

Due in large part to the generosity and financial support of the Tucson Osteopathic Medical Foundation, Community Gardens of Tucson (CGT) is off to a roaring start in 2021. Last year, CGT was awarded a \$5,000 Thriving Nonprofit Technology (TNT) grant to address several pressing technological needs before us. With the Foundation’s support, we have been able to make huge progress in important operational areas which, in turn, has helped CGT to better meet its mission of “building community gardens where Tucsonans grow food, work and learn together, and nurture well-being in our communities.”

With that in mind, we wanted to share this “TNT Photo Collage” that our team recently compiled for the Foundation’s Board and staff to enjoy and to share with others, which gives a small glimpse into just how impactful and wonderful your gift has been!



For three years, **Jessica Paul**, CGT’s Garden Educator, has administered our Kids in Gardens program which teaches local elementary school students, many who reside in economically disadvantaged communities, about the magic and wonder of growing fresh food and providing a gateway for the next generation of gardeners. With the onset of COVID-19, Jessica pivoted her in-garden instruction to a virtual training format and – as this photo illustrates – really upped her game with a new lightbox, video camera, and standing desk converter.



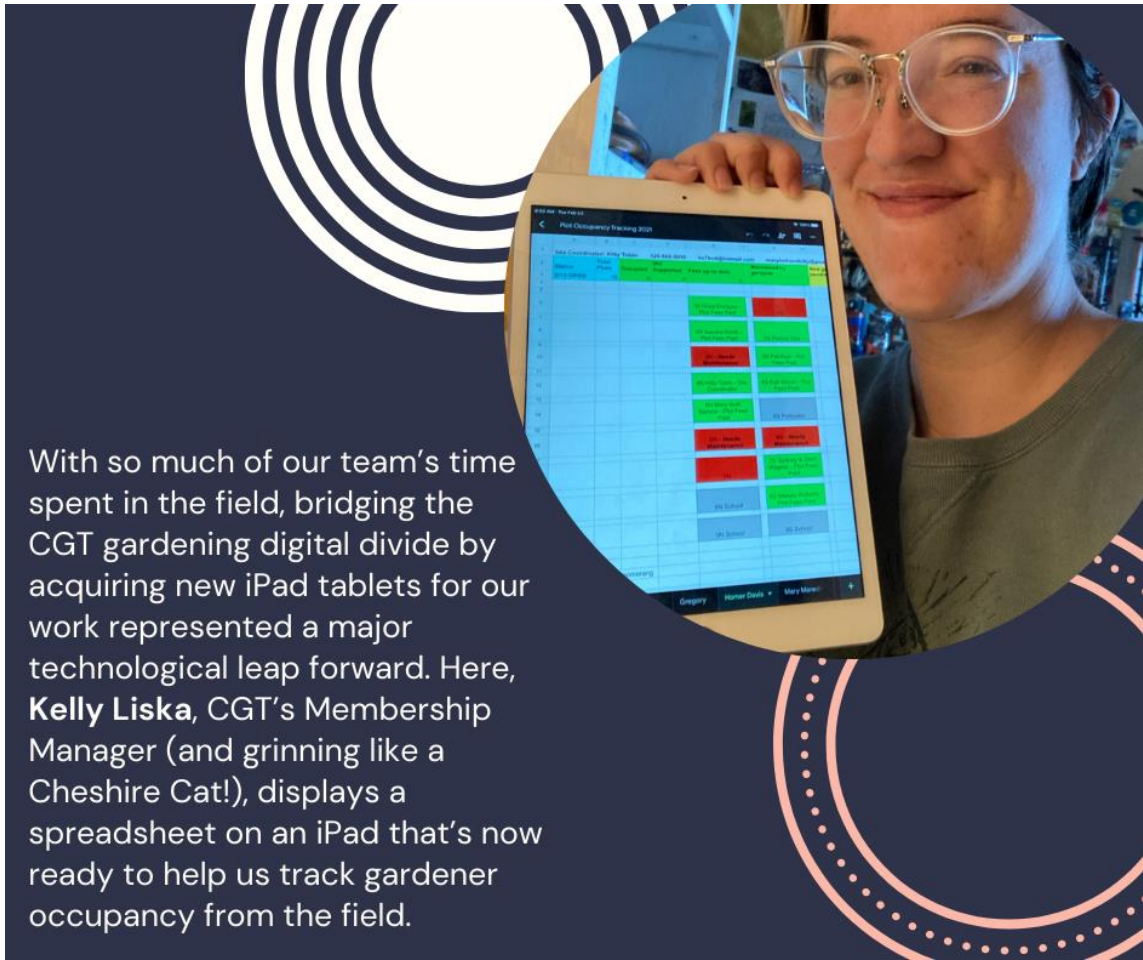
CGT is always seeking ways to manage our gardens more efficiently and sustainably by conserving Tucson's water resources and reducing its carbon footprint. CGT's Board President, **Parker Filer**, is seen here proudly showcasing one of three new weather stations that will be installed in selected gardens to provide real time climatological data that, in turn, will allow us to better manage our gardens and improve CGT's ability to tailor and implement our educational planting and gardening programs.



Cara Ryan has served as CGT's bookkeeper for 20 years and (or so she says!) has been using a desktop computer that almost dates to the start of her employment with us! Needless to say, QuickBooks and other accounting software she used was a real slog on the old hardware, but – as you can see here – Cara is now happily enjoying her new HP laptop as she works remotely!



Although much of CGT's work has moved online and is largely comprised of digital content, we still rely on the printed word to create flyers, educational leaflets, and other material to spread the word and connect with folks in local communities and neighborhoods. **Melissa Mundt**, CGT's Community Engagement Manager, was thrilled to purchase a new all-in-one color printer, and is seen here displaying a set of stickers used for a seed distribution project completed earlier this year.



With so much of our team's time spent in the field, bridging the CGT gardening digital divide by acquiring new iPad tablets for our work represented a major technological leap forward. Here, **Kelly Liska**, CGT's Membership Manager (and grinning like a Cheshire Cat!), displays a spreadsheet on an iPad that's now ready to help us track gardener occupancy from the field.



Getting down and dirty and making sure that all of CGT's 21 gardens are operating smoothly and seamlessly keeps our Garden Operations Manager, **Sasha Timpson**, on the run 24/7! Sasha, always on call and ready to spring into action when a water line springs a leak or a gardener seeks expert advice on mulching or compost, shows off one of our new Bluetooth-integrated irrigation controls that helps monitor and manage our drip line systems and water usage.