



Annual Report

School Year
2022 - 2023



Friends of Great Kids Farm is a 501(C)(3). A copy of the current Financial Statement of Friends of Great Kids Farm, Inc. is available by writing Attention: Treasurer, Friends of Great Kids Farm, Inc., 6601 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, MD 21228-3908 or by calling 443-620-3453. Alternatively, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-974-5534.



Friends 
GREAT KIDS FARM

Our Mission

Friends of Great Kids Farm, Inc. (FriendsGKF) is a nonprofit organization created to support, promote and enhance the programming at Great Kids Farm and the district's Farm to School (F2S) programming in general. Friends works with Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) to bring the Farm to students and the students to the Farm, providing students hands-on opportunities to connect farm and plate, reinforce curricular concepts, strengthen environmental literacy, and promote healthy habits for the whole child.

A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2022-2023 was an impactful school year here at Great Kids Farm! With the financial support of Friends of Great Kids Farm (and you!), Baltimore City Public Schools' farm-to-school staff was able to reach almost 9,000 City Schools' students both at the Farm and in the classroom. As you look through this report, you'll notice that the Farm's programs now reach students in all of the K through 12 grades. Friends is committed to ensuring that these programs are available and remain accessible to City Schools' students at no cost to them. Please take a few minutes to really look inside this report at how farm-to-school education can impact City Schools' students.



While we've struggled a bit with the administrative side of getting the Jill Wrigley Memorial Outdoor Classroom built, with the help of some of our partners, the project is finally coming to fruition, and we anticipate the new pavilion being installed this school year. The program staff already have plans to put the structure to good use as soon as it's finished!

Keep an eye out this year in our bimonthly newsletters as farm-to-school programs increase with the support of three FoodCorps interns. These additional staff members will allow for greater reach in the schools and at the Farm.

We're also working on funding a new endowment for Friends to ensure the long-term sustainability of Friends' support for the amazing farm-to-school programming housed at Great Kids Farm. If you're interested in learning more about investing in the future of farm-to-school education for City Schools' students, please reach out.

I wish you the very best for a healthy and productive year!

Nancy



A Note from the Board President

Wow! What a great year for Baltimore City Public Schools' Great Kids Farm. The farm educators and staff have developed and delivered amazing programming that integrates with the schools' curriculum and teaches the kids about where food comes from, healthy eating, and the land. Whether at the farm or in schools, the hands-on programs engage students and provide lessons and experiences they remember for a lifetime.

This year Friends of Great Kids Farm (FriendsGKF) and our donors helped the farm reach almost 9,000 students by providing funding for transportation to the farm (138 buses), three summits bringing students together from many schools to deep-dive on specific topics, 148 in-class activity kits (impacting more than 3,500 students), high school internships, and more. As the momentum on the farm continues to grow and the programming continues to expand, so do the funding needs. I am happy to report that FriendsGKF has been successful in securing funding from generous donors to support the farm the farm's impactful and important work for Baltimore City's children.

Looking ahead, FriendsGKF is gearing-up to expand funding commensurate with the programming needs, including supporting new summits, more field trips (which means more buses), more school visits and garden support, more student internships, as well as regular Farm Family Hours. Also, by this time next year we anticipate the new Jill Wrigley outdoor classroom will be buzzing with students, the structure protecting them from the sun and rain as they engage with the farm. This expanded programming requires increased planning and funding. FriendsGKF Board and staff are up for the challenge, but we will need your help and support. Specifically, this year we plan to launch a fundraising campaign for an endowment to help ensure funding to support the farm's work with Baltimore City's kids well into the future. Please consider helping us in this fundraising initiative whether through monetary donations, time, or expertise.

A big thank you for your continued support and interest in the work of Great Kids Farm and the children of Baltimore City,

Mary Jane Namian

I volunteered last spring while there was an elementary school field trip at the farm and it was so special to see the kids learn new things and interact with the animals on the farm. Their enthusiasm and excitement was so wonderful to see.

Jennifer Everett (Board Member)

Friends of Great Kids Farm, Inc

Staff

Nancy Wiley, Executive Director

Jenn Harrill-Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Our Board of Directors

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Director, Analysis and Technology Operations, NeighborWorks Capital

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Blake Wrigley
Deputy Director of Alumni and Network Engagement, Baltimore Corps

Great Kids Farm

Staff

Cynthia Shea, Manager, Central Commissary Operations and Farm-to-School Programming

Laura Genello, Farm to School Specialist

James Koval, Farm Manager

Laura “L” Menyuk, Farm to School Specialist

Anne Rosenthal, Farm to School Specialist

Ella Gensheimer, Part-Time Program Assistant



Interns

Farm Interns

Lauren Edwards

Saniah Fields*

Jalil Green

Brayden Hurt

Tieriq MacKinnon

Tieron MacKinnon

Zynia Scott

Terrez Smith

**Also served as camp counselor*

Camp Counselors

Kennie Brown

Tano Brown

Maurice Jones

Zyaira Scott

Kyah Wallace

Ryan Womack

Friends of Great Kids Farm Intern

Zoe Gallagher (University of Maryland College Park Intern)



I am honored to have an opportunity to be of value and serve the students of BCPSS. When I was a student I could have never imagined I'd have a chance to serve students like me.

Terrell Brown (Board Member)

Impact by the Numbers




3,047
students

visited Great Kids Farm via field trips for curriculum-aligned experiences focusing on animals, plants, the watershed, or healthy eating.

- **Over 900** visitors explored the Farm during monthly family farm hours
- **548** students participated in virtual visits via FaceTime the Farmer

- **87** students attended Summer Camp at the Farm
- **14** students were employed in a paid internship program
- **316** students spanning grades pre-K through 12 participated in summits



4,398
students

were visited by Farm staff who ran cooking lessons, planting programs, and conducted animal visits.

When the students arrived on campus (for the African American Foodways Summit) and I informed them that our first stop was to visit the animals I will never forget the look of excitement on their faces. Being able to observe the many students from various backgrounds that day being curious and stepping outside of their comfort zone re-affirmed why I joined the FriendsGKF board years ago. I am honored to be part of an organization that strives to have a lasting impact on students and their families for years to come because of the education and resources provided at the farm.

Hershel Waites (Board Member)

Field Trips

Generous donor support allowed Friends of Great Kids Farm to provide transportation to over 3,000 students on 58 field trips to the farm. Elementary schools select from a menu of five, curriculum-aligned learning journey options including animal encounters, plants, trails and streams. Each journey features three hands-on learning activities, such as making a farm fresh salad and dressing, harvesting crops, scouting for pollinators, building a worm habitat, or petting the goats.



Farm and Forest Camp



Marking the third year of the Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp, funding administered by Friends of Great Kids Farm helped bring 87 rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to the Farm across four week-long sessions. Campers spent their days fishing in the stream, exploring trails, and harvesting and cooking products from the Farm. Six high school students served as camp counselors, growing their leadership skills while leading clubs and craft activities.



Summits

Over the past year, Great Kids Farm hosted three summits, bringing 316 students from 29 schools to participate in workshops and panels focused on various themes.

The Good Food Fall Summit welcomed 103 middle school students to learn how to make applesauce and cornbread, while exploring the connection between food and mood.

96 high school students explored cultural connections to the food system at the African-American Foodways Summit. Black entrepreneurs, farmers and chefs led five workshops weaving history and activism into cooking and food lessons.

Elementary and middle school garden clubs attended the School Garden Summit, with 117 students learning about strawberry planting, pollination, chickens, and natural dyes.



Family Farm Hours



Ensuring that as many students as possible have the chance to visit the farm, Great Kids Farm hosts monthly family farm hours to welcome City Schools' students and their families to explore the farm with a self-guided passport program. Over 900 visitors painted pots and planted seeds, walked the trails, pet the goats, and made farm crafts. On two occasions, FriendsGKF provided transportation to and from local schools.

Youth Employment

Friends of Great Kids Farm facilitated the internship program, hiring 14 students for paid positions. Students applied to be either camp counselors or part of the farm team.

Farm team interns spent their days caring for crops, soil and animals and refined their skills with power tools, tractor, and landscaping equipment. Students gained leadership and business experience in marketing summer produce bags for sale to camp families and farm neighbors. Students set pricing, tracked sales and expenses, designed packaging, and harvested and cleaned produce each week.

Camp counselors led student groups at the Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp, fostering growth through serving as mentors, developing club activities, leading craft lessons, and managing camp aftercare programs.



A Special Thanks to our Generous Donors

\$500-\$999

- Courtney Bindl
- Elizabeth O’Leary
- John & Lenel Srochi - Meyerhoff
- Laurie Scudder
- Luca DiMambro
- Mandy & Matt Knab
- Margaret Allen
- Martha Barss
- Maryanne Gruys
- Michele Conner
- NeighborWorks Capital
- Tiana Coll

\$1,000-\$4,999

- Annie and Christopher Umbricht
- Catonsville Women’s Giving Circle
- David Warshaw
- Enterprise Community Partners, Inc
- FitMe Nutrition LLC
- Kyana Underwood
- John Kevin and Mary Jane Namian
- T. Rowe Price

\$5,000-\$9,999

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- Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc.
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\$10,000-\$19,999

- Helen Pumphrey Denit Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

\$20,000 +

- Anonymous Donor
- Baltimore City Public Schools
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- M&T Charitable Foundation
- The Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation

Thank you to our Volunteers

**This list includes those who came out more than once or more than 5 hours in one month*

Muattar A
Nana Akua Nsiah-Poku
Claire Albers
Calista Ballinger
Aniyah Barnes
Adam Bayoumi
Lucy Christopher
Asha Cords (Bhalla)
Erin Creech
Louise Creech
Jacqueline (Jackie) Dailey
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Fin Jenkins
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Mary Jane Namian
Gia Oriana Santos
Emmanuella Osei
Megan Parker
Haley Rice
Pam Richards
Debbie Rosier
Laurie Scudder
Sabeeh Shahid

Keith Shapiro
Daniyar Sheets
Katharyn (Kit) Tupitza
Ryan Van Dyke
Laura Van Faasen
Hershel Waites
George Walen
Brittany Winchester
Simon Winter



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