

# GROWING GREAT

2022



## + Annual Report 2022



GrowingGreat's  
Mission:

To empower  
children to make  
healthy food  
choices through  
hands-on science  
and garden  
education



## Dear Friends,

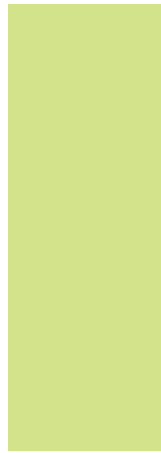
Did you know that at most GrowingGreat schools, over 90% of families live in low-income households with fast food on every corner? We believe every community, regardless of economic status, should have access to fresh produce, and all kids should experience the joy of growing fruit and vegetables in their own gardens. We empower young people to make healthy food choices through unique, inquiry-based science investigations that spark natural curiosity and connect what they learn to everyday life. None of this would be possible without your unwavering generosity.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Jovanovic  
Executive Director

"GrowingGreat provides programs that engage not only our children but our whole school community. Their workshops for teachers, bilingual family night presentations and webinars for families are interactive, culturally responsive, and unique. Through fun, inquiry-based STEM investigations, GrowingGreat sparks a child's natural curiosity in the garden and in the classroom and helps children connect science concepts to their everyday lives."

– Cyrene St. Amant,  
elementary school educator,  
South Central Los Angeles

# Back in School Gardens



"At Maple Primary Center, anyone who steps through our doors is family. Since 2017, GrowingGreat has been an important member of that family and one that the children know and love. In an area where 98% of our students qualify for Title 1, the nearest food is primarily fast food and there are few grocery stores and even fewer opportunities to interact with fresh fruits and vegetables, GrowingGreat provides our students with nutrition and garden exploration they would not otherwise experience."

– Sharyn Clark, Principal,  
Maple Primary Center



## By the Numbers

93 Hands-on Activities (Spanish & English)  
1,500 PenPal emails to 75 partners spanning 18 states  
4,045 young people, in-person at 27 Los Angeles Schools  
9,292 museum visitors, in-person at 9 Partner Programs Nationwide  
12,200 views on TikTok and YouTube  
4,000 educators at State and National Conferences  
22,000 people of all ages at Los Angeles City of STEM event



## California Partners:

City Scholars Foundation  
Environmental Charter Schools  
KIPP Empower Academy  
LAUSD Early Education Centers

Leuzinger High School  
Los Angeles County Libraries  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Maple Primary Center  
Para Los Niños  
St. Anthony of Padua School  
Variety Boys & Girls Club





"A problem I see a lot at our school and in our neighborhood is trash and litter on the ground. It's important for people to pick up trash so that it doesn't get washed into the rivers and oceans where fish and other animals might eat it and die."

-Middle School Student  
Inglewood, California

## +Planting Seeds for Tomorrow's Leaders, Nationwide



### National Partners:

Academy of Natural Sciences, Drexel Univ.  
Assoc. of Science & Technology Centers  
Carnegie Science Center  
Detroit Zoo  
Discovery Center  
Discovery Place  
Institute for Learning Innovation  
Marbles Kids Museum  
Natural History Museum of L.A. County  
Oregon Museum of Science & Industry  
Saint Louis Science Center

"Our GrowingGreat partnership empowers students to think critically, develop science process skills, explore local environmental issues and propose solutions. Our middle school students are working with camera and audio equipment to film garden tour segments, exploring video editing, developing a wide range of recipes and creating environmental science activities for K-2 students."

-Tashanda Giles-Jones  
Environmental Charter Schools

# +Impact

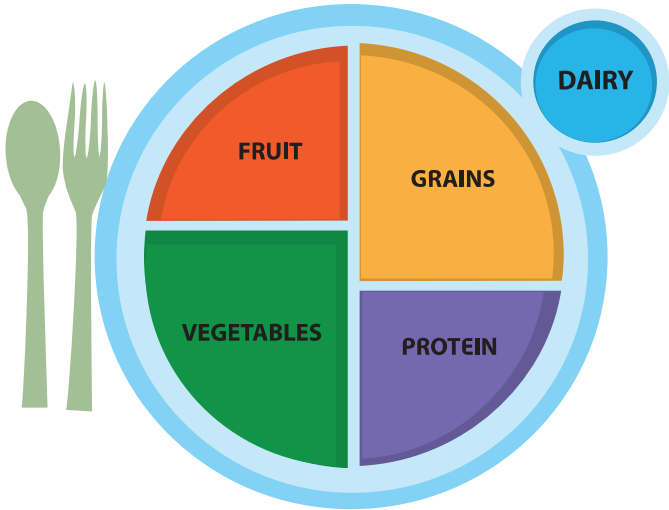
In a survey of teachers at a Los Angeles Unified School District Primary Center, after participating in GrowingGreat garden programs for one school year:

89% reported an increase from rarely/sometimes to daily/high frequency in students making healthy food choices and explaining why it's important

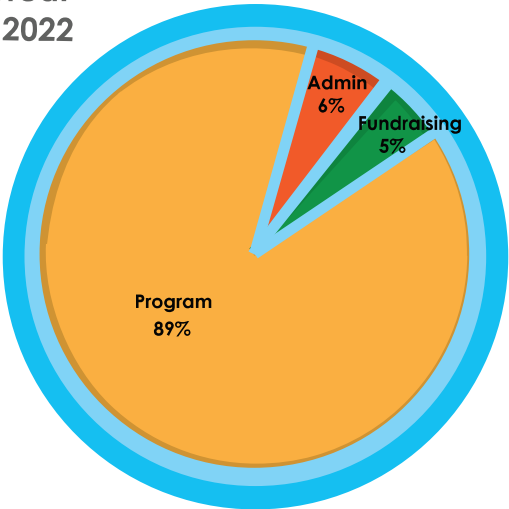
56% reported an increase from rarely/sometimes to daily/high frequency in students discussing and asking questions about things they learned in the garden

45% reported an increase from rarely/sometimes to daily/high frequency in students attending school on the day GrowingGreat was going to be there

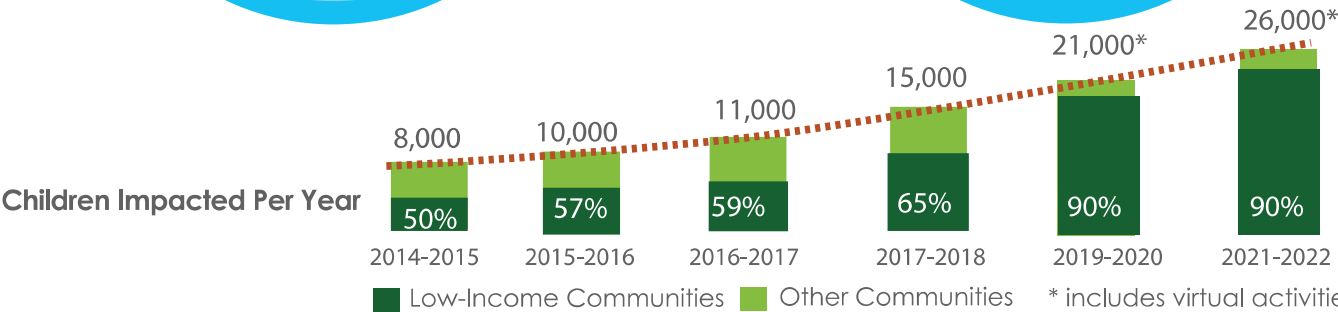
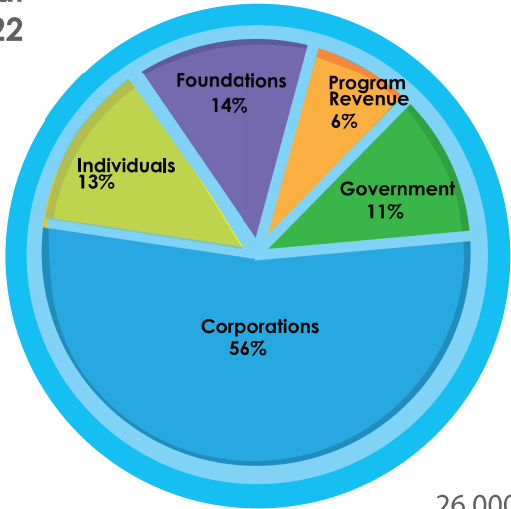
## MyPlate

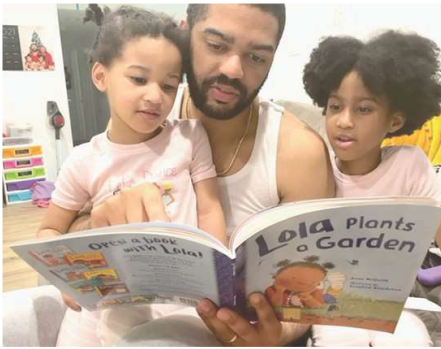


GrowingGreat Expenses 2022  
\$412,722



GrowingGreat Revenue 2022  
\$473,598





# Strategic Initiatives 2023-2025

**Mission:** to empower children to make healthy food choices through hands-on science and garden education

**Vision:** We envision a world in which all communities have equitable access to fresh, nutritious foods; all caregivers are empowered to make nutritious food choices for their families; every child has the opportunity to learn in a school garden; and every school garden is an outdoor STEM Learning Lab.

## Initiative 1.

### Provide Hands-on, Educator-led Garden and Nutrition Programs that:

- impact students in grades PreK-12 and their teachers
- are available in English and Spanish
- include standard-aligned STEM and literacy activities
- demonstrate measurable positive outcomes
- use both virtual and in-person methods
- offer video and written activity options
- feature healthy snack tasting when Covid policies allow

## Initiative 2.

### Expand Programs to Serve More Preschoolers, their Teachers and Caregivers:

- in under-resourced regions of Los Angeles, especially LAUSD Early Education Centers
- as part of the national Seeds to STEM program, a five-year NIH Science Education Partnership Award (launched in 2022)
- virtually, through Caregiver/Child Cooking Activities

## Initiative 3.

### Take a Leadership Role in Garden, Nutrition and STEM Education Nationally and Statewide through Presentations and Committee Involvement with:

- Association of Science and Technology Centers
- National (and California) Association for the Education of Young Children
- School Garden Support Organization Network
- Los Angeles County Libraries
- New corporate funder for National Museum Collaborative (seek sponsor in 2023)
- Teen Leadership and Career Pathway Programs (launched in 2022)

## Initiative 4. Increase Online Visibility and Accessibility through:

- posts in Spanish and English
- on-campus school communications and take-home flyers
- QR codes and social media hashtags in newsletters, stickers and handouts
- sharing social media connections through Pen Pal email distributions

"GrowingGreat possesses a unique ability to develop programming that breaks down tough scientific concepts into fun, edible experiments. At OMSI, we have a rich cooking curriculum that aligns closely with our explorations of chemistry, physical sciences and human history. GrowingGreat's partnership has allowed us to expand this curriculum with innovative nutrition activities designed to foster scientific thinking."

-- Annie Douglass,  
Early Childhood  
Engagement Manager,  
Oregon Museum of  
Science & Industry





# Thank You for Your Support

## Founders Circle:

Amy Watson Bean  
 Marika & David Bergsund  
 Peggy & Tim Curry  
 Cindy & David Hoag  
 Corina & Dave McGovern  
 Betsy McLaughlin  
 Jan & Chet Pipkin  
 Ellen & Mike Rosenberg  
 Lori & Kyle Sherman

## Major Program Sponsors:

Honda USA  
 National Institutes of Health, Science  
 Education Partnership Award  
 Steinmetz Foundation  
 William M. Keck Jr. Foundation  
 Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

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 Corina McGovern

## Friends of GrowingGreat Leadership Team:

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 Chevron  
 Deloitte Consulting  
 Johnson Ohana Foundation  
 Chef David LeFevre, M.B. Post  
 Cyrene St. Amant, Los Angeles teacher  
 Para Los Niños  
 Torrance Memorial Medical Center  
 Variety Boys & Girls Club

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 Nikkie Singh





As a pioneer in school garden programs in Los Angeles since 1999, GrowingGreat has reached hundreds of thousands of children and their families with hands-on nutrition, garden, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and literacy education. We are committed to low-income families in our cement-covered city where a school garden may be a child's only experience with living, growing things. That commitment has grown stronger through virtual programs to support parents and children learning at home, along with our Grab-and-Grow gardening kits, created in response to Covid-19. We have extended this commitment to thousands more children nationwide through GrowingGreat Veggies & Fruits, a national STEM education program. We offer programs from preschool to high school, in Spanish and English, during and after school, and always with the opportunity to enjoy fresh, healthy foods. We couldn't do this without your generous support. For free copies of our bilingual hands-on activities for home or school, or to find out more about any of our programs, please email [info@growinggreat.org](mailto:info@growinggreat.org).



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GrowingGreat is a 501(c)(3)  
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