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Staff & Volunteer Team:

Brianna Barnhart, Ohemaa Boateng, Oludare Fasola, Sunday Harrison, Micah Miller, Sumaya Nakibuuka, Hilda Nouri, Anusha Santhakumar, Ellen Sutherland

Summer staff: Christina Jewell, Iris Karuna, Anusha Santhakumar, Philippa Wood (cover, bottom right), Timothy Calupig, Madeleine Wichert

Contract Staff: Christine Hayhurst, Joshua Recollet

Placement Students: Kristina Apostalakis, Sarah Holland, Iris Karuna, George Lin, Quyen Pham, Adriana da Silva, Molly Tarsey, Kevin Tran, Gigi Uson, Agnes Zsigovics

Humber College Nursing Students: instructor Stephanie Hamilton, students Kristal Barai, Keith Casis, Joanna Daniel, Aine Ganly, Teresa Kent, Amelita Naungayan

Board Members:

Kary Atkinson, Susan Blagg, Susan Jagger, Sarah Keyes, June Komisar, Lara Mrosovsky, Jennifer Nguyen, Melana Roberts, H el ene St. Jacques, Samantha Slater, Pierre Valcarcel, Lily Yee

SPECIAL THANKS:

Endeavour Consulting, Strategic Planning Consultants

Green Thumbs Growing Kids
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2019 Annual Report

Our Mission

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



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green
thumbs

In 2019 we completed a round of strategic planning, rewording our mission statement to reflect our increased involvement in outdoor, environmental education as well as food literacy and food production. We continued to build our capacity to maximize urban land and buildings for learning about food and the environment. - Sunday Harrison, Executive Director



Kids Growing Program

In early spring, 632 students walked to Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory for an engaging planting session plus the popular tour of the facility. 4,139 children from 15 elementary schools and community day camps learned to plant, harvest and enjoy fresh garden foods. Programs support curriculum objectives and provide healthy summer activities for young children. Core staff were supported by 17 post-secondary students on placements from five different institutions, supporting skill development in community work, nursing and teaching. We were also excited to build up our Urban Trees from Seed project (cover image, Ohemaa with the Kentucky Coffeetree seedlings to transplant).



Clockwise from left: at the beautiful Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory, composting with Ohemaa at Sprucecourt, blender bike activity at the Winchester Garden Market.

Our core staff team expanded in 2019 to include a position for Indigenous Education. We had fantastic volunteer support from a pair of Toronto Public Health nurses, who joined us in greenhouse and gardens promoting nutrition.



Message from Hélène St. Jacques, Chair

We closed 2019 with deep gratitude for the gains we made over the year. It was a period of continuing to expand partnerships and connections with our community, launching new programs and fundraising celebrations to great success. At Green Thumbs we look back on 2019 with pride for the skill and hard work of our trusted staff, for the commitment of our dedicated board and volunteers, and for the generosity of our valued partners and donors. Together we continued to cultivate environmental stewardship through hands-on gardening and food education for urban children and their communities. And to close on the words of one our joyful students, "Nature is so fun!"



Left: The New Roots Dinner setting at Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory, October

Ohemaa gardens with kids at Nelson Mandela PS,



Winchester students organize a farmers market, with produce they grew and sourced from local farmers

Micah's Bannock and Cedar Tea workshop, held at Allan Gardens Children's Conservatory

Ditch the Plastic workshop held by Community Workers-in-Training,



Below: Urban Agriculture Tour, Sept 2019. & Visit with Tony at Wheelbarrow Farm.



2019 Highlights

- Community-Connected Experiential Learning provincial grant helps Green Thumbs reach 10 new schools
- 3,806 elementary students participated in outdoor and culinary learning opportunities, along with 253 adults and 18 youth, in 220 program hours
- 333 summer day campers visited 3 school gardens for food/fun programs
- 16 post-secondary students developed skills and knowledge to help guide their careers in 2,608 hours in placement
- Second year of New Roots Dinner Series, brilliantly implemented by Daniel et Daniel Catering & Events, nearly doubles in size