

COMMON GROUND

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMONGROUND FARM.ORG | 845-231-4424 | PO BOX 148 BEACON NY 12508

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Common Ground is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located on 6.5 acres of historic farmland leased from the Stony Kill Foundation in Wappingers Falls, NY. By keeping farmland active in this rapidly developing region, residents connect to their food and to the health of the land that nourishes them.

OUR MISSION

Common Ground Farm's mission is to support and engage our community by fostering access and connection to food and local agriculture through farming, education, and farmers' markets.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe that access to fresh, sustainably grown food is a human right.

We believe in the vital importance of supporting people to form connections to their food through education and engagement activities.

We believe that community farms have the power and responsibility to create a more just and equitable food system.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our work is rooted in service, action, and accountability.

We cultivate a culture of equity and anti-racism.

We work towards a positive and clear organizational culture.

We strive to be stewards of the earth and leaders within our community.

OUR WORK

Common Ground's three main programs work together to address food access and education on the farm, in schools, and in our community:

FARM

The farm is the heart of Common Ground. We grow a diverse array of vegetables on our 6.5 acres, offer year-round programs for children and adults, teach farming skills to teens and young farmers, support a variety of food access initiatives, and welcome visitors and volunteers to work and enjoy the land.

EDUCATION

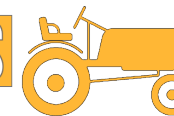
Educational programming on the farm connects children and adults to food, creating opportunities for people to harvest vegetables with their own hands, learn cooking skills, and interact with our local food system. Education on the farm changes our relationship with the food we eat, with our own bodies, and with the land on which we live.

MARKETS

Our markets are weekly community gatherings within the cities of Beacon and Newburgh, NY. Both markets offer a variety of food access programs that bring affordable produce to low-income communities while also providing a supportive marketplace for large number of local farmers, makers, and bakers.

COMMON GROUND

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Dear Friend,

When Common Ground was founded in 2001, its existence was its purpose--to recenter agriculture around relationships instead of business, to cultivate community engagement and participation around food production, and to shorten the supply chain--building transparency into food systems. Common Ground was a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm when it began, offering people a local and friendly alternative to the food they could buy at the grocery store. Over time, agriculture in the Hudson Valley flourished, and we found that we did not want to compete with for-profit farms as a CSA. At the same time, we wanted to ensure that local food is affordable and accessible to everyone.

In 2012, we decided to refocus our work towards food access and education, and began donating a large percentage of the food that we grew. Over the years, we have donated more than 80,000 pounds of nourishing, organically grown food to our neighbors who need it the most. At the same time we greatly expanded farm and food based educational programming, reaching 30,000 children and adults at the farm and in the classroom. We built a Farm to School program from its inception and grew our summer camp to engage hundreds of children each year. In 2016, Common Ground began stewardship of the Beacon Farmers' Market, which allowed us to support local agriculture on a much wider scale while cultivating an inclusive and affordable community market. In 2019, Common Ground was invited to steward a farmers' market in Newburgh as well, enabling us to grow food access across the Hudson. Over \$17,000 in Greens4Greens coupons have been redeemed at our markets, doubling the purchasing power of many people who use benefits. 2020 brought many new challenges to our community, and we pivoted again to meet its needs, increasing our food donation program, offering outdoor and distanced family workshops, providing meal kits for school children learning remotely, transforming our markets, and collaborating with partners to provide care for so many people whose lives were upended. This year, we continue to rebuild our programs and grow our markets, while we persist in working the land.

Our farm has always been at the heart of our work, and our existence continues to manifest as purpose, always moving toward a vision where all people have equitable access to fresh food, where food and community are interwoven and celebrated, and where the earth is cared for and revered. We are so grateful for the many people who have supported us on our journey over the past 20 years. Please join us as we embark on our 21st year, and help us create a more just local food system.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara...' followed by a flourish.

Executive Director
Common Ground Farm

2021 STAFF

SEMBER WEINMAN

Executive Director

Sember began her time at Common Ground as Education Manager, where she oversaw and grew all aspects of educational programming. In January of 2021, Sember became Executive Director, after leading the organization as Co-Director and Interim Director. Sember is proud to lead Common Ground, and is honored to work with such a committed and thoughtful team of people. Prior to her work at the farm, she was the education coordinator at Lehman College Art Gallery. She is a certified K-12 art teacher, and taught middle school art in the Bronx. She holds an MFA in painting from Pratt Institute and a B.A. double major in environmental studies and studio art from Oberlin College.



KATIE SPEICHER

Farm Manager (from March 2021)

Katie grew up in rural Pennsylvania and graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Environmental Resource Management. In college she became involved in the local food movement and began volunteering at farms. She farmed for a summer in Maryland before moving to Senegal to serve with the Peace Corps, where she spent two years immersing herself in the culture, learning the Mandinka language, and working on agroforestry and gender equality projects. Katie spent the last two years at Waterpenny Farm in Virginia, and is excited to join the farming scene in the Hudson Valley.

RENAE ESSINGER

Education Manager (from May 2021)

Renaë began her college education at The New School, where she developed a passion for education as the key for social change. She finished her BA in English and her MS in Adolescence Education at Mount Saint Mary College. Renaë really loves the challenge of bringing her passion for learning to different ages and subjects, especially outside of traditional classrooms. Renaë taught High School Equivalency courses for adults and teens for seven years, and ran her own summer science and art program, PlayWorks from 2017-2019. Renaë is thrilled to join the Common Ground team in 2021 as Education Manager.



RACHELLE LOUIS

Administrative Manager

Rachelle joined Common Ground Farm as the Administrative Manager in the Fall of 2019. Prior to her working at Common Ground, she was the Pro Bono/CLE Coordinator at Schulte Roth & Zabel in NYC. She has also worked part time as a consultant to nonprofit start ups, ran a Home Owners Association, and volunteered with the Vassar Haiti Project.



LISA URRICO

Farmers' Market Manager (From March 2021)

Lisa is a musician and arts administrator with 25 years' experience working with prominent non-profit organizations including the Saint Louis Symphony and Carnegie Hall. She has produced a multitude of events ranging from intimate chamber ensemble concerts to large scale symphony orchestra performances. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in music from Boston University and a master's degree from The Juilliard School. Lisa is passionate about supporting our local farmers and businesses, ensuring that nutritious, quality food is available to all, and raising awareness on the impact our choices have on the environment.

ILYANA CAMPOS

Newburgh Farmers' Market Manager (from May 2021)

Ilyana is a Newburgh native and loves to support all aspects of her community. She is passionate about the importance of local and sustainable food that is accessible to everyone. Prior to working at Common Ground she spent the last ten years as a mediator and restorative practitioner in alternative dispute resolution for the Westchester and Rockland Mediation Centers. Being a mediator and helping people resolve conflict has been one of Ilyana's greatest joys. Ilyana is glad to bring her passion for community and food access to her home city of Newburgh.



ATTICUS LANIGAN

Beacon Assistant Market Manager

Atticus brings a background in sociology, urban planning, non-profit administration, and business management to the Beacon Farmers' Market. She has lived in and been active in the City of Beacon since 2008, and believes wholeheartedly in the mission of the market and Common Ground. Atticus leads promotion at the market, and oversaw the 2021 Soup4Greens fundraiser.

ERIKA RINCON

Farm to School Coordinator

Erika has had a diverse career in the regional food system including over a decade of farming experience, grassroots organizing, and farm-based education. She is dedicated to building a more just and equitable food system at all levels. She believes everyone should know where their food comes from. As Farm to School Coordinator, Erika supports local food procurement, recipe development, and Farm to School promotion in our public schools.



JESSICA SHAY

U-Pick Manager

A long-time member of the Common Ground team, Jessica is the manager of our U-Pick CSA, a member of the Farm Crew, and an Instructor for Farm Camp. Over the years, she has enjoyed doing just about everything there is to do at the farm, from planning to transplanting to bringing our produce to market and teaching kids all about it. Jessica is also a Costume Designer, and holds an MFA in Costume Design from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a BA in Theatre from James Madison University in Virginia.

FARM CREW

Abril Barajas
Talya Benzer-Shuman
Matthew Brady
Melissa Hodde

Mahalia Iwugo
Hannah Long
Jeannette Sayago

FARM CAMP STAFF

Timothy Bunyea
Gianna Caffaro
Allyson Correllus
Melissa Hodde

Vanessa Maldonado
Jack Marino
Danielle Martini

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



THOMAS HELMICK

Board President

Tom works in philanthropy and has a Master's degree from NYU in Food Systems. He is passionate about working for a future where fresh, local and nutritious food is accessible to everyone and where farmers are fairly compensated for being stewards of our natural resources which is why he proudly serves on CGF's board. Tom lives in Beacon with his wife and six-year old son.

JUSTIN CONWAY

Board Vice President

Justin is a board certified Family Medicine and Sports Medicine physician practicing in Newburgh, NY with Crystal Run Healthcare. After earning his undergraduate degree at Princeton University and M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School, he completed his residency at the Mount Sinai-Beth Israel Family Practice Residency Program in New York City. He currently serves as head team physician for Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, and is an assistant team physician for the Hudson Valley Renegades. Justin lives in Beacon, NY with his partner Jess and two children, Louise and Trevor, who love getting their hands dirty at Common Ground.



ERIN DOTSON

Treasurer, Secretary

Erin has worked in philanthropy and fundraising for 20 years. Since launching her consulting practice in 2018, she has collaborated with organizations fighting for equity, racial justice, and human rights. She is currently the treasurer of Common Ground and previously served on the board of the Compass Arts Creativity Project. Erin has worked in prospect research and pipeline management at New York University, Teach For America, and Marist College. Erin earned a bachelor's degree in gender studies from Purchase College and a certificate in philanthropy and fundraising from the George H. Heyman, Jr. Program for Philanthropy and Fundraising at New York University. She lives in the Hudson Valley with her wife and their two children.

EVELYN GARCIA

Evelyn is a first-generation Mexican American, born and raised in Newburgh, New York. Her interest in cooking began when she was six years old and prepared "home cooked" meals to feed her siblings while her parents worked. Evelyn went on to complete a BA in Culinary Arts and Culinary Arts Management from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. Evelyn is proud to have served as a culinary educator for several organizations in the Hudson Valley, including The Green Teen Program, Hudson Valley Farm to School, and Common Ground Farm. Evelyn currently serves as a bi-lingual Teaching Kitchen Chef at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, where she helps other nonprofit food providers implement fresh, scratch-made, culturally appropriate plant-based meals.



CASSANDRA JACKSON

Cassandra has long been fascinated by foodways in the United States and abroad. Her relationship with Common Ground has evolved from a place of recreation and learning, to a source of locally grown food, to a place for community engagement and growth. An artist and MBA, with experience in DEAI (diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion) consulting and non-profit grant writing/management, she is currently working for a bespoke non-profit development strategy firm. Cassandra lives in the Hudson Valley with her family and can be found pushing seeds into the soil to see what comes up.

JAMIE PABST

Jamie Pabst is the founder and CEO of Spiritune, a digital health startup exploring how sound and music impacts our brain and leads to reliable and targeted mental health outcomes. Through her work building Spiritune, she believes in a future where individuals and organizations can rely on the accessibility of audio and effectiveness of music therapy to navigate emotional health and everyday needs. It's these values around dedication to improving lives and helping people get better access to care that compels her to serve as a board member for Common Ground. Healthy citizens are a community's greatest assets, and food plays a critical role in the health of our citizens.



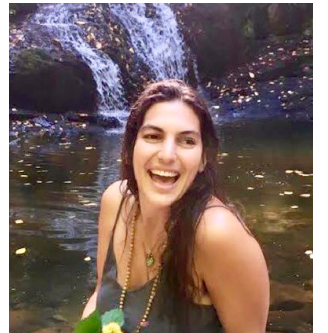
SARAH SIMON

Treasurer, resigned July 2021

Sarah was drawn to the Hudson Valley by the mission and values of Common Ground. Sarah served Common Ground in a variety of ways--she worked on the farm crew, she was the Beacon Farmers' Market's first Manager, she led the farm crew as Farm Director, and she became Co-Director, before moving on to work at the Maine Farmland Trust as a Climate Resilience Specialist. Sarah has an undergraduate degree in comparative literature, creative writing, and dance from Princeton University.

BEKAH STARR

Kohenet Bekah Starr is a multimedia Sacred Artist & ordained Kohenet (Hebrew Priestess). Bekah has been an advocate for food justice issues for over 20 years. She has been involved with Common Ground in many capacities over the years she's lived in Beacon; as a student, an educator, parent and as a member of the board. With gratitude to the Wappingers band of the Lanape First Nation people she's grateful to support Common Ground.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Common Ground is blessed to have a dedicated committee that works to support fundraising. The Circle of Friends leads by example by creating donation matches for fundraisers, engages in outreach efforts to encourage individual giving, supports fundraiser events, and provides guidance and support. The 2021 Circle of Friends are:

JACKIE BUCLOT-MILLS

CARL LOEWENSON

LORIELLE MALLUE

CAROL MARQUAND

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

MELANIE SHERONY

CHRIS VOEKLER

PRISCILLE VOEKLER

2021 FARM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each year, we aim to strengthen our local food system by growing fresh and nutritious vegetables for our community. Through partnerships with local food donation programs, farmers' markets, the public school system, and our U-Pick CSA, we grow, harvest, and distribute tens of thousands of pounds of fresh produce from our 6.5 acre farm into our neighbors' hands.

In 2021, Common Ground:

- Continued our robust donation program, delivering produce to eleven different emergency food distribution and community meal sites in the Hudson Valley. We donated over 8,000 pounds--roughly half of our total production--of fresh, organically-grown vegetables from May through December.
- Partnered with Green Teen, hosting three Next Step Interns who worked with us at the farm and at the Beacon Farmers' Market.
- Supplied fresh vegetables to the Fresh Air Fund, an organization that works with low income communities in New York City, in addition to selling produce wholesale to the Beacon City School District school and summer meal programs.
- Hosted 70 families weekly on the farm during the summer to harvest a share of vegetables through our U-Pick CSA program.
- Employed and trained six beginning farmers representing the LGBTQ, BIPOC, and Jewish communities.

IN 2021 WE DONATED OUR PRODUCE TO:

- Beacon Community Kitchen
- Dutchess Outreach
- Fareground
- Fishkill Food Pantry
- First Presbyterian
- Green Teen
- Mutual Aid Beacon
- Newburgh Urban Farm and Food Initiative
- Our Core
- St. Andrews
- Zion Church



OUR IMPACT

“This has been a wonderful partnership - and this year was even better with the system in place to make requests. Since April 2020, your donations have increased to meet our need during the pandemic: from one meal per month to two meals per month. You've increased quantity to help us feed up to 100 people at each meal. We love serving freshly picked, local, organic vegetables to our hungry neighbors. We are deeply grateful and look forward to continuing this partnership next growing season! Thank you for all you do!”

-First Presbyterian Church of Wappingers

“Every Monday, for the past five years now, Common Ground has provided us with an abundance of amazing herbs and vegetables. The produce is always fresh, clean and ripe; bagged and ready to use or distribute. This donation provides our guests with good, healthy vegetables they might not have access to. Their donation also allows the kitchen to use our resources in other ways, to make our guest's experience with us a happy one. We are so thankful to partner with Common Ground.”

-John Kleinfeldt, Beacon Community Kitchen

“We're so grateful for all of the donations! Thank you for all you do!”

-Fareground

“Last year during the pandemic, Green Teen switched from having a mobile farmers' market with Common Ground Farm to having a free farm stand. Giving away free food when people needed it definitely helped change lives in a time where everyone was down and with no jobs. Providing farm raised vegetables is 10 times better than anything else with chemicals in them or from the supermarket. Seeing people come back week after week for eggplant or kale is amazing.”

-Jeremiah Long, Green Teen

“We have been a part of this U-Pick for 6 years now -- it's an integral part of our summer and our kids' experience of the Hudson Valley! Can't imagine summer without it. Thanks for all you do.”

-U-Pick Participant

IN 2021 PEOPLE FOUND OUR PRODUCE:

- At the Beacon Farmers' Market
- At the Newburgh Farmers' Market
- On the farm through our U-Pick CSA
- As Farm Kits offered through our friends at Homespun Foods
- At local restaurants including: All You Knead Bakery, Dolly's Restaurant, Fresh Company, and Homespun Foods
- In the Beacon City School District cafeterias
- In the backpacks of food insecure students
- At the Green Teen free farm stand
- As Harvest Shares purchased for Thanksgiving



2021 FARM PROGRAMS

PLANT SALE

Every year Common Ground grows hundreds of seedlings for our annual Plant Sale. This year, the community came out and supported our annual plant sale like no year before! We grew nearly 2,000 seedlings, including herbs, flowers, and a variety of vegetables, and generated \$5,718 in revenue. This historic outcome was greatly due in part to our local green-thumb supporters who pledged their support in pre-orders.



U-PICK

For 12 weeks this summer, we welcomed 70 families onto our fields to participate in harvesting their own produce as part of our U-Pick program. Participants were able to pick the very freshest peas, lettuce, carrots, squash, peppers, tomatoes, tomatillos, ground cherries, herbs, flowers, and more! U-Pick is a time for people to get outside, enjoy the farm, and connect with food and each other. This year we were able to accept SNAP/EBT and payment plans, in addition to welcoming Farm Camp families!

HARVEST SHARES

This year Common Ground wrapped up its season by offering families Harvest Shares that included potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, carrots, greens, apples, herbs, local bread, and Common Ground recipes.

In addition, Common Ground provided shares to all 30 children participating in our backpack program, with gift cards donated from the South Avenue PTA, the JV Forrestal PTSO, the Sargent Elementary PTO, and the Glenham PTO, the administrative staff and social workers from each of these schools, and with generous support from the United Way and Poughkeepsie Journal Holiday Helping Hands grant.



OUR FARMING PRACTICES

We do not use chemical fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides, and we protect our ecosystem by maintaining biodiversity in our plantings. We limit unnecessary soil disturbances and tillage in order to build a healthy soil environment for microbes. Each year we build soil health by planting a cover crop in all of our fields for at least part of our season, and about half of our acreage remains in cover crop for the full growing season to build organic matter. The results of these practices are apparent in the productivity of our fields and the high quality of the vegetables we bring to our markets and food access partners. In 2021, we enlisted the help and support of many volunteers through our weekly Weeding Wednesdays!



2021 BACKPACK PROGRAM

Whether schools are open or closed, remote or in person, Common Ground works with the Beacon City School District to ensure that the most food insecure families have nutritious food every day of the week. Common Ground has been operating a BackPack program since 2019, providing students with bags full of nutritious food items to ensure that they have enough food to get through the weekends.

When the schools operated on a hybrid model during the 2020-2021 school year, Common Ground worked with the district's bus drivers to deliver food to directly to the students' doors each week. With schools fully back in person as of fall of 2021, we are distributing food to students at the end of the school day each Friday.

In 2021, we supported 30 students and their families, ensuring that they have nutritious food to get through the weekend. Common Ground supplements food received by the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley with our own fresh produce whenever we have produce in season. BackPack recipients are also given Greens4Greens coupons, which work like cash at the Beacon and Newburgh Farmers' Markets. This program is generously supported by the United Way Foundation of the Dutchess-Orange Region and by the Elks Club.



SUPER VOLUNTEER

Common Ground is so grateful to have a volunteer superstar helping us with the backpack program! Rebecca Ostrovsky has been helping us since we began operating the backpack program in 2019. Over the years, she has done it all--including: picking up food at the Food Bank, planning meals, packing bags, delivering to schools, cleaning out the supply closet, and buying extra items to supplement what we offer.

Thank you Rebecca! We are so grateful for your service!



2021 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Common Ground offers hands-on, farm-based education programs for adults and children of all ages, and provides financial support to ensure access to people of all incomes. This year we were able to redesign and rebuild our programs after the many changes that took place in 2020, and provided a variety of safe, outdoor, farm-based education programs to serve our community. In 2021 we offered Farm Camp, Farm to School programming, Preschool on the Farm, Homeschool on the Farm, and Adult and Family Workshops. In 2021 Common Ground:

- Developed partnerships with Dia Beacon, Compass Arts, New York Textile Lab, and Stony Kill Foundation to generate new and innovative programming.
- Offered scholarships for all tuition-based education programs, including 28 full and 12 partial scholarships for Farm Camp.
- Operated six free Saturday family art workshops in the spring and fall in partnership with Dia Beacon and six summer evening art and food workshops in partnership with Compass Arts.
- Reached 3000 people this year, from toddlers to senior citizens.

FARM CAMP

At Farm Camp, kids learn through collaboration, exploration, imagination, discovery, and creation. Children engage directly with farmland and the natural world and make their own culinary, scientific, and artistic creations with their own hands. Campers spend time in the garden, at the pond, in the field, in the barn, and along our nature trails. Kids develop new skills, make new friends, and grow an appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the natural environment within which we live.

Common Ground was unable to operate Farm Camp in 2020, due to Covid-19, so we were really thrilled to offer this program for our community again in 2021. Farm Camp operated primarily outdoors, camp was offered to three groups of campers ages 5 to 12, and campers stayed in cohorts determined by age.



PRESCHOOL ON THE FARM

Preschool on the Farm is an opportunity for young children and their adult caregivers to explore nature, food, and farming together through our one-hour workshops designed just for them. Preschool on the farm ran as a 10 session series in the spring and fall, with 9:30 am, 11:00 am, and 1:00 pm sessions to accommodate demand. We also ran a four session winter series. In 2021 we offered scholarships so that everyone with young children can participate, regardless of income.

HOMESCHOOL ON THE FARM

In 2021 Common Ground operated a series of project-based homeschool workshops, open to children ages 6 and up. Each week participants spent two hours exploring a different farm-based theme, where they learned scientific concepts, art techniques, movement, and cooking. That engaged the topic through different lenses, including science, movement, cooking, and art.



SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES

Common Ground collaborates with community partner NY Textile Lab to offer Sustainable Textiles, a series of workshops that supports community engagement in our local textile system. Participants learn how to make dye from flowers harvested from the farm, use flowers and leaves to ecoprint designs, and mend their old clothes. Scholarships are offered for each workshop to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participate. This project was made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson.

SATURDAY STUDIO ON THE FARM

Common Ground partners with Dia Beacon to offer Saturday Studio on the Farm, a free series of workshops that encourage families to make art by engaging in the natural world. Designed as an outdoor alternative to Dia's indoor Saturday Studio program during the pandemic, each workshop is led by a professional teaching artist who makes use of the farm environment.



INTERGENERATIONAL ART SERIES

Common Ground partners with Compass Arts to offer an art and food-based six session workshop series over the summer. Each week families harvested fresh food from our fields to make a simple dish that they enjoyed with a picnic dinner, and then participated in a variety of art workshops, including a campfire singalong, hula hoops, a family dance party, music and mindfulness, sketching the harvest, and theater games. Each session is offered on a sliding scale to ensure that cost isn't a barrier.



2021 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FARM TO SCHOOL

Over the past nine years, Common Ground has worked in collaboration with the Beacon City School District to provide educational programming to elementary students that include farm visits, Chef in the Classroom, Farmer in the Classroom, and multi-session workshop series.

In 2019, Common Ground was awarded a two-year USDA Farm to School grant, designed to increase New York State procurement, develop new plant-forward entree recipes, build outreach through web-based information and student-led initiatives, and to launch Farm to School programming at Rombout Middle School. This initiative includes student tastings and professional development programming for food service staff and teachers, as well as the construction of a school garden at the middle school. Due to school closures in 2020, the Farm to School grant was extended into 2022, and Common Ground adjusted the programming offered to work with schools operating on hybrid schedules.

In 2021, 508 heads of lettuce, in addition to spinach and summer squash, were eaten by children in school cafeterias through our Farm to School produce procurement program, including vegetables for summer meals, the spring event for middle and high school students “Lettuce Celebrate”, and National Farm to School Month local lunch in October.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Beacon City School district operated on a hybrid schedule, meaning many children learned remotely and received to-go lunches. Together with school cafeteria staff and our partner



Land to Learn, we offered Meal Kits for all remote learners, that included a child-safe knife, a cutting board, a peeler, and a recipe binder that students were able to add to each month. Land to Learn created Vegetable of the Month cooking videos that included virtual visits to Common Ground and follow up survey taste tests. All of the Vegetable of the Month videos and recipes, entree and side recipes for families and food service staff, and additional resources, can be found on the Farm to School section of the Common Ground Farm website.

In 2021, we were able to return to in-person education programs, including field trips to the farm, a bee workshop for 4th graders, and a 5th grade mural workshop. Environmental Club students at Rombout Middle School worked in the school garden that we built.



OUR IMPACT

“[My son] was excited about picking the vegetables and then eating them at home. He picked his own beet and cooked it for dinner that night and commented on how sweet and delicious it was. [He] loved planting the seeds and seeing the sheep.”

-Farm Camp Parent

“[He showed a] willingness to try new vegetables for sure, more of an interest in learning how things grow, and even came home and was planting little cherry tomatoes in the ground all over the yard.”

-Farm Camp Parent

“She absolutely loved it! This was the best hands on learning experience for her!”

-Farm Camp Scholarship Recipient

“[My son’s] willingness to try new foods really took off this summer, thanks to Common Ground Farm Camp. I’m seeing a greater interest in food in general after so many opportunities to eat fresh raw foods right off the vine and out of the ground at camp.”

-Farm Camp Scholarship Recipient

“He felt everything we picked was so special. It was so beautiful to see how he felt love and connection to the plants.”

-Farm Camp Scholarship recipient about U-Pick

“He loved participating in U-Pick, especially harvesting carrots. We both enjoyed having fresh flowers at home and eating basil; I loved the tomatoes and green beans.”

-Farm Camp Scholarship recipient about U-Pick

“[My daughter] got to explore and touch things she never knew possible! “

-Farm Camp Scholarship Parent

“[Preschool on the Farm] was the perfect combination of learning, exploration, and play; we love it!”

-Preschool on the Farm Parent

“We have a great experience every week, as a parent I love that my 3yr old is completely engaged and my 1yr old is getting something out of it too!”



2021 BEACON FARMERS' MARKET

BEACON FARMERS' MARKET

Under the stewardship of Common Ground Farm, the Beacon Farms' Market's mission is to feed and engage the Beacon Community, support local farms and businesses, and create a more just food system. 2021 was a tremendous year for the market--customer attendance and vendor participations grew significantly while increasing inclusivity and food access for our community.



- In 2021 the Beacon Farmers' Market moved from Veteran's Place to the DMV parking lot and was able to grow dramatically--the summer roster featured 61 vendors, a 205% increase from 2020.
- In 2021 the winter market stayed outdoors at the DMV, and supported 44 vendors, a 120% increase from the 2020-2021 season.
- The Beacon Farmers' Market welcomed more than 1,500 customers each Sunday.
- 172 households processed SNAP benefits and over \$3,400 in Greens4Greens, our own double up coupon program, were redeemed.
- The market hosted a variety of community organizations including Fareground, Compass Arts, Give a Cluck for Kids, NY Health Act, Conservation Community Table, and NY Project Hope, and featured live performances by 17 musicians and bands.
- The Beacon Farmers' Market won Hudson Valley Magazine's Reader's Choice for Best Farmers' Market Award in 2021.

2021 BEACON FARMERS' MARKET SPONSORS:

The Highlands Current

United Healthcare

SunCommon



SOUP4GREENS

Greens4Greens is a food benefit incentive program that began at the Beacon Farmers' Market in 2016, matching eligible NYS funded food benefits dollar for dollar with \$4 Greens4Greens checks to double participant purchasing power at the markets. This program helps make the farmers' markets more accessible to a wider base of consumers while reimbursing our farm vendors. Greens4Greens is completely community funded. The program now runs year round at both the Beacon and Newburgh Farmers' Markets. Greens4Greens coupons are also distributed at the Green Teen Free Farm Stand and through our backpack program.

In 2021, we raised \$3,550 at our annual Soup4Greens event! We are grateful to everyone who helped make the event a success: Homespun Foods, Beacon Natural Market, The Beacon Daily, Beacon Pantry, Végétalien, The Bagel Shoppe, The Yankee Clipper Diner, The Green Bowl Cafe, Party Animals Catering, Eat Church, MomoValley, Kitchen & Coffee, All You Knead Artisan Bakery, Key Food Beacon, Carine R. Feist, Jennifer Dorshorn of the Daily Digestible, Virginia Piazza Pottery, New Prospect Pottery, Afton Road Pottery, Elephant Belly Pottery, The Newburgh Pottery, Justin Conway, Beth Poague, Diana Cowdery, Margo Sivin, Jesse Stacken, and Meredith Hairston.

OUR IMPACT

"The Beacon Farmers' Market 2021 season was as perfect as it could be. The vendors are very supportive of each other and that kind of community spirit adds to the feeling that the Beacon Farmers' Market is a positive place to be every Sunday."

-Beacon Farmers' Market Vendor, J. Spica (New Confectioner)

"Thank you so much. You have no idea how much this helps."

-Beacon Farmers' Market Customer redeeming SNAP benefits

"This was the best year ever numbers-wise for me at the market. So many new customers!"

-Beacon Farmers' Market Vendor, Simone Williams (All You Knead Bakery)

"Thank you so much for all you have done for the market this season. It's been really amazing to see it grow this year. I have no doubt we will make it cozy and fun for the winter!"

-Beacon Farmers' Market Vendor, Diane Mae (Diana Mae Flowers)



Special thanks to our 2021 Beacon Farmers' Market Committee Members:

SERGEI KRASIKOV
CASSANDRA JACKSON
MATT BRADY
DIANA COWDERY

2021 NEWBURGH FARMERS' MARKET

NEWBURGH FARMERS' MARKET

In 2019 Common Ground Farm grew its food access initiatives in Newburgh from a farm stand at Downing Park to a full Farmers' Market, located at Safe Harbors Green, right on the corners of Broadway and Liberty Streets. Each year since the market has grown, and in 2021 the summer market stayed open 24 weeks on the Green, and then reopened for the first ever winter market in the Ritz Lobby, making the Newburgh Farmers' Market a year round market.



- The Newburgh Farmers' Market hosted over 15 vendors in 2021, a 115% increase from 2020.
- Over half of our vendors are new businesses and 60% of our vendors identify as BIPOC.
- We hosted two Our Core teens each week, developing job skills while supporting the market.
- In 2021, the Newburgh Farmers' Market donated over 2,300 pounds of fresh produce to community meal sites and food pantries in Newburgh.
- Newburgh Farmers Market customers used \$1,106 in Green4Greens coupons and over \$600 in SNAP benefits this season. 200 senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupon books, valued at \$20 each, were distributed at the market.
- The Newburgh Farmers' Market was awarded Distinguished Service Awards from Legislator Kevindaryan Lujan, Senator James Skoufis, and Assembly Member Jonathon Jacobsen.
- In 2021 we launched our first Newburgh winter market, creating Newburgh's only year round market.

WARM UP FOR WINTER

Warm Up for Winter was a fall fundraiser that helped us to cover our costs in extending the Newburgh Farmers' Market from a seasonal summer market to a year round program. Local restaurants donated soup and the Newburgh Pottery donated bowls. All together, we raised over \$1300 to keep the market running all year long. This event was successful because of our soup donors: Anna's Restaurant, Machu Picchu, Ms. Fairfax, and Hudson Street Cafe, and our bowl donors: The Newburgh Pottery, Lisa Knaus, and the Kingston Ceramic Studio. Special thanks to Hibino Day by Day for serving hot miso sweet potato soup and to Mel Cantrell for offering a butternut squash soup demonstration!



OUR IMPACT

"Our Core's agriculture internship includes a distribution track that creates experiences in every aspect of getting food from farm to plate. Our partnership with Common Ground Farm puts interns in the driver's seat of a farmers market, [allowing them to learn set-up, presentation, customer service, farmer interaction, food safety, (cash, EBT, coupon) transactions] where they can understand an impact they can have on their communities. In addition to providing space for transactions that feed wholesome food to those who can afford it, these interns carefully pack farmers' excess foods for redirecting into feeding programs every Saturday."

-Christine Hutchinson, Our Core

"The Newburgh community has been incredibly welcoming of Hand by Craft, during the season we were able to connect with individuals of all avenues in life who strive to make a positive impact and elevate the value of the city. Throughout the weeks we found much support from all the Farmer Market visitors who have decided to vote with their dollars and contribute to the local economy and overall growth of Artisans and dedicated Farmers who with their example are leading the way to inspiring and empowering the people to return to their roots and restore values of cooperation and peace."

-Natalia Gomez, Hand by Craft

"I had a lovely time talking with everyone, as usual, and am glad the market will be moving indoors so it can continue in the colder months. Thanks to Lynn for sharing her knowledge about sourdough bread and the delicious stuffing mix and semita! And thanks to the lovely young ladies who patiently explained the coupons to me. And the couple who educated me on Daikon radishes. And the beautiful craftsmanship at Natalia and Josh's tent. And the chance to use my limited Spanish with three of the purveyors...gracias! I was able to use some of my own Hungarian heritage and language with the jam/jelly purveyor...Koszonom!"

-Newburgh Farmers' Market Customer



MUTUAL AID BEACON

Mutual Aid Beacon is an all volunteer community based effort that was founded on March 14, 2020, in response to COVID-19. They began by delivering groceries to seniors, and their work expanded to include picking up prescriptions, making phone calls to people in need of emotional support, and filling volunteer slots at local food pantries, soup kitchens, and the farmers' market. Common Ground has the privilege of serving as fiscal sponsor to Mutual Aid Beacon for its food access and education initiatives. In addition, Common Ground is proud to provide fresh produce to Mutual Aid's food distribution programs.

MAB runs a weekly food distribution that includes recruiting, training, and managing volunteers who pack groceries each Wednesday for 450 families. MAB also delivers food to 50 households each week across the region. Food and grocery deliveries include produce, pantry items, and meat.

MAB has no paid staff but is composed of a robust community of over 1000 people who have contributed, volunteered, packed food, called neighbors, etc. They have a regular team of 50 people who volunteer weekly to pack and deliver food and maintain a tiny food pantry and refrigerator at the Beacon Recreation Center. They are an all-volunteer organization made up of neighbors helping neighbors.

Mutual Aid Beacon has packaged over 350,000 pounds of produce and 500,000 pounds of food overall for emergency food distribution. Mutual Aid volunteers provided support to homebound seniors by delivering over 5,250 bags of groceries to 50 people, providing 75 people with transportation to medical appointments, and making over 1,000 emotional support calls. Mutual Aid Beacon runs and manages a weekly food distribution at two locations. Food is delivered by the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, and volunteers pack bags and orchestrate drive through and walk up distributions and deliveries. In addition, Mutual Aid Beacon cleans and stocks an outdoor 24 hour food pantry and refrigerator at the Beacon Recreation Center.



OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS

Ann and Abe Efron Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

Arts Mid-Hudson Community Arts Grant

Arts Mid-Hudson Jumpstart Grant

Clif Bar Family Foundation

Dutchess County Community Grants Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

Dyson Foundation

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

Field Hall Foundation Grant

Jeannette F. Schlobach Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley

Ralph E. Ogden Foundation

The Awesome Foundation

United States Department of Agriculture Farm to School Grant

United States Department of Agriculture Pandemic Response and Safety Grant

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region Community Fund Grant

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region Emergency Funds Grant

United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region Holiday Helping Hands Grant

COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE DONORS

Beacon Elks
Beacon Natural Market
Beacon Pantry
beBhakti Yoga Center
Beetle & Fred
Berg + Moss Architects
Brett's Hardware
E-Z Flow
Herb Redl Properties
Hudson Hills Montessori
Hudson Valley Brewery
IBM Executive Match
Kitchen & Coffee
Network for Good
SunCommon
The Beacon Sloop Club
The Gatehouse Team at Compass
The Highlands Current
United Healthcare

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

21 Meals Committee
Accuprint Pack N' Ship
Afton Road Pottery
All You Knead Artisan Bakery
American Legion/VFW
Anna's Restaurant
Be Creative As Possible
Beacon City School District

Beacon Community Kitchen
Beacon Music Factory
Beacon Natural Market
Beacon Pantry
Beacon Recreation Department
Carine R. Feist
City of Beacon
City of Newburgh
Compass Arts
Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County

Dagele Brothers Produce
Dia Beacon
Diana Mae Flowers
Dolly's Restaurant
Dutchess Outreach
Dutchess ProPrint
Eat Church
Elephant Belly Pottery
Exalted Alchemy
Fareground
First Presbyterian Wappingers Food Pantry

Fishkill Food Pantry
Food Bank of the Hudson Valley
Fresh Company
Green Teen Beacon Community Gardening Program
Glenham Elementary PTO
Hibino Day By Day
Homespun Foods
Hudson Todd LLC
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
Hudson Street Cafe

J.V. Forrestal PTSO
Key Food Beacon
Kingston Ceramic Studio
Land to Learn
Lisa Knaus
Machu Picchu
Momo Valley
More Good
Mutual Aid Beacon
Ms. Fairfax
National Young Farmers' Coalition

New Prospect Pottery
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Newburgh Urban Farm and Food Initiative
Our Core
Party Animals Catering
Rabe & Co.
Safe Harbors of the Hudson
SallyeAnder Soap
Salvation Army Beacon
Sargent Elementary PTO
South Avenue PTA
Spinach World Multimedia
St. Andrews Church of Beacon Food Pantry

Station Built
Stony Kill Foundation
New York Textile Lab
The Bagel Shoppe
The Beacon Daily
The Beacon Elks Club
The Beacon Sloop Club
The Culinary Institute of America
The Fresh Air Fund
The Green Bowl Cafe
The Newburgh Pottery
The Yankee Clipper Diner
Thundercut
Urban Green Builders
Végétalien
Virginia Piazza Pottery

Zion Episcopal Church Food Pantry

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$5000+

Jessica and Justin Conway
William Conway
Priscille and Chris Voekler

\$2000-\$4999

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Alison and Alexander Reese

\$1000-\$1999

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Anneliese Tanner
Katherine Trela
Andrew Turner
Lisa Urrico
Ruth Walker

2021 FINANCIALS

OPERATING BUDGET

January - December 2021

INCOME

Individual Donations	\$62,416
Corporate Gifts	\$1,832
General Operating Grants	\$75,325
Farm	\$94,178
Education	\$138,328
Beacon Farmers' Market	\$69,604
Newburgh Farmers' Market	\$15,077
BackPack Program	\$9,010
Mutual Aid Beacon Fiscal Sponsorship	\$3,590

TOTAL INCOME \$469,360

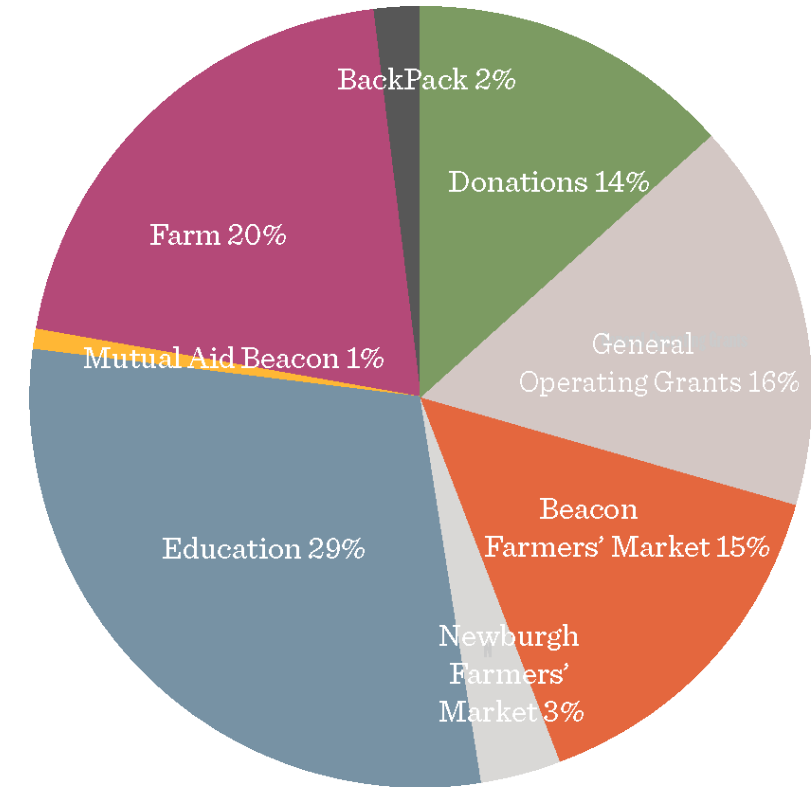
EXPENSES

Management Personnel	\$94,000
Farm	\$90,197
Education	\$88,129
Beacon Farmers' Market	\$49,501
Newburgh Farmers' Market	\$18,252
BackPack Program	\$8,284
Fundraising	\$1,455
Operational	\$94,612

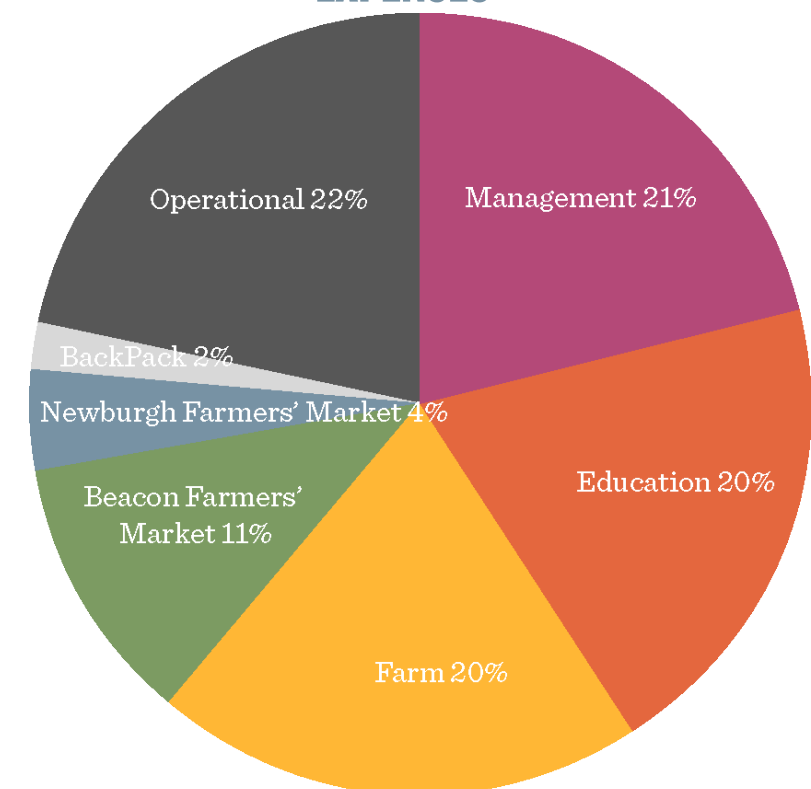
TOTAL EXPENSES \$444,430

For more information visit: www.commongroundfarm.org

INCOME



EXPENSES





COMMONGROUNDFARM.ORG | 845-231-4424 | PO BOX 148 BEACON NY 12508