike Hannam, Stephanie Snyder, Susan Sargent, Sylvie McGee, Terry Teale, Toby & Jim Shulruff



*"We have seen first hand how the kids in your program learn to be viable parts of a community. They become caring young people who feel good about themselves and achieve a measure of success. We also value GRUB's goal of working toward sustainable gardening and working to ease hunger in our community. [We]...feel privileged to help out by our monthly donations." - Mary and Bob Wildenhaus*

## FOUNDATIONS & GRANTORS

USDA (CSREES), Chehalis Tribe, City of Lacey, City of Olympia, City of Tumwater, Eulalie Bloedel Schneider Foundation, Forest Foundation, Freas Foundation, Jeffris Wood Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Olympia, Lacey Rotary Club, Irving A. Lassen Foundation, Satterberg Foundation, Simpson Timber Company, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stars Foundation of Thurston County, The Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, The Mannix Canby Foundation, The Moyer Foundation, The Peach Foundation, Tides Foundation Grant, Tortuga Foundation, United Way of Thurston County, Washington Health Foundation

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Moore Trees & Co, Music 6000, New Moon Cafe, Old School Pizzeria, Oliver Reconstructio, OlyBikes, Olympia Coffee Roasting Company, Olympia Credit Union, Olympia Downtown Association, Olympia Federal Savings, Olympia Food Co-op, Olympia Supply Co., Olympia Tumwater Foundation, Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Orca Books, Ostrom's, Polar Bear Construction, Quaker Olympia Friends Meeting, Quality Burrito, Ramblin Jack's, Rebekah Majors, Red Door Interiors, Reliable Electric, Rising River Farm, Rubenstein's Contract Carpet, Safeway, San Francisco Street Bakery, Sharon's Garden & Gift Center, Simple Gifts Fund, Stormans, Taylor Shellfish, Temple Beth Hatfiloh, The Alpine Experience, The Asen Foundation, The Children's Inn, The Evergreen State College, The Mark, The Strait-Kramer Group, Top Foods, Trick Cowboy, United Churches of Olympia, Vic's Pizzeria, Volcanic Mfg, Woman Care PLLC, Zeigler's Welding...and our amazing auction donors!

## CONTRIBUTORS

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# OUR VOLUNTEERS



Abigail Groskopf, Abigale Phillips, Adrian Prevost, Adrienne Drewe, Aila Penny, Alex Detzler, Alex Moro, Alex Webb, Alicia Seegers-Martinelli, Allison Chambers, Allison McCoy, Amber Werdt, Ambere Fredsall, Amy Calahan, Andrew Buechel, Angie Grant, Ann Meisinger, Anne-Marie Dinwoodie, Ashley Monroe, Ashley Talley, Atticus Lutz, Barbara Temple, Becky Morrison, Bernie Meyer, Betty Kieler, Blake Geyen, Bob & Mary Wildenhaus, Brendan Hogan, Brittney Cooper, Caitlin Moore, Candyce Parks, Carlin Briner, Carol Prevost, Carolyn McIntyre, Casey Meier, Cathleen Doctor, Cathy Williams, Charles Pearce, Cheri Barnes, Cheryl Simrell King, Chris Deraitus, Chris Jackson, Chris Toal, Chris Wickham, Christian Johnson, Christina Buechler, Clayton Majors, Colin Schneider, Crystal Ashley, Cynthia Salazar, David Dec, DeAnna Daily, Devon O'Rourke, Dianne Ludwig, Don Guyot, Dorothy Shepard, Dottie Hicks, Drew Billings, Elaine Schmidt, Eli Jacobson, Ellen Zito, Emily Plott, Eric Richins, Erica Merrill, Erin Majors, Esme Ryan, Eunice Walker, Forrest Pitz, Forrest Scott, Gail Temple, Geraldine Jennings, Glen Buschmann, Grace Diehl, Graham Parrington, Hazel Jo Reed, Heather McPherson, Helena Meyer-Knapp, Holly Detzler, Hunter Bickel, Jack Bradford, Jack Cong, Jack McGee, Jacob Holt, Jacob Lander, Jade Bonadea, Jan Gillingham, Janelle Drogo, Janice Rosen, Jean Schuchmann, Jennifer Grant, Jessica Johnson, Jiin Nichols, Jill Geyen, Jim Grant, Jim Knowles, Jim Monroe, Joan O'Connell, Joan Tucker, Joe Tougas, Joel St. Pierre, Jonah Hankin-Rappaport, Jonathan Waterfield, Joseph Becker, Joy Gold, Joy Lemmon, Joyce Bouner, Karen Fairbanks, Karen Ray, Kate Benak, Kate Gilligan, Kate Stratton, Katherine Mortenson, Kathryn E Hulbert, Katie Brawnsen, Keith Berry, Kelly O'Neil, Kerri Wilson, Kim-Ngan Huynh, Larry Eickstaedt, Laura Cannon-Robinson, Laura Keyt, Leanne Strait Kramer, Lily Zetin, Linda Sok, Lindsay Ruhl, Lindsey Baris, Lindsey Jones, Lori Blewett & Arun Chandra, Lynn & Adam Carter, Maggie Philipsborn, Marilyn & Ned Campbell, Marlies Wierenga, Martha Savage, Max Whetstine, McKenzie Ball, Melissa Brynn, Melissa L Welter, Michael Hannam, Mika Ulrich, Mike Monroe, Miranda & Linda Sanders, Molly Porter, Nicole & Debbie Spink, Nicole Celaya, Nita Rinehart, Pat Perry, Patricia Collins, Patricia Melone, Paul and Maria Spivak, Pavel McGlave, Pila Laronal, Rachael Bennett, Rachel Kohn Obut, Raymond Perez Jr., Rebecca Champagne, Rebecca Stracener, Rebecca Waggoner, Rob Knapp, Robin Smalley, Ron Cox, Ruth Schnobl, Ryan Stephens, Sam Garst, Sandra Hall, Sara Bryan, Sara del Moral, Sarah Bracken, Sarah Spillman, Saralynn Finn, Sean Threatt, Sharon Chung, Shayron Ritter, Sopho Khnor, Stephanie Zell, Steven Buxbaum, Steven & Anita Snyder, Tamasha Emedi, Tanya Mackey, Ted Labbe, Tina Suy, Titus Mutchler, Tom Condon, Tyler K Smith, Valerie White, Vaughn & Lorraine Hack & Sachiko Miyagi-Hack, Vicki Faust, Victoria Davis, Will McDonald, Will Saguil, William Ide, Willie Willard, Xandra Kiersky, Yuri Sagawa, Zach Stewart-Glazer



*"I chose to volunteer with GRuB because they work with three things that are very important to me, good food, at-risk youth, and low-income people. I think they do the right thing in the right place and at the right time. I continue to volunteer with GRuB because I keep seeing the positive effects on everyone in the community, staff, volunteers, youth, and those who receive gardens. Finally, everyone is always smiling and helping each other out!"*

- Chris Jackson, GRuB SuperVolunteer



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# GRuB

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