THE GRATITUDE REPORT 2019-2020
You helped thousands of school children learn to love fresh food through 100 cooking classes, 9 school gardens, and distributing 6.5 tons of delicious, local, organic produce through school tastings and garden carts. When distance learning arrived, you provided 1,230 veggie and herb starts to help families in need grow their own food at home.
“Kids are tasting vegetables that they would have never tasted, and beg for more. It is awesome to see kids walking around campus munching on fruits and vegetables. The Farm to School Program makes our students healthier!”

Jackie Hollister, 4th/5th grade teacher

“I love that my daughter came home from camp and wanted to make dinner for me based on the lunch she made at the farm! After years of being a Food Love Camper, she still comes home liking a new vegetable she didn’t like before.”

Parent of Food Love Farm camp participant

Photo credits: Brianna Abundiz (left), Andrea Bradley (right)
Local farms create food security and community resilience!

In 2020, local farmers stepped up to continue supplying meat and vegetables to our community despite empty shelves in grocery stores. You helped strengthen our local food supply by providing farmer training and mentorship.

“If we hadn’t had Sierra Harvest, we wouldn’t have had the opportunity to start a farm business so quickly. Through the Farm Biz class, we met our land partner and got to meet established farmers and learn what helped them succeed.”

Ken Wallace, Peardale Farm
"When I started, I thought I could just set up a farm stand and sell what I grew. I didn’t realize all the business and marketing skills I needed. Farm Biz taught me the importance of marketing my business through a strong internet presence, and as a result I started to get more local customers.”

Adam Pearcy, FourK Farms

THANKS TO YOU, LOCAL FARMERS RECEIVED NEARLY 600 TOTAL HOURS OF DIRECT EDUCATION TO HELP THEM BUILD MORE ROBUST FARM BUSINESSES!

Together, we helped 20% of all the certified organic farms in Nevada County earn their certification

Over 50 beginning farmers trained on how to improve their organic farming skills

83% of Farm Biz graduates feel confident in achieving financial success in their farm businesses

Photo Credit: Rachel Berry
COMMUNITY

Your support gave thousands of people access to more fresh, nutritious food when they needed it most!

Since 2013...

100 Sierra Gardens built

87% of participants received scholarships so they could afford a garden

43% fewer visits to the food bank among participants

100% of participants reported they eat more vegetables since starting a garden

You brought fresh, organic food into the backyard gardens of 825 residents!

Photo credits: Brianna Abundiz (top), Sandra Boyd (bottom)
Together we kept over **12.5 tons of fresh produce** out of the waste stream, gleaning it from local farms and delivering it to **8,250 hungry Nevada County clients** at Interfaith Food Ministry. This is twice the amount of food rescued last year! Since 2017, our volunteers have harvested and delivered **over $100,000 worth of fresh food** to those in need.

“I wanted to eat healthy without breaking the bank. Now I can just go in my backyard and pick what I want to eat. The garden is my happy place, especially when I couldn’t leave the house. ❤️ I am so grateful.”

Ruby, Sierra Gardens Participant

Ruby’s children in their backyard garden. Photo credits: Lisa Hayden (left), Lenkaland Photography (right)
This year you protected 37 acres of threatened farmland leased by Mountain Bounty farm, Nevada County’s largest vegetable producer. The Forever Farms partnership between Sierra Harvest, Bear Yuba Land Trust, BriarPatch Food Co-op and the Tahoe Food Hub raised the funds that allowed Bear Yuba Land Trust to purchase the farmland so that it can be permanently protected as agricultural land and leased back to farmers in perpetuity.

Thank you for creating a Forever Farm!

With your support, Forever Farms will continue to identify at-risk farmland in our community so together we can grow more local food, retain farm jobs, and improve the health of our community.
FINANCIALS

INCOME
$ 929,000
Individual and Business Donations
Earned Income
Grants

77% 14% 9%

EXPENSES
$ 915,000
Direct Program Expenses
Core Mission Support
Fundraising
Management and Governance

75% 15% 10%

SIERRA HARVEST STAFF
Brianna Abundiz, Senior Farm Educator
Janice Bedayn, Development Associate
Rachel Berry, Engagement Director
Malaika Bishop, Co-Director
Edy Cassell, Sierra Gardens Coordinator
Frances di Cristina, Farm to School Director
David Fernandez, Sierra Gardens Assistant
Melanya Gonshorowski, Food Love Farm Educator
Emily Koller, Food Love Farm Director
Sophie Larsen, Food Love Farm Educator
Miriam Limov, Engagement Manager & Farm Institute Associate
Lyndly Martin, Office Manager
Carlyle Miller, Operations Director
Molly Nakahara, Farm Institute Director
Aimee Retzler, Co-Director
Lauren Scott, Procurement Specialist
Stephanie Stevens, Food & Farm Conference Producer and Food Policy Council Manager
Kalita Todd, Farm Institute Education Coordinator
Farm to School Liaisons:
Brianna Abundiz, Mielle Chenier-Cowan Rose, Joy Drew, Alicia Frost, Jaimi Giguerre, Sophie Larsen, Lori Long, Michelle McDaniel, Anna Mudd, Uta Reimitz, Shauna Schultz, Lauren Valentino

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Emily Rivenes
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Photo Credit: Lenkaland Photography

STAFF AND BOARD

Photo Credit: Emily Koller
HARVESTING OUR FUTURE SOCIETY

We celebrate these change-makers who have pledged at least $1,000 a year for five years towards a brighter local food future! We deeply appreciate their dedication and investment in our community.

Sustainer Circle

$25,000 or more, 5-year pledge
The Edwin E. Perkins Foundation, Anonymous

Seed Circle

$1,000 or more, 5-year pledge

LEAVING A LOCAL FOOD LEGACY

We thank these supporters for their thoughtfulness to make a planned gift to Sierra Harvest. Together, they leave a legacy for a healthier future for Nevada County residents.

Sandra Barrington
Paul and Eileen Jorgensen
Dave and Aimee Retzler

Freda Scott
Anonymous

“I invest my time and philanthropic dollars in Sierra Harvest because I believe that healthcare starts with each of us, what we put in our bodies, and the environment we live in. Sierra Harvest is teaching our next generation to value fresh, local foods and where those foods come from, and is expanding our local food supply so we can become a more food secure community as well.”

Sandra Barrington, Legacy donor
Associate Director, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation
WE THANK the hundreds of businesses and individuals in our Sierra Harvest family who said YES to more fresh food and thriving farms through their financial contributions of $500 or more, July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Please see our website for our complete list of donors.

As a local food advocacy organization, it is our responsibility to recognize the many structural inequities throughout our food system, and promote community solutions for justice within food production and distribution. Sierra Harvest is dedicated to equitable access to nutritious, local, fresh, and culturally appropriate food. We are actively examining and undoing our own biases while continuing our work toward food justice.