

**KINGSTON
YMCA
FARM
PROJECT**



**20
16**
**annual
report**





A letter from our Farmer

In 2016, I was able to transition to working full-time and year round at the Kingston YMCA Farm Project. This enabled the Farm Project to grow in many ways. We increased our physical space: adding a children's garden and thanks to the Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food Grant of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley we increased our production space. These expansions will enable us to grow more food for our community and to serve more young people through our farm-based education programming. We increased the reach of our farm stands: we added a mobile farm stand stop at the Governor Clinton Apartments and we ran the farm stand at the Y for a full five months. We engaged more children in our farm-based programming: over 400 children shoveled, planted, harvested, learned and tasted in our garden. We increased our capacity: our new Education Director, Susan Hereth, will enable us to deepen and expand our educational programming. We are so excited about our youth development program, Training the Next Generation of Growers, which will empower, train, and cultivate young adults using the farm and farm stands as incubators.

All of this is made possible with the amazing community support we have received. So many people have contributed in many different ways: volunteering your time and talents, donating materials to the farm and to our events, contributing money, attending our events, and shopping at our farm stands. We couldn't do it without you.

2017 looks to be a bountiful year for our programming and for our community. Together we will create a healthier community for ALL.

Warmly,

KayCee Wimbish

KayCee Wimbish





A program of the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, the Kingston YMCA Farm Project's mission is to educate and empower young people and their families in the City of Kingston by directly engaging them in sustainable food production at our urban farm while increasing the community's access to fresh, local food.





A Year in Numbers

3

successful
years

7

more 50' beds
on our Midtown
Farm
(thats a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre
expansion,
now making
the farm $\frac{1}{3}$
acre.)

500

event attendees
at our Farm to Fork, Fall Harvest
Celebration, Spring Spree,
Volunteer Days & Plant Sale

75

campers from
Camp Starfish
cooked with a
chef at the farm

1

Education
Director added

2

FUNdraisers
Spring Spree &
Farm to Fork

1090

people engaged
at our farm
stands,
in education
programs or
at farm based
events

100

volunteers

45

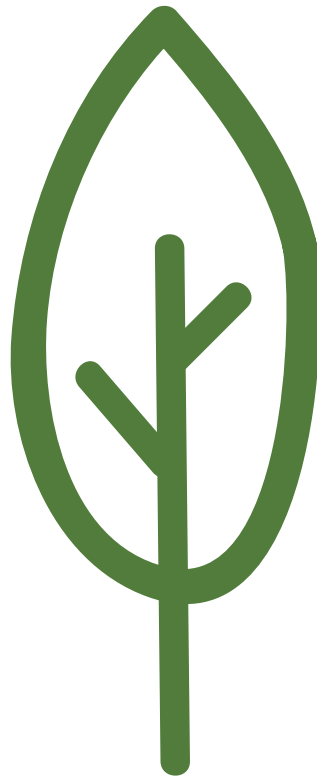
farm market
days

3

teens
worked as our
summer youth
crew

15

class
visits



6

farm stand
locations

440

schoolchildren
in farm based
programs

1st

year end
annual
appeal

*Did we miss
you or you
missed us?
Check out ways
to donate in
this report*

Who We Are



KayCee Wimbish, Project Director and Farmer

KayCee Wimbish, Project Director and Farmer

With over 15 years of teaching experience and over a decade of farming in the Hudson Valley, KayCee joyfully shares her skills and knowledge of organic community supported agriculture and farming with the City of Kingston. Her passions are teaching, growing food and social justice work through the context of urban farming. She has grown the Kingston YMCA Farm Project from a part-time seasonal job into a year-round, full-time project.

2016 Summer Youth Crew

Lisa Montanaro,
youth coordinator
Kiyle Thomason
Ellaysia Harris
Hailey Houghtaling



2016 Summer Youth Crew

2016 Advisory Board:

Victoria Thomas
Lindsay Duvall
Laurie Mozian
Julia Farr
Brian Kehoe
Maria Cecilia Deferrari
Lee Anne Albritton
Susan Hereth

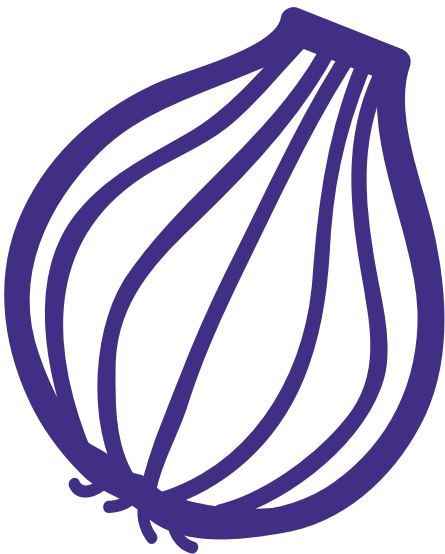


Susan Hereth, Education Director (far left)

Susan Hereth, Education Director

(pictured far left with YouthBuild, KayCee Wimbish and Lisa Montanaro at the farm expansion work day)

Susan brings over a decade of experience in place-based education and not for profit work. She has been a volunteer for the farm project from the beginning and was added as a part-time staff in the fall of 2016. Susan will be implementing our expanded youth development program, Training the Next Generation of Growers. Susan is also Internship Coordinator and Adjunct Professor of Geography, SUNY New Paltz, an advisory member of Teaching the Hudson Valley, bee-keeper, and certified as a Master Naturalist.



What We Do



- 🌱 Community Food Production
- 🌱 Food access through farm stands
- 🌱 Farm-based education with supporting in-school lessons
- 🌱 YouthDevelopment





Events



Volunteer Work Days

In spring, volunteers helped us move compost and wood chips, plant peas, and scallions. During the summer months, volunteers helped us weed, repair fencing, and spread more wood chips. We expanded the farm in September with the help of volunteers. They moved the Children's Garden, and moved 5 truck loads of soil and compost along with a truck load of woodchips. This spring we'll be completing the new fence.



Spring Celebration

150 people attended our annual kickoff to Spring at The Anchor. This continues to be a fun and successful way to celebrate and launch into the spring growing season!

Plant Sale

We launched a plant sale, making organic seedlings available at low prices. We sold tomatoes, peppers, tomatillos, strawberries, kale, cucumbers, melons, herbs, and flowers. Did you know you can use SNAP to buy seeds and seedlings?





Farm to Fork.



Community Fall Harvest Party

Farm to Fork

In July, our 2nd annual Farm to Fork dinner brought 100 people to the farm to enjoy a seasonal meal prepared by Chef Jamie Parry from Another Fork in the Road. Local farms and business donated to make this a fundraising success. Thanks to Hearty Roots Community Farm, Poughkeepsie Farm Project, Feather Ridge, Hudson Valley Fresh, Bread Alone, Perry's Pickles, Fleishers Craft Butchery, Evolving Media, and Kingston Wine Co.



Community Fall Harvest Party

In September, over 100 people came to the farm to celebrate the harvest season. Food was generously provided by the Bruderhof Community, DMZ, and Just For You. The Center for Creative Education's students entertained with dancing and drumming. Citizen Action volunteers registered voters and informed residents about community issues. Guests toured the farm, picked pumpkins, and enjoyed a lovely fall evening.

2016 Growth

In 2016, we sprouted some growth!

Through a grant from Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley's Farm Fresh Food Initiative, **we were able to expand the size of the farm.** In September we added 7 more 50' beds to increase the size of our Midtown farm to 1/3 of an acre of growing space. Over 40 volunteers helped us move wood chips and soil to expand the farm.

We added a **Children's garden** of 8 raised beds where young learners can explore natural cycles of plant growth, vegetable varieties and nutrition in a space specifically for them to learn, plant, harvest and enjoy. 175 children learned, explored and snacked in the Children's Garden in 2016.

We added an Education Director and are planning to expand our **youth development program**, Training the Next Generation of Growers, from one season to three. We'll now have youth, ages 14-18, working and learning on the farm during spring, summer and fall farm crews.

Education programs

Added four classes from the George Washington School.

Worked with our first classes from Kingston High School, engaging English Language Learners in hands-on learning.

Hosted two Healthy Ulster Families family play groups at the farm.

Partnered with Center for Creative Education, leveraging the power of our organizations.



Farm stands

At the community's request we added a mobile farm market stop at Governor Clinton Apartments to our route. This is in addition to our weekly farm stand at the YMCA and our mobile market stops at Kingston Library, both Health Alliance campuses, and Yosman Towers.

Volunteers

United Healthcare employees spent a day working on the farm as part of their commitment to volunteering in the community. Employees from Gateway Industries participated in United Way's Day of Caring at our farm. We hosted young adults and job coaches from RCAL, providing valuable work training experience to young adults preparing to enter the workforce.



2016 Donors

Foundations/Grants

Alcoa Inc.

Dyson Foundation

Local Economies Project

Pfeffer Beach Foundation

Rondout Savings Bank

Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley

Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food Grant
of the Community Foundations of the
Hudson Valley

Ulster County Community Response
Fund of the Community Foundations of
the Hudson Valley

How to donate

VISIT

kingstonymcafarmproject.org/support

OR SEND US A CHECK INSTEAD

Payable to YMCA of Kingston, "Farm Project"
in the memo line

MAIL TO:

YMCA

Attention: Eleni Dedovich

507 Broadway

Kingston, NY 12401



Individuals

Jeanie Antonelle
Ilana Berger and Eli Dueker
Ed Blouin
Kevin Cahill
Committee to Re-elect Phil Kirschner to
City of Kingston Judge
Lindsay and Terence Duvall
Kayla and Mark Feldman
Marge and Don Gagnon
Sarah Heady
Michael and Brenda Hereth
Robin Holland and Mark Stein
Babette Holland
Dr Thomas Koshy
Floyd Lattin and Ward Mintz
Susan Linn
RoseMarie Maresca and Don McCormick
Erica Marks and Dan George
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Kerry McQuaide
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Erin Riley
Sean Ritchey
Karin Roux
Caitlin Salemi
Junice SantaAna
Eli Schloss and Mary Redmond
Reynolds Scott-Childress
Lindsay Shands
Sarah Snider
Sangi van den Nouweland
David Vigil
Liz Welter and Sarah Hoyes
Jack and Mary Jo Wimbish
Dick and Cheryl Wimbish
Lisa Zaretsky

Businesses

Anahata : Yoga and Healing Arts
Another Fork in the Road
The Anchor
Birch Body Care
Black Creek Mercantile & Trading Co
Blue Stone Natural Health
Boitson's Restaurant
Bread Alone
Bruderhof Community
Catskill Fungi
DMZ
Duo Bistro
Ester Wine Shop
Evolving Media Network
Feather Ridge Farm
Fleishers Craft Butchery
Glo by Debbie Dougan
Hearty Roots Community Farm
Highland Farm Game Meats
Hudson Valley Fresh
Jay Teske Leather Co.
JK Wines & Spirits
Just For You
Kingston Farmers Market
Kingston Plaza Promotional Fund
Kingston Wine Co.
Knot Just Reflexology
Le Shag
Limber Tree Services Inc.
Liz Welter, LMT
Luminary Publishing
Maynard Farms
Migliorelli Farm
Mohonk Preserve
O+ Festival
Orange County Distillery
Outdated: An Antique Cafe
Perry's Pickles
Petalos Floral Design
Sav-on Party Supply
Tousey Winery
Stockade Tavern
Ustya Tarnawsky
Vanessa Vera Massage

**Thank you to our volunteers- we appreciate your
invaluable contribution to our mission!**



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