Dear Friends,

It has been a little more than a year since we last wrote to tell you how your support contributes to our efforts to “Grow the Movement”. I am so grateful for the dedication, work and contributions of our staff, youth, board and community (that means you!) who never waver in their support of our efforts. The board and staff of GTC understands that our work is only possible because of our many “friends” who are as committed as we are to growing the movement around an economically & racially inclusive and just food system. Thank you never seems like enough, but I say it anyway, THANK YOU!

In our last annual report we told you that we were working to expand our capacity by identifying and purchasing an additional farm site so that we could build infrastructure that would enable us to plant earlier and harvest longer. Well we did it! For the first time ever the City of Springfield sold a plot of land in the heart of our city for the purpose of Urban Agriculture, and they sold it to GTC!

Now that we have it, the real work begins. Our staff and youth have been working diligently this past year to prepare the land for its 1st growing season in the Spring of 2016. In addition to our regular development efforts we are working to develop a plan for good stewardship of the Walnut Street site. I am so proud that this land is only a stone’s throw away from where I was first recruited into the GTC family, by GTC youth who were in the neighborhood asking critical questions about food access nearly six years ago.

In 2014, our partnership with the Next Barn Over enabled us to provide an additional 15,000 pounds of fresh produce on top of the 5,000 pounds of food that our youth and staff grew themselves. Our partnership with Springfield’s Go Fresh! Mobile Market was solidified further through our mutual efforts to secure a fully outfitted vehicle permanently dedicated to help distribute fresh produce to neighborhoods across the city.

We also engaged 27 youth in our 2014 summer program. While the summer work is intensive, our year-round youth leadership program offers city kids (12-20 years old) both academic and professional experience. GTC youth work on our farm sites and in the office. They build competencies in sustainable food production, marketing, and local food distribution. In addition to these hard skills, youth learn life skills critical to effective planning, communication, a good work ethic, and time and money management.

We closed our books in the black for 2014, nearly doubling both contributions and sales. We leveraged every dollar received through grants and donations with those we earned from our Farmers Markets and Farm Stand sales. Financing operations remains a challenge, and while we are working to close the gap, we may experience an operations deficit for 2015. The GTC staff, board and committee members all contribute to GTC financially as well as with their time and talents. We hope that our friends and supporters will do the same to help us to end 2015 on good footing.

Recently I have come to understand that GTC is not just of and for the community, it is the community. Like so many members of the GTC family, my life has been forever changed by the work that we do. If you are just learning about GTC, come join us, I promise you will never be the same.

With love and in solidarity,

Liz

Elizabeth O’Gilvie
Chair
Urban Agriculture

Transforming once vacant lots into productive farms where pesticide-free fruits and vegetables are grown has been the core of our activities since 2002. Our sites are valuable in more ways than just growing food, they offer a way to bring engaged people together. This often intergenerational exchange assists in growing leadership and activism among our youth and the wider community. GTC regularly hosts student groups and organizations from Springfield and around the region who learn about the importance of urban agriculture in community transformation.

3 GTC Farm sites

Walnut St development starting in 2015

5500 lbs of food grown

60% increase over 2013

33,554 sq feet farmed
In the spring of 2014 we presented the Springfield City Council with a draft of our plan to develop the vacated property at 200-206 Walnut St. The plan included a rain garden, farmstand, tool shed, greenhouse, and 90 additional beds. Molly Burhans- a graduate student from the Conway School for Sustainable Landscape Design- helped us create a design for the land. We began work on the site a few weeks after signing the contract. One of the tasks was to clear the site of over 8 tons of debris, trash and trees. We are encouraged by the progress made so far, and are excited by what the next few years will yield from this journey.
GTC Youth participate in 2 local farmers markets and 1 city-wide mobile market where we sell our produce directly to individuals and families at affordable prices. We run the Six Corners Farm Stand every Thursday afternoon from June – October at our Hancock Street site. Every Saturday during the summer and fall we also have a farm stand at the Mason Square Farmer’s Market. We also grow for Springfield’s Go Fresh! Mobile Market which travels to housing developments and health and community centers throughout Springfield. We are excited to sell our food to Felix’s Family Ristorante in Springfield and several other restaurants and places of worship in the community.
**GTC Eats!**

GTC Eats! is our Farm Share Program which brings local, fresh food to families in Mason Square and surrounding neighborhoods. 91% of members* report that the amount of fresh fruits & vegetables they have eaten has increased due to GTC Eats! 87% report that the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables they have eaten has increased due to GTC Eats! 78% report that, as a result of participating in GTC Eats! they feel more connected to the Mason Square community. 98% report that, as a result of participating in GTC Eats! they feel more informed about urban agriculture and sustainable living. *responding to end of year survey.

- 19 weeks of farm fresh vegetables
- 14,000 lbs of produce distributed, a 27% increase over 2013
- 62 families join as share members, 177 people served
- 42% of members received a subsidized share so that they could afford to participate
- 2 youth bike teams delivered farm shares to nearby homes

"The produce is exceptional and the variety is amazing. I have learned to cook with so many new vegetables."

"This is an excellent program that connects and supports the community in many ways. Thank you!"

"Organic and local that is easily available and at a great price - what more could you ask for?"
Youth Development

GTC sees our youth as being prominent in every aspect of our organization and they do more than just grow food with us each season. Youth are voting members of the board, serve on committees, and manage events and markets. We also provide them meaningful experiences with community organizing, public speaking, and engaging community leaders and their peers.

Throughout the year we organize field trips to farms, other non-profits, community groups, and local universities and colleges, as well as attend lectures given by leaders in related fields. All of these opportunities deepen our youth’s knowledge of agriculture, social change, community service and the world.

During the winter months particularly, we explore topics ranging from healthy cooking with fresh vegetables to structural racism and the food system. Youth tell us they learn things they don’t necessarily get in school. This knowledge informs how they choose to eat as well as how they think about their future and the world around them. GTC youth become engaged leaders, both in and out of school, and are proud to give back to their community.

One of the things that keeps me here is that the mission of GTC is about youth development. We are not treated like kids. People here try to empower me as well as other youth to stretch our boundaries, giving us leadership roles. It’s a place where you’re looked at almost as an equal. We are learning here but we are not treated like a child at school. That’s why I’m still here.

-D. Brown

4 youth participated actively on GTC Board of Directors
GTC hosted 10 youth summer jobs
27 youth participated in GTC programs throughout the year
7 field trips and 36 winter training sessions offered
$19,000 in stipends provided
Community Building and Food Justice

GTC weaves opportunities to learn and share knowledge about food, food justice, urban agriculture and sustainability into all we do, building what we call our teaching and learning community across race, age, class, religion and neighborhood borders.

We participate in community-wide education efforts, like Live Well Springfield which works to build a healthier Springfield community. GTC staff are also active in the Springfield Food Policy Council’s Urban Agriculture Committee and the city’s Green Committee where we work to enhance community gardens and urban agriculture in Springfield and advise on sustainability issues.

Organizing for a more just and equitable food system is at the heart of our vision and work. GTC is a proud member of the Mason Square Food Justice Initiative, a network of groups and individuals working to bring a full line grocery store back to the Mason Square neighborhood and to open up greater healthy food access for neighborhood residents.

- 12 elementary school aged children attended the summer program at the Mason Square Public Library introducing them to the joys of growing and eating fresh food
- 150 people joined our third annual plant sale in conjunction with the Springfield Food Policy Council’s Gardener’s Gathering in May
- Organized 8 recipe tastings and cooking demonstrations on our farm share distribution days
- Supported the creation of a school garden at Commerce High School
Environmental Sustainability

We build environmental sustainability into our farming and food distribution, so that we reduce our carbon footprint and take care of the land for the long term.

We use no pesticides or herbicides, deliver food by bike whenever possible, farm by hand, and rely on compost and rainwater to sustain our gardens.

We are undertaking a soil nutrient initiative with the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) and Project Bread that we hope will continue to improve our soils so that we will rely less on bringing in compost.

25 yards of compost added to GTC farm sites
8,000 gallons of rainwater harvested
375 bike miles logged in food delivery
Financials

Thanks to your generous support, 2014 was another year of growth for GTC as we diversified and built our revenue over multiple sources. We are especially proud of expanding our individual and organizational contributions by 70% and our sales revenue by over 40%, exceeding our goals in these areas. If you were one of our many contributors or customers, we thank you! In 2015, technical assistance from the Peace Development Fund and a one time grant with the Gone Giving Circle of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, we hope to continue this growth as we work to build a more sustainable funding base for GTC.

2014 Operating Revenue

- Sales/Fee-for-service: 11%
- Contributed: 12%
- Grants: 77%

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>16,293</td>
<td>25,146</td>
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<td>Organizational Contributions</td>
<td>2,479</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>Fee-for-service</td>
<td>4,443</td>
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<td>Events</td>
<td>5,021</td>
<td>3,993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>21,473</td>
<td>30,941</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>240,712</td>
<td>292,111*</td>
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* Includes $45,000 received in 2014 for expenses in 2015

2014 Operating Expenditure

- Fundraising: 2%
- Admin: 12%
- Program: 86%

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<tr>
<td>Wages, Salaries Benefits</td>
<td>127,343</td>
<td>129,705</td>
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<td>Stipends &amp; Consultants</td>
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<td>23,562</td>
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<td>Office &amp; Admin</td>
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<td>Occupancy &amp; Utilities</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
<td>915</td>
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<td>Travel &amp; Meeting</td>
<td>6,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Materials</td>
<td>23,531</td>
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<td>Management Fees</td>
<td>26,469</td>
<td>29,178</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>156,885</td>
<td>238,096</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Non-operating expenses

Capital Awarded: $58,860
Capital Released: $20,326
Thank You

Out deepest appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who supported our work.

Grantors and Organizational Contributors
Ben and Jerry’s Foundation
Cedar Tree Foundation
Cynthia C. Mason Foundation
Community Foundation of Western Mass.
Deupree Family Foundation
Haymarket People’s Fund
Franklin Philanthropic Foundation
Friends of the Springfield Library
Greater Cincinnati Foundation / Crosset Family Fund
Green Leaf Foundation
Lawson Valentine Foundation
Live Well Springfield Collaborative
Lydia B. Stokes Foundation
Mason Square Health Task Force
Merck Family Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (Gone Giving Circle)
Peace Development Fund
Project Bread
Resource Generation Giving Circle
River Valley Market
Rose Community Foundation
Spirit of the Hills
Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield
Vervane Foundation
Whole Kids Foundation
Wholesome Waves Foundation
Food Bank of Western Mass.

Walnut Street Land Donors and Partners
Bartlett Family Foundation
Beveridge Family Foundation
Common Capital
Community Foundation of W. Mass (Anonymous donor)
Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources
Thank You

**Event Sponsors and Contributors**
- Behavioral Health Network
- Brookfield Farm
- Brown’s Auto Body
- Dean’s Beans
- Equal Exchange
- Felix’s Family Ristorante
- The Green Bean
- GZA Geoenvironmental
- HAPHousing
- Health New England
- The Jablonski Family
- Marie Angelides
- Maurice ‘Soulfighter’ Taylor
- M. Smith Consulting
- Miller Worthy Center for the Environment at Mount Holyoke College
- Nature of Africa
- Next Barn Over
- P & S Tree Service
- Pioneer Valley Growers Collaborative
- Red Fire Farm
- River Valley Market
- The Roost
- Springfield College
- Springfield Food Policy Council
- Tom’s Wildflower Honey
- Touch of Class Balloons
- Wanda Givens

**Sustaining Partners***
*Donors who gave on a monthly or quarterly basis*
- Michael Abbate
- Todd Crosset
- Gabriella della Croce
- George Esworthy and Sharin Alpert
- Jacob Fine
- Juliet and Bart Hansen
- Holly Hanson
- Hermine Levey-Weston
- Anna and Keith Muhammad
- David Nitka and Rebecca Wong
- Debbie Murray
- Donna Meller
- Jacqueline Odess-Gillett
- Pamela Peck
- Laura Porter
- Craig and Sue Richmond
- Risa Silverman
- Robert Stien
- Hajarah Taylor
- Liz Wills-O’Gilvie
- Luke Woodward and Dori Midnight
Thank You

Individual Donors
Anonymous
Jordan Abbot
Nancy Adams
Ayesha and Kamal Ali
Ibrahim Ali
Tim Allen
Qamaria Amatul Wadud
Alice Armen
Lisa Armstrong
Arlene Avakian and
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Michael Goldman
Zaida Govan
Alisa Greenbacher
Arjuna Greist
Joan Grenier
Ellen Grobman
Hope Guardenier
Jennifer Guglielmo and
Laura Paul
Shirley Guidry
Molly Hale
Karen Hansmann
Donnie Hatten
Anne Hazzard
Marlo Henderson
Pam Hoffman
Pam Howland
Sarita Hudson
Thank You

Steve Jablonski
Rainelle Jackson
Rebecca Jackson
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Betsy and Doug
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Shelley Steuer
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Earlene Taylor
Rachel Telushkin
Millicent Thayer
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V.L. Turtle
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Kristen Wilmer
Laura Winter
S.J. Wolfson
Margot Woodworth
Ray Young
Leigh Youngblood
Susan Zarchin
Katharine Zobel
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Anne Richmond  
Qamaria Amatul-Wadud  
Talib Toussaint Paskins

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Liz Wills-O’Gilvie  
Ruby Maddox  
Tory Field  
Tyrra Minto  
Sister Anna Muhammad  
Robin Claremont  
Glenroy Buchanan  
Steve Jablonski  
Tyler Martin  
Moises Ramos  
Debbie Murray  
Jesszmeraldy Lopez

### Youth (High School)
Olivia Brown  
Danielle Brown  
Kyle Richmond-Crosset  
Moises Ramos  
Tyler Martin  
natasha perez  
Dondre Scott  
Jewel Melendez  
Jesszmeraldy Lopez  
Tatiana Silva  
Imani Bourdeau  
Fatiha Muhammad  
Bahu Abdul-Wadud  
Exavier Lopez  
Parris Heath  
Jose Lopez  
Giovani Lopez  
Ky Lindsey  
Chad McGrew  
George Anderson  
Axel Gonzalez  
Andre Hibbert  
Muhammed Abbas  
Muhammed Mire  
Marquell Higgins  
Jocelyn J

### Youth Farmers
Safiyah Bey  
Hector Rodriguez  
Jabba Muhammad  
Gabriella Ruiz  
Khamron Willis  
Keith Bozeman  
Javahn Bozeman

### Junior Youth Farmers
Luis Rodriguez  
Malik Muhammed  
Fahsha Muhammed  
Sean Hallowell  
Seth Bozeman
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Springfield, MA 01139
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