



OlivewoodTM

Gardens & Learning Center

2525 N Avenue | National City, CA 91950

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2020 - 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from Olivewood	3
Our Mission & Core Values	4
The Olivewood Team	5
2020 - 2021 Program Highlights	
Inspiring Adventurous Eaters & Garden Explorers	6
Building Confidence & Community	7
Supporting Leadership & Job Skills Development	8
Improving Food Access	9
Supporters, Fundraising, & Finance	10
Looking Forward	11
Thank You!	12

A MESSAGE FROM OLIVEWOOD

The 2020 - 2021 year was one of uncertainty, pivots, and new challenges. It was also a year of incredible creativity, teamwork, community listening, and inward reflection and learning. The immense impact of the pandemic on our communities, the global racial justice movement, and the destabilization of 'normal' impacted not only our day-to-day work but also gave us pause for thought on our mission and role in the community.

Our team planted and harvested more food than ever, learned new technologies, and created opportunities for connection and belonging for students, adults, and families. We built stronger partnerships with like-minded organizations to provide tools, resources, healthy meals, and space for growth. Our programs continued to flourish and our role in the community became even more relevant.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support, volunteerism, and trust that is placed in our hands as we work together to build a more equitable and healthy community.

As Olivewood embarks on our second decade of programming, we have an increased focus on education, access and advocacy. We are digging deeper within our community and looking forward to welcoming guests back to the property and strengthening our relationships and impact. We hope you'll join us at Olivewood Gardens again soon.

JEN NATION
Executive Director

EVELYN WIGGINS
Board Chair



OUR MISSION & CORE VALUES



Our Mission

To inspire youth and adults to be healthy and active citizens through organic gardening, environmental stewardship, and nutrition education.

Our Core Values

Equity: Inclusive and culturally responsive, we are committed to acting with respect, openness, and a desire to understand, value, and support our community.

Community: Olivewood welcomes all residents of National City, south San Diego and beyond. Our kitchen and garden are inclusive to all, and reflect the warmth of the community we serve.

Health: Olivewood's programs are centered in wellness and health. We serve as a resource for people looking to live a healthier lifestyle.

Integrity: Guided by honesty, loyalty, and a commitment to confidentiality, Olivewood is responsive and respectful to the needs of all our program participants, guests, volunteers, supporters, and staff. We pride ourselves in doing what we say we are going to do and creating a safe space for our community.

Transformation: Using innovative and data-driven approaches, Olivewood's activities create deep, impactful, and sustainable change



CURRENT FY2022 STAFF & BOARD

Jacqueline Ante, Coordinator of Volunteers & Outreach*

Jeni Barajas, Garden Support Manager

Ellyse Briand, Teen & Adult Programs Specialist

Patty Corona, Cooking for Salud® Coordinator*

Taylor Garcia, Development Coordinator

Angelica Gastelum, Schools Coordinator*

Claire Groebner, Director of Development

Rebecca Howat, Nutrition Educator

Monica Lim, Accounting Coordinator*

Rocina Lizarraga, Garden Support Specialist*

Jen Nation, Executive Director

Octavio Rodriguez, Garden Support Specialist

Adan Teposte, Garden Support Specialist

Leonard Vargas, Director of Gardens & Facilities

Hope Zabronsky, Director of Programs

Dennis Doyle, Ph.D., Former Executive Director - Collaborations: Teachers & Artists

Daisy Gordon Compton, Secretary Manager - San Diego County City-County Reinvestment Task Force, San Diego Housing Commission

Rita De la Fuente, Director of External Affairs, San Diego Community Power

Sabrina Falquier Montgrain, M.D., Vice Chair, Founder - SensationsSalud

Esperanza Guerrero, Former Restaurant Owner & Olivewood Kitchenista®*

Stephanie Jensen, Treasurer Realtor - Keller Williams

Teresa Palzkill, Home Economist & Retired School Administrator




Trish Watlington, Founder - Farm to Fork San Diego


Evelyn Wiggins, Chair Attorney - Littler Mendelson P.C.

**Kitchenista*

INSPIRING ADVENTUROUS EATERS & GARDEN EXPLORERS

National School District Partnership



-  58 virtual field trips
-  Development of standards-based environmental and nutrition science curriculum for K-6th grades accessible to all 10 National School District (NSD) schools through the district's online learning management system 'Schoology'
-  800+ Grab and Grow Gardens distributed to NSD students in partnership with Healthy Day Partners



1,653 Youth Served
129 Adults Served

"[My son] was very excited after the "Olivewood Gardens" virtual field trip he took with you. He asked if he could go for the plants that were given to them. I asked if he was sure because taking care of a plant takes time and dedication and that taking care of them would be his responsibility. He said yes and couldn't wait to go get them." - NSD Parent

Chefcitos & Garden Explorers & Family Education

-  260 youth and 100+ adults served through virtual Chefcitos, Garden Explorers, and family cooking classes
-  Virtual Day of Play serving families throughout San Diego County, including distribution of 100 activity kits, online activity guide, and educational videos



20,000+ online
education
views



BUILDING CONFIDENCE & COMMUNITY

- 🍴 Graduated Generations 17 & 18 and began simultaneous Generations 19 & 20.
- 🍴 Partnered with SunCoast Market Co-Op to offer a 5-week modified Cooking for Salud® for 12 high school students.
- 🍴 100% of Generation 18 participants reported thinking about ways to take better care of their health and 90% reported feeling happier since starting Cooking for Salud®.
- 🍴 91% of Sustainable Urban Agriculture students reported increased confidence in leadership skills including team-building and cooperation with others, 100% of Garden 2 Kitchen youth reported confidence preparing a healthy snack after the internship



Having been part of Cooking for Salud has helped me to be more aware of our diet since it has a great impact on our body and mind, starting to make changes when shopping, read labels and focus mainly on what nature gives us....I have made changes in my eating habits and the results have motivated me to continue applying the advice given to us every day. My goal is to continue with these changes and help my family to benefit as well."

- Cooking for Salud Generation 18 participant



SUPPORTING LEADERSHIP & JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

34 Kitchenistas participated as Cooking for Salud® and community health education leaders

43 High School youth participated in youth leadership and job skills development programs, including a 5-week community leadership and civic engagement training

50 Kitchenista meetings and workshops to support Kitchenista holistic wellness, including Kitchenista-to-Kitchenista classes, mental health workshops, artistic expression, and community building.

90 volunteers, including
12 college interns


1800 volunteer hours

"I wanted to express my deep gratitude for everything you and the Olivewood team has done for me throughout this internship...it has helped me grow as not only a student, but as a future educator in the field of child and family development...I have learned so much about the educational standards used when creating appropriate projects for young audiences. I learned all about the nutritional benefits of too many fruits and vegetables to name, and the science behind all of this information. Above all, I have learned what it takes to persevere in creating projects that aid in child development and can set up our young audiences to be successful."


- Fall 2020 Nutrition Education Intern



IMPROVING FOOD ACCESS



1,950 produce bags distributed to families through our produce stand & Black Infant Health partnership



Nearly 6,000 meals distributed in partnership with Craft Meals SD, White Rice, and Fish to Families

- 36 home gardens created through High School Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Garden 2 Kitchen, and Building Sustainable Communities Programs
- Completion of Paradise Creek Family Garden in partnership with Mundo Gardens, Community HousingWorks, and the City of National City
- With support from the San Diego Green Building Council through their 2020 Legacy Project, began blueberry production, water catchment, and planning for use of new 1-acre parcel

"A moment that really stood out to me was when we harvested our veggies/fruits. I really liked going in and hand picking our veggies and learning how to harvest them....it inspired me to start my own small garden at home." - Garden 2 Kitchen participant



SUPPORTERS, FUNDRAISING & FINANCE

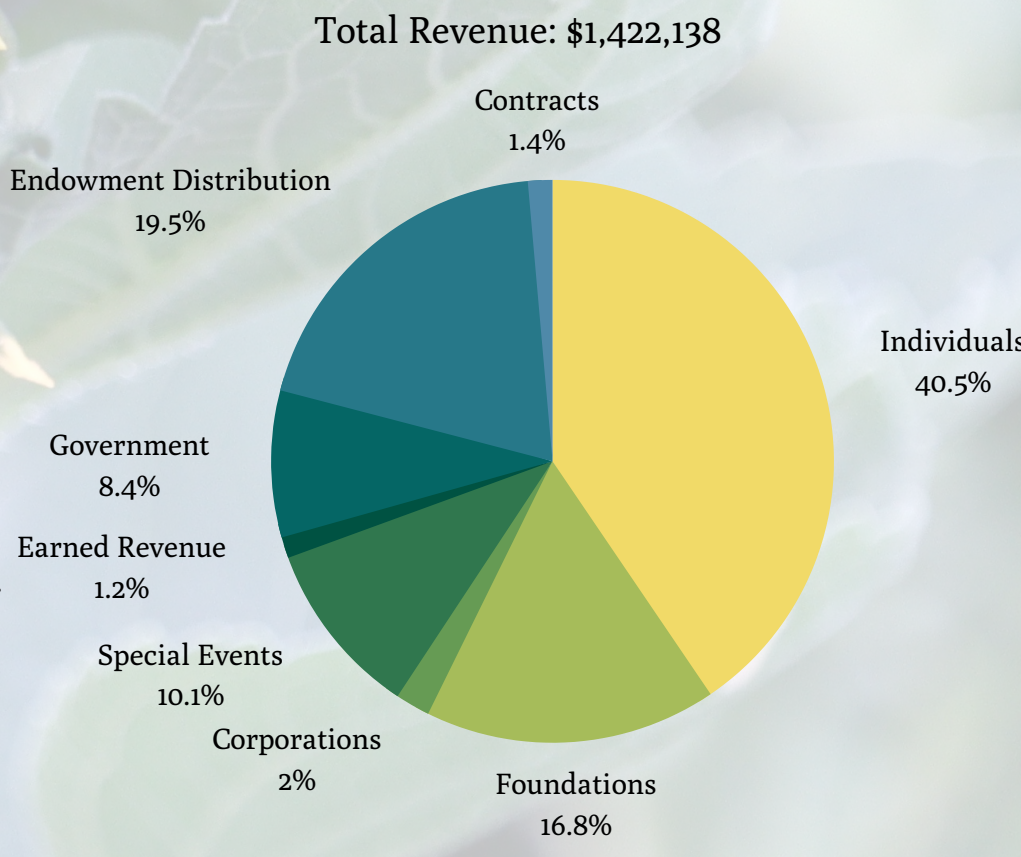
Supporters: Donors, Volunteers, Community

At Olivewood, we value and cherish all the ways that our community supports us - through time, talent, treasure, and engagement. This year, we were grateful to have support from 180 returning and 180 new donors. Our work is a collective effort to champion health equity and food justice - from Kitchenistas who share countless hours to support Cooking for Salud®, to college and high school interns and volunteers who help to grow our gardens and programs, to donors who share their financial resources to ensure we can compensate our staff, purchase program materials, and grow food; to community members who trust us with their time and commitment to health and the environment. We are doing this work together.

Olivewood is continuing to evolve the ways we engage, share appreciation, and build community with our supporters and we are working to embody the 10 Principles set by the Community-Centric Fundraising movement. This work is critical to anti-racist and equity-based fundraising and philanthropy, and we encourage you to engage in this conversation with us.

Fundraising & Finance

- 🍴 Olivewood's most successful year end appeal yet, raising over \$37k
- 🍴 Launched Roots for Health Recurring Giving Program, welcoming 19 members and raising over \$6k
- 🍴 Received support for a 20-year property planning process and new greenhouse & garden workspace
- 🍴 Exceeded revenue goals, allowing us to meet increased demand for our programs, cover increased program supplies and technology costs, and expand our team in FY2022



LOOKING AHEAD



Equity, Anti-Racism & Strategic Planning

In the fall of 2021, Olivewood will embark on a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion organizational assessment led by a consultant. Through this process, Olivewood staff and board will assess internal and external practices to develop an equity action plan. A sustainability committee will be identified to steward the plan moving forward to ensure Olivewood continues to develop practices and policies that align with our values and commitment to equity and anti-racism. Building upon this process, we will develop an updated strategic plan to inform our ongoing programming with community listening and feedback, and visioning for the future.

Holistic School Support

After over a decade of relationship building and demonstration of the impact of Olivewood's programs through our Children's Garden and Nutrition Education Program, Olivewood and National School District (NSD) will deepen our relationship through a MOU and contract to further garden-based learning. In addition to our 3-part field trip series for all NSD 4th graders, we will also begin to provide school-based school garden support and environmental science education. We will continue to offer teacher trainings and Kitchenista peer-to-peer nutrition presentations, and re-activate our farm-to-school program by growing fruits and vegetables for all 10 NSD school salad bars. This wrap-around programming will enhance learning, deepen impact, and engage the whole school community in building a culture of wellness and environmental stewardship.




Food Access & Advocacy

Over the past couple of years, Olivewood has begun to expand our work from education into food access and advocacy. We will grow our food access work in partnership with BrightSide Produce to offer Olivewood-grown produce at local cornerstores and continue to support the Paradise Creek Family Garden and Mundo Gardens. In our next decade, it is critical we lean into food justice and health equity advocacy to truly address the systemic issues leading to food insecurity, chronic disease, and other health inequities. We will continue this work as a San Diego Food System Alliance Food Vision 2030 Stewardship Committee member, and by collaborating with the Environmental Health Coalition, Mundo Gardens, and local National City stakeholders to facilitate a health collective and food action plan.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Learn more and stay
connected:

Follow Us on Social Media

-  facebook.com/OlivewoodGardens
-  instagram.com/OlivewoodGardens
-  linkedin.com/company/olivewood-gardens-learning-center

Visit Us at the Gardens

2525 N Avenue, National City, CA 91950

Share Your Time, Talent, & Treasure

<https://www.olivewoodgardens.org/donate>

<https://www.olivewoodgardens.org/get-involved/sign-up-to-volunteer>

Contact info@olivewoodgardens.org for more information, to schedule a visit, and to get involved!



Olivewood
Gardens & Learning Center

Championing Health Equity and
Food Justice

Cultivate. Grow. Harvest. Nurture.