

2022

IMPACT REPORT





Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of the past year, it brings me immense pleasure to present to you KidsGardening's 2022 Impact Report. This report not only celebrates the strides we've taken together but also the significance of our shared mission to nurture youth through the joys of gardening and garden-based learning.

At KidsGardening, we are driven by a commitment to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to play, learn, and grow through the garden. Our programs ignite curiosity, foster creativity, and instill a deep appreciation for the environment in the hearts of young learners. We firmly believe that connecting children with the earth at an early age not only imparts valuable life skills but also nurtures a sense of responsibility and stewardship for our planet.

This 2022 Impact Report showcases the outcomes that have been achieved through your support. From vibrant snapshots of children exploring the living soil for garden friends to planting young fruit trees, each page paints a picture of the transformational experiences made possible with your support.

As a community, we have been able to:

- Reach 63k kids through grant programs that establish and maintain garden spaces in schools and communities, providing children with hands-on opportunities to explore, experiment, and learn.
- Develop comprehensive garden-based lesson plans and curricula that integrate science, math, and art, nurturing well-rounded young minds, delivering this to more than 2.8 million children nationwide.
- Bring 7k garden educators to learn together in the Kids Garden Community. This community is removing barriers to garden-based learning and increasing the number of kids in the US who have access to gardens.

None of this would have been possible without your belief in the power of gardening as an educational tool. Your support has ignited a passion for learning in countless young hearts and sown the seeds of a brighter future.

As we move forward into the coming year, we are excited about the prospects that lie ahead. The demand for KidsGardening programs is higher than ever before. In fact, we are only able to award 17% of the grant applications we receive. Schools and organizations across the country are hungry to implement garden-based learning programs.

In 2024, with your continued support, we aim to expand our reach, touch more lives, and continue to cultivate generations of youth more connected to their bodies and minds, their communities, and their planet.

Thank you for being an integral part of this work. We invite you to delve into the 2022 Impact Report and celebrate the progress we've made together. Together, we are sowing the seeds of wonder and nurturing the growth of young minds.

With heartfelt appreciation,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Em Shipman'.

Em Shipman
Executive Director

Photo: John Muir Elementary Foundation (Grantee), Cover Photo: Summer Photo Contest



To Our Community,

In the past year, KidsGardening made significant strides in promoting the well-being and development of children by fostering a connection to nature through gardening. Our efforts resulted in a multitude of positive outcomes for youth across the country.

First and foremost, KidsGardening empowered thousands of children to become more environmentally conscious and responsible citizens. Through our various grant programs, courses, webinars, and educational resources, we instill a sense of environmental stewardship in children, teaching them about sustainable growing practices and the importance of conserving natural resources. This not only contributes to a greener planet but also equips children with essential life skills.

KidsGardening worked to combat food insecurity by providing resources to teach children how to grow their own fruits and vegetables. In a world plagued by nutritional challenges, this organization has played a pivotal role in promoting healthy eating habits among youth. By providing them with the knowledge and tools to cultivate their own produce, KidsGardening is fostering self-sufficiency.

Our efforts have had a profound impact on children's mental and emotional well-being. Gardening has been proven to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance cognitive development in children. Through our initiatives, KidsGardening has given children a therapeutic outlet to cope with the challenges of the modern world. Our programs also encourage young people to come together, share experiences, and develop important social skills away from the screens that otherwise dominate their lives.

KidsGardening's accomplishments in 2022 underscore the profound difference that this dedicated non-profit organization can make in the lives of children and communities. Through our commitment to environmental stewardship, food security, social connection, and adaptability, we demonstrated that the power of gardening extends far beyond the soil.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Feinson".

Jim Feinson
Board Chair

Photo: The Governor Morehead School (Grantee)

KidsGardening creates opportunities for kids to play, learn, and grow through gardening, engaging their natural curiosity and wonder.

We want every child to experience the unique transformation that occurs when they spend time caring for a garden, be it outside, in a classroom, or in a cup on the kitchen windowsill. Since 1982, KidsGardening has served as a premier support provider for youth garden programs nationwide.



Our Board
makes this
work possible!



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Secretary

We're putting **diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility** at the center of our work.

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are core to KidsGardening's mission of creating opportunities for all kids to play, learn, and grow in a garden. We know that the families, educators, and children that we serve live within systems of oppression in their daily lives, and educational spaces and gardens are no exception.

Our Commitments

- 1 Understand who we reach and serve
- 2 Improve the accessibility of our work
- 3 Fund youth garden programs that need it most
- 4 Prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within our educational content and leverage our platform to give an equitable voice to all communities in the youth gardening movement
- 5 Educate the KidsGardening staff and Board of Directors on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
- 6 Diversify the KidsGardening Board of Directors

[See Our Progress](#)



We reached 3.3 million kids!

1.7M KIDS
through
garden
activities

970K KIDS
through
lesson plans

170k KIDS
through
webinars and
courses

59K KIDS
through
the Kids
Garden
Community

63K KIDS
through
grants and
garden
installations

350K KIDS
through
curriculum
publications

“Thank you for being such a resource for grant applications, information and ideas. You have been **invaluable** to my efforts to start a community garden at my school.”

William, KidsGardening Donor

**In 2022, we awarded
\$203,000 in cash and
garden supplies to 244
youth garden programs
around the country!**

“This grant was the lifeline needed to launch our garden club. This grant enabled us to build a 16x4 foot raised garden bed. Lessons were built around all the materials that were given to us. The joy the children had these past months was so rewarding for everyone that came out to help with the program. Thank you so much for supporting our garden club and helping this new program become the pride of our community and show to everyone the great things that can happen when we work together.”

Kim-Cora Kay, McDuffie County Farm Bureau, Youth Garden Grantee



Garden Build at York Center Elementary

Over the years, KidsGardening and PT Holdings have installed school gardens across Addison County, IL, with projects ranging from pollinator gardens and themed raised beds to weather stations and storage sheds.

In September 2022, KidsGardening and PT Holdings hosted a garden installation event at York Center Elementary in Lombard, Illinois, transforming an unused grassy space into a school garden and outdoor classroom.

The garden build included constructing eight raised beds, four benches, four picnic tables, two bean forts, two large sun sails, two trellised entries, a garden shed, a compost tumbler, and a pollinator garden expansion that included a rain barrel stand, edging, and a lattice for vertical gardening.

Teachers and staff are excited to teach in the garden space and create opportunities for hands-on learning, ecology in action, stewardship of the planet, observation of plants and animals, teamwork, and sharing fruits and vegetables.

“The garden installation has been a positive change in the York Center School community. Students are very excited to learn about plants and how they grow. Teachers and staff are eager to share the outdoor classroom with their students.”

Rosanne Orsi, York Center School

Photos: Garden Build Day at York Center Elementary School

Budding Botanist Grant

For the fifth year in a row, KidsGardening was thrilled to partner with the Klorane Botanical Foundation to offer the Budding Botanist Grant. In 2022, eighteen schools were selected to receive \$1,000 in funding to support garden-based initiatives that encourage students learn about plants, explore their world, and take care of the life they discover in their local ecosystems.

Brasher Falls Central School District in Brasher Falls, New York, was awarded a 2022 Budding Botanist Grant. The new courtyard garden provided an opportunity for students to learn what was possible to grow in a small area. The school developed a greenhouse, a pollinator garden, and a nature trail. Throughout the year the students learned about fertilizer, environmental impacts of various farming practices, composting, and about native versus invasive species. Also, the school offered a greenhouse club, which became an inclusive space that provided a learning and working environment for many students experiencing marginalization.

“We worked with a local sawmill to get cedar so that our garden boxes could be chemical free and locally sourced, and the boxes were built by students.”

*Jerusha Chapman-Hirsch,
Brasher Falls Central School District*

Photos: Brasher Falls Central School District (Grantee)





Youth Garden Grant

As the oldest and longest-running youth garden grant in the nation, the Youth Garden Grant has supported school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities since 1982. This past year, fifty programs were chosen from 600 applicants to receive \$250 and a product award package designed to help start new garden programs or expand existing ones. A collective total of \$63,000 was awarded in cash and supplies!

Kohala Elementary School in Kapa'au, Hawaii, was awarded a 2022 Youth Garden Grant. The school used the funds and materials to offer hands-on garden classes to all 350 students throughout the school day and start an afterschool program for 50 youth that engaged 35 community volunteers. The students planted seeds, grew vegetables, made their own pots, grew mushrooms, and harvested native Hawaiian crops such as taro, turmeric, and sweet potatoes.

"Many of our youth learn better through hands on application of concepts, and we are grateful for their success. One graduating fifth grader who will go on to middle school next year said, "In the garden I can be a leader, working hard with my class to make something good grow. I like to come to the garden when I feel angry, and digging instead of fighting. The garden makes me feel calm and happy."

Heather Brovsky, Kohala Elementary School

Supported by our generous donors and American Meadows, Back to the Roots, BB Barns, Bluestone, Botanical Interests, Corona Tools, Crescent Garden, Dramm Corporation, Epicor, FineGardening, Garden Tower, Gardener's Supply Company, High Mowing, JavaCycle, Meadows Farm, Smart Pot, Thriving Design, U+Me

Photo: Kohala Elementary School (Grantee)

GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant

In 2022, KidsGardening and The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation partnered once again to offer the GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant. A collective total of \$90,000 was awarded to 150 programs that are bringing the life-enhancing benefits of gardens and greenspaces to communities across the United States.

Plus Specialty Award

The Boys & Girls Club of the Wausau Area in Wausau, WI received a Plus specialty award allowing the Club to replace old ground-level garden beds with new, accessible garden beds that ensure all can participate in gardening, regardless of ability and in support of all sensory needs. The Club hosted a volunteer work day to construct the garden beds!

Pride Specialty Award

A Pride specialty award winner, the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at Baldwin Park High School in Baldwin Park, CA created the new Peace and Pride Garden, a safe space on campus for LGBTQ+ students, allies, and others. The space is filled with Pride flags, succulents, potted plants, and comfortable seating for the GSA club to host meetings. The garden has sprouted new friendships with non-LGBTQ student allies while students care for what is growing.

Equity Specialty Award

BUILD Inc., in Chicago, IL, an Equity specialty award winner, created a garden space with raised garden beds, purchased a rooster and welcomed four baby chicks, operated a hydroponic garden, donated produce to youth, families, and local residents, and delivered a food justice course to youth that included cooking demonstrations by vegan chefs who taught participants how to make plant-based foods from scratch.

Photo: BUILD Inc. (Grantee)





Little Seeds Pollinators Pals Grant

The Little Seeds Pollinator Pals Grant presented by Little Seeds Kids and KidsGardening is designed to support youth garden programs interested in preserving and creating pollinator habitats to help rebuild declining pollinator populations. In 2022, twenty programs were selected to receive \$500 in funding to start a new or improve an existing pollinator garden.

Virginia Smith Elementary in Harrah, Oklahoma, was awarded a 2022 Little Seeds Pollinator Pals Grant. The kindergarten and special education classrooms developed a new pollinator garden space to teach their students all about insects. The mission was to connect their science program to the pollinator space, teaching students where pollinators obtain their food and that plants need water and light to live and grow.

“We were able to plant wildflowers specifically developed for bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. By teaching our children to plant and preserve the pollinating plants we have on school grounds, we hope that they will take these skills to their homes and promote these skills in their families in the community.”

Jo Anna Perdue, Virginia Smith Elementary



Kids Garden Month

How does your garden take care of you?

We celebrated Kids Garden Month in April with our annual contest! In 2022 we encouraged kids to think about the ways gardening creates opportunities for community connection, time with friends or family, a place to relax or be inspired, provides food, or makes their world a more beautiful place! Kids submitted drawings, photos, videos, and more to share their love for gardens.

Group Grand Prize Winner

Third and fourth graders at Environmental Charter School created inspiring videos where these young gardeners told us the many many ways their school garden cares for them. Here they are with their Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day prize package!

Individual Grand Prize Winner

Ten year old Sadie Alter drew this incredible illustration of five ways the garden takes care of her from providing oxygen to being a source of income.

[View the Winning Entries](#)

Supported by our generous donors and Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day.



Kids Garden Community

In its second year, the Kids Garden Community provided resources, connection, and support to over 6,000 members!

Over three-thousand-five hundred educators, caregivers, and volunteers joined our free online Kids Garden Community in 2022. They received peer-to-peer individualized support through eight Community Chats (Zoom meetups), vetted libraries for resources and funding opportunities, and many many discussion threads. Members shared advice and built connections while swapping seeds, sharing recommendations for garden supplies, and so much more. As one member describes, “It’s like a support system at my fingertips”!



[Explore the Community](#)

Supported by our generous donors and garden industry partners.

“The large amount of resources available including lesson plans, grant opportunities, and virtual classes helps both sustain our garden and also connects me with educators doing the same thing in other locations. The Community posts also really help me feel supported and inspired by other garden educators.”

Kids Garden Community Member

97%

of members surveyed said this community makes them feel more connected to the youth gardening movement

94%

of members surveyed said this community better equips them to garden with kids



Educational Content Spotlights!

Growing School Food Gardens

With the support of a USDA Farm to School Implementation Grant, KidsGardening created the Growing School Food Gardens Community to facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities, mentorship, networking, and resource exchanges among food garden educators across the country. The year-long program included Kids Garden Community discussions, a four-part webinar series, and individual coaching calls all culminating in a trove of resources titled the [Seeds of Success Toolkit](#). Meant to inspire and instruct, the Toolkit offers the who, what, where, why, when, and how behind developing an edible youth garden program and is available as a downloadable guide in English and Spanish.

National Head Start Association

KidsGardening provided support to the National Head Start Association through educational webinars for their audience, Seasonal Garden Story Times, an in-person presentation at their national Parent and Family Engagement Conference in December, and continued promotion of the online course, Gardening with Kids Basics, developed last year for their virtual Academy.



Landscape Design for Youth Gardens E-Course

With support from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, KidsGardening developed its first [e-course](#) to introduce participants to the basic steps and elements of landscape design that can be used to plan an engaging and appealing youth-friendly garden.



Decomposition Activity Pack

KidsGardening and Watson Gloves partnered to create the [Decomposition Activity Pack](#) for kids to learn more about decomposition and meet some of the organisms responsible through four activities and corresponding worksheets centered around ecology, sustainability, and math.



Growing Together in the Garden Toolkit

KidsGardening teamed up with Kiwanis clubs and Service Leadership Programs to create a [toolkit](#) for gardening with kids that is geared towards the Kiwanis family, but also perfect for anyone looking to start a youth garden.



Elementary Educators' Guide to Container Gardening

Our friends at Crescent Garden sponsored the creation of [The Elementary Educators' Guide to Container Gardening](#). The guide offers educators the basics of container garden design, planting tips, and curriculum connections, along with ten ideas for creating engaging themed container gardens.



Celebrating Native Pollinators

KidsGardening partnered with Wyman's to develop three native pollinator-themed [activity packs](#): Family Guide to Native Pollinators, Berry Good Friends, and Family Guide to Native Berries.



Pollinator Pals Activity Book

In conjunction with the 2022 Little Seeds Pollinator Pals grant, KidsGardening released a [39-page guide](#) that includes previously published pollinator spotlights, along with pollinator coloring pages and all new activity sheets.



Activity Packs for Containers

KidsGardening partnered with SmartPot to develop three [Garden Activity Packs](#) for using containers with cooking, science, and art themes.

New Resources in 2022!

Siembra con Niños

KidsGardening launched the “[Siembra con Niños](#)” section of our website with thirty-five of our most popular lesson plans and activities now available in Spanish. We plan to continuously expand the section to offer more Spanish language resources in the coming years.



Garden Stories

[Garden Stories](#) highlight the work of garden educators and celebrate diverse representation in the youth garden community. In February, we featured the amazing work of Jasmine Jefferson a gardener and community organizer who created the online collective Black Girls with Gardens dedicated to providing answers, tips, and inspiration to women of color interested in gardening.

Webinars

In 2022, KidsGardening offered fifteen [educational webinars](#) to provide live, engaging, continuing education opportunities for our audience. Over the course of the year we engaged 8000+ educators and caregivers. Webinar topics included fundraising, antiracism and abolitionist teaching, container gardening, STEAM, and so much more!



“Your resources are so well thought out and save me from hours of resurrecting my own lessons from classes I did decades ago. You have everything I need right at my finger tips. Just completed a program for kids ages 3-11 on seeds. I love **KidsGardening!**”

Chris, KidsGardening Donor

Looking to the Future

2023 - 2025 Strategic Plan Overview



Community

KidsGardening is the primary convener of youth garden educators and caregivers across the country, facilitating and curating peer learning opportunities and a supportive network for more than 25k Kids Garden Community members.



Collaboration

KidsGardening is the leading organization bringing together peer organizations and youth garden leaders to reduce duplication of efforts, share knowledge and resources, and better serve garden educators and youth.



Grantmaking

KidsGardening is working with peers to collaboratively award more than 1,000 grants annually. One hundred percent of grants are awarded to under-resourced communities.



Educational Content

KidsGardening is reaching an average of 40k educators and caregivers a month with in-demand, high-quality content in the most popular formats.



Financial

KidsGardening has a diversified revenue stream and an annual revenue of \$1.5 million.

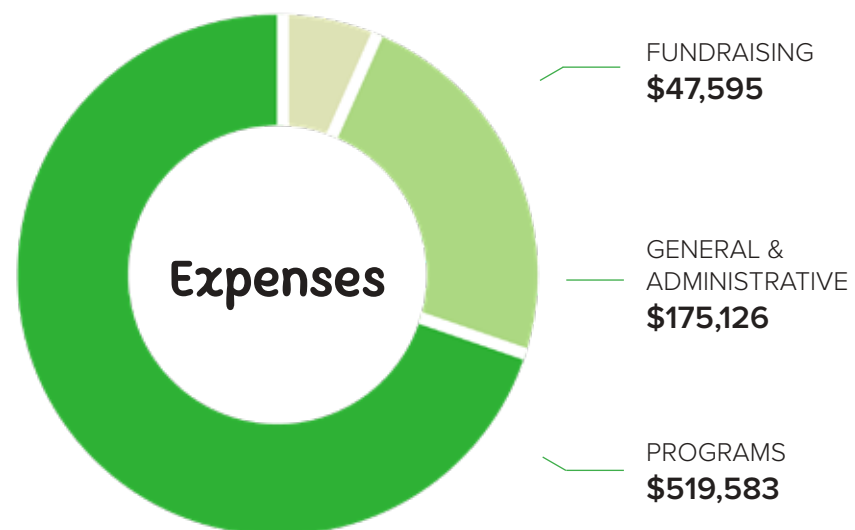
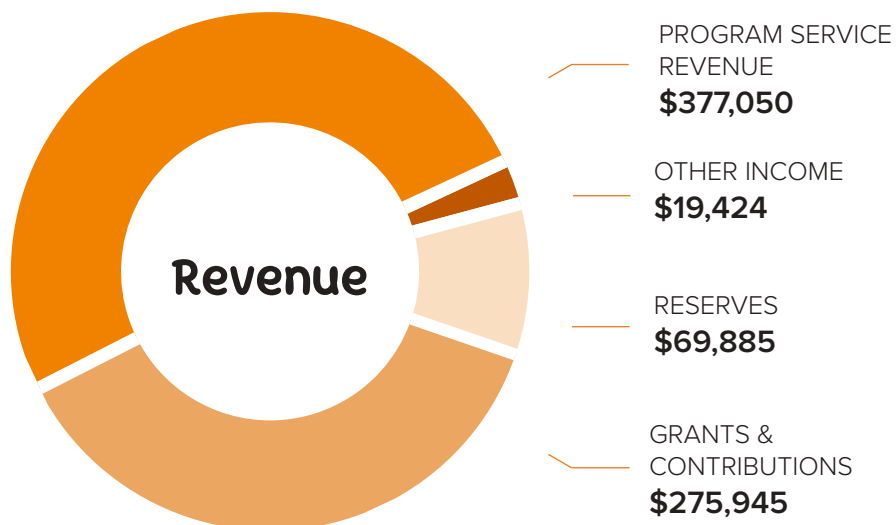
Our Goals



“As an educator, it is sometimes hard to know if what you’re teaching really has had an impact on your student’s lives. But all the proof I needed to hear was in the one sentence I heard repeated so many times from my students at school: ‘Are we going to the garden today?’”

Finley Tevlin, Central Elementary, La Grande School District

Financials



Photos: Blue Sky Therapeutic Riding and Respite (Grantee), Summer Photo Contest



Thank you to our many donors, sponsors, and partners in 2022!



Photo: Summer Photo Contest



Support Our Work

Recurring donations, bequests, gifts of stock, gifts in memory, or even a vehicle donation — every gift matters. No matter the size.



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Connect With Us

Follow along with a growing community and share the great things happening in your gardens.



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Photo: Summer Photo Contest