

Aurelia's Garden



Volunteers
sowing seeds
of hope
for the community



2021 Annual Report

15,000 volunteer hours

46 volunteers

1.5 acres of land cultivated

6,345 pounds of food donated

500 families served



At Aurelia's Garden we

... strive to be an inclusive community of passionate volunteers dedicated to growing fresh and nutritious produce to address local food insecurity.

... believe that everyone, regardless of their race, gender, age, income level, employment status, health, or sexual orientation, should have access to nutritious and locally grown food.

... embrace hope, community, volunteerism, gratitude, sovereignty, sustainability, and passion.

About us

We are a volunteer run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in May 2020 to grow organic vegetables for local donation through emergency hunger relief organizations.

Our home farm is located in Wayland, MA on land whose use was donated to us by its owner, Mike Patterson.

We offer assistance, in the form of knowledge, management, and resources, to other local food growing efforts such as the Food Pantry Vegetable Garden at Medway Community Farm.

Who we serve

Aurelia's Garden provides fresh locally grown produce to families in need within Middlesex County and the Greater Boston area through our partnership with Open Table of Maynard MA. Open Table, a strategic partner of The Greater Boston Food Bank, serves 250 households a week through distributions and mobile programs. Our contribution filled over 500 fresh produce bags this year - each bag supplies a family for a week. We aim to quadruple that next year. Our produce is also used in freshly prepared meals that Open Table creates and distributes alongside their regular grocery and fresh produce offerings.

How we are different

We are a volunteer driven small farm growing a diverse mix of culturally appropriate, unusual, and common crops using agroecological farming methods. We grow and experiment with a diversity of crops. Many, such as papalo herb (aka quilquina), Brazilian jilo, lemon grass, ginger, turmeric, gongura (Roselle hibiscus), huacatay, and gandules, are usually not available in fresh markets but add culturally appropriate choices for Open Table's clients. Our agroecological farming practices give back to the land more than we take, building soil health and fostering greater stewardship of the land in harmony with nature. We practice reduced-tillage and cover cropping methods and work to restore native areas surrounding our fields. Our costs to produce are very low, our enthusiasm is very high.

How we have grown this year

Accomplishments

- Grown from a large garden to a small farm, tripling the amount of space we are capable of successfully cultivating
- On target to donate 8,000 pounds of fresh organic vegetables by year end, quadrupling the 2,000 pounds we donated the last year
- Successfully met our fundraising goals for the year allowing us to purchase critical tools and equipment
- Building soil health by creating and implementing a robust cover cropping and mineral nutrient amendment plan
- Agroecological farming methods have allowed nature into our field to help us keep pests at bay without the need for chemical intervention
- Deepened community connections, developed partnerships with several foundations
- Increased capacity at both the organizational level as well as farming by:
 - Building a larger and more engaged volunteer base
 - Creating Communications and Grant Writing teams
 - Adding two new board members
 - Augmented our Finance and Fundraising Committees with new members
- Added an assistant farm manager whose services, donated by Terrascapes Landscape Design Inc., have allowed us to more than double our volunteer hours

Please join us! We'd love to see you out in our fields!



Our produce is appreciated!

Our food pantry partner, Open Table of Maynard, distributes our food weekly to their clients.

"We so appreciate the incredible produce we get from Aurelia's Garden. Some of my favorite opportunities at Open Table include sorting the produce that comes in during the growing season and carrying out the bags overflowing with green to the client's cars!"

-- Gretchen Findlay, Open Table of Maynard Volunteer Coordinator

Letter from the President

Friends,

We have had an incredible year here at Aurelia's Garden! As an all-volunteer farming force, we have gone from winter planning and seed starting to tending our field in 105 degree heat and record breaking rains – all to increase our farm's production for the Open Table food pantry in Maynard Massachusetts. Each week, our harvests have increased and the hard has work paid off!

Growing food at any scale is hard work, especially in a changing climate. So much so that over the past 100 years we have lost strong regional food systems - giving them away to centralized models – allowing our food to be produced 3000 miles away by the hands of people completely marginalized by that system. At Aurelia's Garden, we work to:

- take responsibility for our food system locally, where it matters,
- produce that food within our region and help others to do so as well, and to
- get that food onto people's plates that need it and otherwise don't have access to it

Taking responsibility for our food system is a critical step that we should all be trying to take. As we take that step, we will be working to create a more just and equitable food system for the future. We are humbled to be on this path and to continue to dedicate ourselves to this mission.

In gratitude,
Hannah Traggis
President, Aurelia's Garden Inc.



2021 Board of Directors

Hannah Traggis, Founder and President
Katherine Martin, Founder and Treasurer
Nancy Kahn, Secretary
Judith Levine, Director
Loring Schwarz, Director FY22
Kate Deeley, Founder and former President

2021 Management Team

Hannah Traggis, Field Manager
Kathy Martin, Finance Director
Carrie Wager, Communications Director
Theresa Smith, Communications Team
Rona Gertner, Finance Team

Meet our new TRACTOR

Our new tractor, purchased in September, arrived in early October! This 2-wheel dynamo was made possible by the very generous contributions of all of our donors in FY21, and especially a \$10,000 donation by the Gilson Family Foundation. It will help reduce manual labor, freeing up our volunteers' time for more detailed care of our growing crops!

Our BCS tractor has big power in a tiny package. This fall we used it to prepare half an acre for seeding cover crops that will add nutrients and organic matter to our soil and foster healthy and robust soil microbes. This little tractor is a big part of our soil health management plan!



BCS Model 739

Walk-behind, lightweight, compact
Honda GX200 engine
A wide range of farming implements

2021 Financial Report and 2022 Budget

Financial Statement for year ending September 30, 2021

Operating Revenues:

Donations	14,785	
In-kind donations	3,121	
Non-restricted grants	12,500	
Restricted grants	500	
Service donations	6,945	
Total operating revenues		37,851

Operating Expenses:

Agriculture Expenses		
Materials and supplies	7,189	
Seeds and seedlings	2,092	
Cost of labor	7,415	
Agriculture fixed assets		
BCS tractor	3,915	
BCS tractor accessories	2,488	
Shed and shade pavilion	5,889*	
Tools	2,088	
Total agriculture costs	31,076	
Volunteer recruit, outreach	108	
Administrative expenses	4,339	
Total operating expenses		35,523

Budget for year beginning October 1, 2021

Agriculture expenses

Materials and supplies	7,600
Seeds and seedlings	2,100
Cost of labor	11,000

Agriculture fixed assets

BCS tractor accessories	5,000
Shed and pavilion structures	2,250
Wash station/ pump, filters, tables	3,500
Tools	1,500

Total agriculture costs 32,950

Volunteer recruitment and outreach 3,745

Administrative expenses 3,225

Total expenses projected 39,920

*Purchased in October 2021

Gratitude to All Our Supporters

Land

Mike Patterson

Medway Community Farm

Companies and Organizations

Allandale Farm

All-America Selections

Amazon Smile

Edible Boston Magazine, Tara Taft

Eldon Miller

Johnny's Selected Seeds

Law Offices of Elizabeth S. Reinhardt

Network For Good

Open Table

PayPal Giving

Peace Lutheran Church

Terrasclapes Landscape Design, Inc.

Vanguard Farm, Chris Yoder

Foundations

Gilson Family Foundation

Sudbury Foundation

Albert B. Kahn Foundation

1776 American Empowered

Grants

New England Grassroots Environment Fund



Very special thanks to Mike Patterson who has donated the use of his land to our cause for the mere price of a basket of vegetables

A Special Moment of Gratitude to our Former Founding President, Kate Deeley

We cannot express our gratitude enough to our Founding President, Kate Deeley who, in the midst of a global pandemic, came out of retirement to take the helm of our budding organization. Kate saw us through the establishment of our 501(c)3 status, creation of By-Laws, Board policies and procedures, Strategic Planning, the launch of our first Fiscal Year including budget creation and our first Annual Appeal Campaign. All the while, Kate still found time to be in the garden with us where she co-managed field operations at our Medway Community Farm site. Kate, we salute you, we will miss you and we wish you ALL THE BEST as you enter retirement (again)!



Gratitude to All Our Donors

Cynthia Adkins	Sandra Brink Hill
Sara Anderson	Jessica Howard
Ray Archer	Nikkol Jennings
Carolyn Atkinson	Kevin Johnson
Alice Bakker	Kay Johnson
Ben Bakker	Hana Kahn
Vickie Bakker	Joseph Kahn
Victoria T. Bakker	Nancy Kahn
Shelley Barron	Rebecca Kahn
Edward and Sheila Becker	Ellen Kassaraba
Joanna Black	Pam Kohlberg and Curt Greer
Pam Blackman	Jeff Kostick
Raymond and Barbara Blydenburgh	Bryan Lantagne
Heron Breen	Patrick Lawler
Margaret Boning	Judith Levine
Jeanine Calabria	Judith Manners
Patricia Conway	Geraldine Martin
Helen Crary	Katherine and Stephen Martin
Greg Davis	Sharon Maynard
Claire Deeley	Diane McCarthy
Kathleen Deeley	Charles McDonald
Megan Deeley	Jeanette McGinn
John Doerr and Christine Mirabile	Kevin McKereghan
Caroline Donohue-Ouellette	Sharon McNally
Jennifer Fajardo	Joan Minklei
Betsy Fine	Devin Murphy
Bettye Frederic	Evelyn Palmer
Jim Gerritsen	Mike Patterson
Rona Gertner	Catherine Peraner
Linda Ghilani	Barbara Perone
Gretchen Gillung-Fontanez	Barbara Ann Perone
Laura Goldman	Terese Phillips
Rosa Grasso	Gail Pickering
Lindsay Green-Gavrielidis	Carla Aronson Pomprovicz
David Grimes	Mark Press
Charlene Guigli	Heidi Proffetty
PJ Halvorsen	Jane Reiss
Machiko Sano Hewitt	Cora Roelofs

Mary Ryan
Rivka Sadj
Elisabeth Saenger
Stephen Samuels and
Joanna Pratt
Diane Schuster
Mary Geller
Daniel and Lisa Schwarz
Loring and Andy Schwarz
Jill Shiel
Kathleen Shepard
Liz Sheridan
Heather Shilo
David Shulman
Rob Slattery
David Smith
Suzanne Smith
Theresa Smith
Mary Sodbinow
Janis Spinak
Jayne Sweetser
Betsy Szymczak
Mary-Jane Traggis Taylor
Christa Thompson
Don Tipping
Deborah Tofias
Hannah Traggis
Janet Tumilty
Shirley Urdal
Gerda Van de Bunt
Phyllis L. Viscidi
Carrie Wager
Barry Zitin

Gratitude to All Our Volunteers

Trista Ashok	Andy Schwarz
Alice Bakker	Kathleen Shepard
Holly Bernene	Theresa Smith
Erica Bond	Emmanuel Sodbinow
Joan Butler	Mary Sodbinow
Diana Cebra	Karen Spurling
Ann Clifford	Betsy Szymczak
Rosemary Conway	Christa Thompson
Miner Crary	Hannah Traggis
Alan Cushing	Shelley Trucksis
Kate Deeley	Carrie Wager
Cecilia Delgadillo	Amanda Yeo
James Doolin	Carolyn Wirth
Beth Ewy	
Ellen Ferrante	Eldon Miller
Bettye Frederic	Bill Goodwin
Michael Frederic	Hulio Henriquez
Chris Gatti	Osmond Henriquez
Mary Geller	Kevin Johnson
Kirsten Gerald	Bryan Kahn
Rona Gertner	Joe Kahn
Kate Hammond	Brett Davis
Nancy Kahn	Scott Parkman
Elsa Lawrence	Eve Parkman
Judith Levine	Matt Manente
Dan Lyons	Mike Manente
Kathy Martin	
Steve Martin	
Ann McCartan	
Barbara McIntosh	
Chris Sartini	
Courtney Sartini	
Loring Schwarz	



“As we survey our fields today, which have tripled in size, we can only imagine what these magic fields, bordered by flaming maple trees and majestic pines, will bring forth in the next growing season.”