



MillCityGrows.org



Mill City Grows fosters food justice by improving physical health, economic independence and environmental sustainability in Lowell through increased access to land, locally-grown food, and education.

NOURISHING LOWELL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## LOCAL FOOD IS FOR EVERYONE

In 2019, we created new ways for Lowell residents to grow, eat and learn about fresh, local food and our urban ecosystem.

### GROW

**4 FARMS, 7 COMMUNITY GARDENS, and 13 SCHOOL GARDENS** produced over **40,000** pounds of fresh produce.

### EAT

- Our Mobile Market sold **\$83,000+** of produce. 60% of sales were to low-income families using SNAP, WIC, and Senior Coupons.
- We provided a **medically tailored farm share** to 20 cardiac rehab patients at Lowell General Hospital.
- 44% of our 250+ community gardeners reported **eating more produce** as a result of gardening with Mill City Grows.

### LEARN

- 40 people completed the Gardener Training Program and Garden Leadership institute - 4 are now serving as volunteer garden leaders.
- 31 families attended our Farm to Table cooking classes, and made a commitment to eating more scratch cooking at home.
- 6,681 students across Lowell had access to a garden bed, and 3,000+ participated in in-school, afterschool, or cafeteria based programming in gardening and nutrition. 150 youth joined us for summer farm-based learning, and 4 youth were employed.

## REVENUE

Government Grants	\$264,392
Foundation Grants	\$413,450
ROOT Kitchen Campaign	\$389,787
Special Events	\$131,081
Produce Sales	\$79,186
Individual Contributions	\$162,874
Program Revenue	\$66,893
Corporate Contributions	\$21,854
In-kind and Misc.	\$53,323
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,582,840</b>

## EXPENSES

Urban Farm/Mobile Market	\$374,452
Community Gardens	\$129,991
Education Programs	\$235,314
Management & General	\$111,675
Fundraising	\$231,233
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,082,665</b>

In 2019, Mill City Grows moved to a new location, doubling the size of its headquarters. Our dream was to establish a space for food justice and food education in Lowell. We began raising funds, to establish a commercial kitchen and classroom space, known as Raising Organic Opportunities Together (ROOT). Set to open in 2020, this in-house facility will allow us to process more crops for storage and sale, hold Farm to Table cooking classes onsite, and conduct other food education trainings and community events in a fully-accessible downtown location.

*"I loved seeing everyone come in and pick up their veggies. The camaraderie and community around food, especially other cultures [can really] change your mindset. Everyone should do this!"*

**BETSY, FARM SHARE RECIPIENT, AND CARDIAC REHAB PATIENT**