Dear Supporters and Friends,

Thirty five Food Love project summer campers spent a week learning about cucumbers, holding chickens, making new friends, and finding worms. They can’t wait for next year. This is what it means to know where your food comes from. Understanding a place and the relationships — human and natural — that bind you inextricably to it. This year we continue to grow the talented team and programs that move us towards a healthier diet of fresh local foods, a stronger economy, and a beautiful, fertile landscape.

Three things come to mind that defined 2015-16. We have reached the point where are working with almost every elementary and middle school child in Western Nevada County on an ongoing basis. This means that we see and work with children repeatedly over the years they are in school. We have rebalanced our revenue sources so that community support through individual gifts has become the largest source of funding for Sierra Harvest. We have built and strengthened the community networks that bring people together around local food with the farmers and ranchers who grow and raise our food.

In working “to educate, inspire, and connect Nevada County families to fresh, local, seasonal food” we see signs that the concern and regard for local foods and the farmers and ranchers who grow them continues to increase in our community. These are the needles we are moving: Are more of us eating healthier foods? Is local food available to everybody? Are local farmers making a living? Are we stewarding our soils and landscapes? Are children learning to care deeply about the quality of the food they eat? Is the diet of our community visibly moving towards local, healthy, seasonal foods?

Building our local food economy is a lever that moves so many things about our community’s wellbeing in a positive direction, but we are still in the early stages of accomplishing this necessary transformation. We want to thank you for your financial and volunteer support this last year and, in particular, for your willingness to participate with us. The expression that it takes a village to raise a child is applicable in a big way when it comes to local food. In addition to sharing responsibility for raising healthy children, we must also continue to reshape our village and how it eats.

Thanks for your considerable partnership in this effort.

Aimee Retzler and Malaika Bishop
Co-Directors, Sierra Harvest

Phil Turner
Board President
Children

Sierra Harvest is educating the next generation to choose fresh, local foods. Our programs reach 9,500 students on 25 school campuses.

**WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE 2012?**

- 73% of students tried something new during monthly tastings of fruits and veggies in 280 classrooms; **54%** more students LIKED what they tried, and **58%** have eaten those items more often.
- 33% more students report that their families shop directly from local farmers (at CSAs, farmers markets, and farm stands).
- **37,000 lbs** of produce from a dozen regional farms was served in school lunches and tastings. 
- **25 schools** launched California Thursdays where food for school lunch entrées is sourced from CA on Thursdays.
- **4,000 students** on six school campuses now have access to salad bars. In 2012 there were none.

**This means 96% of all K-8 students in Western Nevada County get to:**

- Taste organic, seasonal foods monthly
- Eat fresh local foods on salad bars and in school meals
- Explore local farms on field trips
- Dig in their school gardens
- Cook with guest chefs

Raelynn Noel
Jaime Giguere
“Sierra Harvest’s Farm to School program has and continues to be the essential reason our students are exposed to healthy eating and have a greater understanding and respect for the farm to table process. The kids absolutely love the Harvest of the Month and beg to take home fresh vegetables and fruit because they want to share with their families!”

Jaimi Giguere, Teacher, Williams Ranch School

“I liked playing the guess that fruit game and all the different types of peaches we got to try. My favorite was the white peach.”

Quinn Martin, 8

“I never knew purple things could be so good.”

Student tasting local cabbage

“Each pea is like a little present full of sweetness.”

Willow, 2nd grade

“So much of farming knowledge has been ‘lost’ in our culture and through Sierra Harvest programs our middle school students are revitalizing an important part of the survival of mankind: farming and the need for organic, unprocessed products. Students are becoming more and more aware of the hows and the whys of healthy choices.”

Stephanie Facchini, Seven Hills School
Sierra Harvest supports sustainable farming and ranching practices in Nevada County through farm events that build markets for local farmers and provide knowledge to inspire the next generation of local food consumers. 1,600 people attended Sierra Harvest Food & Farming events this year.

500+ CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

94% OF HOME GARDENERS NOW FEEL MORE CONFIDENT GROWING THEIR OWN FOOD

94% OF ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES WERE INSPIRED TO IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE TECHNIQUES IN THEIR FARMS AND GARDENS

98% OF FARMERS SAID THE CONFERENCE SUPPORTED THEM IN IMPROVING THEIR FARM BUSINESS

$11,640 IN SCHOLARSHIPS WERE GIVEN FOR FARMERS TO ATTEND

Nevada County Food Policy Council

Sierra Harvest organized the Nevada County Food Policy Council, where local food and farming organizations, businesses, and individuals are working together to set common goals for enhancing our food environment, human health and livelihoods locally and across the state.
Sierra Gardens

The Sierra Gardens program launches families and clients of community-based organizations into a lifetime of self-reliance and healthy eating by growing food right in their yards!

Sierra Gardens serves 1250 gardeners

- 40 gardens, with 70% receiving scholarships
- 4830 lbs of produce was grown and eaten by participants
- 68% of the program participants grew NONE of the produce their family ate BEFORE the program
- 100% of participants NOW grow 25%-100% of the produce their families eat
- 83% reduction in participants who regularly had to skip a meal
- 92% of SG participants now share their garden produce with friends and neighbors
- 66% increase in participant children who eat fresh vegetables and 50% increase in kids who like to garden

“I love my garden, I love growing food, and I love my worms!”

Larry Hierman

“Garden produce tastes so much better. You definitely appreciate food when you put the work into it.”

Noah Bailey

“The garden is his church.”

Wife of a new gardener
Sierra Harvest Team

Co-directors:
Aimee Retzlaf & Malaika Bishop

Engagement Managers:
Miriam Limov & Rachel Berry

Farm to School Program Coordinator:
Amanda Thibodeau

Food Corps Service Member:
Lauren Valentino & Elizabeth Brandley

Food Love Farmer & Educator:
Lauren Valentino & Elizabeth Brandley

Food Corps Service Member:
Amanda Thibodeau

Farm to School Program Coordinator:
Miriam Limov & Rachel Berry

Co-directors:
Turner, Joy Castro-Wehr

Sandra Barrington, Kwong Chew, Rita de Lea Walsh, Rachel Wegman, Heidi Zimmerman

Sarah Seward, Erika Trigilia, Rachel Umphress, Raelynn Noel, Elizabeth Peterson, Jodi Porter, Maher, Rosie Mariani, Michele McDaniel, Jeunesse, Poppi Lebarron, Lori Long, Andrea Steppe, Stephanie Facchin, Colette Finkbiner, Jami Giguere, Sarah Griffin-Boubacar, Stacie La Jeunesse, Poppi Lebarron, Lori Long, Anday Maier, Rosie Mariani, Michele McDonald, Raelynn Noel, Elizabeth Peterson, Jodi Porter, Sarah Seward, Erika Trigilia, Rachel Umphress, Leah Walsh, Rachel Wegman, Heidi Zimmerman

Sierra Gardens Coordinators:
Ed Cassidy & Leo Chapman

Farm to School Liaisons

Bianna Abundiz, Michelle Baker, Aleta Barrett, Kimberly Bell, Lisa Conlan, Sherrill Eaton, Stephanie Facchin, Colette Finkbiner, Jami Giguere, Sarah Griffin-Boubacar, Stacie La Jeunesse, Poppi Lebarron, Lori Long, Anday Maier, Rosie Mariani, Michele McDonald, Raelynn Noel, Elizabeth Peterson, Jodi Porter, Sarah Seward, Erika Trigilia, Rachel Umphress, Leah Walsh, Rachel Wegman, Heidi Zimmerman

Board of Directors

Sandra Barrington, Kwong Chew, Rita de Quercus, Karin Kaufman, Jennifer Singer, Phil Turner, Joy Castro-Wehr

Special thanks... to these donors who have joined the Sierra Harvest team:

Anonymous, Jeff Adams, Karen Ahrens, Keith and Chasele Anderson, Athena Aronow and Paul Johnson, Hamar Ashley, BSC: True Value, Back to Basics Farm, Ian Bailey and Sara Keene, Amy and David Barley, Andrea and Rick Baron, Sandra Barrington, Kat Bass, Susie and David Bavo, Bax, Sunshine Beck, Janice Bedayn, Rochelle Bell, Brett Bentley, Rachel, Matt and Amara Bramlage, Geneva Bigelow, Malaika and Gordon Bishop, Nancy Bleile and Samuel Gitchel, Pavana and David Bohgein, Lucy and Bruce Bottrell, Elaina Breen, BriarPatch Coop, Broad Street Inn, Colleen Brokaw, Kerry and Brown, Curt Brown, Sara and Jeffrey Brownwood, Laura and John Bryan, Ray and Pamela Bryars, Brian and Ruth Ann Buckley, BYOB Wine Seller, Simply Country, Rare Earth, Val and Stephanie Camp, Tana Carlone and Jason Rainey, Caroline’s Coffee Roaster, Ashley Carpenter, Carole and Richard Carson, Deb and Leo Chapman, Rob Chase, Mielle Chenier-Cowan Rose, Julie Chiarelli, City of Nevada City, Shaun Clarke, ClientWorks, Fran Cole, Margo Cooper, Maya Cordes and Adam Bramlage, Tom Cunningham, Marilyn and John Darlington, Kathryn Davis, Rita De Quercus and Linda Jane, Decus Biomedical, LLC, Jill Denney, Dental Wellness Center of Grass Valley, Shirley Dickard, Dee Anne Dinelli, Daniela DiPierro and Rob Steffke, Lin Donald, Jim and Katherine Doolittle, Kathy and Brett Dotson, Lymie and Al Dover, Richard Drace, Jessica Druding, Debra Duffer, Barbara Dymond, Andrea Echegaray and Don Demonstene, Debbie Edwards and Steven Bauer, Edwin Perkins Foundation, Galen Ellis, Hilary Emberton and Donald Feil, Julie Erickson and Peter Lockyer, Filani Farm, Brett Filipowsky and Hannah McGovern, Marisha and Ted Finkler, Sue Finlay, First Rain Farm, Floracopeia, Flour Garden Bakery and Cafe, Food Corps, Forever Flowering LLC, Denis Fournier and Charlie Grande, Brad and Alana Fowler, Fowler Family Farm, David Franco, Fulcurn Farm, Michael and Aica Funk, Jennifer Gerstung, Mike and Barbara Getz, Debbie Gibbs, Jeff and Anna Gold, Gold Country Kiwanis Club, Gold-N-Green Equipment Rentals, Leo and Gayle Granucci, Christina Griffin, Hollie Grimaldi Flores, Joseph Guida and Geshe Losang Tsaltrin, Daniela Haemptsen, Holger Hahn, Tacy Hahn, Jenny Hale, Marc Halpern, Noam Halpert, Betsy and Brian Hamilton, Reed and Judy Hamilton, Cia Harden, Heaven and Earth Farm/Felix Gillet Institute, Willow Hein, Alexandra Heller, Hills Flat Lumber Co., Ingrid Holman, Susan and Tim Hopkins, House of Print and Copy, Sasha and Trevor Hughes, Courtney and Terry Hundemer, Jim Hurley, Ikes Quarter Cafe, Indian Springs Organic Farm, Roger Ingram, Rodger and Nancy Jensen, Jewish Community Foundation of Southern AZ, Barbara Johnson, Carol Jonas and Thomas Englemann, Louise and Mark Jones, Joye and Bill Jordan, Paul and Eileen Jorgensen, Eric and Frances Jorgensen, Laura Jorgensen and Fred Curchack, Rick Kalub, Karin Kaufman, Julia Kellihier, Kathleen Kershaw, Sandy and Don Kewman, David King, Shirley Kinghorn, Brandy Kolmer, Joanne Larace, Mark Lee, Grant Sherry Lewis, Miriam and Joe Limov, Juniper Lindquist, Tonya Lindsey, Gail Lipson and Eric Rubinstein, Janelle and Charles Lilton, Jr, Winni Loesch and Iola Gold, Alana and Vince Lucia, Dre and Chris Mahser, Joseph and Bruce Mairn, Brian and Pedma Malin, Stephanie Mandel, Lyndly and Scott Martin, Dan Martinez, Lee and Robin May, Stormy May, Shana Maziarcz, Mary Ann Mc Donnell, Diane McIntire, Meadow Creature LLC, Pamela Meek, Shirl Mendonca, Carlyle and Chris Miller, Kim Milligan, Gennett Mills-Miller and Chris Miller, Alex Minn, Valerie and Steve Moberg, Kathy and Tom Mollet, Charlotte Montgomery and Erin Robbins, Stephanie Moores, Donald Morrison, Mother Truckers, Mountain Bounty Farm, Mountain People’s Wine Distributing, Inc., Christi Mulvey and Jack Kuehn, Carolyn Murphy and Caleb Dandick, Nancy Nelson, New Moon Cafe; 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Income: $640,299*

Grants: 24%

Expenses: $542,683*

Fundraising: 11%

*7/1/15 - 6/30/16

Individuals, businesses and family foundations: 59%

Programs: 78%

Management & Governance: 11%
Mission

To educate, inspire, and connect Nevada County families to fresh, local, seasonal foods

Vision

Sierra Harvest envisions a thriving local food economy where residents of all ages have access to nutritious, local, seasonal food through strong connections among farmers, schools, and the community. We envision a network of financially viable farms providing good food for the community, where health and wellness is the norm and people are engaged in growing, harvesting, preparing, and sharing fresh food.

In ten years, we envision:

- 20 new farm businesses employing hundreds of young farmers.
- A local food network that grows 25% of the food we consume.
- All school meals are cooked from scratch and garden and nutrition education is part of the core curriculum.
- 200 families that used to struggle to put food on their table will be confidently growing food for themselves and their neighbors, right in their own backyards.