

Creative and flexible: Garden Leaders



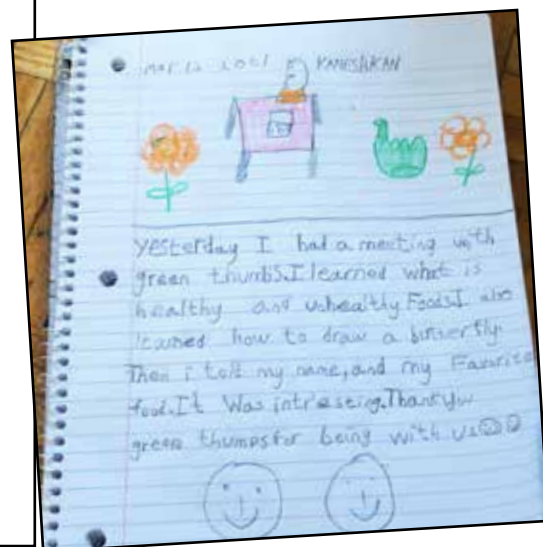
Ohemaa Boateng quickly pivoted to online program design and delivery. Planting micro-greens (pea shoots) and Kentucky Coffee Tree were the most popular programs.

Micah Miller, our Indigenous Programs Co-ordinator, offered class programs starting with a smudge. Bannock and Cedar Tea was his popular program, conducted in person before schools closed.



Anusha Santhakumar (right, centre) moved from the Youth and Volunteer Co-ordinator role to supporting children's programming both online and in person. Here she's helping students plant Cedar seed.

Anusha, Ohemaa and Micah along with placement students, created online programs for youth and children. Left, a cooking program developed by our Humber Nursing students, was jointly delivered. Right, a youth program collaboration called Grow In! with Chimu Titi from Greenest City, and the Bingo cards with lockdown to-do's.



Left: Summer staff (l-r) Kais Saleh, Christy Sebastian, Ari Wichert, Eden Gepner-Bourgeois, Dev Vyas, Philippa Wood. On the Daniels Spectrum Green Roof, which they cultivated for greens, herbs, bush beans and even water-melon! Below: one day of harvest in Summer 2020.



Messages from the Board Chair...

As we navigated the early days of the pandemic, Green Thumbs faced many uncertainties. We questioned how to transition our programming from in-class and in-person to virtual platforms that can still engage children. We worried about access to garden spaces, especially as they exist on properties which were otherwise closed; and once we did gain access we worried about how to keep people safe. And we were concerned about our ability to continue to fundraise, a critical part of how we operate influencing our ability to pay wages, convert programs to new platforms, and reach new people.

Thank you for the support you've shown us along the way as in facing each of these challenges we've learned not only how resilient we are but that our mission is more relevant than ever. Access to garden spaces to grow food is essential. Facilitating hands-on learning, even when done virtually, is critical for health

and wellbeing. As we've moved programs online we've been able to expand our reach to new schools and new students, an acceleration made possible by the push to online. We are proud of the work done in 2020 and will strive to continually demonstrate the importance of local and sustainable food and respect for the land, the foundation of which makes all this possible.

Kary Atkinson, Board Chair

...and from the Executive Director

What she said! And it's thanks to Kary's leadership and the deep engagement of all our board members, staff and donors that we are emerging stronger than ever from the pandemic. Our 2020 Financial Statement shows we even generated a small surplus, made possible by the commitment of board members and supporters, to whom we are most grateful.

Sunday Harrison, Executive Director

Partner Program with Participatory Cities & Centre for Social Innovation

In November, as part of a project called Participatory Cities and with the support of the Centre for Social Innovation, Sunday Harrison (above, R) of Green Thumbs led a Tree Walk in Regent Park, followed by a planting of the Kentucky Coffeetree from seed, known in Anishnaabemowin as Biizhou aatig. Fei, a local resident, participated and commented, "This program was well thought out. I learned so much and will share a video of myself planting my tree baby." See Fei's video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgSlqepRPGA>.



Partner Program with Muslim Children's Aid and Support Services

From October through December, this weekly online program served Syrian refugee children.

"Hello my name is Mahmoud. I am a student from Rewritten Lives group [an after-school program led by Green Thumbs]. This group changed my life and it made me learn a lot of stuff, one of the things I enjoyed was, learning to be always kind to one another and the second thing is, WE GOT TO GROW PLANTS, we got to grow peashoot and then we ate it. These are my reasons why I like Rewritten Lives group, thank you bye."



IMPACT:

300 lbs of garden- and green-roof grown food donated in summer

1,583 kids and **131** youth reached online in **114** programs, including school day and after-school. Programs included Mindfulness activities to support kids in this hard time.

227 Microgreens Kits grown by students

60 trees reported grown from seed from

182 seed kits provided to **168** participants

Individual Donors

\$5,000+

Robert & Kerin Spence

\$1,500+

**Manuel & Cheryl Buchwald
June Komisar**

up to \$1,500

Sabrina Adamski, Annette Addison, Fortunato Amendola, Rashan Amin, Anon, Liz Armstrong, Kary Atkinson, Karen Miranda Augustine, Emma Badame, Ashley Baker, Don Baxter, James Beaudoin, Ruth Beyers, Susan Blagg, Guylaine Boudreau, James Boylan, Paul Bradley, Karen Brooks, Manuel & Cheryl Buchwald, Lise Buisson, Robin Buyers, Matt Callahan, Sean Campbell, Geoffrey Chown, David Clandfield, Doug Cook, Jeannette Davey, Eleanor Davis, Marcel Dee, April Detzler, Patricia Dobec, Sarah Dobec, Dawn Drayton, Clair Duff, Joseph Durand, Erin Fernie, Alison Fleming, Sherwood Flemming, Norman Fraser, Tim Fry, Frank Fuernkranz, Katie Fullerton, Jim Gibson, Martha Girvin, Bonnie Good, Puck Graafland, Sunday Harrison, Maggie Hayes, Karen Heisz, Wendy Hooker, Jeffrey Horn, Gail Houston, Shirley Hovey, Karen Hubble, Abbey Huggan, Todd Irvine, Heather Jackson, Susan Jagger, Sally Jagger, Kalinda Jessett, Lorraine Johnson, Megan Kenzie, Jennifer Kernaghan, Morgan Kotisa, Lynne Kurylo, Anthony Labriola, Suzanne Marchington, John Marchington, Robert Marsden, Susan McCawley, LisaMarie Mcdermott,

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Alterna Savings, Bill Morneau and Nancy McCain Foundation, The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation, City of Toronto: Investing in Neighbourhoods, PollinateTO, Urban Forestry, ECHO Foundation, ECO Canada, The George Lunan Foundation, Gerry Egan Children's Foundation, Hunter Family Foundation Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation, Hydro One, Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation, Loblaws, Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training, Mondelez Canada, Muslim Children's Aid and Support Service, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Ontario Trillium Foundation, Osin Foundation, Peter Gilgan Foundation, Service Canada (Canada Summer Jobs), S.M. Blair Family Foundation, University of Toronto, Willowwool Foundation, Marjorie and Joseph Wright Foundation

Staff & Volunteer Team:

Ohemaa Boateng, Oludare Fasola, Sunday Harrison, Micah Miller, Anusha Santhakumar, Ellen Sutherland

Summer staff: Eden Gepner-Bourgeois, Kais Saleh, Christy Sebastian, Dev Vyas, Ari Wichert, Philippa Wood

Contract Staff: Christine Hayhurst

Placement Students: Maleeka Black, Drew Miller, Gigi Uson, Kevin Tran, Quyen Pham, George Lin, Paula Masamba, Umamah Azeez, Ashley McMorrow, Cindy Tran, Cameron Weir

Humber College Nursing Students: instructor Stephanie Hamilton, students Saranson Henry, Jaclyn Arts, Harpreet Atwal, Gloria Oi Kei Yu, James Hoang, Jiamin Gong, Daniel Zemicael, Nayana Sookram

Board Members:

Kary Atkinson, Susan Blagg, Sarah Dobec, Sahar Hussain, June Komisar, Bonnie Kravitz, Harry Lindsay, Sloan Miller, Lara Mrosovsky, H el ene St. Jacques, Pierre Valcarcel, Carole Wang, Heather Wilberforce, Lily Yee

SPECIAL THANKS:

Sumaya Nakibuuka, for helping with the 2020 books!

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was printed
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Our Mission:
Cultivate environmental
stewardship through
hands-on garden and food
education for urban children
and their communities



2020 Annual Report

Thanks to our supporters this difficult pandemic year! While it's been quite the challenge, our organization's mission holds new importance for healthy communities.

Garden-based learning engages kids outdoors, and local food access is more important than ever. With your continued support, our programs have evolved to meet the challenge and will continue and grow in 2021.

greenthumbsto.org

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