Dear Supporters and Friends,

Our mission at Sierra Harvest is to educate, inspire and connect Nevada County families to fresh, local, seasonal food. We are a part, happily, of a growing community of people who have come to understand how critical food is to our health, our environment, and our economy. We feel blessed to be able to collaborate with our partners and supporters who contribute to the astounding growth of families in Nevada County who buy, prepare, and eat local and organic foods.

On our tenth anniversary, in addition to thanking the many volunteers and donors who have helped us reach 35,000 people with our educational efforts, we would also like to thank our many collaborators. These include almost every school in Western Nevada County, Briarpatch, our many farm and ranch partners, the Farmers’ Markets, businesses featuring local food and farm products, and the many agencies, non-profits, businesses and individuals who joined with us to form the Nevada County Food Policy Council.

Making fresh, local, seasonal food a regular part of Nevada County diets irrespective of family background or income level, and supporting the farmers and ranchers who grow this food will take long-term effort. We’ll be here doing this work for the duration, and look forward to your continued support and participation.

Thank you,

Aimee Retzler and Malaika Bishop
Co-Directors, Sierra Harvest

Phil Turner
Board President
Children

Sierra Harvest is teaching the next generation to choose fresh, local foods. Over the last 10 years, our programs have reached over 12,000 students with farm field trips, garden stands, guest chefs, farmer visits, harvest of the month tastings, salad bars, and school garden education.

IN THE LAST YEAR:

79% of students tried something new through monthly tastings of fruits and veggies in 304 classrooms. Since the tastings, 42% more students liked what they tried, and 60% have eaten those items more often.

75% of students report that their families now buy directly from farmers

5% of produce purchases for NJUHSD school lunches (1,385 lbs) were organic, purchased from local and regional farmers

“My favorite food we tried was tomatillo, and my favorite part of visiting the farm was always seeing the chickens. I think that if we didn’t have the Food Love Farm program, I wouldn’t be who I am now.”

—Stella Singer 5th grade (joined the program in kindergarten)

High school food service staff learn to cook with fresh herbs and improve their knife skills during a culinary training at Tess’ Kitchen Store

Chopped Junior champion Mason Partak taught cooking classes at Cottage Hill Elementary School during tasting week

Greg’s Organics has been selling to Nevada County schools for 5 years. This year, high-school meals featured 300 lbs of his heirloom tomatoes grown 2 miles from campus.
Sierra Harvest helps increase local, organic and sustainable food production. In the last 10 years we have trained 46 farmers, and 8,800 people have attended our workshops, farm tours, potlucks, soup nights and Sustainable Food and Farm Conference.

This year we launched the Farm Institute to train the next generation of farmers through FARM BIZ (farm business planning), FARM CREW (on-farm production skills) and LAND MATCH (access to farm land).

97% of the 480 conference attendees in 2017 were inspired to implement sustainable techniques on their farm and in their gardens.

“...for a long time, and I wanted to be one of those people who create really good, healthy food. The Farm Institute has helped me fulfill my dream! Sierra Harvest has given me so much foundational support- access to land, resources, information, and deeper connections to the farming community.”
—Cat Cook, Brightside Farm
Community

Since 2013, the Sierra Gardens program has built 53 gardens, serving 1,400 gardeners with mentorship, starts, seeds, and cooking classes. Participants have grown $13,800 worth of produce; have lost weight, and are more food secure. They spend more time outside and are happier and more satisfied with their lives.

“We have never had a vegetable garden before and just didn’t even know where to begin, especially now that we are both unemployed. Sierra Harvest provided not only the know-how but the hand-on assistance. Now we are more hopeful, less stressed and loving eating food that we have grown on our land!”
—Sierra Gardens participant

Sierra Harvest is spreading the word about calfresh, California’s food benefit program. Thanks to support from the Nevada County Department of Social Services, 10,000 more people now know about calfresh and the benefits provided to increase access to fresh, local, seasonal food right here in Nevada County.
Sierra Harvest wishes to thank our 2016-17 contributors

Harvesting Our Future Giving Circle members give annually and have made a five-year pledge to Sierra Harvest

$10,000+ (Pollinator Giving Circle members in purple)

BriarPatch Food Coop, CA Foundation for Stronger Communities, The Edwin E. Perkins Foundation, Frontier Co-op/ Simply Organic, Transformation Trust, Susie and David Bavo, Tom Cunningham, Leo and Gayle Granucci, Anonymous. Also funded in part by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

$1,000+ (Seed Giving Circle members in purple)


Income: $813,949*

Expenses: $669,658*

Sierra Harvest organizes the Nevada County Food Policy Council, a multi-agency and community collaborative of 55 members who work towards creating policies and systems that will increase the production and consumption of fresh, local food and provide equitable access for vulnerable populations.
Contributors, cont.

Under $1,000

A to Z Supply, Abstrakt, AmazonSmile Foundation, B & C True Value, Caroline’s Coffee Roasters, Decus Biomedical LLC, The Dental Wellness Center of Grass Valley, Eigen, Flour Garden Bakery and Cafe, The Food Bank of Nevada County, Fulcrum Farm, Gold Country Kiwanis Club, Halford Real Estate, Hills Flat Lumber Co., House of Print and Copy, Intel Corp, Interfaith Food Ministry, Jewish Community Foundation of Southern AZ, Johansen Ranch, Johnny’s Selected Seeds, Melody Hill Farm, Meyers Investment Group of Baird, Mountain View Rehabilitation Medical, Nevada County Habitat for Humanity, Rare Earth, Of Republic Brewery, Reflections Skin Oasis, Rotary Club of Grass Valley South, Sierra FoodWineArt Magazine, Sikes Realty, Street Roots Farm, Sweetland Garden Supply, The Doolittle Family Foundation, Treats, The Union, Wild River Marketing.

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