



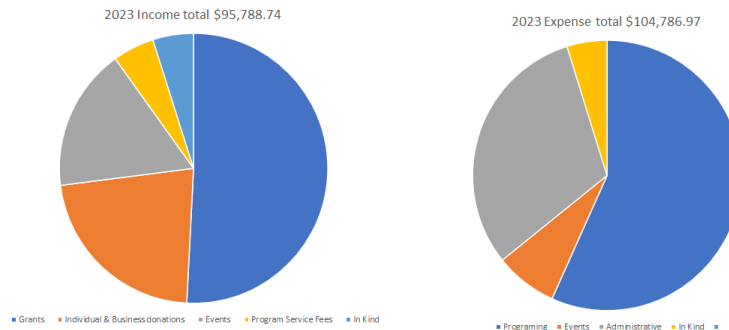
2023 Annual Report

Mission Statement

To improve northern Colorado’s food resilience by assisting families in need with access to locally grown food, supporting our partner farms and providing food education.

2023 was a successful year with new, exciting areas of growth. The Feeding the Families program expanded and offered 30% of participants to continue with a Winter Share. Both share applications filled up and had waitlists for people hoping to join if possible. We were able to hold 19 in-person workshops and food tastings, with 89% of our participants attending one of these events at least once. Our families had opportunities to learn about planting, weeding, harvesting and fall clean up at our community garden. Following are some of our other accomplishments and plans for 2023:

- Feeding the Families assisted 55 families, 165 individuals (including 79 children), with access to 24 weeks of vegetable shares at one of our seven partner farms. We also extended the season through the winter months for 17 of the families.
- Our Nutrition Education Program addressed the concern of long-term nutrition insecurity. Food insecurity refers to insufficient calories while nutrition insecurity includes the lack of food with high nutritional value. Participants had the opportunity to attend a in-person cooking class, where about 20 people per event would harvest, cook, and share a meal together while also learning about a specific nutrition topic.
- Three special events were held. Fort Collins Nursery hosted an amazing Rock the Garden concert featuring four local singer song writers. We hosted the Heart of the Farm Dinner, on the land where our partner Well Fed Farmstead grows and featuring their vegetables in a four-course dinner. Celebrate the Harvest at Avogadro’s Number was a time for our community of donors, participants and volunteers to come together to celebrate a great season along with live music from one of our participating families and a pie auction.
- Increased the diversity of our fund raising with 28 grant applications completed, two successful campaigns for Share the Share and EOY Giving and increased the number of family sponsors. While our individual and corporate funding fell shorter than our anticipated estimates, we balanced out from our profits from 2022 as well as our reserve savings. We showed a significant increase in income for the year and anticipated increased costs with the first full year of the Executive Director’s salary as well as growing our program participation by 20%.



Board of Directors in 2023

Claudia DeMarco, President
Scott Hapner, Secretary
Kathryn McGirr, member at large

Kelli Maes, Treasurer
Heidi Muller, member at large
Bill DeMarco, member at large

The Vegetable Connection is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.