



GROWING HOPE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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REFLECTIONS ON THE SEASON

TO OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY,

Our organizational transition in leadership did not slow us down for a moment, and we have you to thank for that. Alongside our strategic planning process, much of 2022 was spent in seasons of listening, growing, exploring, and becoming. I am deeply grateful for the conversation, feedback, encouragement, and engagement many community members gave throughout this process. I am confident that we can continue to move forward in lockstep with the community.

Together, we are actualizing our vision by developing our internal capacity by committing to growing our knowledge, re-envisioning our fundraising practices, and shaping our organizational structures to be more inclusive, just, and sustainable; activating vibrant spaces and programs by committing to creating food-centered spaces of belonging where all people can be seen, heard, and celebrated for who they are; and cultivating cooperative community partnerships by committing to cultivating deeper, empowering collaboration with our neighbors.

The completion of our strategic plan marks a new era for Growing Hope. We can plan for and envision the future wildly, freely, and communally. We hired incredible staff in 2022, who, alongside anyone willing to participate, will help actualize a just and fair food system in our community.

In Solidarity,



Julius Buzzard
Executive Director

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, more than 150 volunteers contributed over 1,700 hours to the success of Growing Hope's mission. We are proud to do this work in community and solidarity with Ypsilanti.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

This year Carolyn Gehrke, our Finance Manager, celebrated her ten-year anniversary of supporting the Growing Hope mission as an employee. With a kind, generous spirit and seemingly infinite knowledge, Carolyn has been and continues to be a central figure at Growing Hope. We are grateful for Carolyn's commitment to actualizing a more just food system in Ypsilanti.



CAROLYN GEHRKE

GROWING HOPE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation recently received a gift from the estate of Amelia Kramer, with the simple instructions that it be used for feeding people experiencing poverty in Washtenaw County. To help honor this intent, in December of 2022, they set up an endowment fund of \$300,000 with Growing Hope as the beneficiary.

"We're honored to receive this incredible gift and cannot wait to see all of the good that will result."

-Sarah Wixson, Board President.

"The consistent support of this gift ensures Growing Hope's ability to foster a more equitable, sovereign food system in perpetuity. It is the foundation for long-lasting, ever-building generational health for the members of our community who an unjust food system has harmed."

-Julius Buzzard, Executive Director.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Growing Hope announced Julius Buzzard as its new Executive Director starting on July 1st. Julius has been with the organization as the Program Director since 2021, and in that short time has developed a deep understanding of our work and community.



JULIUS BUZZARD

"Julius has an innate ability to lead through fostering new ideas rooted in challenge and introspection. We look forward to continuing to serve the Ypsilanti community with his leadership."

-Sarah Wixson, Board President.

FARM & GARDEN

We prioritized donation of the produce grown on our farm to our free Community Produce Cart, Peace House Ypsi, FedUp Ministries, Teen Employees, and volunteers. This helps us solidify our mission of providing fresh produce to those most negatively impacted by an unjust food system while simultaneously upholding the Growing Hope Urban Farm as a community center.



AT A GLANCE:

3,468

pounds of produce from our farm went directly back into the community through our free Community Produce Cart, farm shares for our Teen Leadership Program participants, and donations to other community organizations.

240

bouquets of flowers were donated to local senior centers.

25

households participated in the Home Vegetable Garden Program, receiving garden beds, resources, and materials.

100

community members attended Growing Hope's garden-based workshops.



FARMERS MARKETS

The Ypsilanti Farmers Markets focused on creating a community gathering space that is more than a place to shop for local food and goods. This year, community partners, organizations, and musicians brought new life to the markets. More than twelve additional vendors joined the Depot Town Market, making it our largest farmers market yet. 600-800 folks joined us each week to celebrate local food at the in-person Ypsilanti Farmers Markets.



AT A GLANCE:

\$371,000

of local foods and goods were sold through the Ypsi Area Online Market and Ypsi Farmers Markets.

20%

of all market sales used food assistance.

91

local farmers and food producers sold their products through the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets, and Ypsi Are Online Market.

413

households placed orders through the online market.



YOUTH & SCHOOLS

The Teen Leadership Program continued to employ more than a dozen local teens. The program implemented a Senior Capstone Project where graduating seniors can design an in-depth project to work on at Growing Hope during their final summer participating in the program. In addition to hosting field trips and an after-school club, our Youth & Schools team piloted a multiweek in-class experience at Ypsilanti International Elementary School. We are thrilled to support and partner with the next generation of food activists and leaders.



AT A GLANCE:

16

teens participated in our paid Teen Leadership Program.

260

youth took part in STEM-based field trips to the Growing Hope Urban Farm & Ypsilanti Farmers Market Place.

1

classroom participated in our pilot in-class gardening and nutrition educational series

25

children participated in eight weekly sessions at the Growing Hope Urban Farm in partnership with Parkridge Summer Camp.

FOOD ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Having blossomed in maturity over the past year, the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen now supports more than three times the number of makers it did in previous years. This happened with a keen focus on establishing relationships and rapport with makers, potential makers, the incubator kitchen network across the state, and other local entrepreneurial resources to more effectively support the ecosystem as a whole. We opened the MarketPlace Hall to mission-related events and for use by our community partners as well as a means of supporting a more active and healthy Ypsilanti.



AT A GLANCE:

33 local businesses utilized the incubator kitchen.

62 hours of kitchen use was dedicated to programming by our community partners

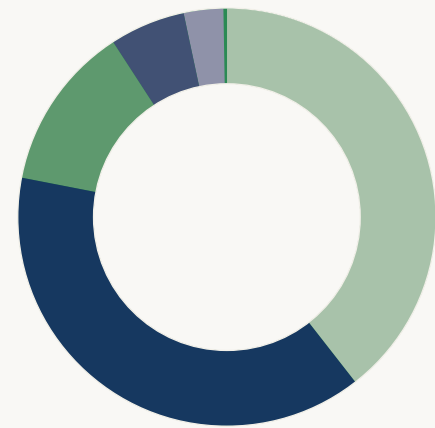
SUPPORTERS

Americana Foundation
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Barden Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Carls Foundation
Digital Lift
DTE Energy Foundation
Galens Tag Days
James A. & Faith Knight Foundation
Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation
Joseph & Vera Dresner Foundation
James R. & Anita Horn
KidsGardening.com
Key Bank Foundation
MIFMA
Michigan Fitness Foundation
Michigan Health Endowment Fund
Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation
Towsley Foundation
United Way of Washtenaw County
United Way for Southeast Michigan
USDA
Ypsilanti DDA

Arbor Trust Wealth Advisors
Bank of Ann Arbor
Capstone Tax & Financial
Concept Insurance
Church World Service, Inc.
Comcast
Dominos
First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
Jack & Jill of America
Lake Trust Credit Union
PNC Bank
Taste the Local Difference
Varnum
Washtenaw County OCED
Ypsilanti Community Schools
Zion Lutheran Church
Zingerman's

—
We additionally thank the 419 individual donors who contributed to our work in 2022.

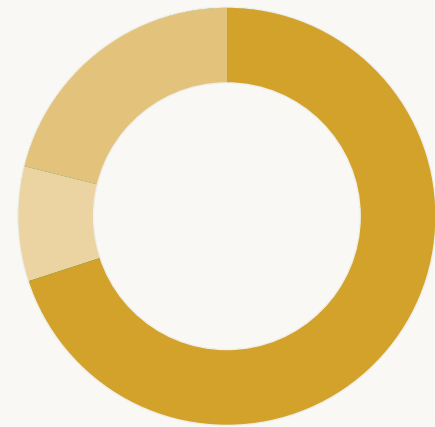
FINANCIALS



REVENUE

TOTAL: **\$925,900**

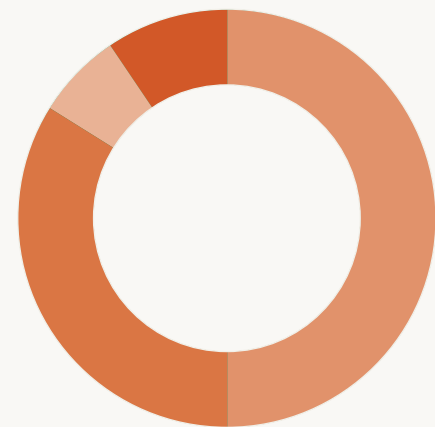
Grants	40%
Contributions	39%
Program Revenue	13%
Special Events	6%
In Kind	2.8%
Other	0.2%



EXPENSES

TOTAL: **\$852,000**

Programming	70%
Admin	9%
Fundraising & Communication	21%



INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Every donation makes a difference

\$1 - \$100	50%
\$101 - \$500	34%
\$501 - \$1,000	6.6%
\$1,001 +	9.4%

2023 GOALS



DEVELOP OUR INTERNAL CAPACITY

- Research trauma-informed policies and use them to update our employee handbook
- Define the diversity we would like to see and uphold on our staff and board
- Designate two board seats for our neighbors & add 1-3 community members to each committee
- Review and refine Growing Hope's mission statement, including an antiracism statement
- Design and publish a community-centered fundraising philosophy for Growing Hope
- Implement cross-training and skill-sharing among staff



ACTIVATE VIBRANT SPACES & PROGRAMS

- Develop a visionary map of the farm that allows us to maximize our growing potential, while leaving opportunities for events to take place
- Use kitchen spaces to host cooking classes
- Organize and promote our seed library
- Grow more seedlings for seedling distribution during the season
- Evaluate the accessibility of our spaces



CULTIVATE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Use workshops to facilitate open conversations about Growing Hope and the local food system
- Develop criteria for deciding to which community events Growing Hope will commit staff capacity
- Forge pathways of empowerment to engage program participants in the management and delivery of Growing Hope programming
- Conduct restorative justice circles within various Ypsilanti neighborhoods

TEAM

STAFF

Esha Biswa
 Julius Buzzard
 Sarah Campbell-Johes
 Carolyn Gehrke
 Christopher Hallett
 Bee Mayhew
 Payton McDonald*
 Sara Mayo*
 Vivi Nguyen
 Dayna Popkey
 Cristi Rodriguez-Alfaro
 Charlotte Thurston
 Cassandra VanDam*
 Cynthia VanRenteghem*
 Elizabeth Warren
 June Wolfenbarger

* Not pictured



2022 STAFF



2022 TEEN EMPLOYEES

TEEN EMPLOYEES

Lola Barrett
 Harrison Brown*
 Sanyiah Bullock
 Tavien Cochran*
 Hannah Crawford*
 Corey Daniels-Jones*
 Max Haire
 Kenya Hall
 Kriya Jaiganesh
 Cecelia Johnson
 Marcelline Jones*
 Miah Laster
 Jayden Means
 Juliana Ramirez*
 Emiliano Stockdill Garay*
 Joshua Tipton
 Laleh Walker

* Not pictured

INTERNS

Corinn Bryant
 Sarah Eldridge
 Abigail Haile
 David Holden
 Chloe Krahnke
 Lindsey Liddle
 Sarah Mason
 Kristen Sutter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Bowerbank
 Stephanie Doll (Treasurer)
 Tom Gritter
 Rosie Jowitt
 Jessica Krueger-Koupal
 Virginia Murphy
 LeeAnn McKeon
 Wayne Millette (Vice President)
 Nancy Patterson
 Robbin Pott J.D., M.P.P.
 Caroline Sanders
 Germaine Smith
 Stefanie Stauffer PhD
 Loren Townes Jr.
 Jordan Valentine (Secretary)
 Charles Waterhouse
 Erinn Williamson
 Sarah Wixson (Board President)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Stephen Gonzalez

"Volunteering for Growing Hope has been a true gift. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to experience people building community and impacting how we think about food security. Their efforts in securing resources to support marginalized communities initially drew me into volunteering. As a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professional, I know first-hand the systemic challenges marginalized groups face. It's empowering to see that at Growing Hope's core, they are recognizing the inequity that exists as it pertains to food accessibility and is making it their mission to provide the support that can eliminate such barriers. Additionally, Growing Hope introduced me to a community filled with kind, compassionate, and welcoming people, both patrons and staff. I, for one, cannot wait to volunteer again and look forward to learning more about how I, as a community member, can help them in their journey. Thank you, Growing Hope!"





**GROWING HOPE
URBAN FARM**

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**YPSILANTI FARMERS
MARKETPLACE**

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Instagram @growingthehope