

# COMMON GROUND FARM

A Community Farm Project in the Hudson Valley

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**EDUCATION**

**FOOD JUSTICE**

**COMMUNITY**

**SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE**



Common Ground Farm's mission is to serve our community as a model for food justice and education for people of all ages and incomes.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit growing fresh produce for food justice partnerships, farm-based education programs, and our Hudson Valley community on land at Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center in Wappingers Falls, NY. Our farmers and educators are dedicated to ensuring our programs are accessible to all.



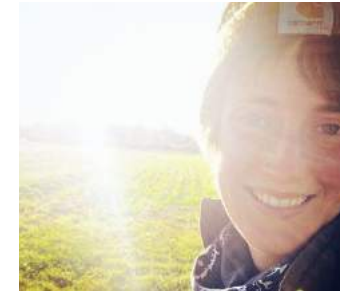
*“Common Ground Farm is a working model for healthy food access and farm-based education programs in the Hudson Valley. We have amazing farmers and talented program educators. The farm is looking better than ever. And we’re donating more food to more places and people, and our education programs are reaching more children and adults than ever before.”*

*- Benjamin Giardullo, Board President*

[www.commongroundfarm.org](http://www.commongroundfarm.org) / [admin@commongroundfarm.org](mailto:admin@commongroundfarm.org)

## 2016 STAFF & BOARD

*the staff, board, and volunteers of Common Ground Farm*



### **Susan Paykin** *Farm Manager*

Susan oversees Common Ground Farm’s land, crop production, distribution, farm crew, food justice programs, and farm partnerships. She is committed to reforming the modern food system through sustainable agriculture and working to ensure all people have access to healthful foods.

Susan joined Common Ground in 2015 after spending three seasons working and learning on farms in New York and Italy. She completed the farm apprenticeship at Glynwood in Cold Spring, NY where she received training and experience in vegetable production, farm planning, and financial management. Prior to farming, Susan worked on social and environmental justice public policy issues at a Washington, D.C. non-profit. She holds a B.A. from Brandeis University.



### **Sember Weinman** *Education Director*

Sember oversees educational programs for Common Ground Farm including: Preschool on the Farm, Farm Camp, adult workshops, and Farm to School programming. Her programming is rooted in her deep interest in supporting sustainable, local food systems. She believes that these food systems must be accessible to all and she is passionate about creating change to make this happen. Sember moved with her family to Beacon in 2011 and was thrilled to become Common Ground Farm’s Education Director where she could directly influence positive food choices in kids, in addition to helping people of all ages foster connections to the earth and become more self sufficient.



### **Kundi Glasson** *Administrative Manager & Director Of Events*

Kundi joined Common Ground in 2016 as Administrative Manager. Kundi has lived and worked in the Hudson Valley for over a decade, and is dedicated to helping others through her multifaceted background. Over the last two years she has supported Common Ground Farm as volunteer Chair of Events, as well as working locally as a licensed real estate salesperson for Gate House Realty. She has recently volunteered for the Beacon Soup Kitchen, and was also the former President of Wee Play Community Project.



### **Sarah Simon** *Farmers' Market Manager*

In 2016, Common Ground took over management of the Beacon Farmers' Market, with Sarah Simon adding the role of market manager to her work on the farm. After studying literature and dance in college and teaching for a year, she followed her heart to a vegetable farm in Maine, and after that first season, was drawn to Beacon by the mission and values of Common Ground. She has loved being part of this wonderful town and organization, and looks forward to building up the market as a place of vibrant local commerce and community in the upcoming year.



#### **ADDITIONAL STAFF**

ERIKA BRENNER, Assistant Farmer  
JESSICA SHAY, Farm Apprentice

#### **EDUCATIONAL CHEFS**

Katie Key  
Evelyn Garcia

#### **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

BENJAMIN GIARDULLO, President  
RACHEL SAUNDERS, Secretary (January - June)  
PAUL ELLIS, Treasurer  
STACY DEDRING, Interim Secretary  
ALEXIS MILLS  
ARABELLA STICKELS  
CHRISTOPHER BERG  
KRISTEN PRATT  
SALLIE AUSTIN-GONZALEZ



## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Common Ground farm crew is committed to sustainable agriculture, following organic growing practices in pursuit of long-term soil health and preservation.

In 2016 the farm grew 3 acres of diversified vegetables. Most fieldwork is done by hand, ensuring quality outcomes to our food pantry and market customers, as well as comprehensive hands-on training for the farm apprentices and volunteers of all ages. The crew also collaborated closely with our education programs, leading field tours for visiting school groups as well as weekly activities with Farm Camp.



## FOOD DONATIONS

In 2016 we were able to increase our food donations to 4 ½ tons!

The 9,000 pounds donated was roughly 55% of our total harvest, and was equal to more than \$30,000 of freshly harvested, organically grown vegetables for food pantries, soup kitchens, and schools. We also expanded food donations and partnerships with 12 food pantries and food security programs in Beacon, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Middletown, and more.

### Food Access Partners & Food Pantry Donations Locations:

**Beacon City School District**  
Beacon, NY

**St. Andrew's & St. Luke's Church Food Pantry**  
Beacon, NY

**Fishkill Food Pantry**  
Beacon, NY

**Eat Local NY / Food Bank for Westchester**  
Elmsford, NY

**Zion Episcopal Church Food Pantry**  
Wappingers Falls, NY

**New Vision Church of Deliverance Food Pantry**  
Fishkill, NY

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Green Teen Community Gardening Program**  
Beacon, NY

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County Gleaning Program**  
Middletown, NY

**Beacon Community Kitchen**  
Beacon, NY

**Dutchess Outreach**  
Poughkeepsie, NY

**First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry & Community Dinners**  
Wappingers Falls, NY

**Rescuing Leftover Cuisine**  
Poughkeepsie, NY

**Seventh Day Adventist Church Food Pantry**  
Newburgh, NY

**Castle Point VA Hudson Valley Food Pantry**  
Wappingers Falls, NY

## COMMON GREENS

In addition to direct donations to food pantries and soup kitchens, a central program of the farm's food justice mission is the Common Greens Mobile Market in the City of Beacon.

The Common Greens Mobile Market is a partnership between the Green Teen Community Gardening Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Common Ground Farm. The Mobile Market delivers fresh produce, grown at the farm and in the Green Teen community gardens, to low-income neighborhoods in the City of Beacon. All produce is priced affordably, at least 50% cheaper than market retail value. The Mobile Market also serves as a job skills training platforms for the youth in the Green Teen Program. The teens are trained by our farmers in market retail display and set up, customer service, and financial transactions, and are given additional responsibility throughout the season in regard to managing the market stops.

Common Ground's Greens 4 Greens Program doubles the value of a customer's food assistance benefits (SNAP/EBT, FMNP, WIC), used to purchase produce at the market. For every \$4 spent, the customer receives a \$4 coupon for more fruits or vegetables at farm stands and markets. With 50% of all market revenue coming from food assistance, the success of the Greens 4 Greens program demonstrated that those individuals and families receiving food assistance were eager for more ways of accessing fresh, healthy foods. In 2016, we were able to manage and expand food access at the Beacon Farmers' Market, making SNAP/EBT benefits accepted throughout the market, and growing the Greens 4 Greens nutrition incentive program to provide low-income families with over \$3,000 of produce from local farms.



The Common Greens Mobile Market travels to low-income neighborhoods in Beacon in its iconic repurposed green school bus.





## BEACON FARMERS' MARKET

2016 launched Common Ground Farm's management of the Beacon Farmers' Market, fulfilling a new market mission of feeding and engaging the Beacon community, supporting local farms and businesses, and creating a more just food system.

As steward of the market, Common Ground was able to grow the size and diversity of the market from 12 to 23 weekly vendors, accepting SNAP/EBT, WIC, FMNP and offering NY Fresh Connect Checks to customers (a 40% bonus on SNAP/EBT at farmers' markets). We also coordinated the expansion of our Greens 4 Greens program to double the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables offered to our customers receiving food benefits.

We coordinated weekly live music performances and free educational events, and communicated with customers, facilitated vendor community, and ensured smooth market operations. After rebranding the market with a new logo and materials, Common Ground worked to expand publicity and outreach in 2016 to grow the customer base of the market, as well as improve outreach to low-income communities by tabling and poster at the Beacon Health Center and SNAP offices. Finally, after a 2015 hiatus, we re-launched the winter indoor market in a new location on Main Street in Beacon.



## U-PICK

In 2016 our U-Pick Program grew to 45 members coming to the farm for 12 weeks over the summer to harvest their own share of vegetables. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback in end-of-season surveys from our members.

We continued to offer a U-Pick share to our Farm Camp scholarship recipients, ensuring that these campers received both a meaningful educational experience on the farm and fresh vegetables to take home to cook and eat with their families.



## FARM TO SCHOOL

Common Ground Farm partners with the Beacon City School District to provide high quality food-based educational programming that encourages and enables children to make healthy choices. In 2016, our Farm to School programming expanded to 2,600 children, helping them learn to love vegetables with chef and farmer visits in the classrooms, and field-to-fork visits to the farm.

## PRESCHOOL ON THE FARM

We provided hands-on education programs for 3,400 children at the farm including group visits and Preschool on the Farm, a one-hour program for toddlers ages 2 to 4 and their parents or caregivers. Each week explored a different theme through movement, storytelling, hands-on and sensory exploration, and art. This program offered young children opportunities to do things for themselves, interact with nature, and try fresh food.





## FARM CAMP

In 2016 Farm Camp offered experiential nature and food based learning for 346 children. Summer camp is an opportunity for children between the ages of 3 and 12 to explore our relationship to food and to nature through hands-on experiments, movement, games, and art. In 2016 we also piloted a Counselor-in-Training Program, to provide opportunities to youth between ages 13 and 17, we extended before and after care to all campers, and increased the number of weeks of summer camp available.

In 2016, we provided Summer Camp Scholarships to 27 low-income families, giving them the opportunity to participate at our camp, including meals, before and after care, a travel stipend and a U-Pick vegetable share.



## DEVELOPMENT

*our operating budget and grant funding*

### Income

Donations & Sponsors	\$21,951
Education Programs	\$71,353
Farm Income	\$44,732
Fundraisers	\$32,578
Grants	\$50,800
Interest Income	\$254
Rental Income	\$1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$222,668</b>

### Expenses

Advertising	\$841
Contract Services	\$17,421
Depreciation Expense	\$2,626
Education Materials	\$5,117
Facilities	\$7,837
Fiscal Sponsorship: Fareground	\$17,756
Farm Expenses	\$16,221
Farm Sales & Transportation Expenses	\$2,694
Fundraiser Expenses	\$10,822
Insurance Expenses	\$6,283
Memberships, Training, Conferences	\$300
Office/Administrative	\$7,965
Other Expenses	\$1,471
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$112,736</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$210,090</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$12,578</b>



# OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

*the generous community members who make our work possible*

## **\$1,000+**

Alexander Reese & Alison Spear  
Benjamin Giardullo  
Carol Marquand & Stan Freilich  
Christal Rodriguez & Jodie Staton  
Erin Matson  
Mark Jay Menting & Laura Jean Wilson  
Melanie Sherony

## **\$500-\$999**

Beth Poague  
Deborah McManus  
Dominic & Monica Sherony  
Ed Benavente & Betsy Swanson  
Krystal Ford  
Kundi Glasson  
Meredith & Paul Laubin  
Rachel Saunders  
Sheila Prentice Rauch  
Steven & Sarah Burns Feyl  
Wayne Bunker

## **\$250-\$499**

Becky Gordon  
John Lekic  
Juanita Weinman  
Judah & Michele Kraushaar  
Matthew & Arabella Perks  
Mei Ying So & Tim Buzinski  
Paul Ellis  
Pete Augello  
Ronna & James Lichtenberg  
Ross Reeck  
Sallie Austin-Gonzales  
Schuyler Weinberger  
Scott Beale  
Stacy Dedring  
Toby Dunne & Eileen Sheppard

## **\$100-\$249**

Alan & Rosemary Thomas  
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Allen Alter  
Andrea Berg  
Annie Walker  
Belle & Blake T. Newton III  
Clare Cosslett & Marc Kemeny  
Danielle Williams  
Dennis Edson  
Elizabeth Lindy  
Eugene & Nora Hamond-Gallardo  
Gregory Johnston  
Hana Ramat  
Helen Zuman  
Jacquelyn Bucelot-Mills  
James Howlett  
James Walton  
Jennifer Shoemaker  
Joe & Denise Giardullo  
John Forman  
John Kelly & Zoe Markwalter  
John Vallo  
Joseph Carbone  
Ken and Robin Lamont Swensen  
Lanny Paykin  
Lars & Margaret Kulleseid  
Laura Hamilton  
Lily Zand

Mark Roland  
Mary Ellen & Scott Czesak  
Nadine Revheim  
Naomi Freeman  
Penny Hahn  
Peter & Mhairi Koepke  
Rachel Ishofsky  
Robert Ianelli  
Sarah Burns Feyl  
Stephanie Fisher-Meyer  
Steve Rossi  
Warwick Steer & Linda Daubert  
William Richardson  
Yukie Schmitz

## **\$0-\$99**

Abby Gleason & Rama Divakaruni  
Alexandra Malan  
Alison Anthoine  
Alison Fornes  
Amy Viani  
Ana Joanes & Ori Alon  
Anastasia Rizik  
Anna Sullivan  
April Farley  
Ashley Holmes  
Bertha Cruz  
Bonnie Leitheuser  
Brian Mencher  
Brittany Melo  
Candace Lanza  
Candace Sullivan  
Carl Campbell  
Carol & Thomas Cramer  
Christian Woolston  
Corinne McKenna  
Cynthia Cohen  
Deborah Tejada  
Diane Volk Sommer  
Dr. and Mrs. James M. Johnson  
Elisa Hirsch-Cotter  
Elizabeth Casasnovas-Calderon  
Gail Fisher  
Garrett Duquesne  
Greg & Joan Freeman  
Gregory Scruggs  
Heather Knox  
Ingrid Luedtke  
Irina & Aryeh Siegel  
Janet Cross  
Janice Burns  
Jenn Giachinta  
Jennifer & Josh Rutner  
Jesse Brown  
Jesse Meyer  
Joan and Kenneth Brenner  
Joan Brenner  
John Butler  
John Giunta  
Jonathan Bickoff  
Jonathan Miles  
Justin Riccobono  
Kai Van Der Putten  
Karen Quiana  
Kate Roselyn  
Katherine Key  
Kelly Ellenwood  
Kendal Kirkland  
Kit Burke-Smith  
Kristen Vancott

Kristin Leitheuser  
Lai Chan  
Laureen Swanwick  
Linda Fraley  
Linda Pratt  
Lindsay Siegel  
Maggie Dickinson  
Marc Kemeny  
Marcia Frahman  
Margaret Ross  
Marie Edwards  
Mark Cucci  
Matthew Ryle  
Melissa Dunn  
Melissa Tatge  
Nancy Koeber  
Nelson Savino-Caraballo  
Nicholas Page  
Nicole Brickman  
Nicole Meyer  
Nicole Porto  
Nita Sutton  
Pamela Castalino  
Pamela Koeber-Diebboll  
Pat Quiana  
Paula King  
Pavlina Tcherneva  
Peggy Ross  
Reeya Banerjee  
Renee Harris  
Richard & Anna Marie Feyl  
Richard Kearney  
Richard Markwalter  
Ronald Warhola  
Roxanne Meyer  
Ryan Rettmann  
Sandra L. Hahn  
Sarah From  
Sarah Womer  
Scott Tillitt  
Sean Stewart  
Sheila DuPell  
Sommer Hixon  
Stacie Merrill  
Stephanie Varricchio  
Sue Rossi  
Susan Butler  
Susan Stauber  
Todd Leonardo  
Tonya Brubaker  
Verplanck Garden Club  
Wael Hassan

## **Grants & Financial Support**

Community Foundations  
of the Hudson Valley  
Dyson Foundation  
IBM  
Obercreek Farm

## **Additional Support**

All You Knead Bakery  
Artisan Wine  
Army Hockey  
Barb's Butchery  
Beacon Bite

Beacon Bread Co.  
Beacon Pantry  
Beacon Pilates  
Beahive  
Blushery  
Boscobel  
Brooklyn Oyster  
Burlock Interior Design  
Chatham Brewing Co.  
Chelsea Green Publishing  
Chronogram  
Cucina  
Diana Mae Flowers  
Drink More Good  
Echo  
Ella's Bellas  
Feng Shui Design  
Fishkill Farms  
Francesco Mastalia  
Gatehouse Realty  
Glynwood  
Gold's Gym  
Harry's Hot Sandwiches  
Hawthorne Valley Farm  
Helen Zuman  
Homespun Foods  
Hudson Hills Academy  
Hudson Valley Community Acupuncture  
Hudson Valley Harvest  
Jessica Wickham  
Keith Decent  
Le Express Bistro  
LNJ Tech  
Loliware  
Marbled Meat Shop  
Mercato  
Millhouse Brewing Co.  
Mohonk Mountain House  
Museum of Natural History  
Nectar Imports  
Newburgh Brewing Co.  
Nomad Yoga  
North River Hops & Brewing  
Oliver Kita  
One Nature LLC  
Open Space  
Orange Pediatric  
Paul Ellis Consulting  
Peekskill Brewery  
People's Bicycle  
Pergamena  
Poppy's Burgers  
Randolph School  
Rethink Local  
Roosevelt Vet on Hudson  
SallyeAnder  
Serevan  
Sloop Brewing Co.  
Snowdance Farm  
Sovereign Cider  
Storm King Arts Center  
Tas Kafe  
The Garrison  
thundercut  
Tito Santana's  
Two Way Brewing Co.  
Valley Table  
Virginia Piazza Pottery  
Westwind Orchard  
Zero to Go  
Zora Dora's