



Gainesville Giving Garden

IMPACT AND ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Committed to building food sovereignty in Alachua County by providing horticultural education for under-resourced communities and growing produce to enable regional fresh food access.



FISCAL YEAR
7.1.22 -6.30.23



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LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Meg Boria-Meyer

GAINESVILLE GIVING GARDEN

This was a special year for our nonprofit. We evolved from a donation farm to additionally serving our community as an education farm - providing horticultural experiences for a wide range of community members. We are proud of the growing impact we have made as a food hub working to bolster our local food system and expand fresh food access. As it's been since we began - our impact has been made possible through collaboration.

Thank you to community partners who believed in our ability to uplift our community through food as medicine. From our food distribution partners, who delivered our produce directly from our farm to those without fresh food access, to our nonprofit partners, who connected their members with horticultural education and therapy at the Giving Garden. From our regional seed stewards who joined forces with our farm to bolster seed and food sovereignty, to our local compost business, who regularly provided discounted humus to enrich our vegetable beds.

Thank you generous and passionate donors and volunteers, who without your support, our work would not be possible.

With gratitude,

Meg Boria Meyer
Founder and Executive Director



VISION

“

A future where Alachua County residents can rely on regular fresh food access; an agent of sustained healthcare and economic prosperity, and a cornerstone of community strength.

”

Our Priorities

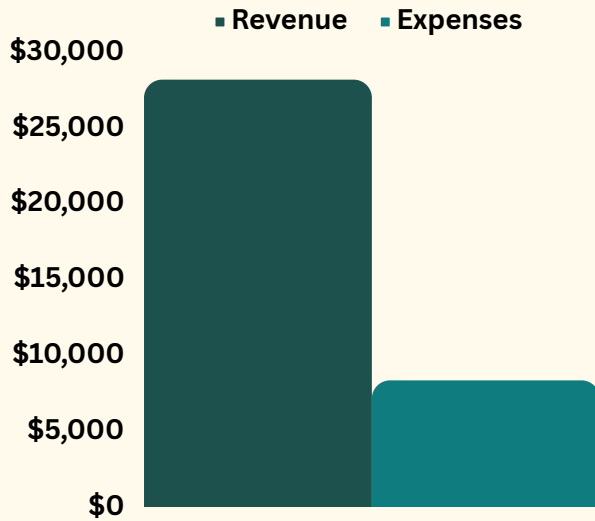
- Striving to build equitable access to food as medicine.
- Using education as a vessel for empowerment - to fortify a community that uplifts itself from within.
- Working to uplift a strong local food system, to promote a healthy, equitable local economy.
- Reclaiming communities' relationship with nature to achieve healthy and sustainable lifestyles as a collective.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

FY 2023: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

This snapshot overviews Giving Garden financials before hiring our Executive Director on July 1, 2023 (the start of FY 2024). See "FY 2024 Financial Snapshot To Date" on Page 7 for data that represents our current financial standing.



Revenue	Expenses
\$28,115.22	\$8,315.23

REVENUE

\$1,500

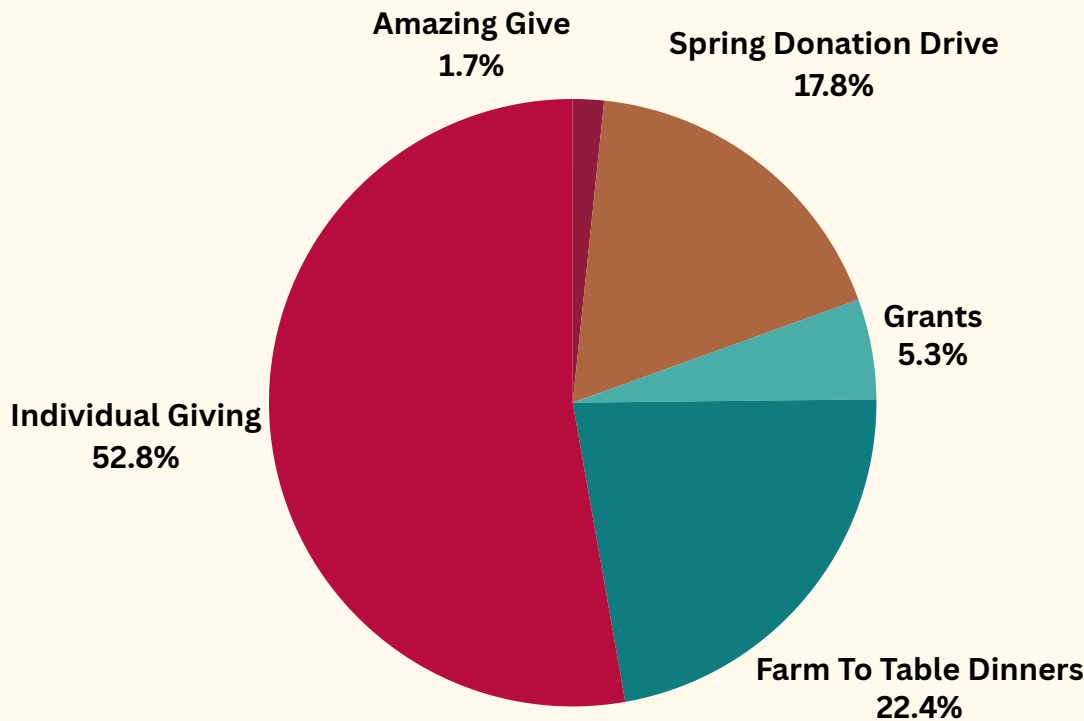
IN TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$20,315

FROM INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS AND DONATION DRIVES

\$6,300

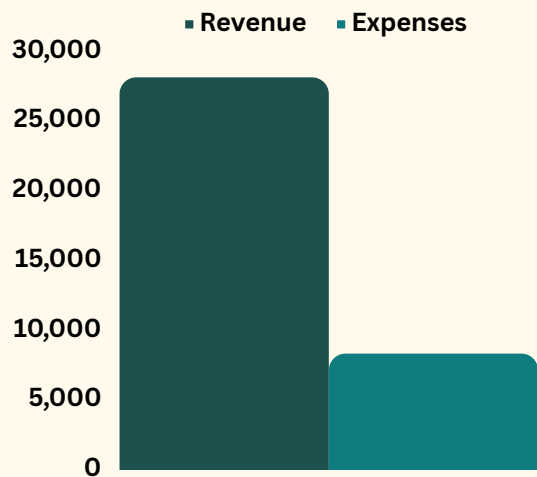
EARNED FROM FARM TO TABLE DINNERS



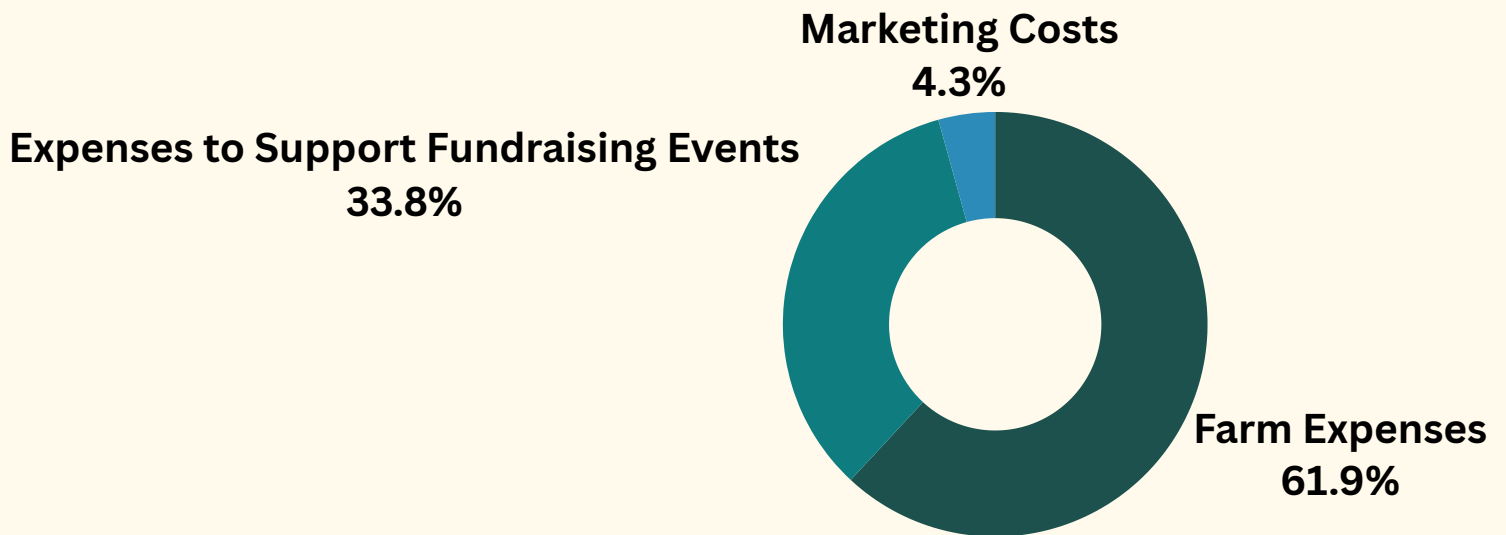
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

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Revenue	Expenses
\$28,115.22	\$8,315.23



EXPENSES

\$5,148

FARM EXPENSES

\$2,809

**EXPENSES TO SUPPORT
FUNDRAISING EVENTS**

\$359

MARKETING COSTS



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

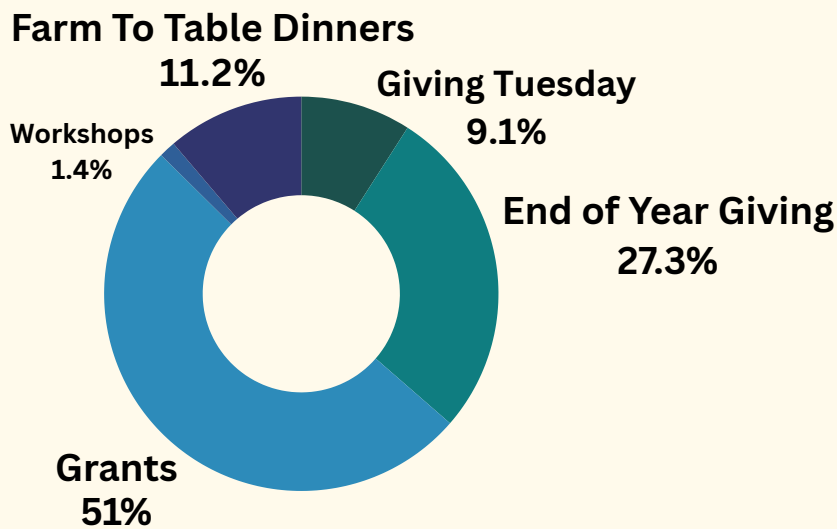
FISCAL YEAR 2024 TO DATE (July 1, 2023 - January 1st, 2024)

Beginning July 1, 2023 (the start of FY 2024), the Giving Garden employed its first staff member. The month before, we were awarded a grant to employ our Executive Director. Given that our financial goals, revenue, and expenses have dramatically shifted since July 1, 2023, we are including this page for an updated financial snapshot.

The below data reflects the six months following FY 2023: July 1, 2023-January 1, 2024.

Revenue	Expenses
\$62,490.46	\$30,840.88

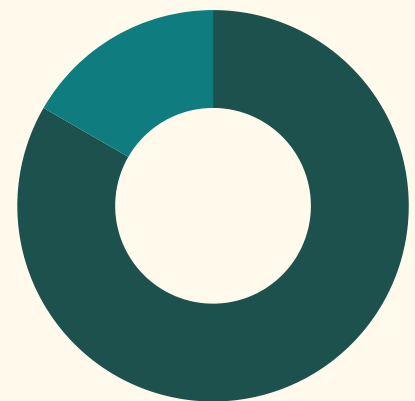
REVENUE



EXPENSES

Program Costs

16.7%



Staff Salary
83.3%

The Giving Garden’s financial goals of FY 2024 include driving revenue to continue our Executive Director’s employment and to afford operational costs in FY 2025. By employing our Executive Director, two major programs are made possible: 1) Farming to increase local food access and 2) Implementing an apprenticeship program for at-risk youth centered around food system leadership training.

Additionally, the Giving Garden is implementing sustaining revenue streams, such as selling produce, which is projected to drive significant funds in upcoming years.



In 2021, we transformed an abandoned parking lot into a working farm, using regenerative farming practices to grow and donate organic produce. In a given season, the Giving Garden donates between 2,500-3,000 lbs of fresh food to Alachua County residents who identify as food insecure. Throughout its first years of operation, the Giving Garden served as an educational site for marginalized groups and the wider community to enjoy horticultural experiences. In 2023, in partnership with Project YouthBuild, the Giving Garden began an apprenticeship program for at-risk youth to engage in food system leadership training and career development.

At the Gainesville Giving Garden, we believe that food is medicine - for our bodies, for our minds, and for healing our disparate communities.



A donation and education farm

3,000

Pounds of organic food donated in 2023



3

Food distribution partners in 2023



We work with three food-distribution partners to achieve wide reach. Those partners include: UF Health Shands Pediatrics, where patients' families take home our vegetables (food as medicine). Swarthy East GNV, which provides an affordable CSA to residents of East Gainesville, filled with our donated produce. The Free Grocery Store, a mobile food pantry that delivers our fresh food to those who are food insecure in Alachua County.

The Giving Garden provides horticultural education to traditionally under-resourced groups and the wider community, all in an effort to empower individuals and build local food sovereignty. Additionally, we host Project YouthBuild student apprentices on a weekly basis to provide training on food justice, horticulture, and seed-to-plate food production. Apprentices learn at our farm and take field trips to meet impactful contributors and leaders in our food system, providing a holistic education throughout their school year.

70+

Nonprofit partner members hosted in 2023



3

Apprentices hosted on a weekly basis in 2023



300+

Volunteers in 2023



Thank you to our partners!

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

The following organizations have supported and partnered with the Gainesville Giving Garden during the July 2022 - June 2023 fiscal year.



afternoon



Words from our partners and audience:

“I have continually been impressed by their approach to building a truly community based space and organization that not only provides healthy and local food for community members in need, but engages many young people in the process of learning to grow this food.”

- Melissa DeSa, Founder of Working Food

“The Giving Garden is a valuable community resource by providing underserved populations with education, experience, and enjoyment of gardening. Through partnership with the Giving Garden, our organization has engaged its Members who live with mental illness in volunteering gardening opportunities, which increases their opportunities to experience pockets of wellness.”

- Deidra Simon, Executive Director, Gainesville Opportunity Center

“I loved the Giving Garden Sunday! It helped me open up to new people... it also got me out of the house, and got me to learn about different plants and how to grow them. I love the Giving Garden and can't wait until next Sunday.”

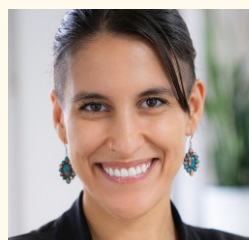
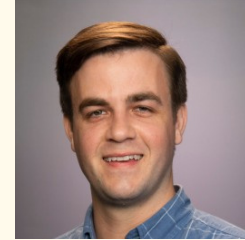
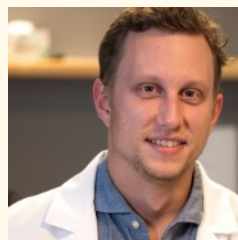
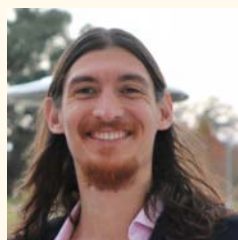
- Makalia, Project YouthBuild Student

“We were able to distribute all produce to our patients today (no fresh produce was wasted)! Many families expressed how grateful they are. Other residents are saying their patients' families are curious as well wanting more information. It has been a hit! Thank you so much for your donation to our patients! We are excited about the upcoming months. We plan to continue weekly and already have more families signed up for this upcoming Sunday.”

- UF Health Shands CMS Pediatrics Team Corespondent



THANKS YOU, BOARD MEMBERS!



Aidan Augustin, Board President

Jack Famiglietti, Board Treasurer & Chief Irrigation Officer

Lauren Hyden, Board Secretary & Director of Community Health

Steven Zill, Board Member & Farm Manager

Angela Dragon, Board Member & Regular Volunteer

Ariana Aragon, Board Member

Deidra Simon, Board Member

Kelly MacLellan, Board Member

Thank you to our sponsors!



Roy A Hunt Foundation







Gainesville Giving Garden



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gainesvillegivinggarden.org

Gainesville Giving Garden 501(c)(3) is a tax-exempt organization. The EIN number is 87-1154328.

