

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Fabulous, abundant, nutritious food in great variety!

Wonderful, hard-working farmers and volunteers!

-Anonymous Farm Supporter

January 17th, 2016

Dear Medway Community Farm Supporter,

Medway Community Farm would like to sincerely thank you for your support as we conclude a tremendously successful 2015 season. In just six short years we have grown from a seedling into an integral part of Medway's town character. We are now farming five acres on three different sites, providing education to hundreds of students, and donating a significant amount of fresh produce to local food pantries.

We want to thank you again for your support and we look forward to another fantastic year in 2016.

2015 Farm Overview

- Harvested 60,000 lbs. of produce
- Farmed 5 acres of land, including the new Adams Street Fields
- Served 249 CSA members
- Donated \$4,500 to the local food pantry
- Conducted community events including Spring Festival, Farm to Fork, and Fall Festival
- Served over 600 students across 3 grades
- Over 500 volunteer hours
-



"The passion the farmers have for the farm and the quality of food has impacted me the most. The freshest food I've ever tasted and experienced!"

...

The dedication from the whole staff is so moving and appreciated. I'm proud that Medway has created such an amazing Community!"

Medway Community Farm Mission

To maintain a place that enhances Medway's rural character, foster community spirit and encourage "learning from the land" by providing locally grown food, volunteer opportunities, educational programming and public events.



Farming Update

2015 was our most productive year yet! Despite the slow and snowy start, and though the summer season was hot and dry, we are blessed with well drained soil and irrigation, so we plowed forward with minimal crop failure and high quality produce. Our biggest challenge was getting carrots to germinate in the first place! Star performers in 2015 were sweet potatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, summer squash, onions and scallions, to name a few.



We harvested upwards of 60,000 lbs of food on 5 acres, including our newest fields across the street from the high school on Adams Street, all this for our farmer's markets, 249 CSA members, the specials menu at Restaurant 45, and honor system farm stand.

We aim to build a new Farm Stand in 2016 for better display of our honor system veggies and more space for our CSA distribution pickups. We'll improve our outdated wash station and packing space, and hone our skills to continue a high level of production while increasing the health of our soils and our farm, all to foster long term farm viability and local food sustainability. We are looking for contractors, engineers, and volunteers who can advise and assist with the new farm stand project. Please email volunteer@medwaycommunityfarm.org if interested.

Produce Donations

We are pleased to consistently support the work of the *Medway Village Church Food Pantry*, serving area residents in need. From May to Thanksgiving we didn't miss a week, and donated upwards of 3,500 items weighing in over 2,000 lbs for a donated value of approximately \$4,500.



This year we were joined in our donation efforts by *Boston Area Gleaners*, who came out to MCF on two separate occasions to harvest over 1,500lbs of produce each time! These were our two largest donations to date. The Boston Area Gleaners help farms harvest a short-term over-abundance of produce and distribute it where there is need. The Boston Area group supports the Cambridge based *Food for Free* and *Greater Boston Food Bank* on a weekly basis.

Consider Making a Tax Deductible Donation to Kick off 2016!

WWW.MEDWAYCOMMUNITYFARM.ORG

Volunteers and Interns

Medway Community Farm hopes to serve as a productive and meaningful platform for volunteerism on a yearly basis. We are fortunate to have a robust group of volunteers to help us complete our goals to serve the community around us through educational activities, communal gathering, preservation of the land we farm, and cultivation of the farm itself.

Whether you came in a group or by yourself, thank you for any help you gave us in 2015. We hope our combined efforts make for a more productive farm and non-profit in 2016, and for some enjoyable moments on the farm too!

We were so impressed with some of our high school volunteers in 2014 that we gave them jobs! A big thanks to Liddy Heely, Christine Evers, and Kathleen Lewis for all your help this last year. Kathleen and Christine went off to their first year of college and Liddy has entered her last year of high school. They were integral to our farm crew and we hope they want to come back in 2016! And a special thank you to our most recent wave of high school volunteers who picked boatloads of sweet peas and cherry tomatoes this year!

Caitrin Foley and Erin Espinosa are nearing graduation from college, but returned again in 2015 to pilot our summer education programs. They started out as

volunteers way back in 2010 and we're grateful for their continued support.



Corporate Volunteer Hours: 120

High School Volunteer Hours: 104

Regular/Other Volunteer Hours: 86

CSA Discount Volunteer Hours: 240

If you would like to volunteer your time on Medway Community Farm, please email:

volunteer@medwaycommunityfarm.org

Seeds of Change Grant:



\$20,000 Awarded

In 2014 Medway Community Farm was awarded a national grant from Seeds of Change in the amount of \$20,000.

The grant funds have been used productively to enhance the mission of the Medway Community Farm

In addition to 2014 accomplishments, the following enhancements have been made with the Seeds of Change Grant in 2015:

- Completed the raised bed projects
- Continued to provide summer education programs on the farm
- Improved the safety around the animal pen area
- Developed the signage for the self-walking tour in the open space

<http://medwaycommunityfarm.org/seeds-of-change-grant>

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Community Events & Fundraising



Holding community events and festivals is a fundamental part of Medway Community Farm's charter and mission. This year events and fundraising efforts raised over \$20,000 in gross income.

We participated in Medway's Pride Day to educate even more people about the farm and the seedling sale was a great success. The Farm to Fork which featured catering by Sweet Peas Catering and music by Little Jed and the Phat Daddies was enjoyed by all who attended. The Fall festival was filled with fun for all ages, featuring crafts for kids, tractor rides, and local vendors selling their goods.

If you would like to volunteer for event planning next year, please email:

volunteer@medwaycommunityfarm.org

Education

Medway Community Farm participates in both farm-based and school-based education. This past year, the program continued to grow with financial support from both the PTO and the School Activity Funds. With increased parental interest and support, all fourth graders were included in the farm visits due to the high demand from parents. This was an intense endeavor with approximately 80 children participating in hands-on activities at the farm!

The 2nd, 3rd, and 6th grades continued to have at-school garden beds, providing hands-on education coinciding with the school curriculum. All 14 classes in the 2nd and 3rd grades at Memorial Elementary School participated. The high school students continue to provide volunteer hours under the direction of Kevin Cullen. Approximately 40 students participated in 2.5 hours each, contributing substantially to projects and farm activities.



In addition to the school programs, the summer programs provide additional programming through our *Fun on the Farm* program for 5-10 year olds and *Farmer in Training* program for 10-12 year olds. This latter program has great appeal to those middle school students interested in farming.

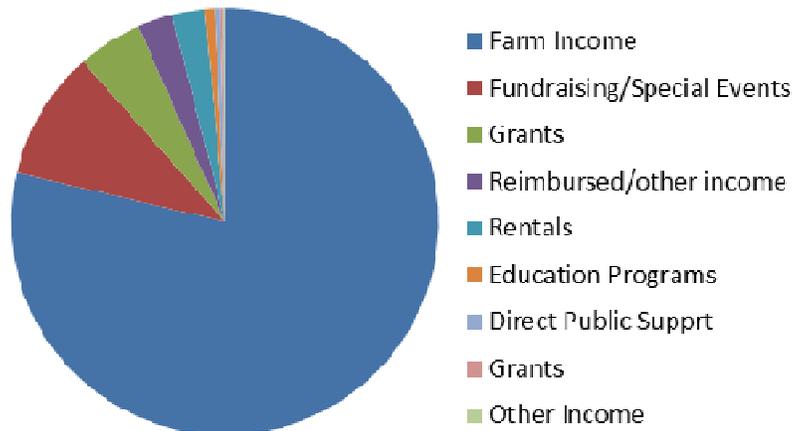
We believe that this type of immersive education allows the individual to experience the connection between farming and food production. It makes theoretical classroom learning tangible, it makes healthy eating exciting, and it maintains a connection between consumers and the food system. Through this experience, our community is better able to understand the social, environmental, economic, and health impacts of food production. With your support, we will continue to provide high quality educational programs for our community.

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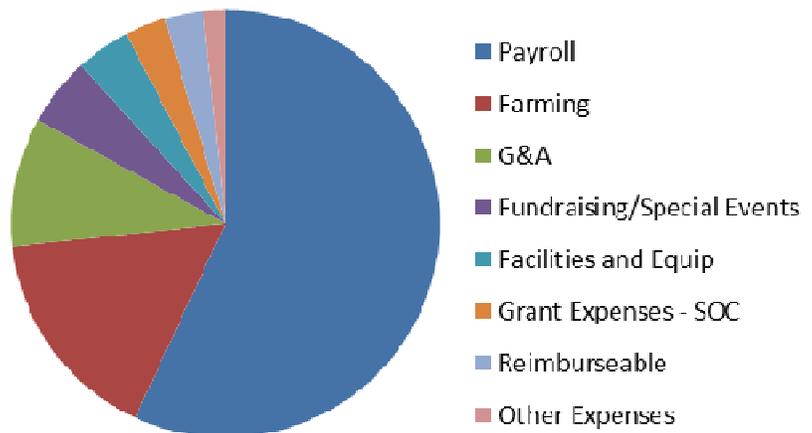
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2015 Financial Summary

Farm Income	\$175,566
Fundraising/Special Events	\$21,625
Grants	\$5,957
Reimbursed/other income	\$5,875
Rentals	\$5,400
Education Programs	\$6,136
Direct Public Supprt	\$1,000
Grants	\$450
Other Income	\$50
Total Income	\$222,059



Payroll	\$113,629
Farming	\$30,782
G&A	\$19,161
Fundraising/Special Events	\$9,354
Facilities and Equip	\$7,892
Grant Expenses - SOC	\$5,957
Reimburseable	\$5,476
Other Expenses	\$1,482
Total Expenses	\$193,733



In 2015, we had capital expenditures in the amount of \$5,379 plus an additional \$7,563 which will be reimbursed to Medway Community Farm for the new high tunnel.

Give a Gift that Grows!

Here are a few ways your tax-deductible contributions can plant the seeds of success in 2016:

\$10— 10 hours of Farm to School Programming for one Medway 4th grader

\$25— 128 seedlings for a school gardening program

\$50— 1 Farmer and 1 Intern Teaching 50 students for one hour

\$150— Covers the average cost of weekly produce donations to the Medway Food Pantry

\$250— 1 Police Detail (required for our Community Events)

\$500— 45 Paid Internship Hours

\$1000— Supports capital needs (such as a new Tractor or Improved Farm Stand)

To make a donation please visit our website at the address below and use our secure PayPal Donations Button, or mail a check, payable to Medway Community Farm. Thank you!

medwaycommunityfarm.org/donations

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