



A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt, is smiling broadly while working in a garden. She is surrounded by green plants and foliage. In the background, other people are visible, including a person in a purple shirt and another person's hands. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

# Druid City Garden Project Annual Report 2016



Dear citizen,

My experience with plants has been an adventure for me. Haven't you ever wondered how a plant gets their own food? How long does it take for the plant to grow? Do plants actually have built in sunscreen? I had those same questions once, but now I know the answers. I have learned a lot from garden. We also do fun activities, like taste testing our vegetables, or holding worms and learning how they help the garden. We also planted seeds and made stepping stones! Sincerely, Natalie



At Druid City Garden Project, we believe that every child can go nuts over vegetables. We believe that hands-on learning is the best way to learn, and that school can and should be fun. And, we believe that access to healthy foods is a basic right. In 2016, your support helped us put those beliefs into practice at even more schools than before.



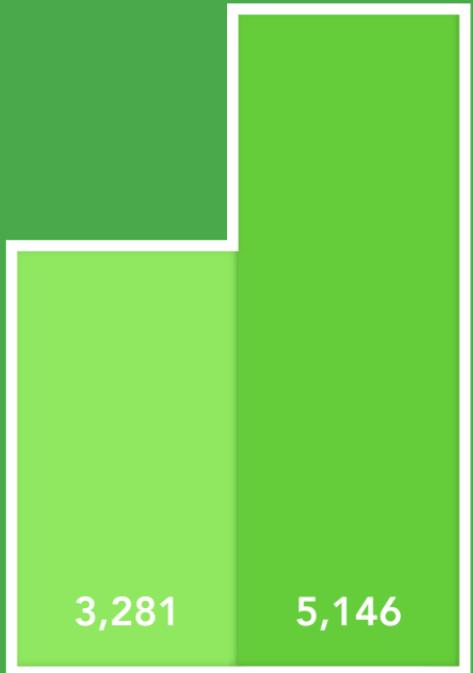
## **Where Your Gifts Grew**

We expanded our Gardens 2 Schools program into three more schools★, for a total of 10 schools across Tuscaloosa city and county.



## **How Your Gifts Grew**

Your gifts are now reaching 5,146 students and parents. And, with contracts in place with both the Tuscaloosa City and Tuscaloosa County School Boards of Education, we'll continue to bring hands-on, real-world education initiatives to more children every year.



**2015**

**2016**

**Total lives touched.**

**“The garden lends itself to many life lessons. It’s a living, breathing entity in our school.”**

**– Ms. Duncan, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher**



## Who Your Gifts Serve

60% Black

29% White

6% Hispanic

3% Other

2% Asian

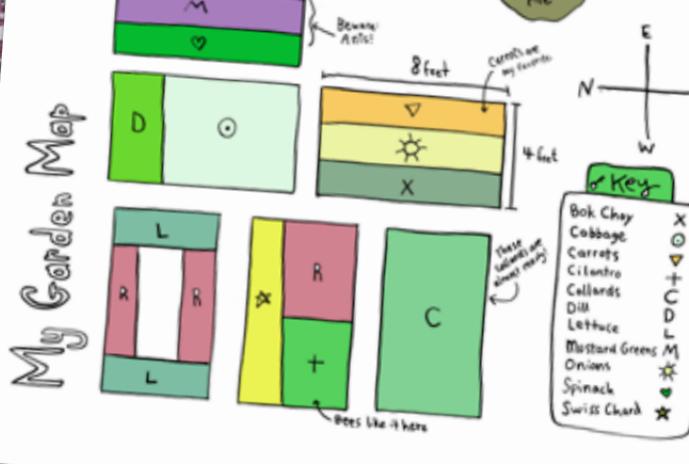
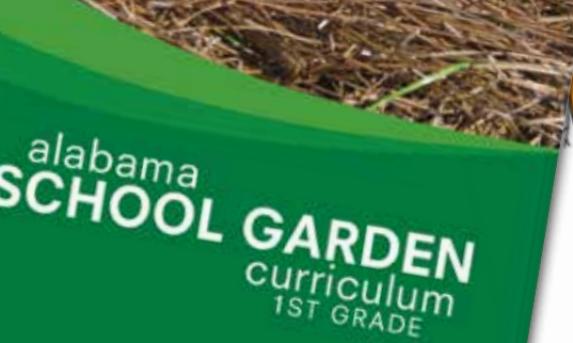
77% receive free  
or reduced lunch



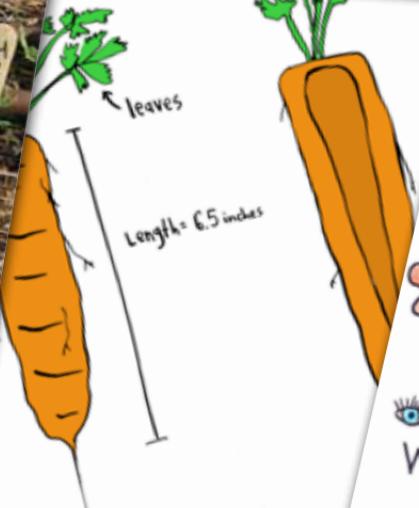


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GARDEN  
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Can you find any  
Insects in the  
Garden?  
What do you see?

## **Publishing the Curriculum**

With your help, we published our standards-based curriculum, and then blew through our sales goal for the year. Now, 288 teachers across 7 states have access to this important tool, helping to spread your impact.

## Our Team

Adding three new schools and publishing a curriculum weren't the only ways we grew this year. We added five, full-time Americorps VISTAs who are helping our gardens flourish. With all of these upgrades, we said goodbye to our office at Covenant Presbyterian Church and moved to our new digs downtown. Our staff is settling in nicely!



## Evaluating Your Impact

When you give your hard-earned money, you want to know it's making a difference. That's why we at DCGP invest significant resources into a highly coveted annual evaluation system. This is our promise to you: Our work will be backed up by hard-earned data.

With help from our partners at The University of Alabama, we collect information on a representative sample of students' test scores, Body Mass Index, and behaviors. We then use paired t-test and covariance analyses to assess the garden's impact on various target outcomes.

Over multiple years, DCGP has consistently been shown to improve children's healthy eating habits, their desire to learn



and be at school, and their academic performance. Now that's a difference you can believe in. For more on how we conduct our evaluation system, visit [www.druidcitygardenproject.org/numbers](http://www.druidcitygardenproject.org/numbers).



**"Our kids – they know people care. They know that garden's here for a reason. They know somebody's giving them the opportunity, and these kids understand how important it is to make an opportunity count, because they don't get them every day."**

**– Mr. Rhodes, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher**



## **Our Supporters**

None of this would be possible without you.

In 2016, our individual supporters gave an average gift of \$206. This year, a record 69% of our supporters were return donors, meaning that more of you saw the value of your investment and kept coming back to support this important work. You are the real engine driving this growth. Thank you.

**"My favorite thing was planting broccoli and naming it Baby Bobby. But it isn't Baby Bobby anymore, it's Big Bobby."**

**– 1<sup>st</sup> Grade student**



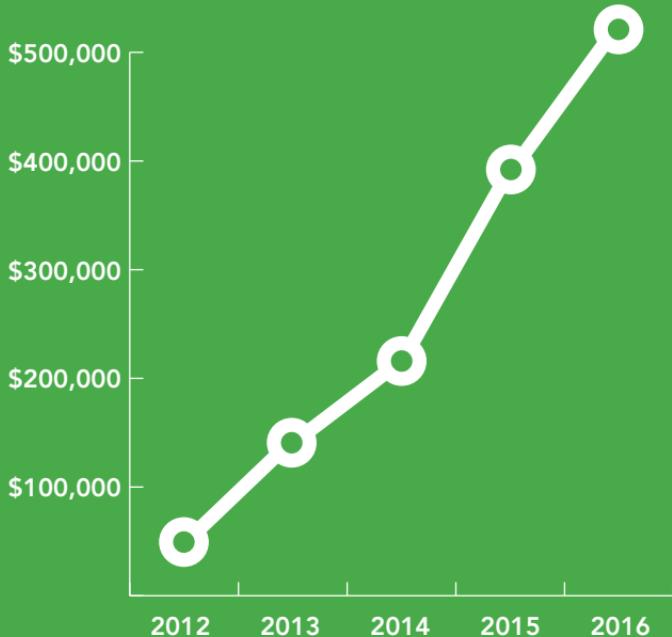
## The Financials

\$486k

Total Expense

\$502k

Total Income



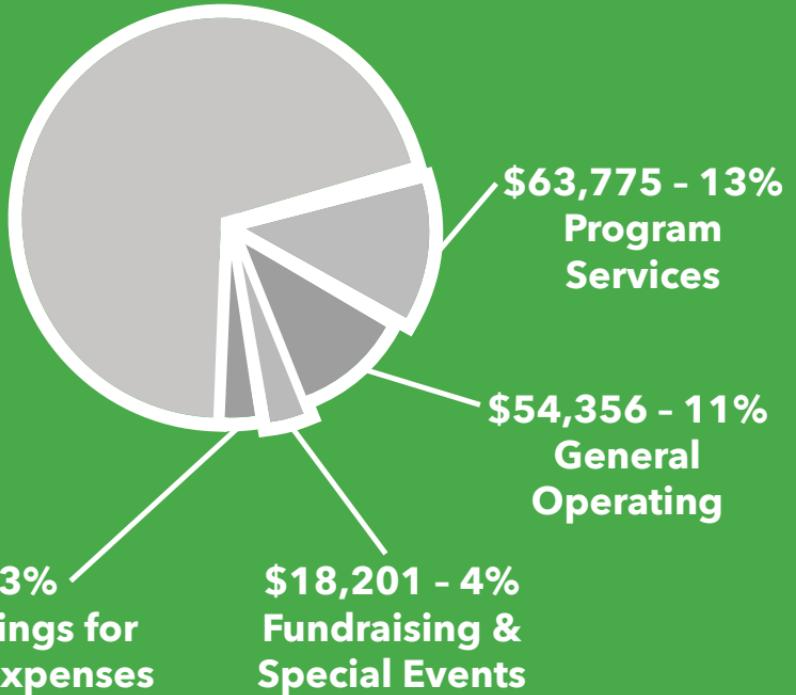
## This growth: All thanks to you

Your support has fueled our growth. Over the last five years, we have invested over \$1.3 million\* in innovative education models, health interventions, and food literacy.

\*Includes in-kind support from The University of Alabama and AmeriCorps VISTA, who provide full-time staff positions to DCGP.

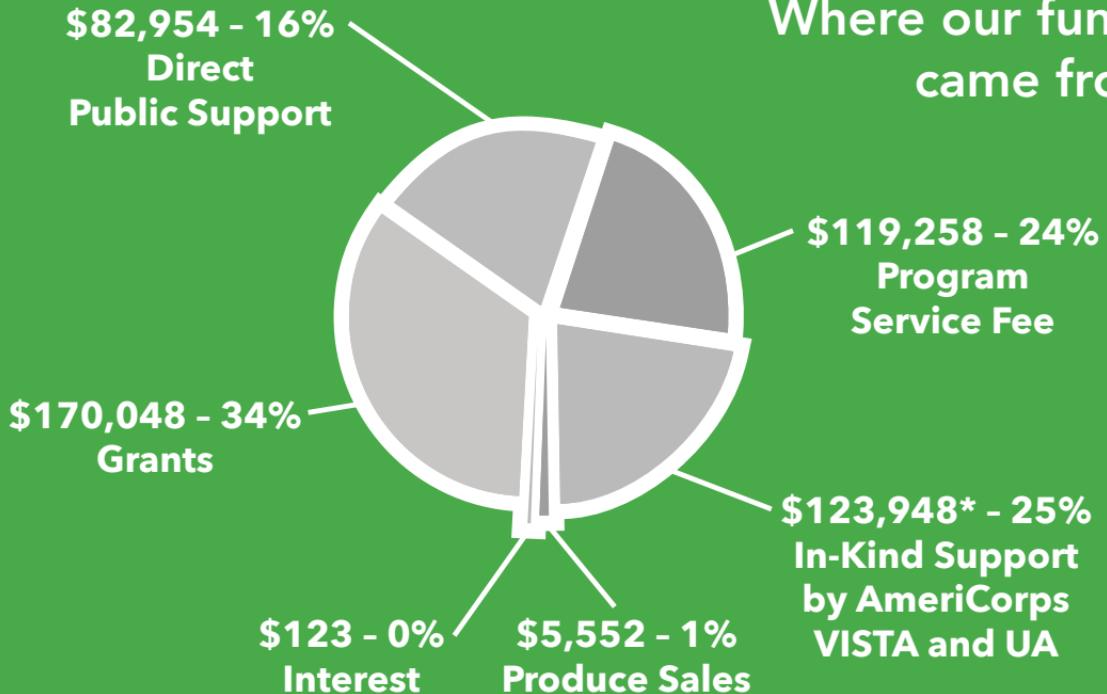
## How we spent our funds

\$348,042 - 72%  
**Payroll Expense\***



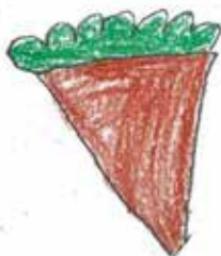
\*Reflects expenses incurred by The University of Alabama and AmeriCorps VISTA on DCGP's behalf of full-time paid Fellowship positions, part-time Work Study students, and compensation for DCGP Instructors teaching courses in UA departments.

## Where our funds came from



\*The University of Alabama and AmeriCorps VISTA provide in-kind support of full-time paid Fellowship positions, part-time Work Study students, and compensation for DCGP Instructors teaching courses in UA departments.

Love  
Alexia and grande



Dear donor,

Thank you for our garden that we have outside. I love our garden because we can stay healthy.

We ate the luckiest school to have somebody like you to do this for us. I also thank you for all the things that you helped us grow in our garden and for helping with the garden farm stand. Thank you for your support.

# DRUID CITY GARDEN PROJECT

[www.druidcitygardenproject.org](http://www.druidcitygardenproject.org)

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 Druid City Garden Project