CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY GARDENS

Nourishes Healthy Communities

ANNUAL REPORT 2012
Executive Director’s Message

Dear Friends,

Webster’s Dictionary defines ‘Progress’ as “a forward or onward movement” and “a gradual betterment.” To me, the word ‘progress’ truly epitomizes Capital District Community Gardens’ steady, continuous, vigorous growth in 2012 and over the past decade.

This past year we have grown to new highs in the number of people we are reaching with healthy food—125,000 residents with more than 333 tons of fresh produce. These fruits and vegetables are truly making a difference in the lives of children, families and seniors—filling hungry bellies and reducing disease by improving nutrition.

As important as ever to our work—CDCG devoted considerable effort in 2012 to the creation of three new community gardens each in a different county where we work. And, even more significantly, we added three more properties to our growing list of gardens that are forever protected urban green spaces with the receipt of these property deeds. One of these parcels was donated by a family whose generous land transfer will allow families for decades to come grow their own food.

It is only with community assistance that we are able to accomplish these goals and that’s why we are so grateful to the growing number of individuals and businesses that are choosing to support Capital District Community Gardens. This year we also received important exposure in all the Region’s print and broadcast media outlets for our work and national coverage in Relish a publication of Parade magazine.

This recognition is the catalyst needed as Capital District Community Gardens takes on its largest transplanting project yet—the creation of a Regional hub for local agriculture and food access—The Urban Grow Center.

Imagine vibrant urban and rural communities, connected by the food they grow, process, distribute and enjoy. The Urban Grow Center will enable Capital District Community Gardens to expand its use of agriculture to address the universal need for nutritious food, thereby improving the economic, physical and social health of the Capital Region.

The overwhelming support from our volunteers, donors and community partners that fueled our achievements last year gives us confidence that, with your help, we can raise the $2.5 million needed to fund the first phase of construction on our Urban Grow Center. I look forward to talking to you as we grow this dream together.

With gratitude,

Amy Klein
Executive Director

From the opening of its first gardens in 1975, to the dynamic and multifaceted organization of today, Capital District Community Gardens has worked to reduce the impact of poor nutrition on public health in the Capital Region. CDCG organizes community gardens, improves access to healthy food, offers nutrition and horticulture education for all ages and coordinates urban greening programs in Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and southern Saratoga counties.

2012 Overview

In 2012 Capital District Community Gardens’ past, present and future melded together in a very exciting way. Expansions of existing programs and new initiatives that were launched in 2011 brought the organization’s daily bustle to record levels. With new tasks and communities to serve, CDCG enjoyed the privilege of involving many new people in our work over the past year, including 10 staff, four board members, 87 volunteers and almost 300 new donors. It is now clear that more space and resources are needed to accommodate our current operations and our future growth. In the latter part of 2012, CDCG started taking the steps toward the creation of our Urban Grow Center, a new CDCG headquarters where the power of local agriculture can be harnessed for the social, economic and physical benefit of the entire region. As we look forward to growing together with you in the future, we applaud what you helped us achieve in 2012. Last year, we nourished 125,000 residents with more than 333 tons of fresh produce that was grown in our community gardens, harvested on our urban farm, purchased from our mobile markets, acquired by our healthy convenience store locations and shared at our communal tables.
Community Gardens

CDCG’s Community Gardens program makes 880 plots available in 49 gardens throughout Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and southern Saratoga counties, empowering nearly 4,000 residents to grow their own organic food. In 2012, CDCG established three new gardens, one of which is CDCG’s second garden in Saratoga County and two of which expanded the program’s reach into new Schenectady and South Troy neighborhoods.

- Opened 47th, 48th and 49th Community Gardens
- Nourished 5,840 residents with 157 tons of harvested, organic produce
- Involved 140 gardeners and community members in 20 gardening and culinary education classes

The Veggie Mobile, Sprout and Veggie Rx

CDCG’s Veggie Mobile and Veggie Mobile Sprout are traveling markets that deliver fresh, affordable produce to low income neighborhoods, childcare centers and senior residences throughout Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady counties. Through Veggie Rx, CDCG partners with health centers to issue produce prescriptions, which are redeemable on the mobile markets, to diabetic and hypertensive patients. During the 2012 growing season (May – October) 74% of the produce available at CDCG’s markets was purchased from farms in New York State. Establishing six new locations in 2012, CDCG expanded Veggie Mobile service to include south Troy.

- Nourished 66,000 residents with 140 tons of fresh produce
- Distributed to 39 locations: 22 Veggie Mobile, nine Sprout and eight childcare centers
- Involved 171 diabetic and hypertensive patients in the Veggie Rx program and redeemed coupons at a rate of 45%
The Produce Project

CDCG’s Produce Project is a year-round, job and life-skills training program that increases educational and employment opportunities for underprivileged youth from Troy High School. Students are given a stipend, school credit and a harvest share for cultivating crops on three acres of urban farmland and selling them at local markets and restaurants. In 2012, CDCG built a second greenhouse on The Produce Project’s farm, increasing the program’s capacity for winter growth by 31%. Nine students found new employment, four enrolled in college and all of the seniors CDCG worked with earned their high school diplomas.

- Harvested more than three tons of organic produce, 2,362 pounds of which were distributed to low income consumers (doubling 2011’s low-income distribution)
- Engaged 23 students in 5,490 work hours, 12 field trips and eight family-style community dinners
- Involved 130 volunteers, who devoted 790 hours, and 4 interns, who worked 371 hours

The Healthy Convenience Store Initiative

CDCG’s Healthy Convenience Store Initiative makes fresh produce available at convenience stores where inner-city residents throughout Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady counties shop every day. CDCG partners with store owners to install custom-designed refrigeration units, to limit mark-up and to stock produce twice a week. In 2012, CDCG partnered with local after school programs to involve children in the creation of new HCSI signs, which are helping to advertise fresh food while improving the aesthetic look of urban store fronts.

- Established partnerships with two new stores, increasing service to 12 locations
- Nourished more than 52,000 residents with over 22 tons of fresh produce
- Created and installed larger, 12 cubic foot, refrigeration units in some stores, increasing amount of retail space dedicated to produce to 136 cubic feet
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Taste Good Series
CDCG’s Taste Good Series is a six-week-long nutrition program that educates inner-city students, in pre-school through second grade, about the delicious taste and healthy benefits of fresh produce. Each week, CDCG’s Educator introduces a new fruit or vegetable and makes it fun for students to give them a try by incorporating songs, books, age-appropriate science experiments and art into lesson plans. In 2012 CDCG received new gardener inquiries from parents of students who completed the Taste Good Series.

- Engaged 283 students from 12 classrooms
- 100% of the students participated in the activities and 99% tasted the produce
- Incorporated new activities and produce varieties into the lesson plans

Urban Greening
CDCG’s Urban Greening program involves volunteers in public landscaping and tree planting projects and educates community members about ongoing care for urban green spaces. Urban forestry projects provide major benefits for cities, including reduced pollution, improved air quality, reduced greenhouse effects, cooler summer temperatures, reduced storm water runoff, improved aesthetics and increased property values.

- Planted 60 trees in Cohoes
- Involved 65 volunteers, 35 of whom were high school students
- Many trees were planted in newly scouted locations throughout Cohoes

Squash Hunger
CDCG’s Squash Hunger program is a fresh food donation initiative, for which CDCG relies on volunteers and donors to improve the nutritional value of meals served in our region’s food pantries and shelters. CDCG’s donation bins are located at markets and grocery stores throughout the region, so it is convenient for gardeners, shoppers and farmers to donate produce while they shop. In 2012, the drought and resulting crop shortages posed new challenges, which CDCG’s Squash Hunger program overcame to maintain donation levels from previous years.

- Established partnerships with five new donation sites and six new delivery locations
- Involved 25 volunteers who dedicated 380 hours
- Collected more than 11 tons of donated produce, three tons of which were gleaned from local farms
Financial Statement (Audited Financials 2012)

INCOME $1,315,949

- Government Grants $559,188 (42%)
- Private Foundation Grants $242,562 (18%)
- Veggie Mobile Sales $172,007 (13%)
- Special Events $72,163 (5%)
- Individual Donations $63,191 (5%)
- Corporate Sponsorship $63,145 (5%)
- Community Gardens $44,891 (3%)
- Healthy Convenience Store Initiative Sales $39,318 (3%)
- Investments $38,621 (3%)
- Produce Project Sales $12,479
- Other $8,385

EXPENSES $1,125,419

- Veggie Mobile $350,602 (31%)
- Healthy Places Project $132,196 (12%)
- Produce Project $109,325 (10%)
- Community Gardens $108,250 (10%)
- Outreach / Education $101,719 (9%)
- Healthy Convenience Store Initiative $79,709 (7%)
- Operations $67,120 (6%)
- Fundraising $53,253 (5%)
- Grow Center Planning $38,022 (3%)
- Depreciation Expense $33,901
- Office Space $24,095
- Street Tree Planting Program $17,216 (2%)
- Professional Services $5,800
- Miscellaneous $4,211

Financial Statement (2012 Audited Financials)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents $119,844
Grants and Accounts Receivable $124,814
Pledges Receivable $28,350
Prepaid Expenses $9,793
Investments - Unrestricted $139,982

Total Current Assets $422,783

Property and Equipment

Net of Accumulated Depreciation $343,001

Other Assets

Investments - Restricted $243,895
Pledges Receivable, Net of Current $12,724
Costs - Urban Grow Center $76,765

Total Other Assets $333,384

TOTAL ASSETS $1,099,168

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Line of Credit $ -
Accounts Payable $5,906
Accrued Expenses $39,891
Deferred Revenue $29,990

Total Current Liabilities $75,787

Net Assets

Unrestricted $724,486
Temporarily Restricted $55,000
Permanently Restricted $243,895

Total Net Assets $1,023,381

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $1,099,168
Donor Acknowledgement continued

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For more information, please visit www.cdcg.org or call (518)274-8685

Capital District Community Gardens
40 River Street Troy, NY 12180