



We envision a thriving, healthy community where people are connected to their land, their food and each other through gardens.

2013 was another great year!

3

Showcase gardens

72

Workdays

102

Workshop & event participants

364

Garden volunteers

806

Garden volunteer hours

1,258

Youth program participants

5,600

Indirect community members impacted

Our Program

Since 1998, The Garden Project has been helping schools and organizations develop community and school garden programs while serving as a resource center for families and groups on local food and gardening.

Direct services focus on lower income families, at-risk youth, and school-aged children.

Programs are designed to promote environmental education, health and wellness and a sustainable local food system.



The Garden Project has facilitated programs at over 19 school and community gardens since its inception, including public and private schools, City Hall, our local soup kitchen and senior center.

Core projects include supporting school and community gardens, the backyard garden program, community workshops, and on-line curriculum and resources.

Services include program facilitation, onsite consultations, sharing tools and educational materials, organizing volunteer work crews and general support.

Our mission is to grow a healthier community through the support and development of school and community garden programs that promote health and wellness, environmental stewardship and a sustainable local food system.

Ohana Kuleana Community Garden



Brand new for 2013, the OKCG provides space to grow an abundance of healthy food for a diverse community while providing educational opportunities, with the end result of growing healthier people, community, and supporting our local food system.

The name Ohana Kuleana (Pronounced Oh-Ha-Nah Coo-Lee-Ah-Nah) comes from the Hawaiian terms Ohana meaning all-inclusive family or community and Kuleana meaning shared responsibility.



OKCG is located on a half-acre plot on the north side of town at E 30th Street and 6th Avenue (564 E 30th Street) right below Riverview Elementary and contains over 12,000 square feet of growing space.

In its first year, the OKCG had 50+ members of all ages, backgrounds, and garden skill levels.

A big thank you to Bob Lieb for making this garden possible!

With only half of the garden open for production the first year, the garden also provided growing space and garden programs for 476 Riverview Elementary School students and 45 Boys and Girls Club youth.

The OKCG was featured in the Tour de Farms bicycle ride hosted by Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado. Five community workshops were held throughout the season and included topics such as organic pest management, healthy soil and a garden harvest cooking class.

In 2014 the entire garden will be open for membership. We expect around 62 members to fill 31 plots. Contact us about membership.



Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary Garden

The Learning Garden at Fort Lewis Mesa continues to serve as a model for outdoor education, integrating reading, writing, science and history curriculum. Through a volunteer effort, The Garden Project served as the garden coordinator for the school and hosted weekly garden days during the growing season. We worked directly with each grade level (Pre-K to 5th) with hands-on activities and curriculum integration.

The student-run Garden Club centered around helping the environment and culminated with their presentation and interpretation of The Lorax. Over 200 youth and adults participated in the garden through community service days and classroom garden



Needham Elementary School Garden

In 2013 Needham Elementary's garden expanded to over five times its original size! The new garden includes 24 raised beds, sun & moon gardens, a wooden pergola entrance, mulched pathways, and a new fence and irrigation system.

In 2014 we hope to add ornamental plants and trees, a sensory garden, compost bins and a tool shed.

The goal of the garden is to provide an outdoor learning classroom for Needham's 485 students which incorporates IB curriculum through garden-based experiential education.

In the Spring of 2014, Needham students will finally be able to plant their classroom garden beds. Produce grown will contribute to the school's cafeteria.



*A big thank you to:
CSU Extension,
Scapegoat
Landscaping,
Needham families,
Principal David
Tanaka, Durango
Education
Foundation and
Whole Kids
Foundation.*

In-Kind contributions were provided by: ProBuild, Alpine Lumber, Sherwin Williams, Little Paradise Landscaping, HomeDepot, Basin CoOp & Bourey Design.

Manna Soup Kitchen Garden

In 2013 the Manna Soup Kitchen garden produced a total of 1,036 pounds of fresh, nutritious produce directly to the kitchen. Manna serves 70,000 meals annually to approximately 2,000 vulnerable individuals.

The garden also provides space for clients to engage in the healthy and therapeutic activity of gardening. In 2014 we plan to tie the garden into Manna's new Culinary Arts Training Program through agricultural education.

A big thank you to all of the Manna Staff for your support of the garden: Kathy Tonnessen, Darcy Cole, Audrey Werner, Joseph Prekup, & Jason Cloutd.



Thank you to our wonderful Colorado Master Gardeners who volunteered at the Manna Garden: Myrna Jacobson, Deb Paulson, Jennifer Young, & Nancy Shipp.



Contact Us

Phone: 970-259-3123
Email us: thegardenprojectswco@gmail.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 4434, Durango, CO 81302
Physical Address: 862 Main Ave, Suite 222, Durango, 81301
Visit our Website! www.thegardenprojectswcolorado.org
Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/TheGardenProjectswco



2013 Staff

The Garden Project would like to welcome the following new staff in 2013:

Sandhya Tillotson, Program Director
Mia Carrasco-Songer, Organization Coordinator & OKCG Garden Manager
Frank LeBeau, Manna Garden Manager

2013 Board of Directors

We would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the following outgoing board members in 2013:

Eileen Dawson, previous Board Treasurer, served for 3 years
Beth Saren, previous Board President, served for 4 years

We are pleased to announce the addition of several new members to our board in 2013:

Kelle Bruno, Farmer & Educator
Chelsea Farley, Accountant (Board Treasurer)
Kate Lauth, Open Sky Wilderness Therapy Admissions Officer
Charlie Love, Riverview Elementary Science Teacher
Nora Stafford, Needham Elementary First Grade Teacher

Continuing board members include:

Darrin Parmenter, CSU Extension Horticulture Agent (Board President)
Janet Fogel, Montezuma County School Food Services (Board Vice President)
Becky Turner, Co-owner of Zia Taqueria (Board Secretary)
Shari Fitzgerald, Founder of The Garden Project

2013 Partners & Volunteers

Volunteers & Populations Served

La Plata County School Students
Fort Lewis Mesa, Needham & Riverview Elementary Communities
Colorado Master Gardener Volunteers
Animas High School
Durango Elks Lodge
Manna Soup Kitchen Community
Ohana Kuleana Community Garden members & neighbors

Working Coalitions & Local Food Partners

Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado
Healthy Lifestyle La Plata
CSU Extension, La Plata County
Fort Lewis College Environmental Center
Cooking Matters

Special thank you to:

Gabe Eggers, Marye Jackson, Myrna Jacobson, Bob Lieb, Dean Mullen, Deb Paulson, Brian Petrie, Kellie Pettyjohn, Nancy Shipps, & Jennifer Young

We are grateful to our local funding sponsors:

BALLANTINE FAMILY FUND
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1957



Durango · Colorado

Botanical Concepts Garden Center



Get Involved

Strong volunteer and community support create a lasting impact.

YES! I want to help GROW a healthier community!

Name

Email Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Please include me on your **email list** to find out about workshops, community events and volunteer opportunities.

I would like to make a tax-exempt

DONATION:

\$25

\$50 (includes annual membership)

\$100 (includes annual membership)

Other \$ _____

Member Benefits include: Garden Project sticker, gardening gift, 2 free workshops per year (valued at \$30), monthly e-newsletter, annual report (hard copy).

Please mail cash or check to:

The Garden Project of Southwest Colorado
PO Box 4434, Durango, CO 81301

THANK YOU!

We are a 501(c)3 Non-profit organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.

Sponsor a Benefit Day at your Business

(minimum \$500 donation)

For instance, in 2013 Zia Taqueria hosted 3 back-to-back benefit days for The Garden Project where 10% of proceeds were donated to our organization. The Garden Project advertised the event to our members, partners and the community by posting flyers, sending newsletters and posting on Facebook. Thanks to the advertising Zia Taqueria experienced an increase in business during the benefit days, making the 10% donation possible, while also supporting a valued cause in our community.

You will receive all benefits associated with the level at which you donate (See Sponsorship Opportunities page) plus:

- Printed flyers advertising your business and the benefit day
- Logo prominently featured on our Event Calendar that month
- Logo and business description featured prominently in that month's Newsletter
- Logo and event details posted on Facebook

Sponsorship benefits are available for the calendar year.

Please contact me about hosting a Benefit Day at my Business.

Contact Person

Business Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Contact us:

thegardenprojectswco@gmail.com

970-259-3123

Office Location: 862 Main Ave, Suite 222 (above Chimayo)

The Garden Project of Southwest Colorado: *Sponsorship Opportunities*

All Heartfelt Harvesting benefits plus: **SOWING FOR THE FUTURE: \$2,500+**

- Up to \$1,000 of this sponsorship can be in-kind goods/services
- Company banner and promotional materials displayed at (annual fundraiser) event
- Two (2) complimentary tickets to (annual fundraiser) event
- Large logo linked to website prominently featured on Homepage and Sponsor Page (1,000 site visits annually)
- Exclusive 1-hour garden workshop for you and your employees at your choice location of your business or one of our gardens (workshop subject to seasonal availability)
- Ten (10) free tickets to any TGP workshop for you or your employees (\$150 value)

All Blooming Bounty benefits plus: **HEARTFELT HARVESTING: \$1,000**

- Up to \$750 of this sponsorship can be in-kind goods/services
- Opportunity to host an event at the Ohana Kuleana Community Garden (schedule 2+ months prior)
- Six (6) free tickets to any TGP workshop for you or your employees (\$90 value)

All Grateful Growing benefits plus: **BLOOMING BOUNTY: \$500**

- 100% of this sponsorship can be in-kind goods/services
- Logo with link to company website featured prominently on our Home page (1,000 site visits annually)
- Logo displayed in our Monthly Newsletters (over 400 community members)
- Personal Facebook thank you post on a month of your choosing featuring logo linked to company website and a description of your business. (300 fans)
- Two (2) free tickets to any TGP workshop for you or your employees (\$30 value)

All Sprouting Seeds benefits plus: **GRATEFUL GROWING: \$250**

- 100% of this sponsorship can be in-kind goods/services
- Logo with link to company website featured prominently on our sponsorship page
- Logo displayed in our Annual Report

SPROUTING SEEDS: \$100

- 100% of this sponsorship can be in-kind goods/services
- Logo listed on our website's sponsorship page (1,000 site visits annually)
- Company recognized on Facebook sponsors thank you post (300 fans)
- Company name recognized in our Annual Report (over 400 community members)

Note: Sponsorship benefits are available for the calendar year.

YES! I want to help GROW a healthier community!

Contact Person _____
Business Name _____
Email Address _____
Phone Number _____
Mailing Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

- Sowing for the Future **\$2,500**
- Heartfelt Harvesting **\$1,000**
- Blooming Bounty **\$500**
- Grateful Growing **\$250**
- Sprouting Seeds **\$100**

**THANK
YOU!**

Please mail cash or check to:

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PO Box 4434, Durango, CO 81301

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