

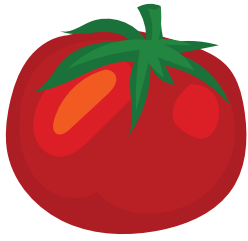


# Annual Report

School Year 2024/2025







Friends   
GREAT KIDS FARM



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.

Disclaimer: We use stock photos of children whenever necessary in order to ensure the privacy of Baltimore City Public School students.

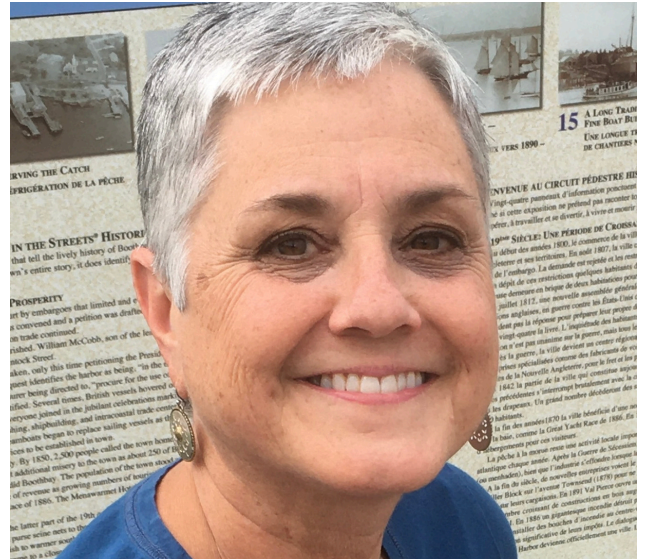
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# A Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It's been another amazing year filled with learning and growing here at Great Kids Farm (GKF).

Let's face it, every year there are challenges to overcome. School Year 2024/2025 was no exception, but even with the obstacles of cancelled grants and programs cut mid-delivery, the magic of Great Kids Farm continues to reach City Schools' students in greater numbers each year. This past school year 2024/25, Great Kids Farm directly impacted 14,237 City Schools' students through field trips, special events, and programming in their classrooms, engaging students in nature-based education, teaching kids about healthy eating, and reinforcing the work they are doing in the classroom.



Funding from our donors allowed Friends of Great Kids Farm (Friends) to help fund pivotal staffing positions even as other grant sources disappeared, ensuring that programming was not negatively impacted by those funding changes. Upgrades to this year's summer programming allowed the GKF staff to welcome 632 students from 17 different City Schools' summer programs, giving each student a day filled with hands-on learning and nature exploration. This program, including transportation, materials and supplies and student intern wages, was made possible through Friends and our generous donors.

Friends will continue to support the amazing Farm to School programming based at Great Kids Farm, teaching kids not only about healthy eating and where their food comes from, but also *teaching them that they matter*. If you haven't been out to the Farm lately, I invite you to reconnect with us and schedule a visit. I would be honored to share with you what makes this place and the students we serve so special!

All the best,  
Nancy





# Our Mission

*Friends of Great Kids Farm, Inc. (Friends) 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 Board President



Dear Friends,

As we look back on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude and pride for all that we've accomplished together. At Friends of Great Kids Farm (Friends) this has been a year of growth, connection, renewed purpose and most importantly, another year of bringing Baltimore City Public Schools' students closer to the land that sustains them and lessons that empower them.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Friends was able to help continue funding the FoodCorps service member positions that were impacted by federal budget cuts.

Because of your support and the support of the non-profit community, these dedicated team members will continue their work into next year bringing Farm to School education to students across Baltimore City, nurturing curiosity, and helping students see the links between food, health, and justice.

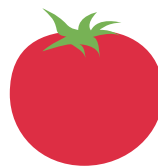
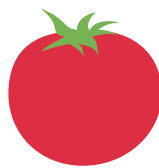
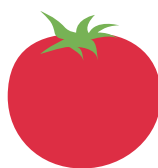
This work feels especially urgent in the face of so much uncertainty. Across the country, families are feeling the ripple effects of government shutdowns, shifting budgets, and changes in leadership. Many of the students and families we serve are directly affected. In times like these, Friends of Great Kids Farm plays a vital role in providing the resources that allow Farm to School programming to continue fostering resiliency, stability, and empowerment. Through lessons in growing food, even in small urban spaces, students are gaining the skills and confidence to nourish themselves and their communities. In the midst of uncertain times, these skills help our young people recognize their capacity to cultivate inner strength and change from the ground up.

Our annual Farm Fall Festival once again brought the community together at the farm. The September 2025 event welcomed more than 400 students, family and community members, and City Schools' staff for a joyful day of outdoor exploration, learning, tasting, and togetherness. It reminded me that when we gather around shared values we create the connections that make lasting change possible.

This year more than 14,000 Baltimore City students experienced the transformative power of Great Kids Farm. Children are learning that food is not only nourishment, but also a bridge connecting us to our environment, our community, and our shared future. These experiences plant seeds of confidence, belonging, and hope that grow far beyond the classroom.

Friends of Great Kids Farm remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring every Baltimore City Public Schools' student has access to nature, healthy food, and meaningful learning experiences. Thank you for believing in this mission, for standing with us, and for investing in the next generation of growers, leaders, and changemakers. With your continued partnership, the future of Friends of Great Kids Farm and the children and families it serves remains bright.

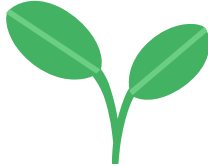
With gratitude,  
Sadé Newson



# Friends of Great Kids Farm, Inc

## Staff

**Nancy Wiley**, Executive Director  
**Jenn Harrill-Taylor**, Administrative Assistant



## Our Board of Directors\*

### *Executive Committee*

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Assistant Attorney General,  
District of Columbia

**Mike Mascio (Vice President)**

Manager, Outdoor Lighting Operations, BGE

**J. Paul Richards (Treasurer)**

District General Manager, CORT

**Jennifer Grams: (Secretary)**

Project Manager, Johns Hopkins University  
Center for Technology in Education

**Jennifer Everett (Events Committee Chair)**

Director, Audit Services, Exelon Corporation

**Maryanne Gruys (Member-At-Large)**

Executive Vice President, M&T Bank

**Mary Jane Namian (Member-At-Large)**

Vice President, T. Rowe Price Group

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Founder, School to Table

**Nana Harlley**

Senior Corporate Accountant,  
Greenberg Gibbons

**Doris Henning**

Retired

**Brian Javier**

Scientist II, McCormick & Co.

**Patrick Hanlon**

Maryland Litigation Attorney

**Blake Wrigley**

Program Specialist Education for Nature,  
World Wildlife Fund

\*As of November 1, 2025



# Great Kids Farm School Year 2024/2025

## 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



## Summer Staff

### Interns

**Ari E.**  
**Corey M.**  
**Jurnee B.**  
**Larry Bryan**  
**Tatiana J.**  
**Tondelaih S.**

### Counselors

**Angel C.**  
**Jenna C.**  
**Justin P.**  
**London R.**

*“As a mom, I care deeply about healthy eating and teaching my family where good food comes from. That’s one of the main reasons I’m passionate about Great Kids Farm (GKF) and proud to work with Friends of Great Kids Farm. As a part time teacher, I’m consistently impressed by the quality of GKF’s programming. Whether it’s a summit, a field trip, or Farm Family Hours, each event is incredibly well-organized and impactful. Every time I attend, I leave inspired and grateful that the students and families of Baltimore City Public Schools have access to such a powerful educational resource. In my role as bookkeeper at Friends, I truly appreciate how thoughtfully Friends allocates its resources. Every dollar is spent with intention, and it’s clear that the focus is always on what will benefit the students most. With a strong executive director, a committed board, and a shared passion for this work, Friends is not only making a difference — it’s a truly inspiring and supportive place to work.”*

**Jenn Harrill-Taylor (Friends’ Staff Member)**

## FoodCorps Fellows

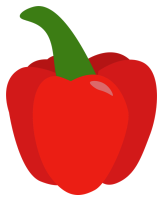
**Daryn Olsen**  
**Micah Raymond**  
**Quiera Brannon**  
**Veronica Challenger**

# Impact by the Numbers



**5,883 students visited Great Kids Farm via 99 field trips**, each focused on one of six curriculum-aligned experiences focusing on animals, plants, the watershed, or healthy eating

**5,080 students at 52 schools engaged by Farm staff** for lessons on cooking, plants, healthy eating and food waste



**632 students from 17 different City Schools' summer programs visited the farm for a full day**, a new model that enabled 6X more students to experience the farm this summer

*"My favorite part was seeing students apply science concepts through hands-on cooking activities."*

**Baltimore  
City Teacher**

- **10 students** employed in a paid internship program
- **487 students** from 38 schools participated in 4 summits
- **1,376 students** participated in 44 Facetime the Farmer sessions
- **284 Ag-tivity Kits distributed** to 8,631 students at 59 schools
- **More than 1,150 individuals** participated in Farm Family events

75%

**Student visits to the  
Farm**

57%

**Field Trips**

6x

**Students visiting  
during Summer**

15%

**Family Farm event  
attendance**



# Field Trips

Generous donor support allowed Friends to provide transportation to 5,883 students on 99 field trips to the farm. Elementary schools select from a menu of six curriculum-aligned options including animal encounters, plants, trails and streams, or healthy eating. Each learning journey features three hands-on learning activities, such as cooking with farm-fresh produce, harvesting crops, scouting for pollinators, building a worm habitat or petting the goats.

We are helping Great Kids Farm get closer to achieving its goal of hosting at least one field trip from every district elementary school each year.



## What Teachers Say

*"Just amazing. Greatest field trip experience I've had."*

*"I loved watching the kids try different things."*

# Farm to School

During school year 2024/2025, Great Kids Farm staff ran 195 Farm to Classroom programs for 5,080 students in 52 different Baltimore City Public Schools. For each program, teachers selected a theme – cooking, plants, healthy eating, or food waste – and the Farm to School team created a lesson to meet their needs. Cooking programs remain the most popular, reaching 2,169 students this past school year.

*"Students who typically disengage, engaged throughout the entire lesson."*

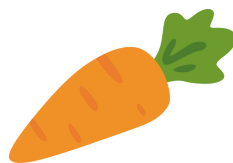
**Baltimore City Teacher**



# Summits

During School Year 2024/2025, Great Kids Farm (GKF) hosted four summits, bringing 487 students from 38 schools to participate in workshops and panels focused on various themes. Funding from our donors helped make these impactful summits possible, including stipends to compensate workshop leaders and providing buses to transport the students to and from GKF. Thank you all.

Summit	# Schools	# Students	Grades	Content
Good Food	12	139	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Deep-dive into links between farm and plate.
Climate x Food	5	113	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Exploration of complex links between climate and food. Topics included food waste, soil management, and the connection between pollinators and food.
African American Foodways	9	113	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration of cultural connections and history of food.
School Garden Summit	12	122	2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Convening to equip school garden clubs with tools and knowledge to maintain their gardens.



*"I loved all the hands-on activities. I was able to make connections to what we are doing in the class, what we have already done and what we will do soon .... Love to see my students engaged and have so much fun."*

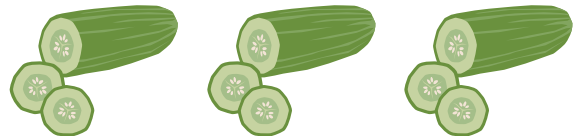
**Teacher who attended the  
*Climate x Food* summit with her students**



# Summer Programming



The Farm to School (F2S) team piloted a new model for summer programming this year. Instead of hosting a nature-based day camp, the F2S team offered Baltimore City Public Schools' summer programs a fully funded opportunity to visit the farm for a full-day field trip. Friends donor funding helped over 630 students from 17 different summer programs visit the farm as part of a field trip. Morning lessons focused on farm-fresh cooking, animals and nature exploration, followed by an afternoon of farm crafts, games, harvesting and stream play. A great way to spend a summer day!



## Family Farm Hours

Ensuring that as many students as possible have the chance to visit Great Kids Farm (GKF), GKF hosted seasonal Family Farm Hours to welcome City Schools' students and their families to explore the farm with a self-guided passport program. Over 1,150 visitors, 66% of whom were students, painted pots and planted seeds, walked the trails, pet the goats, and made farm crafts. Friends helped provide transportation to and from a small group of schools for students and their families.





# Youth Employment

Friends of Great Kids Farm funded and facilitated paid summer internships at the farm for 10 students. Students chose to focus either on farm work or educational programming. While the farm crew spent the bulk of their time maintaining plantings, building new gardens, or weeding, the educational interns spent their days as assistants for field trips. Regardless of focus area, interns experienced all aspects of work at Great Kids Farm -- from driving a tractor to guiding younger students through an activity.

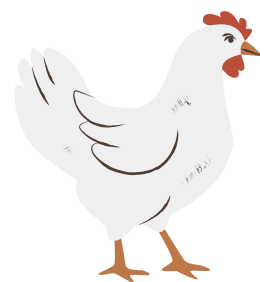
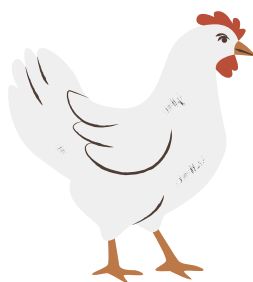
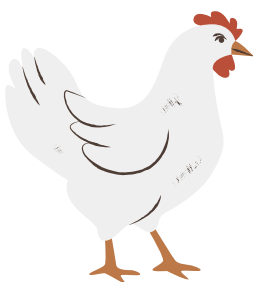


## **Some things that surprised the interns about their experiences:**

*"I worked with equipment I never thought I would work with... for example a tractor."*

*"I took initiative starting a fire and taking charge of a group."*

*"I held a snake!"*

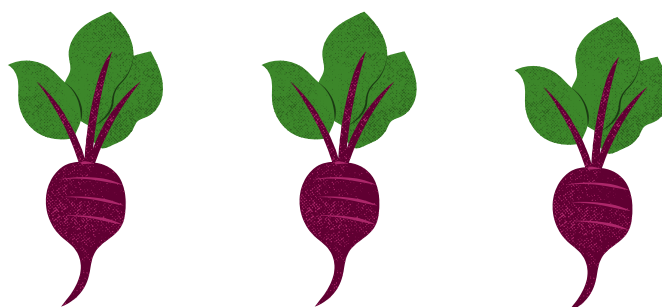




# Expanded Reach

During School Year 2024/2025 Great Kids Farm was able to increase field trips to the farm by over 50% due largely to the presence of four FoodCorps fellows who served as field trip assistants. These energetic, early career team members brought their brains, creativity and extra hands to help the GKF staff host and teach the students as they experienced the farm. Through their help, the GKF staff was able to expand the number of days each week that they could host field trips from three to five. Adding two days per week significantly increased the number of students and schools who were able to experience Great Kids Farm. As the number of field trips increases, so does the need for buses and other required support. We thank all of those donors who helped meet the challenge.

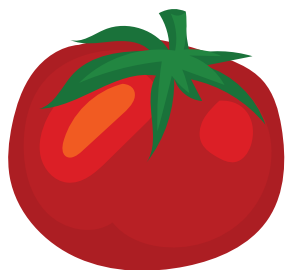
Looking forward to school year 2025/2026, funding from FoodCorps for fellows is no longer available. To help maintain the expanded reach and allow more students to experience the Farm to School (F2S) programs, Friends, along with other non-profit partners, is assisting in funding these positions. We will need all of your support in this effort to help the F2S team achieve their goal of hosting at least one field trip each year for every City Schools' elementary school .



# A Special Thanks to our Generous Donors

## **\$500-\$1,000**

- Martha Barss
- David Blythe
- Jen Everett
- Jennifer Grams
- Patricia La Noue
- Mark Paul Lehman
- John Meyerhoff & Lenel Srochi-Meyerhoff
- Eleanor Tippet
- Kyana Underwood

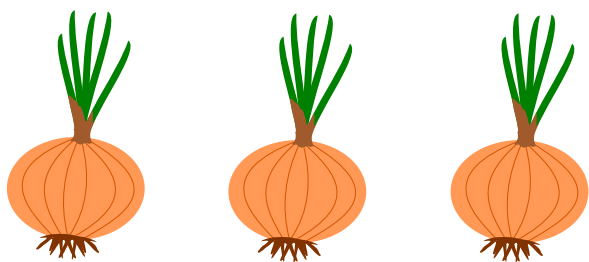


## **\$1,000-\$5,000**

- Joseph Alpert
- Erik Apahnis
- Canusa
- Andrew Caster
- Laura Chambers
- Constellation Energy
- COPT Defense Properties
- CORT
- Greenberg Gibbons Commercial
- Ingredion
- The Institute of Real Estate Management Maryland Chapter
- Michele's Granola
- NIV Investors
- J. Paul and Karen Richards
- T. Rowe Price
- The Annie and Christopher Umbricht Goodwill Donor Fund

## **\$5,000-\$10,000**

- The Nora Roberts Foundation
- The Ravens Foundation
- The Israel and Mollie Myers Foundation, Inc.
- The Thomas Wilson Sanitarium, Inc
- Wegmans



## **\$10,000-\$20,000**

- BMoreAg
- The Helen Pumphrey Denit Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- John Kevin and Mary Jane Namian
- The M&T Charitable Foundation
- MileOne Cares/ MileOne Autogroup
- The Power for Good Foundation
- The Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation

## **\$20,000 +**

- The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- The Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation



# Thank You to Our Volunteers\*

Katryna Andrusik  
Zoey Beander  
Erin Beck  
Faith Benson  
Keisha Blake  
Bob Brown  
Dawn D  
Jacqueline Dailey  
Kurt Davis  
Andrea Deering  
Nina Lucia Della-Giacoma  
Arbaaz Durrani  
Uche Ejimofor  
Beth Evans  
Jennifer Grams

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Sedat Sefik  
Khadija Sheriff  
Penelope Sifakis  
Sahithya Sudhakar  
Sahida Tarawally  
Elise Thompson  
Sydney Wallace



***\*This list contains individuals who volunteered to help with programming or farm volunteer events for more than five hours over the year.***



# Stay connected with us!

Visit us at [friendsgkf.org](https://friendsgkf.org)



## Help Seeds of Knowledge Bloom

Our Mission is Rooted in Hands-On Education

@friendsgkf

