



# 2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



**THE NASHVILLE  
FOOD PROJECT**





# Bringing People Together

At The Nashville Food Project, cultivating community is at the heart of everything we do. Our meals bring people together around tables to be nourished in body and spirit. Our gardens gather neighbors to nurture the soil and one another. Our volunteers work joyfully alongside us every single day to accomplish our mission. And our supporters sustain this work by investing in a vision for this city where everyone has enough food, and people to eat it with too.

Daily, we experience the ability of food to foster health, belonging and justice in our community. In 2022, we saw the power of food not only in the produce grown and meals shared, but in the stories our community told about the ways that food nourished their lives.

With a growing network of Nashvillians, we're working to build a resilient and equitable food system for everyone in our city. This work is incremental and ongoing, but each day we are widening the path for justice in the food system we have inherited. The truth is that there is already enough food for everyone in our community. The task remains to nourish one another now, while creating a just and sustainable food system where everyone has the food they want and need.





# Transformative Programs

## Community Meals

We prepare healthy, scratch-made meals to share in partnership with other community-based organizations across the city. By supporting their vital work with food, we amplify our collective impact to disrupt cycles of poverty and create a community where everyone thrives. In 2022, we cooked an average of 5,582 meals a week, shared with partners at 70 sites.

## Food Recovery

We glean excess produce and other perishables from grocers and farms to divert quality food from the landfill. By prioritizing the highest, best use of the abundant food already in our community, we care for the environment and alleviate hunger at the same time. In 2022, we rescued over 213,000 pounds of edible, delicious food, comprising nearly three quarters of our meals.

## Produce Sharing

We envision a city where everyone has access to the food they need and want – in some cases, that means providing communities the resources to prepare their own healthy meals. We share food grown in our gardens and from local farms to provide reliable access to fresh, culturally appropriate produce across our network of partner organizations. In 2022, we shared nearly 16,000 pounds of fresh produce with seven communities.

## Community Gardens

We grow food alongside community members at gardens in both North and South Nashville: areas of the city historically excluded from equitable access to healthy food and green space. Our community gardens are outdoor classrooms, urban sanctuaries, and community spaces where nearly 100 gardeners grow food for themselves, their families, and their neighbors.

## Growing Together

We engage farmers from immigrant and refugee backgrounds to grow produce for personal income by providing access to land, resources, and local markets. In 2022, seven farmers grew 27,000 pounds of food on just an acre of farmland, generating more than \$96,000 in collective income. Also this year, Growing Together welcomed its first apprentice, creating a new pathway into the program for aspiring farmers.





# 2022

## By the Numbers



290,385

nutritious meals  
shared



15,693

pounds fresh produce  
shared

64

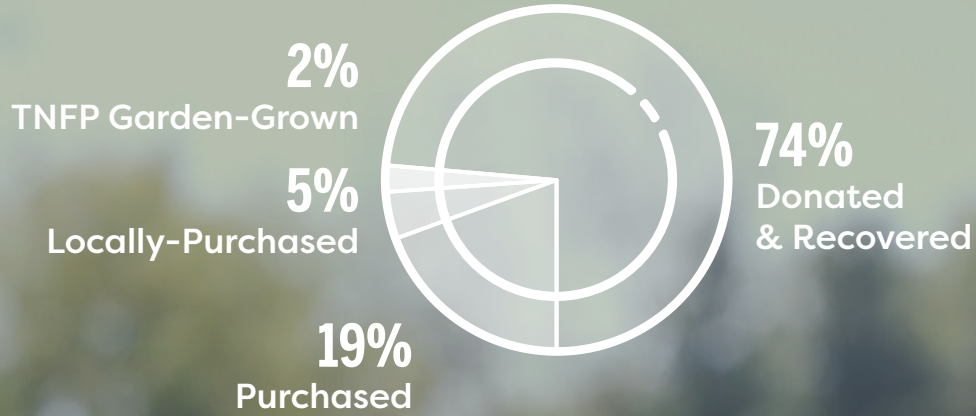
partners received Food Project meals  
and produce



- After School & Summer Programs
- Children & Family Services
- Senior Services
- Homeless Outreach
- Emergency Shelters & Transitional Housing
- Workforce Development & Adult Education
- Grassroots Organizing
- Medical & Health Services



FOOD SOURCED FROM:



**213,002**

pounds of donated and recovered food, valued at \$602,304



**\$40,043**

invested with local farms and producers



**34,441**

pounds fresh produce grown in our gardens



**4,537**

hours volunteer time given in our programs



**97**

families participated in community garden programs



**\$96,412**

earned by 7 Growing Together farmers



# Highlights from 2022



***“Because of the food The Nashville Food Project serves, we have been able to continue building trust with our students which has in turn allowed them to feel safer at our program and in our staff’s care.”***

**- Nations Ministry**

This summer our Sweet Peas program, sponsored by Jackson® shared more than 12,000 meals with nearly 950 local children and youth. In partnership with Conexión Americas, Napier Kitchen Table, Preston Taylor Ministries, and Project Transformation, the program provides critical summer nutrition for many students who rely on daily lunches served in the school year.



***“Our motto is to ‘Love God, Love People, and Serve the World.’ Project Glean allows us to demonstrate this motto through actions.”***

**- Trevecca Community Church**

Just behind Trevecca Community Church is an affordable housing community of nearly 600 residents. The closest grocery store is a 30-minute bus ride away. A few years ago, the church responded to the neighborhood’s lack of fresh food through Project Glean, a free farm stand for the community. This year’s Project Glean featured Growing Together CSA shares purchased by church members and distributed in community.



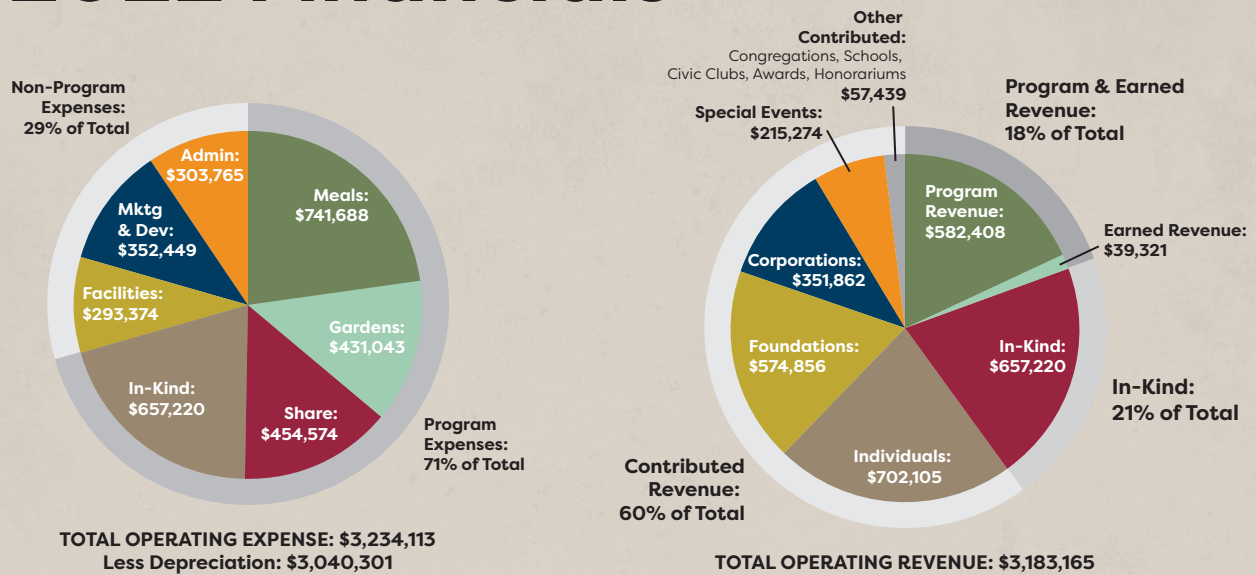
***“There are so many benefits to the Growing Together garden program. I can learn and grow crops. It is also good for my health. I love to give vegetables to others. I am so thankful and grateful to be apart of this program that has made my home filled with happiness and health. Thank you!”***

**- La Sai Roi**

The Growing Together program provides farmers – all of whom came to the U.S. as refugees or immigrants – with access to land, training, and market opportunities in our local food system. The Growing Together farm is a special place for cultivating community through meaningful work, where farmers experience belonging and purpose through the unique skills and incredible spirit they bring to the farm every day.



# 2022 Financials



This work is only possible through the support of our incredible community. Thank you! For a full list of financial supporters please visit [thenashvillefoodproject.org/donors](https://thenashvillefoodproject.org/donors).

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

Chair: Rick Leach, *Community Volunteer*

Chair-Elect: Antonio Carroll, *NES*

Treasurer/Finance Chair: John Pearce, *Retired Partner, Ernst & Young*

Secretary/Governance Chair: Jarrett Strickland, *UBS*

Development Chair: Katherine Hartle, *Self-Employed*

Equity & Inclusion Chair: Vanessa Lazon, *Metro Nashville Public Schools*

Strategic Planning Chair: Josh Westerhold, *Nissan*

Immediate Past Chair: Jeff Warne, *California Pizza Kitchen*

Zeena Abdulahad, *Vanderbilt University Medical Center*

Sunny Bray, *Catalyst Collective*

Ashlee Brooks, *Brooks & Associates Tax Consulting*

Mary Lea Bryant, *Retired, Harpeth Hall School*

Katie Johnson, *HCA Healthcare Research Institute*

Kim Johnson, *Jackson National Life Insurance*

Walker Mathews, *RC Mathews Contractor*

Christy Moberly, *Retired, State Farm*

Jennifer Rusie, *Jackson Lewis*

Tandy Wilson, *City House*

Jamie Woodruff, *State of Tennessee*

### Young Leaders Council Interns

Angie Bergman, *Bass, Berry & Sims*

Katavia Femster, *Asurion*





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