



2011

ZENGER *farm*
ANNUAL REPORT

zengerfarm.org





A Letter from Jill Kuehler, Executive Director

Dear friends of the farm,

Thousands of visitors come to Zenger Farm every year, 6,808 in 2011 in fact. Many of those visitors were youth, coming for a field trip or for Zenger Farm Summer Camp. Getting their hands dirty and observing the rhythms of a working farm are just some of their pleasures. Cooper, in his scholarship application to summer camp, listed the ten reasons he loves Zenger Farm, which include, “I love taking care of animals!”, “I love harvesting plants!”, and “I love doing the worm dance!”

Other visitors come to participate in our Healthy Eating on a Budget program. Launched in 2010, the program was designed for outer SE Portland families to learn how to shop for and prepare healthy meals on a limited budget. In the past two years over 600 families have participated in the workshops, which are offered at affordable housing facilities, schools, and here at the farm. One participant said she learned how to “motivar a los niños a comer fruta y verduras (motivate her kids to eat fruit and vegetables)”.

Volunteers are very important visitors to the farm. 720 volunteers helped out at the farm in 2011. Not only did they volunteer in the dirt alongside our farm crew, they also taught youth during field trips, prepared meals for Healthy Eating on a Budget participants, cared for our flock of laying hens, and maintained our honey bee hives.

Just down the road we are proud to manage the Lents International Farmers Market, which is providing healthy food to outer SE Portland residents and a place for immigrant and emerging farmers to sell their products. The market matches all SNAP (formerly food stamps) dollars spent, thanks to support from New Seasons Market and Bob’s Red Mill.

Zenger Farm is proud to have a 50-year lease with the city, allowing us to plan long-term strategic efforts. This year we added two extra acres to our lease with the City of Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services. The Furey property includes a 30-plot community garden that is being run by Portland Park’s Community Garden program. The expansion also allowed us to launch our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that is one of the first CSAs in Oregon to accept SNAP.

In 2011 the USDA launched a food desert locator tool which gives a spatial overview of underserved neighborhoods that have limited access to grocery stores. Of the nine food deserts in Multnomah County, three border Zenger Farm. One of our CSA members, Jennifer, calls Zenger Farm a “food oasis in the middle of a desert”. Here’s to 2012 – may our food oasis continue to grow and provide more families with healthy, affordable food and the education to create a resilient, food secure community.

Jill Kuehler

Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIRS, KATIE PEARMINE AND MICHELE MATHER

We moved to Portland to experience the vision this region holds – open space, wild space, and the opportunity to connect with people who share similar values. Zenger Farm provides us with the space necessary to nurture the land, our families, ourselves and each other.

We're not the only ones who feel this way. Take a look at the world-class talent and leadership at Zenger Farm, the 700 volunteers who put their sweat into the farm, and the 5,000 youth who experience hands-on environmental education each year. This is a special place where incredible people give it their all, every season of the year.

We all want to care for our families and build and maintain strong communities. Zenger Farm gives people a place to contribute at their highest potential – whether it be as an immigrant farmer, a local chef, or a parent wanting to put healthy food on the table. We all have a place here on the farm.



Katie Pearmine

Growing up on a farm in rural Oregon, and then moving to Portland, I was struck by the difference in people's connection to the land and community. Growing up on the same piece of land as my parents and their parents, I developed a deep relationship and care for place. I came to Zenger Farm with the desire to help families in outer SE Portland cultivate a similar sense of place. A place where people can spend time growing food together. A place to stay connected to throughout a lifetime.



Michele Mather

My childhood in Montana blended rural and urban in a way that recognized the important connection between these landscapes. Many of us have lost touch with the knowledge of how to sustain ourselves and our communities. I see Zenger Farm as a champion to help us get back in touch with the power of community. As urban and rural communities become increasingly divided, Zenger Farm is the physical and social glue that keeps us connected.



OUR MISSION

WE ARE A WORKING URBAN FARM THAT MODELS, PROMOTES AND EDUCATES ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO GOOD FOOD FOR ALL.

2011 Highlights	4
Educating Children	5
Growing Farmers	6
Cultivating Community	7
Our Volunteers	8
Growing Food, Farmers and Facility in 2012	9
2011 Supporters	10
Financial Information	11
Our Team	12



2011 HIGHLIGHTS

4,638 youth and 1,225 adults participated in **FIELD TRIPS**, the highest in Zenger Farm history



720 **VOLUNTEERS** contributed over 6,000 hours in the fields and in the classroom

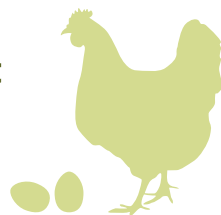


We expanded onto the Furey Field property, which includes a **COMMUNITY GARDEN** and over an acre of vegetables crops being grown for **OUR NEW CSA**



379 adults and 247 youth participated in our **HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET** program

225 adults participated in worm composting, garden design, fruit tree pruning, and bee keeping **WORKSHOPS** on the farm



\$3,228 SNAP DOLLARS WERE MATCHED at the Lents International Farmers Market





“Zenger Farm is a really nice place to be. You get to spend the day basically in wildlife! I love having secret spots in the wetland. You can listen to the frogs, watch for dragonflies, find interesting plants and bird feathers, and say something to the group about it. Last year we got to hold snakes we found in the grass! I love being on the open grasslands, and there are really nice people. I love meeting new people and then you have friends who can help you out.”

Shayla Williams, 5th grader

EDUCATING CHILDREN

Farmer in the Classroom

Over 5,000 youth visited Zenger Farm in 2011. While we see visitors from all over the Metro region, we take special pride in providing students in our neighborhood, where 80% of students receive free or reduced price lunch, with access to outdoor, experiential education.

To this end, in 2009, we created our Farmer in the Classroom program, which offers three farm field trips throughout the school year and three classroom visits from a Zenger Farm educator in winter. During farm field trips, students explore the wetland, meet the chickens, and taste produce straight from our fields. They get dirty working alongside our farmers, and conduct science experiments to understand the components of a healthy watershed. When winter arrives, we bring Zenger Farm to the classroom where students care for their own worm bin, map the history of the tomato, and study the food miles involved in the creation of a meal from field to fork.

In 2011, we served 14 5th grade neighborhood classrooms. Farmer in the Classroom has been so successful that we’re currently working with the David Douglas School District to integrate the program into the curriculum, which will allow us to provide Farmer in the Classroom to every 5th grade student in the district.

“When I close my eyes to listen at Zenger Farm, I don’t just hear song birds, barnyard animals and farm machinery. I hear a chorus of excited questions and exclamations from children tasting fresh kale and leeks for the first time.”

Bryan Allan, 2010 apprentice turned Zenger Farm crew leader



GROWING FARMERS

FARM APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: Bryan Allan, Justin Davidson, Michael Doherty and Courtney Leeds

What is it like to apprentice at Zenger Farm?

Zenger Farm provides us with an education of both mind and body. Along with formal classes on topics such as crop planning and pest management, an apprenticeship offers physical training. It takes practice to weed 100 row-feet of basil while standing with a hula hoe, clearing all the way up to the base of the basil, without killing the basil, and doing it quickly.

How is working at Zenger Farm different than working at a commercial farm?

With so many children visiting on field trips and adults taking workshops, the atmosphere at Zenger is focused on education. Visitors often ask us fresh, thought-provoking questions. The farm manager and crew leader take the time to explain the whys and hows of farming, even if it slows us down a little. The farm crew encourages us to visit other farms and participate in workshops with experts.

What will you do with the knowledge you’ve gained at Zenger Farm?

Most of us will continue farming on other farms in roles of greater responsibility and will eventually establish our own farms. Each of us came to our love of food and farming by different paths. Some of us are interested in establishing community projects around urban agriculture and food security, while others hope to pass our farming knowledge on as educators.



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and SNAP

In 2011, we launched Zenger Farm Shares, a unique CSA program that accepts SNAP (formerly Food Stamps). The traditional CSA model helps farmers by assisting with the upfront costs of farming, but that same upfront capital investment can be a barrier for families experiencing limited incomes. In our pilot year, we accepted SNAP for half of our shares, which enabled participants to pay weekly with their SNAP benefits, and meant that ten families had the opportunity to nourish themselves with healthy produce grown on a CSA farm, close to home, for the first time.

To ensure farm-fresh produce translated to wholesome meals on the table, Zenger Farm staff and volunteers offered weekly cooking demonstrations and recipes to members. In 2012, we'll double the number of members, and will continue to fine-tune our model for CSA farms across the state on the nuts and bolts of accepting SNAP for CSA shares, thereby ensuring more Oregonians have access to fresh, local food.

“Knowing the people who grow our food made us sincerely appreciate our vegetables, fruits and flowers. I think the people connections also make the food more delicious.”

Joyce and Bill Illiff, Zenger Farm Shares Members



OUR VOLUNTEERS

We're grateful to the 700+ volunteers who made our fields and programs more fruitful than ever in 2011. From tending crops to teaching kids to helping at our farmers market, volunteers are essential partners in our work. Robert Ericksen is one of the 700 who helps Zenger Farm thrive. Last year, Robert received the Ulrich Zenger Award, in honor of the original owner of the farm, for being the year's most dedicated volunteer.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Robert Ericksen

Why did you choose to volunteer at Zenger Farm?

I came to Zenger Farm to learn how to grow food for myself, and while I've learned that, I've also learned the simple pleasure of living within the season. In this day of supermarkets, global economies, and online orders, we've lost touch with the changing of time. To us, the clock is something that runs out too soon on weekends and not soon enough while at work. But to a plum tree, daylight is precious. It waits all winter, collecting its strength, dreaming of spring when it will bloom again, when the bees will pollinate its flowers. All summer, the tree works to produce a fruit that is, for a brief moment in time, perfect. All too soon, perhaps, the perfection of the fruit fades into over-ripeness; all too long, perhaps, must we wait for the fruit to come.

Right now, though, none of that matters, because right now, the fruit is perfect. Ulrich Zenger planted plum trees on his farm almost a hundred years ago, and today we still eat from them. Today, children come to his farm and spend a few hours of their day amazed at what the ground gives us. What a mighty legacy; what true perfection. Come to the farm and taste his legacy. RIGHT NOW, IT'S PERFECT.



GROWING FOOD, FARMERS AND FACILITY IN 2012

The need for healthy food, open space, and farm based education in our community is huge. To address this need, we'll do the following in 2012:

- **Double** our CSA membership to 40 shares, with half reserved for SNAP participants
- **Match** at least \$4,500 in SNAP dollars at the Lents International Farmers Market
- **Train** another 300 families in Healthy Eating on a Budget workshops
- **Grow** Summer Camp to include two new camps: Bugs and Slugs and Plant Potions
- **Embark** upon a barn remodel that will include classroom space for up to 50 students and a teaching kitchen



2011 SUPPORTERS

As a nonprofit organization, we're grateful for the generosity of our partners who sustain our work and help us grow.

Business Partners

Ancient Heritage Dairy
Anne Amie
A to Z
Ayers Creek Farm
B&G Builders
Biwa
Bob's Red Mill
Bon Appétit
Management Company
Burgerville
Chehalem Winery
Chinook Book
Concentrates
Country Cat
Dennis' 7 Dees
Ecotrust
Eileen Brady for Mayor
Elmer's Restaurant
Food Front Cooperative
Gales Meadow Farm
General Mills
Grand Central Baking
Guild Public House
Hotlips Pizza
Laurelwood Brewing
Lemelson Vineyards
Lincoln Restaurant
Maxwell PR
Montinore Estate
Naomi's Organic Farm Supply
Ned Ludd
New Seasons Market
One Green World

Organic Valley
Organically Grown Company
Owen Roe
Pine State Biscuits
Portland Nursery
Sineann Winery
Soter Vineyards
Spints
Tastebud
Three Square Grill
Toast
University of Portland
Urban Farm Store
Widmer Brothers

Grant Support

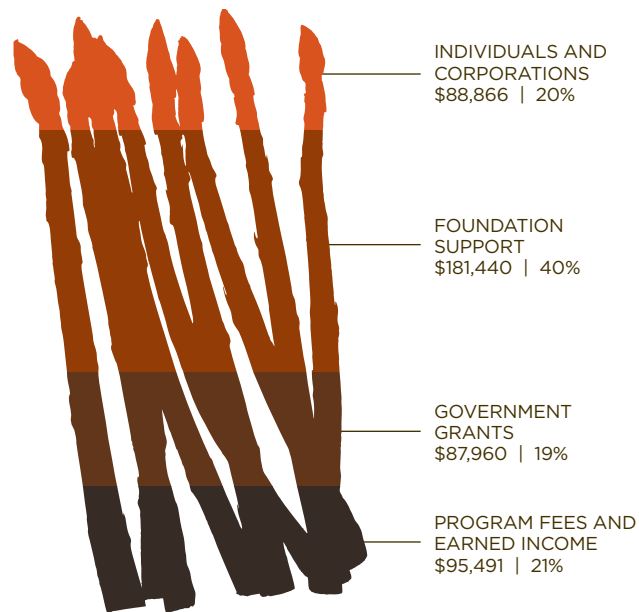
City of Portland Bureau of
Environmental Services
Collins Foundation
East Multnomah Soil and Water
Conservation District
Gray Family Fund of the Oregon
Community Foundation
Hoover Family Foundation
Jackson Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Metro Nature in Neighborhoods
Meyer Memorial Trust
Oregon Department of
Agriculture Specialty Crops
Grant program
Portland Development
Commission

Due to limited space, this list recognizes business, foundation and government supporters. We'd also like to acknowledge the significant contributions made by individuals and those who gave in-kind support.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

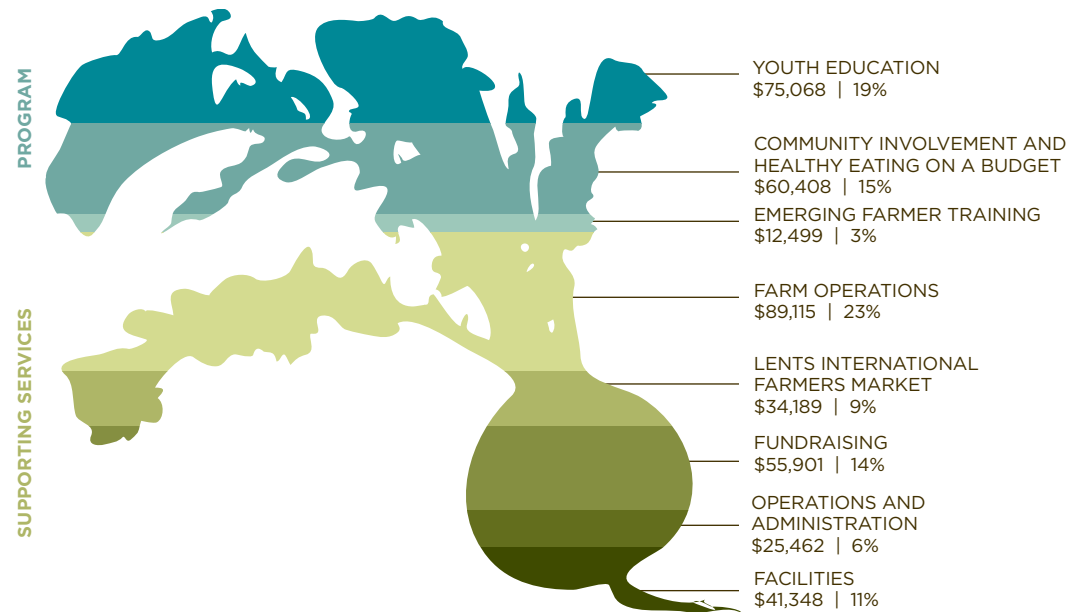
2011 SUPPORT AND REVENUE



TOTAL \$453,757

Revenue in excess of expenses: \$59,767
(Net income is from grant sources that will support 2012 programming.)

2011 EXPENSES



TOTAL \$393,990



Board of Directors

Peggy Acott
Kevin Atchley
Carrington Barrs
Linda Colwell
Eric Engstrom
Michele Mather
Joanne Morrissey
Katie Pearmine
Heather Saam
Charlie Stephens
Shelley Stevens
Kyrie Thompson
Ilona Wall

Staff

Bryan Allan, Farm Crew Manager
Sara Cogan, Farm Manager
Eliza Davenport, Farmers Market Manager
Laleña Dolby, Development Director
Alice Froehlich, Education Director
Prairie Hale, Community Involvement Coordinator
Jill Kuehler, Executive Director

ZENGER FARM
11741 SE Foster Road
Portland, Oregon 97266
503.282.4245

zengerfarm.org