



2006 Annual Report



Vision

We envision inspired people joining together to actively replenish our environment, our community and ourselves. We believe in the power of people to co-create harmony between land, water and all living things for generations to come.

Mission

To enrich the life of our community through environmentally sustainable gardening programs that empower people to experience a direct and deep connection with plants, the land and each other.

Dear Friends,

Growing Gardens accomplished many goals in 2006. We completed our greenhouse, thanks to many passionate and dedicated supporters and volunteers, and we also saw our programs reach across economic, age, and social gaps. The simple act of planting gardens, of preparing food from harvest with family and friends, has connected people to each other. All this makes me realize what a powerful support Growing Gardens has been for the people and community of Boulder County.

A lovely woman stopped me this past summer to tell me that riding her bike by our site made her feel as if she was in paradise. People in the field calling to each other, families harvesting from their gardens, the nodding sunflowers and flitting birds, it made her so happy just to be part of this scene, to know we were there.

Our goal for this coming year is to plan for our future and future generations. We want to ensure that our children will be able to not only witness what “paradise” can be, but also become active participants in digging in and making our world a wonderful place to live in.

This 2006 Annual Report shares with the community the efforts we have made in achieving that goal. We hope it brings you hope for the future and joy in the present. Thank you for the generosity of spirit you have all endowed to Growing Gardens.

Best Regards,
Ramona Clark, Executive Director



Growing Gardens is a human services and youth development 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, established in 1998 and based in Boulder County.

Utilizing gardening as the primary tool, we service youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income families and individuals.

Visit us online at www.growinggardens.org!



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Annual Report Design:
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Programs

iCultiva! Youth Project

iCultiva! teaches at-risk youth sustainable agriculture, leadership, entrepreneurial and life skills. The iCultiva! youth (ages 11-18) work daily to cultivate a one acre organic garden. Their produce is donated weekly to those in need. The youth sell a portion of their produce at the Boulder Farmer's Market to learn business skills. Youth design, coordinate and participate in community service projects. The teenagers also take initiative with the operation and planning of the program and grow to become stewards of the environment and leaders in their community.



iCultiva! Youth Goals 2006 Achievements

- 130 youth participated during 2006.
- A new drip irrigation system was installed in the iCultiva! garden.
- 80% of the youth felt they were better leaders after teaching in the Children's Peace Garden.
- 90% of the youth said they learned new things at iCultiva! that would help them be more healthy.
- Sales at the Boulder County Farmers Market were up 37% from 2005.
- 1,128 pounds of produce were donated to Community Food Share and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless.

iCultiva! Youth Goals for 2007

- Increase wages for youth so they receive a competitive salary.
- Increase the number of hours each youth spends in the garden and greenhouse.
- Increase earned income of iCultiva! program through greenhouse and Farmer's Market revenue.





Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

- Marcel Proust

Children's Peace Garden

Utilizing the greenhouse and a variety of gardens as a learning space, children ages 5-10 participate in curriculum focused on the source of the food that they eat, the fundamentals of organic gardening practices, and experience activities and games focusing on community, respect, friendship, and cooperation.

Children's Peace Garden 2006 Accomplishments

- 364 children participated in the Children's Peace Garden Program—a 103% increase from 2005!
- The Peace Garden offered fall curriculum for the first time, thanks to the sheltered space of the greenhouse.
- 64% of children participated in preparing and eating fresh, whole foods from the garden.
- 40% of the children participated in nutrition education activities.

Children's Peace Garden Goals for 2007

- Create a week-long program to better meet the scheduling needs of families.
- Expand the program by holding spring and fall classes in the greenhouse.
- Increase school group participation in the program.

Community Gardens

Growing Gardens manages 353 garden plots at seven different neighborhood locations in Boulder County.

This program provides space for urban residents to grow their own food and share in the community experience of gardening.



Community Gardens 2006 Accomplishments

- 1,078 community gardeners participated in 2006.
- Garden Leaders worked hard this year to build community in the gardens by increasing participation in garden work days and social events.
- The new Centennial Community Garden, with 20 garden plots, was built in south Boulder.
- 67% increase in the number of low income gardeners in the community garden program.

Community Gardens Goals for 2007

- Continue to increase the depth and commitment of our volunteer support.
- Increase food donations to Community Food Share.
- Increase by 10% low income participants.

Able Gardening Program

With gardening-based therapy work, the elderly and people with disabilities are able to increase mobility, enhance independence and experience the fulfillment and pride of their accomplishments. Partnering with several local agencies the Able Gardening Program's curriculum includes weekly gardening classes and activities as well as classes utilizing plant material in cooking, displays and crafts.



Able Gardening Program 2006 Achievements

- 50 seniors and people with disabilities participated in weekly gardening classes in 2006.
- Expanded programming by adding more classes in the spring and fall.
- We used the greenhouse to provide job training opportunities for those with special needs with our partnering agencies, Bridges Program and Employment Link.

Able Gardening Program 2007 Goals

- Increase participants in program by 20%.

Neighborhood Compost Project

Designed to help Boulder reach its goal of 50% waste reduction, this program coordinates businesses, gardeners and individuals to compost lawn and garden waste and provides educational tours and workshops.

Neighborhood Compost Project 2006 Accomplishments

- 1,488 individuals were educated through tours and workshops.
- 672 children toured the compost project in partnership with Eco-Cycle.

- The project recovered over 2,000 yards of raw material and produced 740 yards of finished compost.
- 270 yards of leaves from the City of Boulder's leaf pick-up were recycled—a 300% increase from 2005!

Neighborhood Compost Project Goals for 2007

- Increase the volume of leaves we receive and recycle by 20%.
- Educate 1,500 individuals about composting through tours and classes.

Greenhouse

The Greenhouse was completed in 2006 and has made possible the expansion of all of our programs to a year round basis. We have greatly increased the number of people we serve and the greenhouse provides a stable funding base to reach our goal of self sustainability. It serves as a center for the people in the community to learn about and participate in growing plants for food that will be healthy for their families and the environment.

Greenhouse 2006 Achievements

- Greenhouse construction was completed in March 2006.
- Over 4,000 plant starts for the Plant Sale and for all

of Growing Gardens programs were grown in the greenhouse.

- The plant sale grossed over \$20,000 from greenhouse grown plants.
- More than 70 people attended classes on plant propagation and transplanting.

Greenhouse 2007 Goals

- Increase revenues from plant starts to allow the greenhouse to operate at a profit.
- Greenhouse will provide plants for all of Growing Gardens programs as well as plant donations to food banks, homeless shelters and affordable housing neighborhood gardens.
- Classes held in partnership with Master Garden program for the public.

Fresh Foods, Families and Fitness

This project will interface with all existing Growing Gardens programs and offers an alternative lifestyle choice to “fast food” by providing healthy choices to meet the nutritional and physical activity recommendations for children, youth, low-income families and seniors.

Fresh Foods, Families and Fitness 2006 Achievements

- Donated over 100 seed packets and 1,900 plants starts to those in need in the community.
- 81% of gardeners surveyed ate at or above the recommended servings for fruit and vegetables (5-9 servings).
- 85% of the iCultura! youth reported learning something that would help them be more healthy.

Fresh Foods, Families and Fitness 2007 Goals

- Increase participants by 10% including low income families, seniors, youth, children and those with disabilities.



2006 Financial Statements*

Balance Sheet - December 31, 2006

ASSETS

Cash Accounts	\$ 114,822
Other Current Assets	\$ 12,388
Property & Equipment	\$ 337,331
Total Assets	\$ 464,541

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable & Accruals	\$ 5,307
Total Liabilities	\$ 5,307

FUND BALANCE

General Income	\$ 426,917
Net Income	\$ 32,316
Total Fund Balance	\$ 459,233
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$ 464,541

Statement of Activities

(year ended December 31, 2006)

OPERATING FUNDS

Revenue

Contributions	\$ 12,344
Corporate Sponsorship	\$ 17,025
Earned Income	\$ 58,201
Special Events Dinner	\$ 55,572
Grants	\$ 131,225
Contracts	\$ 16,441
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 16,733
Interest Income	\$ 982
Total Revenue	\$ 308,524

Expenses

Program Services

Cultura Youth Project	\$ 103,308
Children's Peace Garden	\$ 11,041
Neighborhood Compost Project	\$ 10,687
Community Gardens	\$ 35,98
Horticultural Therapy	\$ 12,402
Greenhouse	\$ 45,720

Administrative Expenses

General	\$ 45,013
Fundraising	\$ 12,083
Total Expenses	\$ 276,208

Greenhouse Construction Costs	\$ 93,024
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*(unaudited)

2006 Growing Gardens Supporters *(We strive to recognize all of our donors and apologize if any name was inadvertently omitted.)*

\$30,000 - \$70,000

Eleanor & Henry Hitchcock Charitable Foundation

\$10,000-\$29,999

City of Boulder Department of Parks & Recreation
Colorado Garden Show, Inc.
The Denver Foundation
Greenfield Foundation
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White Wave Foods

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