

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

Friends,

At a time when the world can feel heavy, we believe something simple and powerful still has the ability to bring people together: a garden.

As a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting youth garden programs, **KidsGardening has spent more than four decades helping children and educators experience the power of gardens as places of learning, connection, and growth.** As Board Chair and Executive Director, we are proud and honored to help steward this mission and the growing community that makes this work possible.

Gardens are places of joy. They are places where curiosity grows, confidence takes root, and children discover they are capable of nurturing life. They are also places of safety and belonging. In schoolyards, community spaces, and backyards across the country, gardens help children feel calm, connected, and hopeful.

In 2025, the KidsGardening community continued to prove just how powerful these spaces can be. Together, we supported 266 youth-serving organizations, reaching 67,846 children through garden grants, garden builds, volunteer partnerships, and community contests. We distributed \$372,500 in grant funding and \$17,500 in gardening supplies, helping programs grow thriving gardens that serve as outdoor classrooms and community hubs.

The impact of these gardens is best understood through the everyday moments educators witness with their students. One educator shared a story about two young children with speech delays who were both nervous about the Japanese beetles that appeared in the garden. Over time, their shared curiosity helped them connect. Their fear turned into fascination. They learned to gently hold the beetles, showed them to each other, and spent more time together in the garden. What began as a shared worry became a friendship and a space where both children grew more confident.

These moments matter. They show how gardens create ripple effects far beyond the soil. When children grow food, they grow confidence. When classrooms garden together, they strengthen relationships. When communities gather around shared green spaces, they build connection, resilience, and care for one another.

Our educational resources extended that impact even further this year, reaching 2.4 million children through free lesson plans, webinars, and courses that help educators bring joyful, hands-on learning into their classrooms and gardens.

None of this work happens alone. It happens because of a growing community of educators, families, donors, volunteers, and partners like you who believe that when children connect with the natural world, they grow into compassionate leaders and engaged community members.

Thank you for helping us cultivate joy, nurture safe spaces, and grow stronger communities together.

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Christie Kane  
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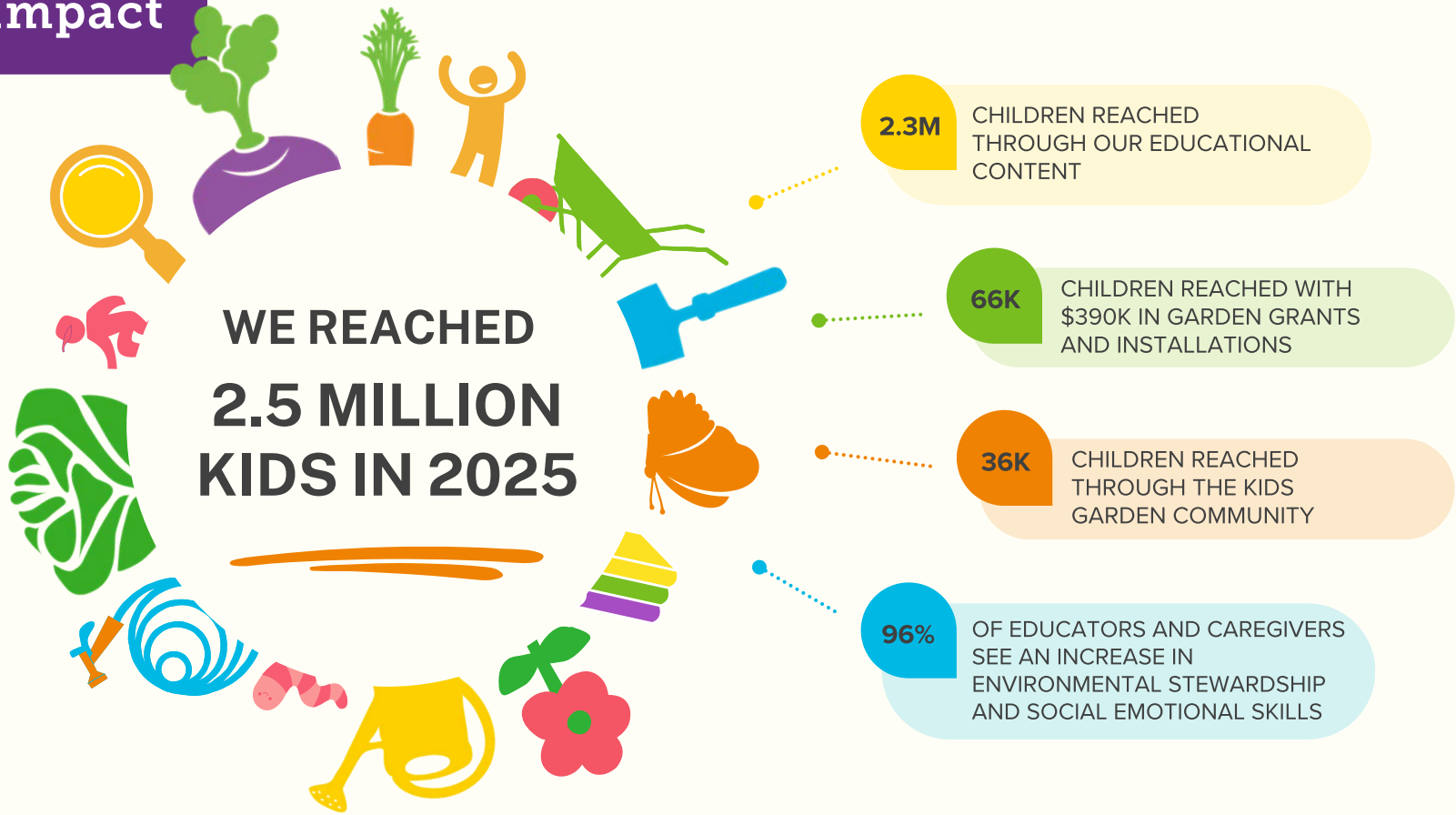


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Em Shipman  
Executive Director



## Our Impact



## Learning Comes Alive in the Garden

At San Juan Island School District's elementary garden, students are building more than fairy houses. They are building confidence, creativity, and connection through hands-on learning.

Using KidsGardening resources and curriculum ideas, teachers have created a garden program where students explore science, nature, and teamwork in meaningful ways. One favorite activity is the Fairy House Project, where children design and build small structures from natural materials gathered in the garden.

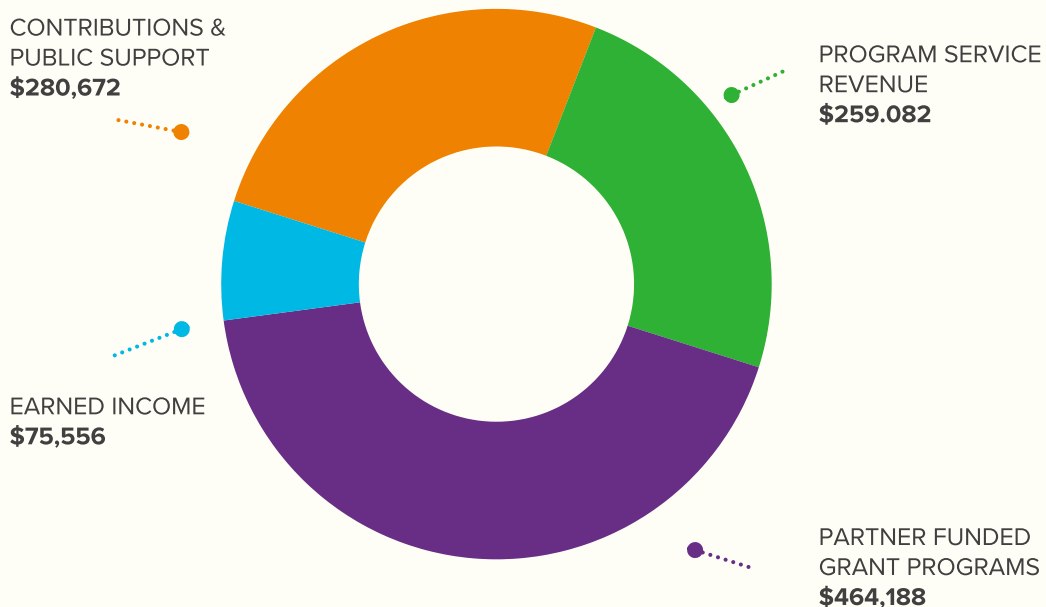
The school's occupational therapist, Lara, has seen the impact firsthand, especially for students who struggle in traditional classroom settings. "I'll never forget one student who was hesitant to participate at first," she shared. "After getting involved in designing and building our fairy garden, they found a sense of creativity and ownership that carried over into other areas of learning."

Lara says KidsGardening "has been an incredible resource," helping strengthen the program with new ideas and curriculum support. Today, the garden has become a place where "students of all ages develop leadership and a strong sense of community," one twig at a time.

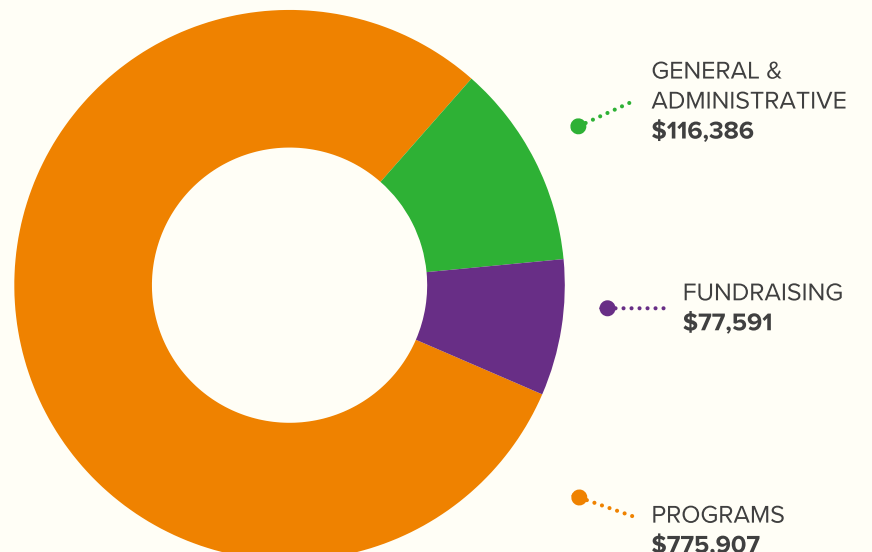


## 2025 Financials

### Revenue



### Expenses



## Programs

As a national nonprofit, we help kids learn and grow through gardening by providing **grants**, **original educational resources** and curricula, and a free **online community** that supports educators and youth garden programs across the country.



### GRANTS

“ One of the most powerful moments that reflects the impact of our garden program came from a second-grade student named Sebastian, who stood proudly next to a row of vegetables he helped plant. With dirt-streaked hands and a beaming smile, he said, “I didn’t know I could grow food. I want to teach my little brother how to do this at home!” His words captured exactly what the program aims to do: empower students through hands-on learning that extends beyond the classroom. ”

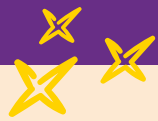


In 2025, we awarded **\$390,000** in cash and supplies to **266 programs** nationwide!



### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

“ I love the lessons and variety of activities for students. I'm always looking for ways to change things up, and your site helps with so much! ”

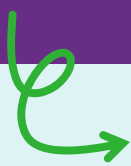


We reached **2.4 million children** through online resources, webinars, and courses in 2025!



### KIDS GARDEN COMMUNITY

“ I love getting new ideas and hearing about what others are doing across the country. It helps me to feel connected to a larger community and I love it!! ”



**95%** of our 9,000 Kids Garden Community members say this community better equips them to garden with kids!

“ One of our 2nd-grade students, Lily, used to say she 'didn't like vegetables.' But after helping plant, water, and harvest snap peas from the garden, she proudly told her class, 'These are the best peas ever—I grew them myself! ”

