



DRUID CITY GARDEN PROJECT

annual
report
— 2015 —

What can a school garden do?



“Because of DCGP, my child likes to eat more fruits and vegetables and asks questions about different kinds of vegetables.”

– Keisha Harris, parent



Increase healthy eating choices to reduce childhood obesity



Increase standardized test scores



Encourage entrepreneurial skills



Involve parents at school



Encourage environmental stewardship & sustainability



Build positive character development and leadership skills

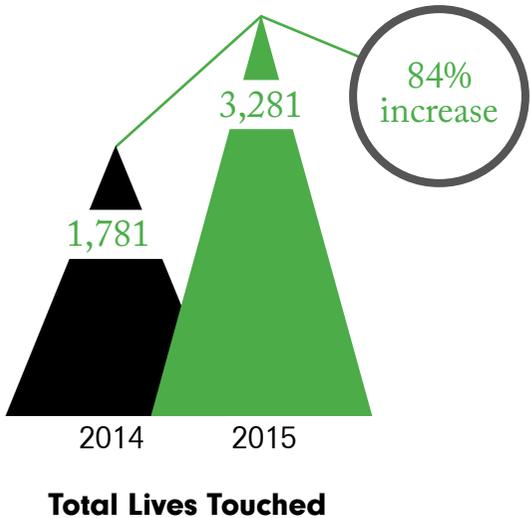


Energize teachers

School gardens are powerful tool for change.

With childhood obesity and type II diabetes at an all-time high in our state, we need to act to ensure our kids have every opportunity to grow up healthily.

With the help of our donors and supporters, DCGP expanded services this year to touch more lives than ever before:



Obesity runs rampant in Alabama's children, and too often, the children who need healthy, affordable foods the most are the ones who lack it. **But we can change that.**

By starting with the philosophy that learning should be fun, and by bringing that philosophy to an outdoor classroom, our programs help grow a healthier community from the ground up.

Of our students:



**visit our website for an analysis and discussion of how we calculate food deserts and obesity.*



GARDENS 2 SCHOOLS



You, our supporters and donors, made 2015 a record-breaking year. You helped us open 3 new school sites, expand into a new school system, and reach over 2,650 elementary students in 7 schools *every week!*

We dream that every school will have a teaching garden. And, because of you, we are closer than ever to realizing that goal.

This is how education can be.



2,651 students in weekly garden lessons—a 49% increase over last year



22 student-run farm stands—a 46% increase over last year



7 school garden sites—a 75% increase over last year

“So many kids need to get out of the classroom. They learn better, they need to move and look... students will learn more if they can touch and see things, and feel like they’re doing it themselves.”

– Leah Juliano, teacher-in-training

What was accomplished

Our standards-based approach teaches critical subjects by putting knowledge into practice in a living science laboratory.

And demand is high. More schools applied for the Gardens 2 Schools program this year than ever before.

We believe that our kids do best when they can put their knowledge into practice. We believe that kids aren't designed to sit at a desk for 8 hours a day. We believe that kids can be thrilled about vegetables.

And, we have the evidence to prove it.



"I love that we do garden sales, have fun, and have a great teacher to teach us. I also love that we get to do fun things with each other." – Jaeshon S., 4th grade



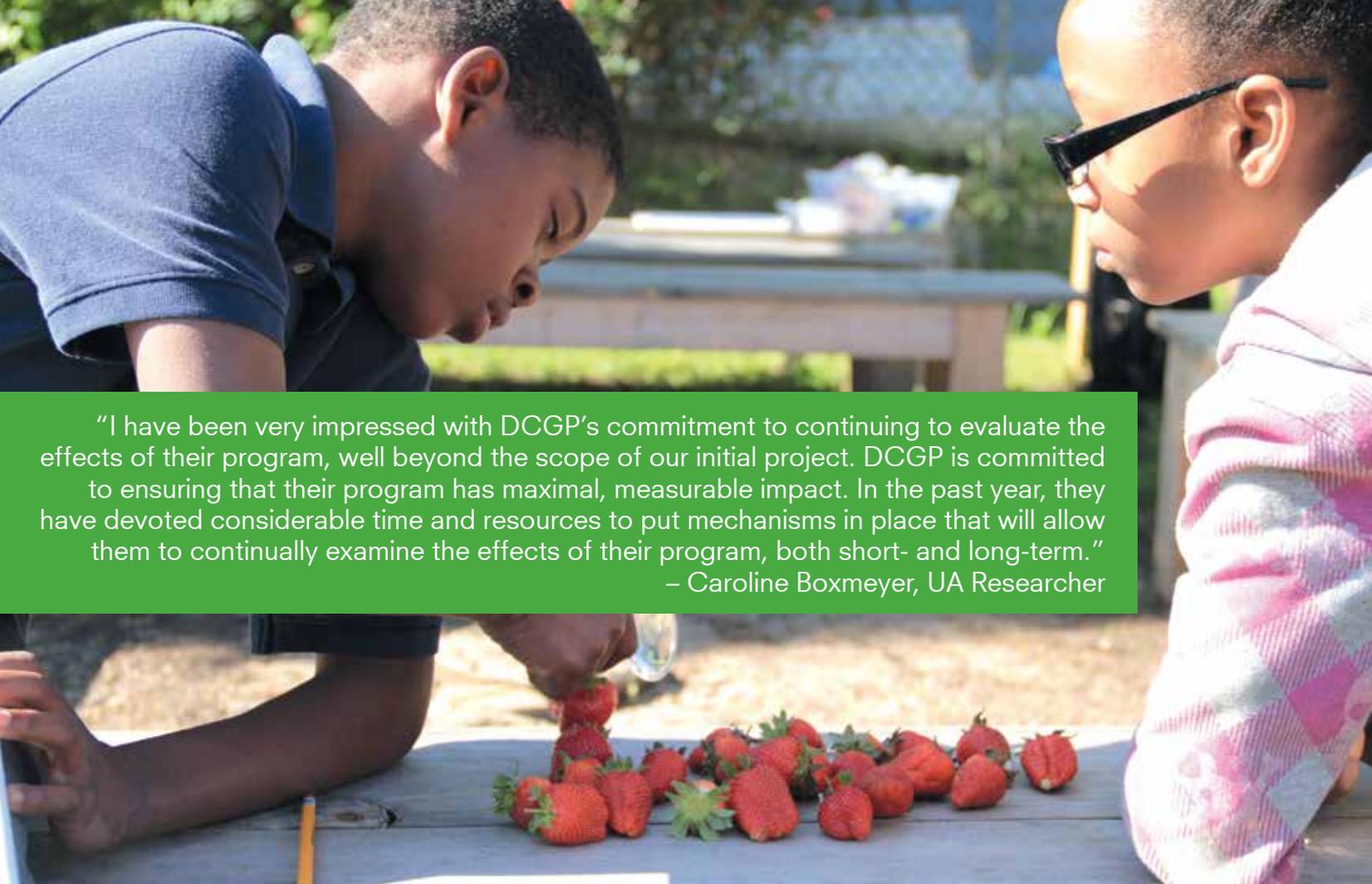
Dear donors

Thank you so very much for funding
our garden. Our garden class is
just such a fun way to experience
how plants grow! We grow radishes,
carrots, dill, strawberries and all these
other great fruits and veggies also!
You have been a great help. It's just
so much fun to watch these plants
grow!

Your freinds,

Madeline

2nd grade TIMSE



“I have been very impressed with DCGP’s commitment to continuing to evaluate the effects of their program, well beyond the scope of our initial project. DCGP is committed to ensuring that their program has maximal, measurable impact. In the past year, they have devoted considerable time and resources to put mechanisms in place that will allow them to continually examine the effects of their program, both short- and long-term.”
– Caroline Boxmeyer, UA Researcher

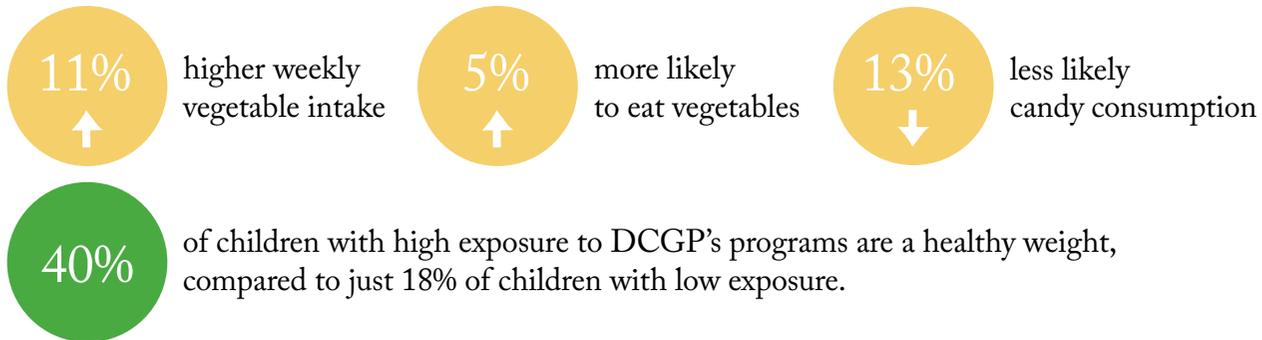
How do you know your support is making a difference?

Here at DCGP, we rely on research to guide our programs. Annual evaluation of the Gardens 2 Schools program is a priority.

When you invest in DCGP, you're investing in measurable change in our community.

With the help of researchers at The University of Alabama, we assess our students using tried-and-true research tools specifically designed for our program to determine whether and how we are reducing childhood obesity, increasing test scores, and getting kids excited about school.

According to a longitudinal analysis of data, UA researchers concluded that, because of DCGP's programs, children:



And, according to teachers:

80%

said the garden increased students' interest in school.

95%

of teachers rated DCGP as knowledgeable of their needs.

96%

said the garden increased parental involvement at school.

100%

said it has increased the importance of health and nutrition at school.

This data summarizes the longitudinal change over time of elementary students at varying levels of exposure to DCGP's programs. These figures have undergone rigorous analysis and have held up through multiple data points.

Each year, DCGP provides an updated evaluation of our impact so you can see your investment in action. This is our commitment to you, our donors and supporters.

For more on our methods, and to see detailed annual results, visit: druidcitygardenproject.org/numbers.



“My favorite thing to do was math in the garden. It was fun doing it because we learned how to add in the garden and we got to work in the garden.”

– Desiree D., 2nd grade

University of Alabama Partnerships

How can college students affect positive change?

There is a special magic in the air when a college student realizes that they have the power to change their community.

At DCGP, we not only believe that our youngest students learn best when their work is hands-on, we think all students do.

With dedicated support from The Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility and a new partnership with the Honors College, DCGP teaches 3 service-learning classes where UA students learn by doing.

UA students maintain school gardens, work with elementary students to facilitate garden-based learning, learn how to become an educator, and so much more.

This year, UA students built benches and garden beds, produced graphic design materials, facilitated the Budding Entrepreneurs program, mentored kids, produced Public Relations materials, and facilitated our annual program evaluation. **And, they made a lasting difference in our community.**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA[®]

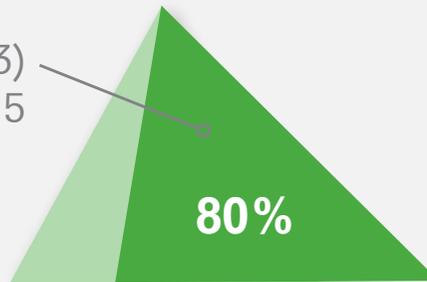
We want to thank the UA Departments and Colleges who worked with us in 2015:

Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility
Graduate School
Center for Community Based Partnerships
College of Communications, PR Department
College of Human and Environmental Sciences –
Event Planning
College of Community Health Sciences -
School of Medicine

Center for Service and Leadership
Culverhouse College of Commerce
College of Arts and Sciences:
New College
Art Department (Sculpture and Graphic Design)
Honors College
Department of Anthropology
Department of Psychiatry and Behavior Medicine

AS OF SEPT 15TH, **246 UA STUDENT VOLUNTEERS** HAVE GIVEN:

2,919 (of 3,503)
Total Volunteer Hours in 2015



Name: Brian Dotson



Strawberries

Swichard

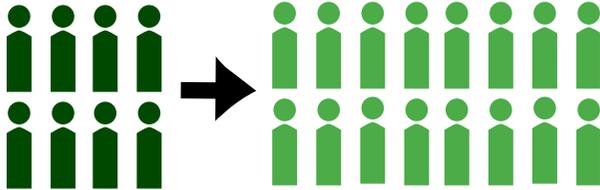
Carrots

Lettuce

My favorite thing that we do in garden is harvesting because it's kind of fun to me and I love doing it everyday. My other favorite thing is planting and tasting veggies because I love it and my favorite veggie to taste is swichard and my favorite fruit to taste is strawberries.

2015 Financials

For the second year in a row, we have doubled our staff size. Because of your generosity, we ended the year with 9 employees, 4 Work Study students, and 3 Interns.



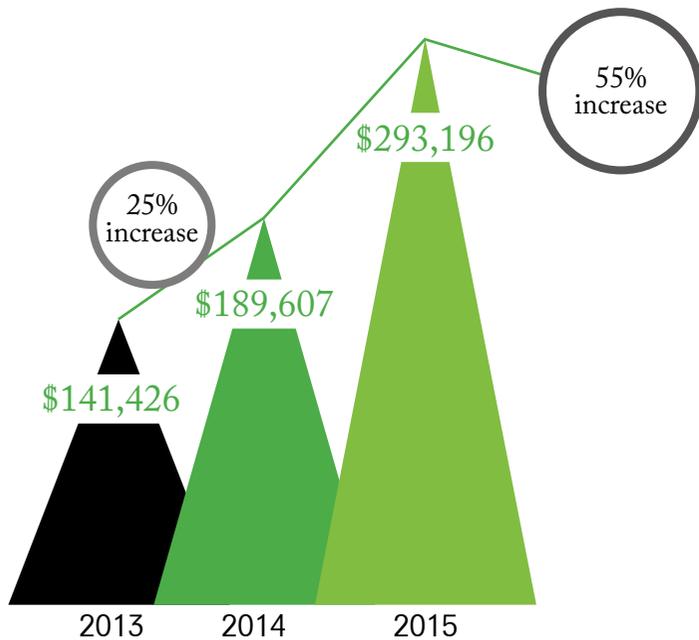
The average donation by an individual to DCGP was \$137.



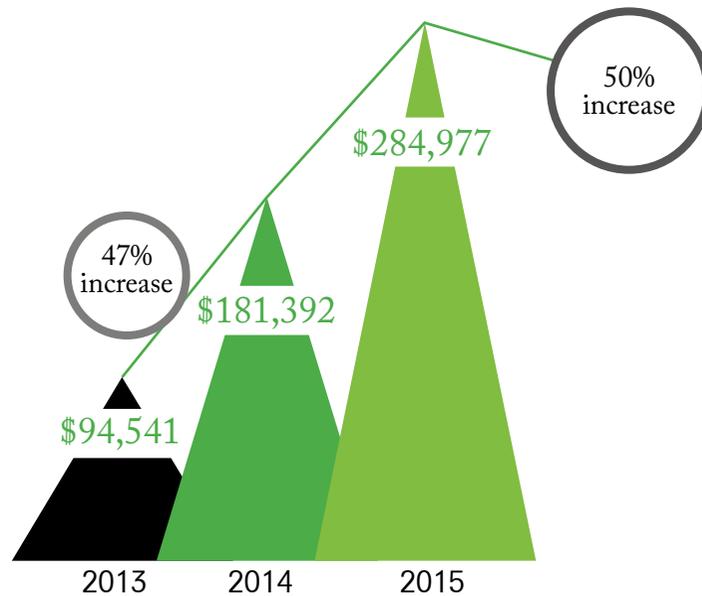
We are committed to providing you with transparent financial records. To that end, each year an independent CPA firm conducts a formal Review of our finances, which are available upon request.

Contact us at help@druidcitygardenproject.org to request a copy or visit our page at [Guidestar](#) to view our 990 tax return after May 15, 2016.

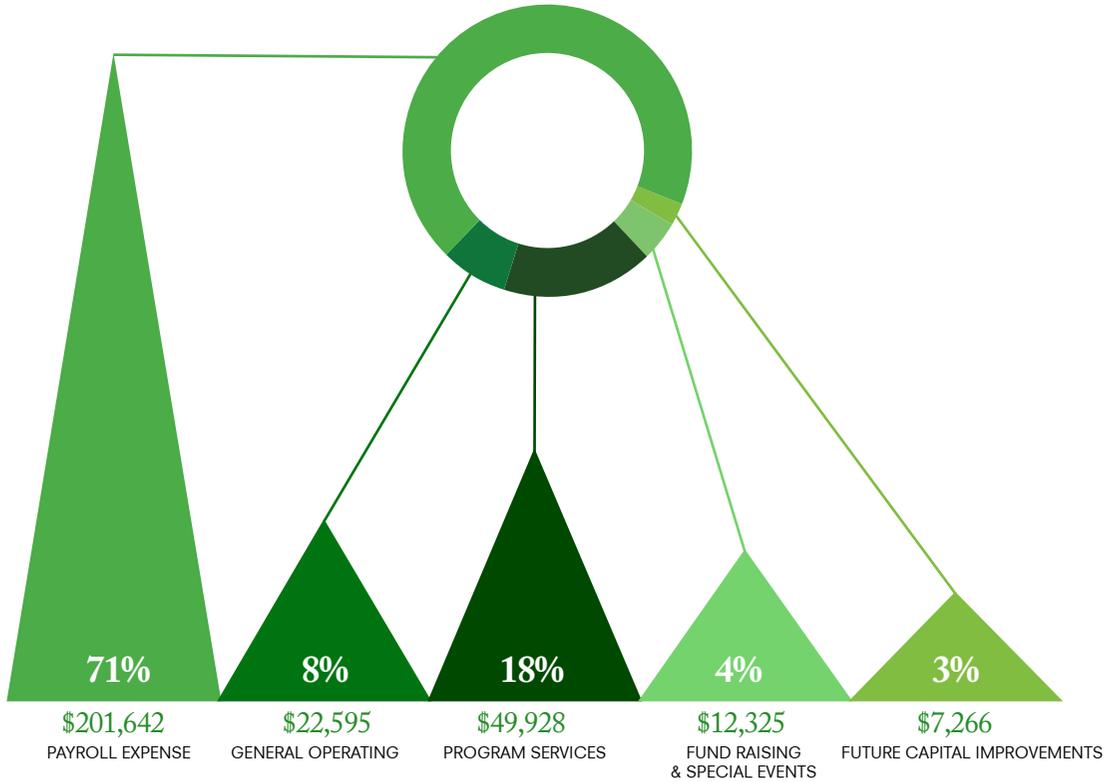




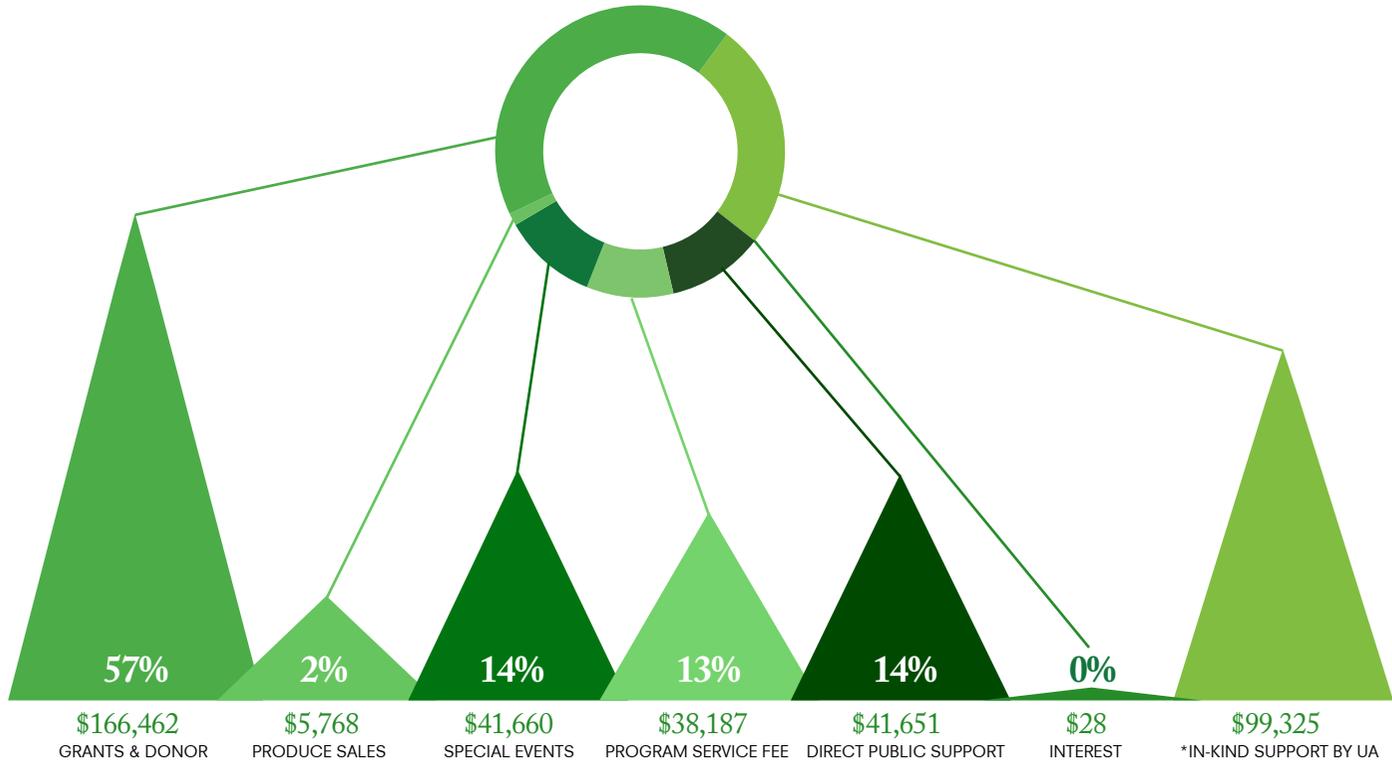
Total Income



Total Expense



How we spend our funds



Where our funds come from

**The University of Alabama provides in-kind support of Fellowships, part-time Work Study students, and compensation for DCGP Instructors teaching courses in UA departments.*

Donor list

You, our donors and supporters, are the reason we have had such tremendous success in 2015. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for making a big difference in our community.

Individual Supporters

Charles Abney

Natalie & Bill Adams

Clayton S. Allen *in honor of Scotty Randall*

Ree & Robert Almon

Linda Baggett

Emily Baker

Jason & Elizabeth Bearden

Robert & Latika Becker

John F Beeler

Mary Virginia & Bill Best

Kristin & William Blakeney

Kathryn Brandon

Catherine Bridgers

Elizabeth Bridgers

Carol Bridgers *in honor of Catherine Bridgers*

Beverly Bridgers *in honor of Catherine Bridgers*

Glenna Brown *in honor of Scotty Randall*

Georgia & Louis Buettner

Anthony Buhr

Rob & Anna Burns

Virginia Cade

Barbie Cleino

Carl & Pat Clements

Erin Cochran *in honor of Joya Elmore*

Jennifer Colburn

Charles & Peggy Collins

George Cook

Brad & Susan Cork

Donna Wade Cornelius

Catherine Evans Davies

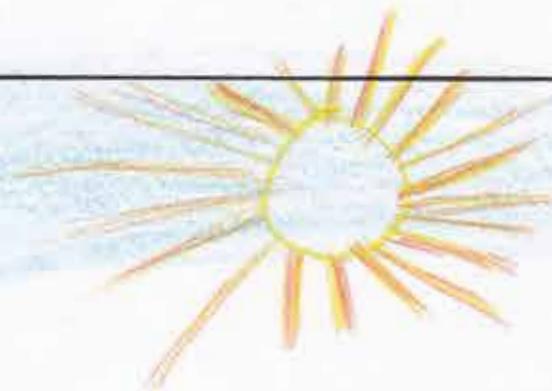
Emily & Bill Deal *in honor of Emily Leigh*

Adelaide and Earle Drennen

Carol Eichelberger
Anna Ezell
Craig Fairburn
Carrie & Lewis Fitts
Matt & Alana Foltz
Claire Friday
Joseph & Frances Fritz
Harry Gabriel
Carol & Aaron Geer
Gary & Sarah Grace
Carl & Brenda Grubb *in honor of Scotty Randall*
Bruce Hagemann
Kim Harle
Jack Harris *in honor of Scotty Randall*
Lisa Harris *in honor of Lindsay Turner*
Sidney Hennessey
Jana Henry
Kathy & Ronald Henslee
Mark Hickman
Madeleine Hill
Favor & Jimmy Hinton
ErinHisey in honor of Wanda Paul

Carol & Jerome Hoffman
David & Kim Hudson
Andrew Huebner
Nichole Hughes
Millie Jackson
Joanna Jacobs
Olivia Jamin
Chuck & Lynn Johnson
Tom & Shelley Jones
Lynda Kees
Stephen & Lyndsey Kone
John Frederick & Mari Kozel
Drew Kyle
Hank & Jane Lazer
Emily & Jack R. Leigh *in honor of DCGP Staff*
Michaela Lewellyn Humpal
Ashley & Justin Little
Cindy & Ben Lucy
Fernanda & Grant Luiken
Fernanda Luiken
Donna Marrero
Rodney Marshall

Name: Klavna Northam 12/10/15



My best part in Garden is
When we plants rainbow carrots and
lettuce then watch them grow. The class
got to taste the kale and some more
growing stuff. I can't wait to taste
the Strawberries and the Carrots. I
also had fun doing math in garden and
measure the bed.

Michael Martone
Chris & Adrienne McGee
Virginia McPearson
David & Lesley Jo Meek
Camille & Michael Mendle
David & Jennie M. Miller *in honor of Scotty Randall*
Valery & Jeff Minges & Patterson *in honor of friends*
Sarah Moore
Kathy Moore
Nancy Morton
Katherine Nolan
John & Dorothy Owens
Pamela & Edwin Parker *in honor of Scotty Randall*
Edwin L. Parker III *in honor of Scotty Randall*
Robert & Linda Parsons
Beth Patterson
Pat & William Patton
Greg & Vicki Peeples
Amy & Joe Perkins
Robert & Julia Peterson
Bill & Mary Lou Petty
Dorothy & Bob Pieroni

Amy Puente
Randy & Nan Randall
Cathy Randall
Pamela Reidy
Steve & Kellee Reinhart *in honor of Mrs. Nelle Hawkins*
Tom & Susan Rosenstiel
Sheldon Rosenzweig
Seldon Rosenzweig
Joshua Rothman
Camille Samples
Bob & Libby Shaw
Edgar Sherwood
Eddie & Gladys Simmons *in honor of Scott Randall*
Skeeter Smalley
Gary & Randy Snow
Grace Soyon Lee
Ellen & Brian Spears
Bill St. John
Ryan Stallings
Robert Stickney
Nicholas Thoma *in honor of Amy Sandberg*
Susan & Hugh Thomas

Marly Dukes Thomas
Matthew & Terri Tompkins
Bradley Trammell
Simon & Nancy Turner *in honor of Lindsay Turner*
Ross & Julie Vaughn
John & Annette Watters
Randy & Heather White
Stephen & Kathryn Whitten *in honor of Julia Whitten*
Elizabeth Williams
Barbara Winstead
Bobby & Cathy Wooldridge
Shannon & David Wright
Anne Wynn
Rebecca Young

Grants, Foundations, & Awards

\$10,000 and above:

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industry
Alabama Power Foundation
City of Tuscaloosa, Mayor's Office

The Caring Foundation; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Wells Fargo Foundation
Tombigbee RC&D
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama

Up to \$9,999:

The United Way of West Alabama
Reece Phifer Jr. Memorial Foundation
Tuscaloosa Morning Rotary Foundation

Supporting Businesses:

MedCenters North and South
McAbee Construction
First South Farm Credit
Nucor Steel
First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa
The Westervelt Company
Tuscaloosa Pediatric Dentistry
Alabama Credit Union
Constellation Brands

HA Edwards
Bryant Bank
Capstone Bank
DePalmas Italian Café
First National Bank of Central AL
Jamison Money Farmer
Manna Grocery
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management
Tuscaloosa News
Toulmin Cabinetry & Design
Summercell Center for the Study of the American
South
Yoga Bliss
United Methodist Women
Parker Towing Company
Emergi-Care Clinic
West Alabama Sierra Club

Additional In-Kind Support and Partnerships with:

Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility
Honors College
New College
The Graduate School
Center for Community Based Partnerships
Craig Wedderspoon, Art Department
Federal Work Study Program at The University of Alabama
Amason & Associates
And the hundreds of volunteers who live, breathe, and sweat
with us.

Upcoming Projects

GARDENS 2
SCHOOLS



alabama
SCHOOL GARDEN
curriculum
GRADES K - 5th GRADE

DRUID CITY
GARDEN
PROJECT

G2S Curriculum Publication

We are constantly striving to provide critical services to more in our state who need them. That is why this year, we began working on our next big thing: **publishing our award-winning curriculum.**

In our K-5, standards-based curriculum, each lesson is carefully designed to bring innovative, hands-on lessons to an outdoor classroom. Teachers will get access to a toolkit that helps guide them through the growing process, seasonal lesson plans, as well as corresponding worksheets, recipes, and growing tips.

Our goal: provide more teachers with the resources they need to make a difference in children's lives.

Stay tuned for a summer, 2016 launch date.

Available at www.druidcitygardenproject.org.

Seed Saving Project

Our vision: a robust, sustainable local food system, accessible to all in our state.

As more and more of our food is shipped in from other states, much of our state's biodiversity is in danger of being lost. That is why we have begun a partnership with the Sand Mountain Seedbank and the Alabama Department of Agriculture to grow out and save heritage seeds and restore Alabama's food sovereignty.

These seeds have deep, rich histories – many were saved during the Trail of Tears - but many are nearing the end of their genetic viability, in danger of being lost forever.

We will begin saving seeds, returning them to the bank, and using the process to add more depth to our lessons; teaching students about genetics, biodiversity, history, and so much more.

Follow our progress in 2016 at facebook.com/druidcitygardenproject.

“DCGP’s evolving seed sovereignty program is unique, and at the forefront of contemporary food systems work. By helping elementary students understand the linkages between cultural traditions, self-sufficiency, and agricultural sustainability, DCGP’s new initiative will help chart the future for school garden programs, and what is possible in food systems work.”

– Dr. David Meek, UA Professor



Bring Us to Your School

Are you interested in bringing a garden and DCGP's curriculum to your school? Tell us!

With your help, we want to expand into new schools every year and **we want you to tell us where we should go next.**

If your school wants the full Gardens 2 Schools program, is only interested in our curriculum, or is looking for some professional development help to connect gardens to standards-based instruction, we can help.

Schools from around the state are encouraged to connect with us.

Visit www.druidcitygardenproject.org/support and, when you do, thank you for your efforts to bring such important programming to more children in our state.

"I have noticed that my students have started making healthier choices and trying new foods. Thank you DCGP for teaching our students responsibility and leadership!"

– Kayla Boone-Davis, 1st Grade Teacher







For the full report, including
a list of donors and samples
of student work, visit:
druidcitygardenproject.org

“My favorite thing to do was math in the garden. It was fun doing it because
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– Desiree D., 2nd grade





Boxmeyer, C. (2015). School garden involvement and children's health, nutrition, and school engagement (Research Summary). Online. www.druidcitygardenproject.org/numbers.

Meek, D., (January, 2016). A Spatial Analysis of the Percentage of School Garden Students Living within Food Deserts in Tuscaloosa, Alabama (Research Summary). Online. www.druidcitygardenproject.org/numbers.

Morgan, Camille. January, 2016. BMI Data Collection and Percentile Analysis of Elementary Students Participating in School Garden Program in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. (Research Summary). Online. www.druidcitygardenproject.org/numbers.