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## 2021 Annual Report

Learning on the  
land, grateful for  
her bounty.

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### Our Mission:

Cultivate environmental stewardship through hands-on garden and food education for urban children and their communities.

[greenthumbsto.org](http://greenthumbsto.org)



## From our Board Chair

The extended COVID conditions and uncertainty we've all managed through in the last two years have turned into productive new paths forward for Green Thumbs as we've worked hard to adapt our programming to the changing conditions we're faced with. We were fortunate to receive grants that allowed us to purchase equipment to stabilize and grow our online programming. This in turn gave us access to new schools across Toronto where we were able to offer programming, an opportunity we wouldn't have been able to follow through on if it weren't for the adaptability and resiliency of our staff and programming.

As a governance board for a community-based non-profit we strive to be hands-on in our efforts around community outreach and fundraising and we are grateful for the opportunity to be a part driving the vision for what Green Thumbs can achieve.

As we strive to fulfil our mission to cultivate environmental stewardship and food education to urban children and their communities we also recognize that there is work to be done across our organization to better engage, listen and learn with Indigenous communities. In 2021, the board began an ongoing dialogue on this front with an aim to demonstrate solidarity, better support reconciliation and drive accountability within our organization. The work we have to do on this front will be part of an ongoing journey, but as a starting point I'd like to close by highlighting the Call to Action #62(i) from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, that calls on our government and educators to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for K-12 students. Green Thumbs values the work that we do with school boards and in school gardens and fulfilling this call to action is a critical step forward on the journey towards reconciliation.

**Kary Atkinson**  
Board Chair



## From our Executive Director

The year was challenging for us, while programs went online but the gardens still required our care! Luckily we had an amazing team all around, and I am so grateful to staff and board members for stepping up in such an odd time. We did have some key funding to help us pivot to online programs, through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This allowed us to fund a feasibility study for the Daniels Spectrum Green Roof to Garden social enterprise idea, as well as purchase needed equipment for our online programming. We had evaluation of our online programs conducted by the inimitable Helene St. Jacques, who found very high rates of satisfaction among our teacher partners.

Green Thumbs is a fractal, that is, a design that repeats inside itself. Students supporting students, layer after layer of learners. The land is the teacher, and we are all learning here. I am immensely grateful to Ohemaa Boateng, who took on the mantle of Program Manager in 2021 and deftly created and delivered excellent online programming.

Many thanks to the individual, corporate, foundation and government supporters who made our programs possible, and to the Toronto District School Board staff who believed in the value of our work and helped make 2021 as good as it could be.

**Sunday Harrison**  
Executive Director

# Local food and flowers

Our wonderful team of youth staffed the market table at Cabbagetown Farmer's Market, every week from May through October. We gave much of the harvest to the Mothers of Peace in Regent Park, but there was still lots to bring to market for sale. The Delicata squashes (right) were grown on the Daniels Spectrum Green Roof, proving that even just 10cm of soil - with some love - can produce fruit. As always, our signature Calendula Salve (far right) sold well at market and staff enjoyed learning how to make it.

Students from George Brown College's Child and Youth Program (Tobias, centre, Trisha, right, and on facing page) and Tristan, left, from GBC's Community Worker Program) helped run markets as well as packaging Pea Shoots Kits and Trees from Seed kits for classes. The kits were distributed to students and the programs were delivered, in a two-part session, to the students via online platforms.

We interacted with **74 teacher/leaders** over **2 school boards** and **17 schools**, through **150 workshops**, serving **3,057 children**, **15 youth** and **229 adults**. There were **26 different workshop topics**. We had **19 placement students** provide **4,084 hours of support and program delivery**, developing their own lessons.



## Back in the gardens

In the fall we were able to return to in-person gardening programs at our partner schools: Rose Ave. PS (far left), Winchester Jr. & Sr. PS, and Sprucecourt PS.

Our Urban Trees from Seed program developed into a lovely partnership with Eric Davies from University of Toronto, who provided many acorns for propagation sourced from mother trees in the GTA. Pictured here (left) is one of the Oak seedlings, paired with a red Clover flower that's attracted a pollinator.

# Thanks to our community and supporters!

## Individual Donors

### \$5,000+

Robert & Kerin Spence

### \$1,500+

Anonymous  
Manuel & Cheryl Buchwald  
June Komisar

### Up to \$1,500

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Donna Kellway  
Maddie Kingston  
Charmaine Kong  
Maira Krempulec  
Colleen Krempulec  
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Lynda Power  
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Patty Zuver

## Foundations, Grants, Sponsorships & Partners

Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory  
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Canada Life Reinsurance  
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Carrot Cache  
City of Toronto Investing in Neighbourhoods  
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Co-Effect Creative  
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Community Matters Toronto  
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FK Morrow Foundation  
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Weenen General Contracting Limited  
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## Staff & Volunteers

### Staff:

Ohemaa Boateng  
Rebecca Davis  
Sunday Harrison  
Micah Miller  
Cara McArthur  
Athi Selvadurai  
Tsering Tashi

### Summer Staff:

Ana Lopez  
Aarthi Manohar  
Paula Masamba  
Sophie Mihevc  
Ari Wichert  
Dev Vyas

### Placement Students:

Tristan Andrews  
Umamah Azeez  
Trisha Barretto  
Crystal Cornwall  
Suneel Dhillon  
Mikaela Dillabaugh  
Navneet Gill  
Vanessa Gonzaga  
Bishara Hersi  
Grace Ho  
Tian Jin  
Zohal Kerami  
Paula Masamba  
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Kim Mguyen  
Cindy Tran  
Tobias Vanvlack  
Cameron Weir  
Elyze Yamasaki

### Board Members:

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Evelyne Au-Navioz  
Sarah Dobec  
Sahar Hussain  
Robin Irwin  
Iris "Ike" Karuna  
Harry Lindsay  
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Tara Marina Pearson  
Christy Sebastian  
Sophie Shay  
Pierre Valcarcel  
Carole Wang  
Heather Wilberforce  
Lily Yee  
Sanaulhaq Zarawar

**Green Thumbs  
Growing Kids**

**Charitable Number:  
80696 2353 RR0001**

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