

GIOU TOGETHER

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

BLACK BEANS

Southside Community Land Trust provides access to land, education and other resources so people in Rhode Island can grow food in environmentally sustainable ways and create community food systems where locally produced, affordable and healthy food is available to all.



Dear FRIENDS,

We have much to celebrate as 2023 comes to a close. The physical buildout of 404 Broad Street is now complete. The keys to the three retail spaces on the ground floor have been handed over to our tenants (Black Beans PVD, D's Spot, and the West African Superstore). All are busy settling in.

Now, 404 Broad Street is truly a Healthy Food Hub. It's a home where the community can gather to enjoy good food, and a source for culturally diverse produce to help neighbors maintain their food traditions. At one end of the building, SCLT's Farm-to-Market Center provides fresh produce to local business owners at the other end. These food entrepreneurs, along with our VeggieRx, community and institutional partners, are sharing local produce with customers and people experiencing food insecurity across Greater Providence.

Creating this physical infrastructure and nurturing these relationships has been key to building the local food system we've envisioned for so many years. Thanks to supporters like you, it is unfolding before our eves.

People who care about affordable food access and health equity are making these huge wins possible. We thank you for partnering with us in this promising venture.

With gratitude,



WILDONES PHOTO



Margaret DeVos EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SCLT

OUR RANGE

SCLT COMMUNITY GARDENS Land we own and/or manage

PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK SITES

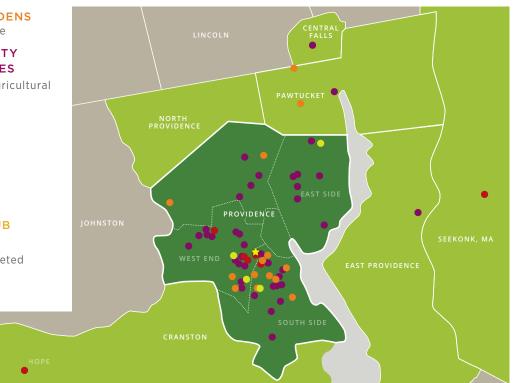
Gardens we support with agricultural resources and/or services

- SCLT-OWNED AND/OR MANAGED FARMS
- **FARMERS MARKETS**

NEW & NOTABLE

THE HEALTHY FOOD HUB AT 404 BROAD ST Retail space buildout completed

Retail space buildout completed in 2023



Hope Street

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers who have been supported by SCLT over the years – with affordable leases on farmland, training, mentorships, and technical assistance now sell produce at markets across Rhode Island. But, competition can be tough for new vendors, especially at the popular Hope Street Farmers Market in Providence (founded by an SCLT Board Member in 1991).

SCLT's City Farm Steward, Rich Pederson, who has long worked to break down barriers for emerging farmers of color, advocated for four SCLT-network farmers to join this well-managed market in 2023. Diversifying the farmers also expands the varieties of fresh produce available to customers – and the dishes they can prepare with them.









Our Community **BY THE NUMBERS**

23,250 **PEOPLE BENEFITED** from our programs

1.600 COMMUNITY GARDENERS and their families

70 CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS in our programs

85% of SCLT gardeners LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

1.500 **PLANT SALE** consumers

9,750 individuals **RECEIVING** NUTRITIOUS FOOD through our Produce Aggregation Program and food giveaways

300 student, individual, and corporate **VOLUNTEERS**

30 FARM BUSINESSES on SCLT land

+10.000people who BUY PRODUCE from SCLT growers

Responding to Rising **FOOD INSECURITY**

Since the opening of SCLT's Farm-to-Market Center in 2022, our Produce Aggregation Program has grown exponentially. Throughout this year's growing season, every week aggregation staff have received deliveries of harvested crops from farmers in our network. After they process – sort. weigh, and track - the produce, they package and deliver it to SCLT's community partners, including Beautiful Beginnings, Partnership for Providence Parks. New Urban Arts. and Haus of Codec, among others.

Aggregation staff bought \$190,000 worth of locally grown food from 27 farmers in 2023. This has been made possible by a large, multi-year grant from the USDA to SCLT and food sector partners, including Farm Fresh RI, the African Alliance, and the RI Food Policy Council. The partnership has allowed our Aggregation team to distribute healthy produce, for free, to 9.750 individuals in 2023.

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YOUTH EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

We continued to operate a thoughtfully planned, year-round program for young people in 2023 that incorporated food and health, urban farming and environmental resilience.

During the summer, a dozen South Providence children aged 5 to 11 participated in the free Pee Wee Growers Program. They learned basic gardening and nutrition concepts, participated in arts activities, and learned about African American traditions and achievements.

Forty high school youth were hired during the spring, summer and fall for jobs at the Somerset Hayward Youth Enterprise Farm in South Providence and the Galego Community Farm in Pawtucket. This program for Black, Hispanic/ Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous youth develops workforce skills and introduces them to food system careers, college programs and scholarship opportunities.

Six young adult graduates of our high school program deepened their work experience with SCLT by serving as Food Systems Interns. These part-time, paid positions support various programs within the organization. Many interns have gone on to work with community partners, state agencies, and food businesses. They are advocating for and working to build a more equitable, just, and environmentally sustainable food and agriculture sector.

FARMER SUPPORT AND LAND ACCESS

SCLT's Farmer Support Staff maintain our rural properties (and farm equipment), and offer affordable leases, agricultural resources, and technical assistance to the predominantly refugee, immigrant, and first-generation farmers in our network. Their efforts help farmers succeed in a career with very thin margins. Three full-time staff carry out this work; each is an experienced farmer.

Farmer support is more than advising about crop plans, drip tape, and integrated pest management. For instance, staff have helped farmers learn to operate a cooperative Garden Center for the past two seasons at the Good Earth Farm in Hope. RI. In 2023, six farmers sold their plant starts, gardening supplies, and fresh produce over several weekends in the spring and summer at the Garden Center, earning \$15,000 (double the 2022 revenue).

Along with obtaining sizable conservation grants to improve our rural properties, farmers help non-native English-speaking farmers obtain grants to increase their operating capacity. In 2023, seven of them won state-funded Local Agriculture and Seafood Act grants totaling \$133,000. They used this funding to buy farm equipment and cargo vans to transport harvested crops. These grants had a big impact on farmers' livelihoods.







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COMMUNITY GARDENS

Given high food prices, SCLT's 22 community gardens in Providence. Pawtucket, and Central Falls remain vital to the 360 gardeners whose families depend on the food grown there. Each property is unique, but all require ongoing maintenance and repairs to fences, irrigation systems, paths, and overhanging trees. In 2023, we were able to add a second staff person to perform this physical labor as well as to provide gardening advice and manage plot leases, spring compost deliveries, and clean-up days. Their extensive work ensures that these green oases support residents' mental and physical health as well as neighborhood cohesion.

FARMS

CITY FARM: SCLT's production and demonstration farm in South Providence enlisted 30 Youth Staff and six Brown University students during the 2023 season to tend crops, harvest for the Hope Street and Armory Park Farmers Markets, and winterize beds in late fall. Dozens of volunteers supported SCLT's successful Rare & Unusual Plant Sale in May.

Since 2020, City Farm has stocked Project Weber/RENEW's food pantry on Broad Street twice per week to ensure that its fresh produce is directly available to neighbors in need.

GOOD EARTH FARM: SCLT Farmer Support and Land Access staff made significant investments and improvements at the Good Earth Farm in 2023. Upgrades to its infrastructure, irrigation, and conservation management will improve longterm land tenureship, climate resiliency, and crop production. Crop quality and variety have increased, and more farmers have been able to participate in the cooperative Garden Center than in 2022. Staff operate as a managing partner in this endeavor, but expect the Garden Center to be entirely farmerrun in coming years.

URBAN EDGE FARM: This past year, 40 farmers worked for 18 farm businesses located at the 50-acre Urban Edge Farm in Cranston. Farmers received daily technical assistance and were connected to vital service providers in the local food system, including URI Cooperative Extension, the RI Food Policy Council, the Carrot Project, the Center for Mediation, the Young Farmer Network, and more. SCLT staff operated a farm depot selling supplies and inputs for a reduced price, as well as a demonstration plot allowing growers to see unfamiliar farm practices at work.







Thank You to our 2022 donors PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Southside Community Land Trust is deeply grateful to hundreds of contributors who generously support our work each year. The following is a list of individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies that contributed \$250 or more to SCLT in 2022.

\$100,000- \$499,999 \$10,000- \$24,999

Anonymous State of RI Governor's Workforce Board UNFI Foundation USDA Office of Partnerships & Public Engagement USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture

\$25,000- \$99,999

Bank of America City of Providence US Department of Health & Human Services Integra Community Care Mendocino Fund Papitto Opportunity Connection RI Foundation State of Rhode Island Susan & David Haffenreffer The Champlin Foundation United Way of RI Amica Companies Foundation Anita L. Stafford Charitable Lead Trust Island Foundation Lifespan Hospital RI Public Health Institute State of Rhode Island ARPA Funds Strategic Help Initiative LLC The Cameron & Jane Baird Foundation Tides Foundation

\$5,000- \$9,999

AARP Community Challenge Grant Equal Exchange Garden Grille Godfrey Family Trust Harvey Family Fund Kevin & Amy Orth Manya Rubinstein & Clay Rockefeller Mary & Richard Worrell Rebecca A. Silliman, M.D., PhD Rhode Island Food Policy Council Textron University of Rhode Island Wildflour Vegan Bakery & Cafe

\$2,500- \$4,999

Jyothi & Shivan Subramaniam Land & Sea Together Local Initiatives Support Corp. Mary Dexter Chafee Fund Paula & Jeremy Sager Providence College Renaissance Church

\$1,000- \$2,499

Almon & Suzanne Hall Family Fund Anne Allen Anonymous Candace & John Cooney Deborah & Mathew Shuster Deborah Schimberg & Kevin Neel E. Paul & Joan W. Sorensen

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\$500- \$999

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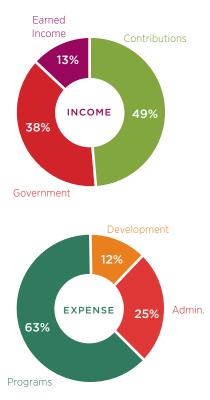
\$250-\$499

Alan Hassenfeld Andrew & Louise Swanson Andrew Levinson Anne & Philip Carty Brown Street Community Garden Caputi Law Christine Low & Marc DeMarchena Curt Caserta Cvnthia V. L. Ward Dana Powers Dana S. Del Bonis Donna & Harley Frank Flaine B Fain First Unitarian Church Friends of Brown St. Park, Inc. H. Denman & Margaret Scott Heather Evans Jane Driver Janice C. Hannert Jill Brody Kathie Florsheim Kathryn D. McGowan Kevin Moore Laurelmead Lila Hurwitz & Daniel Doolittle Lindsay Neagle Lisa S. Schachter Marv & Bill Hollinshead

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2022 FINANCIALS

INCOME	
Contributions	\$1,215,299
Government	\$958,145
Earned Income	\$324,005
Total Income	\$2,497,451
EXPENSE	
Programs	\$1,526,278
Administration	\$616,786
Development	\$298,158
Total Expenses	\$2,441,222
NET INCOME	\$56,228
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,411,797
Current Assets	\$468,461
Fixed Assets	\$2,676,802
Investments and Other Assets	\$2,266,534
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$5,411,797
Liabilities	\$721,095
Net Assets	\$4,690,702



Internal unaudited financial statements and does not include SCLT support corporation

BOARD

Rochelle Lee, *President* Luis Vargas, Vice President Candace Cooney, *Secretary* Rafael Yepez, *Treasurer* Anini Almanzar, Youth Representative Appoline Alphonsine, Youth Representative Andraly Horn Edith Pave George Watson Greg Dantas Jyothi Subramanian Mike Isenberg Patrick Mattingly Roberta Groch (outgoing, Summer 2023) Summer Gonsalves Sue AnderBois

"

I first learned about SCLT walking in my neighborhood. I grew up in South Providence and always noticed the community gardens, and they sparked my interest.

Seeing the work SCLT does and how intentional we are about doing it in an equitable way motivates me to continue lending a hand and showing up!"

Luis Vargas, SCLT Board Vice President



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