

Sow, Grow, Thrive: Cultivating Food Equity and Community Through Urban Agriculture

15,740 pounds of food grown

Ask any farmer, and they'll tell you their best growing season always lies ahead. 2024 was our third year of growing food and community



on our urban farm in northeast Omaha and was by far our most productive. It was a year for building foundations. We've laid the groundwork for some serious infrastructure on the farm and, by the end of 2025, will have a greenhouse and barn built as the first step towards creating the thriving, innovative urban agriculture hub our team has been dreaming of.

2,100 volunteer hours 925+ volunteers

In 2024, City Sprouts hosted 925+ volunteers including 60 dedicated young

leaders in Creighton University's Schlegel Center for Service & Justice (SCSJ) program. Since 2022, we've been fortunate to partner with SCSJ students who volunteer weekly at our urban farm and garden. They contributed an incredible 511 hours of service to City Sprouts. Their hardworking, curious, and enthusiastic approach to every task has made a lasting impact on our community. We were proud to honor them as the 2024 Community Cultivators at our Farm Fest Fundraiser, celebrating their commitment and passion for the work they do.

URBAN FARM

- Ramped up neighborhood engagement by hosting a wellattended listening session and community barbecue at the Sherman Community Center
- Welcomed our largest group (to date) of young folks to our seasonal urban farming internships with 21 interns
- Hosted 250+ visitors across
 25 tours
- Hosted 225 volunteers
- Conducted special projects and experiments to support continued growth (see more on the next page)

EDUCATION

- Hosted 13 workshops serving nearly 100 folks of all ages
- Held 43 Garden to Table classes, impacting 430+ middle school students
- Held 21 Truck Farm Omaha visits, impacting nearly 1,800 participants
- Hosted four Community Night Meals, engaging with 165+ community members
- Held eight Home Grown Kids classes, serving home schooled children and families
- Partnered with Ollie Webb Center, Inc. (OWCI) to teach 39 classes about gardening and cooking, supporting adults with developmental disabilities

A Note from Our Executive Director

Dear Friends of City Sprouts,

As we reflect on 2024, one word stands out: dedication. This year has been a testament to the passion and perseverance of our staff and supporters—individuals who believe in the transformative power of urban agriculture and work tirelessly to make it a reality.

Our staff has led with heart and expertise, turning ideas into action and ensuring that our programs continue to uplift and empower our community. Their hard work has strengthened our impact, expanding education initiatives, increasing access to fresh food, and fostering deeper connections across our neighborhoods.

And to our supporters—you are the backbone of our mission. Whether you volunteered your time, contributed resources, or simply championed our cause, you have played a vital role in making 2024 a year of growth and progress. Every step forward has been possible because of you.

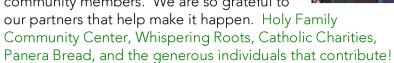
Thank you for believing in City Sprouts and for being part of this journey. Together, we are planting seeds of change and cultivating a future where sustainability, equity, and community flourish.

With gratitude,

Carol Jynn Blood

764 sack lunches for the Free Fridge & Pantry

In 2024, the City Sprouts Free Fridge & Pantry program provided 764 sack lunches to community members. We are so grateful to





urban farm: special projects & intern experiments

This year we made the walking pathways between beds slightly wider to allow space for planting a variety of cover crops. We

experimented with ryegrass and buckwheat. Both provided great benefits such as: improved soil health, enhanced field water penetration, exceptional weed suppression, and a beautified aesthetic to the fields.

The urban farming interns also managed one field as their very own production field. They decided what to plant and delegated tasks to help manage it. This field was eventually designated as the Special Project(s) Plot.



Staff

Carol Blood, Aaron French, April LeBaron, Jared Haynes, Emily Ramelb, Rocky Huibregtse, Shannon Kyler

Board

LaLeesha Haynes, Randy Vyhnalek, Ian Simpkins, Angela Lindstrom, Bob Wolfson, Brian Smith, John Fox, Liz Tipton, Meghan Kallhoff, Shanda Ross, Taylor Daniels

Conservation & Soil Health

With our collaborative partners at the USDA NRCS, our Conservation & Soil Health program continues to provide opportunities to help urban and small scale farmers grow more each season.

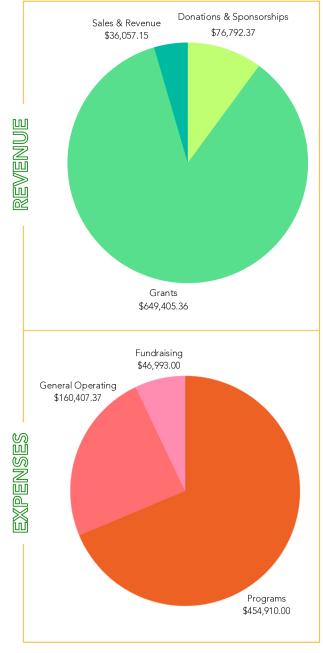


- Hosted the first annual Soil Health Drive offering free soil testing to Omaha-area residents
- In partnership with Film Streams, hosted the bestattended and most-engaged Q&A Community Collaboration

Thank you, Supporters!

Aradius Group, Collective For Youth, CHI Health, ConAgra Grant, EPA Justice, Hayes Cares, IAMS, Jackson Lewis, Kallco Trucking, Mutual of Omaha, Nebraska Medicine, Methodist Health System, Minier Family Fund, USDA NRCS, Omaha Children's Museum, Omaha Community Foundation, Omaha Steaks, Oral Surgery Associates, Richard Brooke Family Foundation, SCBG, Scott Family, Semerad Grant, UAIP, Union Pacific, United Way, UWM-ARPA, Verdis Group, Weitz Family Foundation, WoodmenLife

Thank you also to all the individual donors that help make the City Sprouts mission possible!



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