



COMMUNITY GARDENS OF TUCSON

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY THROUGH
GARDENING SINCE 1990

Impact Report

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past year, it is with immense gratitude and pride that I share the impact of our organization's mission to build community gardens, where individuals of all backgrounds come together to learn, grow, and nurture well-being. Our vision to create a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant Tucson through community gardens and partnerships has never been more evident than in the stories we have to tell in this year's annual Impact Report.

This report is a testament of our commitment to our six core values: "Always Learning," "Better Together," "Improving Food Resiliency," "Everyone Is Welcome," "Sustaining the Environment," and "Generation to Generation." Through these core values, we have witnessed the growth of our community gardens, the opportunities created by our Food Resiliency Program, and the joy of the Kids in Gardens Program. Additionally, we celebrate the workshops and events that have fostered community connections and the sharing of knowledge within our garden network.

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I extend my deepest thanks to our community and partners for making all of this possible. Together, we are sowing the seeds of a brighter future for Tucson.

Brittany Guerrero

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Executive Director





EVERYONE IS WELCOME

We commit to community gardening that is equitable, inclusive and accessible to all people regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status or ability. We are equally committed to doing everything we can to help eliminate bias, discrimination, and intolerance in our gardens.

CGT started as a grassroots movement in the 1990s when gardeners came together to develop a community garden on 1st and Limberlost. Over the following years, more community gardens began to spring up as CGT supported other neighborhoods to do the same. CGT was formally incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1994. Since then our network has expanded across Tucson and to now include 17 community gardens.



The community gardens are supported by 23 volunteer Site Coordinators and each garden has anywhere between 15-35 separate garden plots that are tended by individuals and families. Shared spaces like pathways, orchards, sheds and gathering spaces are cared for by all community members.

429	Garden plots were used by community members this year
1,287	People benefitted from a community garden plot
46,761	Estimated pounds of food produced from the gardens

SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT

We use natural methods that help protect and preserve our environment and benefit ecosystems through organic gardening practices, creating pollinator habitats, and conserving water.

CGT has formed several collaborative gardening partnerships with local businesses to reduce and prevent the disposal of biodegradable materials in landfills. These collaborations promote healthy soil and foster connections between gardens and the wider community. Partners include Crooked Tooth Brewery, Decibel Coffee, Humanity Hub Kitchen, and Midtown Vegan Deli & Market. These community partnerships exemplify CGT's commitment to sustainable practices and the promotion of community-led environmental stewardship.



GENERATION TO GENERATION

We create a space for sharing knowledge, cultures, and traditions between generations of gardeners.

CGT works in partnership with five local schools to provide on-site gardening opportunities for kids and families. Our Kids in Gardens Program works to not only establish school-based gardens but also to train teachers and volunteers on how to bring the classroom to the garden.

By investing in our younger generation of gardeners, we empower Tucsonans and their families to increase knowledge and access to healthy food.



434

Kids participated

150

Classes held



ALWAYS LEARNING

We share, learn, and grow with one another: this is the heart of community gardening.

CGT hosted 11 skill-building workshops in the gardens with more than 83 participants attending. These community events supported both beginners and experienced gardeners alike, with seasonally appropriate training on the basics of organic gardening, composting, and much more.



IMPROVE FOOD RESILIENCY

We enable Tucsonans and their families to increase healthy food access by growing and producing food together.

Our Food Resiliency Program that extends free and sliding scale plot fee assistance to local residents. This program enabled 54 low income and food insecure families in Tucson to grow food for the table, thereby promoting healthy eating habits.

BETTER TOGETHER

We create shared gardening experiences that bring enjoyment, friendships, and a greater sense of community.

CGT gardens are places of gathering and community connection. From yoga classes to bi-annual garden parties, CGT gardens provided spaces for connection and participation.



Our volunteer workforce grew bringing in new board members, interns and volunteers to join hands and support the growth and development of our gardens. This included,

- Holding 24 volunteer workdays
- Attending 18 community events
- Improving accessibility at gardens with new raised beds, light weight hoses, and waist height hose holders
- Installing new plot numbers, irrigation, and water tanks at under-resourced gardens



We couldn't have done it without your generous *support.*

Thank you

to all our donors and volunteers.



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