



2023 Annual Report

greenagers
youth environment community

WOMEN IN CONSERVATION & AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP LED BY SUNDER ASHNI OF MUMBET'S FREEDOM FARM
68 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTENDED THE 2ND ANNUAL WICA CONFERENCE AT APRIL HILL

PHOTO: SARAH KENYON

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Development Manager

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143 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN SERVICE LEARNING AND VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIPS



Youth from Rocking The Boat, a Bronx-based non-profit that teaches boatbuilding, environmental science, and sailing, milling lumber at April Hill to build their own boat.



Dear Supporters,

The Greenagers Annual Report is more than a list of donors and partners. It is a schematic of names and numbers that frame and underpin a community, one that you have helped create. Our Greenagers community has a home in April Hill Conservation and Education Center and reaches into four states with conservation and agricultural projects and training.

The stories of youth work and learning permeate each season of the year and it's your support that makes them possible. Some of these stories are in this report, the rest live in the hundreds of Greenagers participants, and their parents, and their friends. It is, I believe, this work and these stories that provide a bulwark against struggles of youth and the pervasive negativity and inequality youth often see in the political, social, and economic spheres.

The good news is that we have a plan at Greenagers: keep doing what we do, but better, and deeper. Our Education and Conservation Teams are expanding to North Adams. All the teams—Farm, Trades, Conservation, and Education took the early winter to plan the next steps for April Hill and its continuing growth as a regional center for youth education and community engagement. Last year saw over 1500 youth and adults come to April Hill; I would not be surprised to see that number double this year.

A well-read gentlemen told me recently, "Empires crumble from the top and society rots from the bottom." We'll leave the empires to the experts but from what I see at Greenagers—youth with their hands in soil or ahold of tools, working with each other in community along with a group of supporters and donors, **you**—we have the antidote to rot. It's empowerment, creativity, generosity, and trust all rolled into one. Thank you for being by our side.

I usually get the mail at Greenagers and this time of year, every few days, there's a small manila package in the box. These parcels contain the year's seeds and they seem impossibly small for what they yield after the Farm Crew plants and tends them. Greater still is the impact that work has on a young person's life.

With great optimism for 2024,
Will Conklin



842 youth served in 2023

70 youth employed on Trails, Farm,
and Build Crews

274 youth participated in workshops
and field trips to April Hill

51 youth camped overnight at
April Hill



Clearing a Path to Leadership:

Issy McMahon



Issy working with students during the Explore after school program.

rehabilitation and collaborations with Greenagers' Pathways and Wood Bank programs.

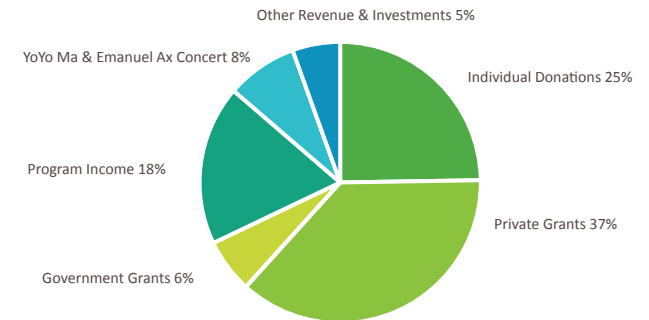
This winter Issy is working with Greenagers' Education Department through our after school programs. She shares her knowledge about conservation like why it is best to harvest trees in the winter months to protect the bat population. She brings so much patience and kindness to her work and ensures all students feel heard, included and encouraged. The students look up to her and Issy's enthusiasm naturally spreads and grows their curiosity and interest in learning.

The opportunity to share what she learned with other youth crew members and develop her own leadership skills has boosted Issy's self confidence and willingness to take on new challenges. At the same time Issy has a huge impact on those around her from fellow crew members to the young students she inspires.

"I've surprised myself in my ability to lead others effectively, and contribute to the smooth running of a crew. Instructing or adjusting others with tasks I am more familiar with, and being listened to and heard is something I feel more empowered doing. The physical strength and fitness you get working outside all day is a deeply satisfying thing. Pushing your body past its limits and feeling more capable week by week and month by month is a powerful feeling!" -Issy

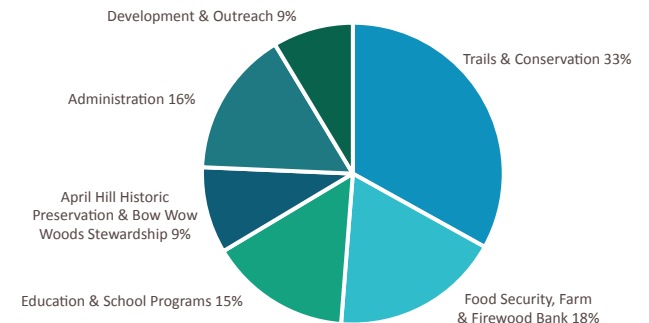
Issy signed up for a job with Greenagers after her junior year of high school. She spent the summer learning the skills necessary to bench cut and corridor clear a one mile trail in Sandisfield's Yanner Park. After graduating Issy returned to Greenagers and was promoted to Assistant Crew Leader. In her new role Issy supervised her peers and passed on the skills she learned in her first season. Her crew improved tread on a second mile of trail and built stone staircases and bridges at Yanner Park. When summer work ended Issy joined the Fall Trail Crew for projects including Appalachian Trail

INCOME 2023

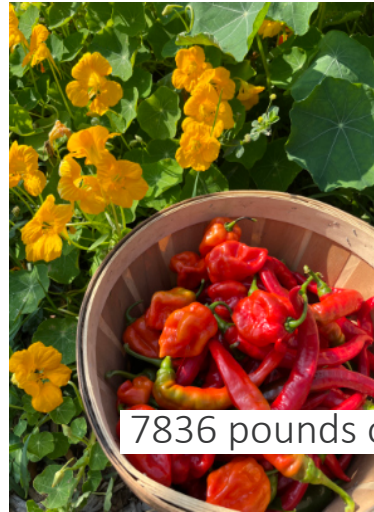


Individual Donations	\$368,398	25%
Private Grants	\$550,152	37%
Government Grants	\$92,669	6%
Program Income	\$273,953	18%
YoYo Ma & Emanuel Ax Concert Fundraiser	\$121,960	8%
Other Revenue & Investments	\$81,827	5%
TOTAL	\$1,488,960	100%

EXPENSES 2023



Trails, Conservation, & Paid Youth Jobs Program	\$477,337	33%
Food Security, Youth Farm Program & Firewood Bank	\$262,266	18%
Education & School Programs	\$218,885	15%
April Hill Historic Preservation & Bow Wow Woods Stewardship	\$133,772	9%
Administration	\$226,350	16%
Development & Outreach	\$124,644	9%
TOTAL	\$1,443,255	100%



7836 pounds of food grown, harvested and distributed to the community

GIFTS IN TRIBUTE

we honor them
we remember them

David Dykeman in honor of Alice Najimy
Berkshire Health Systems in honor of Bronly Boyd
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3.5 miles of new trails built,
7.5 miles of existing trails improved

PHOTO: KENZIE FIELDS

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The Pathways team building a timber frame roof for the Sheffield Community Bread Oven.

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Lydia Woodward
Jon Zucker





Alumni Spotlight: Cecilie MacPherson

Cecilie worked for Greenagers as the Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator through Terracorp in 2021 and 2022. She worked on the farm, assisted with animal chores, worked with the South Egremont School, and helped start the wood bank. Now Cecilie works on the Trials Farm for High Mowing Organic Seed Company researching and evaluating new organic seed varieties to determine which new varieties will make it into the High Mowing catalog.

Has working with Greenagers impacted you personally/your relationship to the environment? How so?

“Working at Greenagers has deepened my passion for food and farming, and established that I wanted to pursue farming as a career. In a very real sense working outside year-round at Greenagers has created a much stronger understanding and appreciation of the seasons and the natural world. Seeing in real time what as farmers we can and cannot control during the

farm season gave me an acute sense of respect and admiration for the natural environment.”

What skills have you taken with you from your time with Greenagers?

“At Greenagers I learned an incredible amount about farming and farming practices. Greenagers taught me how to lean into challenges and overcome my fear of handling larger equipment. Through my time at Greenagers I learned how to drive our tractor, use and maintain chainsaws, as well as woodworking tools. Additionally, my time at Greenagers helped me refine my leadership skills, learn how to develop class curriculums, and teach in classroom settings.”

thank you to the Monday Mountain Boys

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Ward's Nursery
Webster Landscape
Whitehead Foundation

"This organization offered me my first job over a decade ago via William Conklin. At the time, I complained beginning to end about the outdoors and the dirt and the work. Looking back, it was, thus far, the best time of my adult life, and also just the beginning of it. A great organization that does great things for the community."

- Robbie 2009 Trail Crew Member

"I saw a lot of cool places while working here and it's nice to feel like I've had some part in making them even better."

thank you to our community partners

1Berkshire

Appalachian Mountain Club

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Bard College at Simon's Rock

Beavertides Farm

Berkshire Bounty

Berkshire Camino

Berkshire Community Action Council

Berkshire Community College

Berkshire Environmental Action Team

Berkshire Hills Regional School District

Berkshire Museum

Berkshire School

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Wahconah Regional High School



106 middle school
students engaged in
after school and
summer programs



Trail Crew resurfacing the Greenport Conservation Area's Universally Accessible Trail.

OUR MISSION

Greenagers works to inspire teens and young adults to develop deep connections to land, work, and community. We prepare youth for success in work and life by offering paid jobs and education in the areas of conservation, sustainable farming, and related trades.

OUR VISION

Greenagers envisions a culture of community where young people work together to restore forests and fields, grow food, and build spaces that support natural systems and sustainability.

To realize this vision, we work to get young people outside; working with their hands; talking to each other and their elders; listening, leading, and learning. We believe that this work is foundational and the heart of a culture that values education, stewardship, and community.



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