Mill City Grows improves the health of our residents, our land, and our economy through growing and distributing local produce. We bring people together to grow, cook, eat and learn about food to improve people’s quality of life, and our connection with the environment.

**Strategic Vision 2020**

*Expand* food access through building or collaborating to create safe spaces for residents to grow, shop, and cook food together.

*Empower* our community through engagement in food justice education.

*Catalyze* advancement of innovative food system models rooted in local values.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

They say every seven years our bodies are remade as old cells die off and new ones spark to life. Mill City Grows was founded seven years ago, and since then the City of Lowell has transformed thanks to the energy of thousands of residents, gardeners, cooks, farmers, and donors like you.

That transformation was achieved by increments, and in 2018 we redesigned our Garden Coordinator Institute, expanded Farm to Table cooking classes, and hired more youth over the summer. We also opened our 6th and 7th community gardens, and brought more food to low-income families thanks to the MA Healthy Incentives Program (which gives low income families discounts and rebates on fresh produce they buy from Mobile Markets like ours using SNAP), and worked with advocates across the state to get the program included in the 2019 MA budget – a win for farmers and families!

Next year we will explore innovative ways to build a thriving local food system with two new pilot programs: the Food as Medicine Farm Share, which provides medically tailored produce to help combat diet-related disease; and our Market Garden program, which engages immigrant and refugee gardeners to grow and sell culturally relevant crops in Lowell.

Seven years after the founding of Mill City Grows, we are grateful to still be serving our community, and we are grateful to you for the support you have given to this mission throughout our journey.

Co-Directors Francey Slater & Lydia Sisson | Board Chair Jack Moynihan

FARM TO TABLE BUILDS HEALTHY PLATES AND COMMUNITIES

Iris and her son Jeremiah participated in a Farm to Table workshop at the Lincoln School this year. While Iris and Jeremiah already had a great habit of cooking and eating at home, they loved Farm to Table because it gave them an opportunity to meet new friends, explore new foods, and look forward to a fun outing after a busy day.

“Farm to Table brings together families from different backgrounds, cultures, and personalities and makes them one. Building community is important to me especially since I am a single parent and Jeremiah is an only child,” said Iris.

Iris said she and Jeremiah walked away with lots of benefits from the class, including learning about new cultures and flavors, making healthier food choices, becoming more connected with neighbors, and building Jeremiah’s confidence to communicate with her about things he’d like to try.
Growing a Healthy Lowell

2018

7 COMMUNITY GARDENS
199 organic garden beds
Engaging 400+ residents
Who grew 14,925 pounds of food

14 SCHOOL GARDENS
2,707 students and 84 teachers at 14 Lowell Public Schools participated in garden-based learning

15 FARM TO TABLE COOKING CLASSES
29 people learned healthy, seasonal cooking

11 MOBILE MARKET LOCATIONS
68% of our 8,000+ customers purchased produce with SNAP, WIC or Senior Coupons

2,707 students and 84 teachers at 14 Lowell Public Schools participated in garden-based learning

STAFF
16 full time staff
6 Americorps Service Members
6 part time staff
1,754 volunteers

TRAINING
10 new garden leaders trained
28 volunteer garden leaders provided training for 89 residents on safe gardening
5 teens employed, and provided food justice education for 464 youth

26,234 pounds of produce was grown
3 URBAN FARMS

26,234 pounds of produce was grown

INFOGRAPHIC © 2018 BY LISA GARBUTT
Financial Statements

YEAR IN REVIEW

Mill City Grows shares our success with our grantors, sponsors, individual donors, volunteers, program partners, and faithful customers. Your generosity and your passion for what we do fuel this work and inspire us to grow. Thank you for being a part of the food movement in Lowell! We would not be here without you.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

Revenue
Government Grants.......................................................$216,683
Foundation Grants.........................................................$467,571
Corporate Contributions.................................................$50,086
Individual Contributions................................................$318,709
Special Events................................................................$145,582
Earned Income...............................................................$105,929
In-Kind Contributions.........................................................$4,781
Interest Income..................................................................$3,112
Gains on Investments/Sales............................................$2,682
Total Revenue.......................................................$1,315,135

Expenses
Urban Farm....................................................................$250,928
Mobile Market................................................................$121,738
Community Gardens.....................................................$164,491
Educational Programs..................................................$165,311
Management & General................................................$147,205
Fundraising.....................................................................$188,332
Total Expenses......................................................$1,038,005

EXPENSES:

- Urban Farm: 18%
- Mobile Market: 24%
- Community Gardens: 14%
- Educational Programs: 12%
- Management & General: 16%
- Fundraising: 16%

REVENUE:

- Government Grants: 1%
- Foundation Grants: 11%
- Corporate Contributions: 8%
- Individual Contributions: 24%
- Special Events: 36%
- Earned Income: 36%
- In-Kind Contributions: 4%
- Interest Income: 4%
- Gains on Investments/Sales: 1%