





5420 N 3rd Street, Omaha, NE 68110

**COMING SOON!**

**SEVEN-ACRE FARM SITE**



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# A NOTE FROM FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of City Sprouts,

I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on all that was accomplished in 2021 and the new and existing connections throughout our community that were formed or strengthened throughout this year. Our team at City Sprouts was especially grateful for the return to gathering, growing, and learning together - in person - once again, even though the conditions of the pandemic continue to require us to pivot in the interest of community health and safety.

It was a joyful experience to welcome our volunteers, gardeners, families, and community members back to City Sprouts for classes, events, and support. While it wasn't a complete return to normalcy, it made us all the more grateful for the shared experiences that were possible.

As we look to 2022, we are so excited to begin cultivating our new, seven-acre urban farm site in Northeast Omaha, fill our beautiful Geodesic Greenhouse with new life, improve our raised beds at City Sprouts South, and so much more. We are full of gratitude for all that was possible in 2021 and all that will be in 2022, thanks to our amazing funders, donors, volunteers, and partners.

Sincerely,  
Katie Kresha, Executive Director







## A YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout 2021, City Sprouts engaged in a strategic planning process that saw an update to our vision, mission, and organizational values based on intentionality, collaboration, sustainability, and commitment to being a voice for change. With these in mind, we set new strategic directions to guide us in promoting a city where every person is nourished through a rich connection to local food, land, and community.

### OUR MISSION

*to use urban agriculture as a platform to develop equitable food systems, provide educational opportunities, and build community*

City Sprouts is thrilled to have purchased a new seven-acre farm site in Northeast Omaha. This space will allow us to grow more food throughout the Summer and share with partners, community members, and more. Thanks to our staff and volunteers, we will also continue cultivation and distribution at City Sprouts South - Free Farm Stand!

We are proud to announce additional accomplishments on the following pages.

# WE ♥ FOOD

## INTERNS

In 2021, we welcomed 15 urban farming interns, who helped grow and distribute our produce. They also went on educational field trips, engaged in cooking lessons, and learned the basics of financial literacy!



## PRODUCTION

As rates of food insecurity continued to spike, we grew and distributed over 12,000 lbs of fresh, sustainable, and nutrient-dense produce to the Omaha community.



## DISTRIBUTION

To help distribute our food quickly and efficiently, we partnered up with amazing organizations such as the Food Bank of the Heartland, Bountiful Harvest, Revolutionary Action Party, and The Union for Contemporary Art.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## NORTH GARDEN

All are welcome for fun in the sun! In 2021, we provided a thriving space for 35 community gardeners to grow their favorite healthy snacks and gorgeous flowers.



## VOLUNTEERS

Our work isn't possible without the gracious help of our volunteers. This year we hosted 279 volunteers totaling in 608 volunteer work hours!



## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY + PANTRY

Did you notice the "+ Pantry"? This year we added a new section to our existing Little Free Library which includes a Free Fridge, clothing, shelf stable products, and personal care items.



## FREE + LOW-COST PROGRAMS

### FOOD EDUCATION

Held 39 Growing Gardeners workshops in partnership with The Big Garden + Mulhall's

- Avg. 72 participants/class

Held 115 Garden to Table classes for King Science + Lewis and Clark middle school students, serving 250+ students



### ENGAGING THE YOUTH

Little Sprouts returned to ten in-person classes with safety measures in place.

We launched a BRAND NEW Home Grown Kids program, which reached full capacity!



### OUTREACH + TOURS

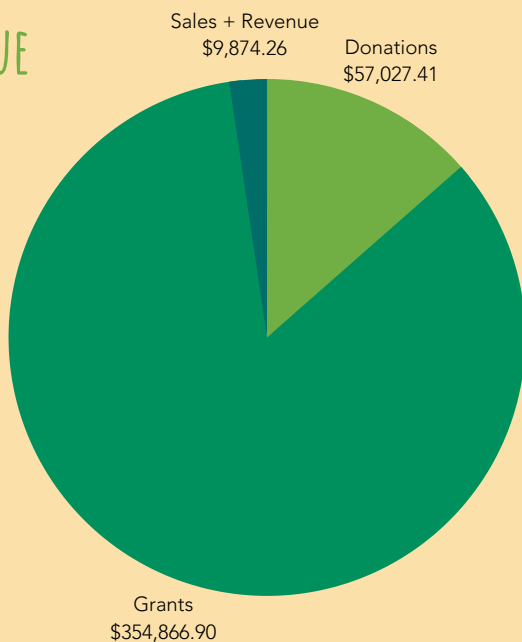
With educational outreach events and garden tours, we reached over 400 local Omaha folks of all ages. Ask us about the specific events we attended, or schedule a tour with us this year!



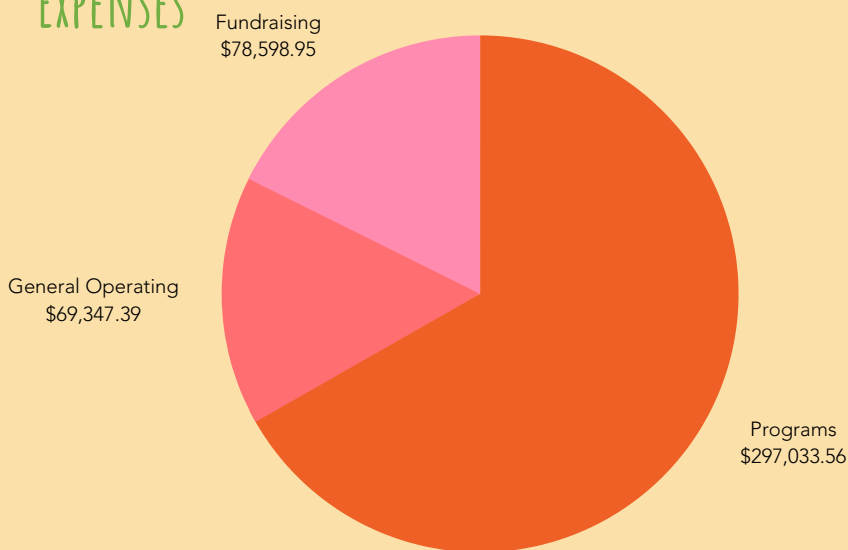


# A LOOK AT OUR FINANCIALS

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## GARDENING WITH GRATITUDE

You may have seen this friendly, familiar face roaming around our North campus. Meet Margaret, a City Sprouts supporter who is spending her 21st year in our community garden.

We sat down together and asked about her first days at City Sprouts. And, wow, what an incredible and uplifting story she had to share.

Margaret spent five years in an abusive relationship and became increasingly aware that her situation was volatile. She had the courage to leave the relationship and was looking to get more involved in the community.

"I used to live in that neighborhood [by City Sprouts]. I ended up moving, but found myself always going back. I would visit the reservoir park, and then go to the community garden, and I can't really explain it. From the beginning, I always had a good feeling being there."

Throughout the warm seasons, you will likely see Margaret tending to various plants in the garden. "I gotta have basil and tomatoes every year. I like planting things in the Earth and watching them grow. I like being around people I like. City Sprouts has been a big part of my life for 20 years."



# THANK YOU FROM THE PRESIDENT

## DAN WALSH, 2021 PRESIDENT

Community is a word that comes to mind when I think of 2021.

We know that urban agriculture can be used to increase access to fresh, healthy foods, promote economic autonomy, and bring neighbors together. We're excited that our recent expansion into a new farm site in Northeast Omaha can serve as a place to deepen the impact of our programs and strengthen our Omaha community.



Our bonds with the community continue to deepen under the leadership of our Executive Director, Katie Kresha. I'm thankful for her ongoing advocacy for the mission of City Sprouts within Omaha and her commitment to inclusion and equity in our organization. I'm also excited for our next board president, Octavia Butler, to guide our board of directors in supporting this work.

I end in gratitude for our countless donors, sponsors, supporters, staff, interns, and neighbors, without whom none of our work would be possible. It truly takes a community to grow a local food system, and I'm looking forward to our continued collaboration to ensure everyone is nourished.

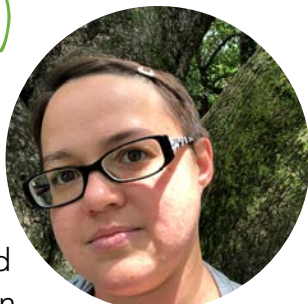
President, City Sprouts Board of Directors



## CITY SPROUTS BOARD

### OCTAVIA BUTLER (PRESIDENT)

Please welcome Octavia Butler as the 2022 City Sprouts Board President. Octavia has been a teacher with the Omaha Public Schools for 10 years. They started as a volunteer with City Sprouts in 2015 during the first growing season at City Sprouts South. They joined the board in 2018 and have served as an executive board member since 2020. Octavia loves being hands-on in the garden and discovering new recipes that feature local produce. Their favorite nature moments, though, are those spent with their young students, watching them explore and grow.



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Courtney Herrington (Vice President), Union Pacific  
Jane Hartig (Treasurer), Google  
LaLeesha Haynes (Secretary), Conagra Brands

Bob Wolfson, BWC Consultancy  
Brandon Pappas, Valmont Industries  
Candy Zollicoffer, Bespeckled Events  
Cassie Goulet, CHI Health  
Dan Walsh, Creighton University  
Jeff Phelps, McGill Brothers Inc  
Kim Armstrong, Metropolitan Community College  
Kimbler Harrold, Scott Center  
Ryan Grieb, First National Bank of Omaha  
Traéa Bowden, Habitat for Humanity  
Vanessa Hernandez, Heartland Workforce Solutions

# CITY SPROUTS STAFF



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Katie Kresha

## MANAGER OF URBAN FARM INITIATIVES

Aaron French

## EDUCATION MANAGER

Cian Brun

## SOUTH MANAGER + ASSISTANT EDUCATOR

Edgar Romero Gonzalez

## COMMUNICATIONS + DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Emily Ramelb

## PROGRAMS + DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

Laura Simpson

## SOIL HEALTH + CONSERVATION MANAGER

Leah Wambui

## NORTH MANAGER

Shannon Kyler

# THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

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Crazy Gringa Hot Sauce  
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The Sherwood Foundation  
Union Pacific Railroad  
Weitz Family Foundation  
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William + Ruth Scott Family Foundation  
Woodmen Life

*Many thanks also to all the individual donors not listed here.*



# BECOME A SUPPORTER TODAY



## YOUR DONATIONS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE!

Your continued support allows us to grow more food, provide more free and low-cost educational opportunities, and reach more members of the Omaha community. As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations are tax deductible. You can donate with the QR code here, or mail a check to:

City Sprouts P.O. Box 31593  
Omaha, NE 68131

Katie Kresha, Executive Director  
[director@omahasprouts.org](mailto:director@omahasprouts.org)



Thank you for making our mission possible!



We are grateful for you, our community members and partners, grant funders, family foundations, and all donors throughout 2021. Your support means the world to us, and allows City Sprouts to make a greater impact in the Omaha community.



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