



Annual Report 2024

Our mission is to inspire kids to eat their vegetables.
We teach children in low-income elementary schools cooking, nutrition,
gardening, and active play to improve lifelong wellness.



CEO BRIEF FROM THE CARROT TOP

Annually, we increase the number of schools we reach thanks to donors like you. This has resulted in reunions with former students who have continued their dedication to health. Our goal is to reach kids at a young age, hopeful that they will develop lifelong habits. Our theory works!

We have circled back with former students who are chefs, studying to be nurses, teaching afterschool, and still cooking in high school. Their stories, below, illustrate what early childhood intervention accomplishes. We need this now more than ever!

We are in a time of great transition as a country. Families are set to lose SNAP benefits by 2027. The Department of Education is shrinking. Grants across the region have been clawed back. Food Literacy Center has three multi-year grants from federal sources. So far, our funding is safe. Yet our demand continues to rise.

Despite the challenges, we are resolved to meet the needs of our students! We are doubling down. In the next two years, we plan to double the number of schools we serve. Our students need us now more than ever. With your continued support, we intend to rise to meet the demand.

With rhubarb resolve,

Amber

For two years in a row, we have had no notes on our annual fiscal audit. This demonstrates no issues in our finances, and is a sign that we are following fiscal best practices. Donations made to nonprofits in this position are viewed as being well stewarded. You can view our audit on our website.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amber K. Stott, Founder & CEO,
Food Literacy Center

Ellen Brown, UC Davis Health

Felicia James, Carollo Engineers, Inc.

Erica Holland, EraeHolland

Keilani Paneda, Sutter Health

Isaac Gonzales, DIYSL Consulting

Betty Low, SMUD

Anna Rosenbaum, UC Davis Health

BROCCOLI BRAIN TRUST

Elise Bauer, Founder, Simply Recipes

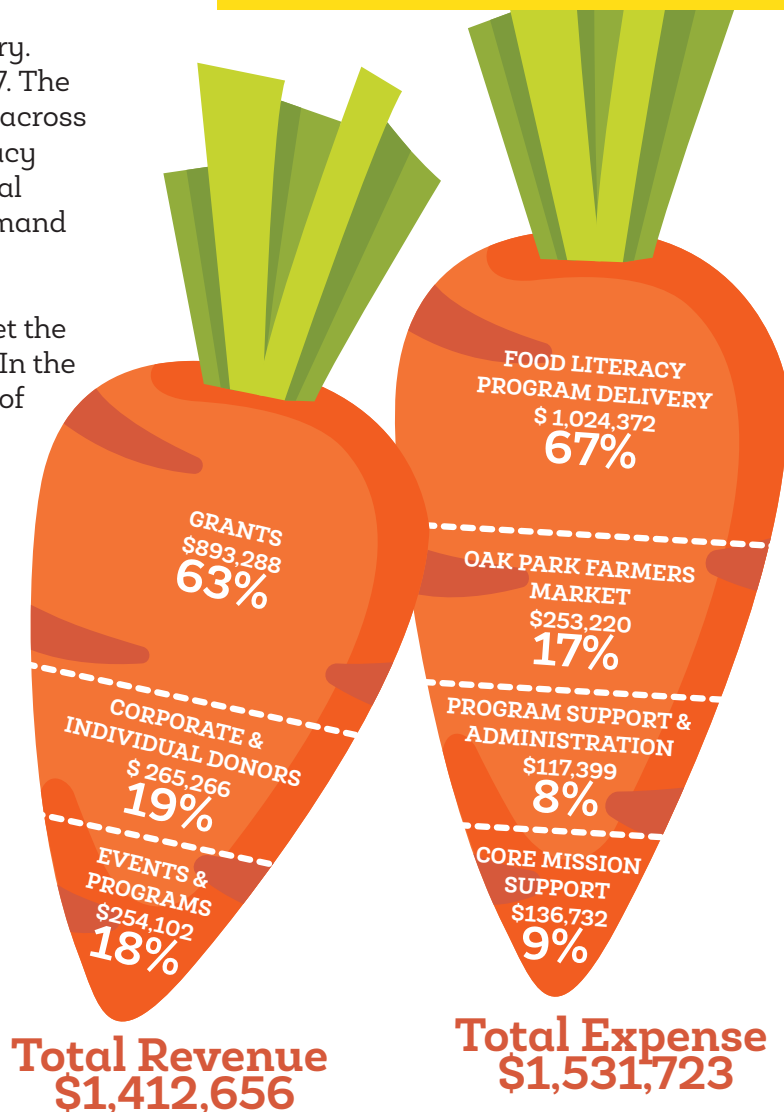
Nicole Rogers, GriffJack

Margo Fowkes, On Target Consulting

Diana Flores, SCUSD Nutrition Services

Josh Nelson, Selland Family Restaurants

Jay Hansen, California Foundation on the
Environment and the Economy

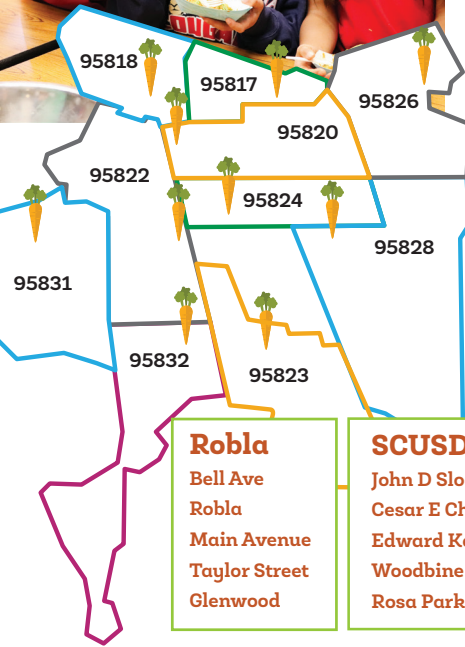




20 Schools Reached! Inspiring Food Adventurers

In the 2024-2025 school year, we accomplished the following:

- 1,694 K-6th students in Title 1 schools received free, hands-on cooking & nutrition classes
- 191 Leataata Floyd students received 10 weeks of hands-on gardening classes
- 206 Leataata Floyd students received 10 weeks of hands-on cooking classes
- 7,008 meals were delivered through take-home Food Adventure Meal Kits
- 10,673 lbs of produce distributed to the Sacramento City Unified and Robla School Districts to combat food and nutrition insecurity.
- 35 11th and 12th grade students at Title 1 Luther Burbank High School received free, hands-on cooking and nutrition classes.
- 20 field trips reached 475 students from Robla Elementary School District, Sacramento City Unified School District, and Washington Unified School District.



Robla

Bell Ave
Robla
Main Avenue
Taylor Street
Glenwood

SCUSD

John D Sloat
Cesar E Chavez
Edward Kemble
Woodbine
Rosa Parks

H. W. Harkness
Susan B. Anthony
Luther Burbank
Leataata Floyd
Isador Cohen
O.W. Erlewine

Abraham Lincoln
Nicholas
Father Keith B. Kenny
James W. Marshall

Welcomed 369 volunteers and interns. They served:

4,171.67
Volunteer Hours

THANK YOU
volunteers!

OUR STUDENTS EAT THEIR VEGGIES!

93% fearlessly tasted a new fruit or vegetable each week as Produce of the Day

83% learned to eat a fruit or veggie with every snack & meal

VEGGIE OF THE YEAR

Chef Dennis Sydnor and Aidan Hennessey - Bawk! and The Roost

- Potato, Veggie of the Year Winner

Chef Ravin Patel - 7th Street Standard - Okra, Peoples Choice Winner

Chef Takumi Abe - Kodaiko Ramen & Bar - Eggplant

Chef Yekaterina Balagian - Allora Sacramento - Tomatillo

Chef Yolanda Marculescu - The Central Kitchen Food Truck

- Nutrition Services - Cucumber



The 2024 Veggie of the Year Champion reached a new milestone: Aidan is a former food literacy student!



REUNITING WITH FORMER STUDENTS: A LASTING IMPACT ON HEALTHY HABITS.



We joyfully reunited with former students who have continued to eat their veggies, showing that our program builds habits that last.

Pear: Making Others Healthy, Too

Pear (her real name!) was one of our first students in 2012. She just graduated high school. She will be attending Howard University to study nursing this fall.

“Pear and I made a watermelon cucumber salad. Pear confessed that she doesn’t like watermelon. As the smell of fresh watermelon filled our noses, Pear asked if she could eat some. On that day, she learned to love watermelon!”— memory from our founder, 2015.



Aidan: From Food Literacy Student to Sacramento Chef

Aidan started attending our programs in elementary school in 2013. Today, he’s a chef himself! In 2024, he was on the team that won our Veggie of the Year competition. *“What a great full circle moment!”* said Aidan.



Leia: A Decade of Healthy Choices

Leia participated in our program in 2013 in elementary school. Now, as a high school student, she’s involved in her school garden. Our longtime instructor, Daikon Dave, beams with pride when he reflects on students like Leia: *“It’s awesome to see my former students growing up and still making healthy choices,”* he says.



Maiya: From Afterschool Student to Afterschool Teacher

Maiya works as an afterschool teacher at one of the schools we serve. You can imagine our surprise when we bumped into her there after over a decade! She was a student in 2015 when famous Chef Jamie Oliver visited her classroom. Maiya got to make a salad with him!

Maiya often joined Amber for food literacy events in the community. Her mom credits our program with inspiring Maiya to be a braver eater. Today, one of her favorite things about teaching is getting to read to her students and answer their curious questions.

Your donation makes these life-changing habits possible! When you give, you’re helping us reach more students and build healthy habits that last a lifetime.

OAK PARK FARMERS MARKET



OAK★
PARK
FARMERS
MARKET

Food Literacy Center took over management of the Oak Park Farmers Market in 2023 after an infusion of donations from local elected officials, who fought to bring the market to this food desert community.

2024 results:

- \$16K in EBT sales for farmers. Double 2023's total.
- 26,660 pounds of fresh, local produce sold by local farmers.
- \$150,000 in sales for small business vendors.
- 600 children received \$3,000 in Carrot Cash to buy fruits and veggies at the market.

Vendors say their favorite thing about our market is you—the loyal customers who return each week to support them.



Looking Forward

Demand for our programs remains high. We're the most-requested afterschool program in SCUSD, with wait lists from other school districts. As the cost of food remains high and hunger rates in our region grow higher than both state and national averages, our kids are at increased risk for diet-related diseases.

We're battling the problem by expanding programs to more schools. In the next two years, our goal is to double the number of schools we serve.

We're on our way! With new grants from California Department of Food & Agriculture's Farm to School program (\$610,140 from January 2025 to March 2027) and Sacramento Children's Fund (\$1,038,382 from July 2025 to December 2028), we have secured multi-year funding to move into more schools and school districts.

Your donations are needed to meet our ambitious goal of 40 schools by 2027!



We celebrated with honorees Donald and Denise Timmons as "Outstanding Philanthropists" & Sutter Health as "Outstanding Corporation" for their loyal support.

"I used to get picked up early, but now I ask to be picked up at 4:45 so that I don't miss cooking class." -4th grade

TOP FUNDERS



2024 FUNDERS

We rely on supporters like you to bring free food literacy classes to more kids! Thanks to the following donors who supported Food Literacy Center between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

\$500,000 to \$50,000

Sacramento City Unified School District
Sacramento Region Community Foundation
Albertsons Companies Foundation

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Bank of America
City of Sacramento
County of Sacramento, County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy
FNL Foundation
Margaret Deterding Fund
The Mill at Broadway, Northwest Land Park, LLC
Raley's Family of Fine Stores
Robla School District
Sacramento Municipal Utilities District
The Setzer Foundation
Denise and Donald Timmons

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Alchemist Community Development Corp.
City of Sacramento, Vice Mayor Caity Maple
Dignity Health

Downtown Sacramento Partnership
Elevance Health Foundation
Frans DeBry Fund
Oak Park Business Association
The Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation
UC Davis Medical Center

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Golden 1 Credit Union
Kelly Foundation
Karen Lindfors and Patrick Moore
Josh and Katrina Nelson
Nugget Markets
SAFE Credit Union
Save Mart CARES Foundation
The Richard & Kathleen Zacky Family Foundation
The Sacramento Bee Book of Dreams Fund
Jeff Yee

\$2,500 to \$4,999

City of Sacramento, Office of Innovation and Economic Development
Karen Andrews
Elise Bauer
Sharon Beckett
Karen Bersche
Linda Bradenburger
Ellen & Mike Brown
Fidelity Charitable
First Northern Bank
Green Acres Nursery & Supply
Felicia James
Anonymous
Lucas Family Donor Fund
PayPal
Sierra Health Foundation
Marisa Spar

Martin Steiner
Amber Stott & Brendan Belby
Target Corporation
U.S. Charitable Gift Trust

\$1,000 to \$2,499

City of Sacramento, Councilmember Katie Valenzuela
Natasha and Andrew Baker
Yekaterina Balagian
Dorothy Cousins
Dwayne & Susan Covey
Stephene Curtis
Downtown Railyards Venture, LLC
Kathryn & Robert Elsaesser
Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC
Alfred Fong
Peter & Karen Holmes
Laura Jenkins
Destiny Jewel
Keller Family Pathway Fund
KRU Contemporary Japanese Cuisine
Tawney Lambert
Betty Low
Tom McElheney
Merrill Bank of America
Ranna Prajapati
James Rosser
Shirley Tully Family Fund
Kathleen Stack
John Tennyson
Donald & Barbara Thornberry
Sean Timberlake and dpaul brown
UC Davis Health
United Way California Capital Region
Vanguard Charitable
Vista Point Insurance Services Inc.
Women Lawyers of Sacramento Foundation
Mary Yamashiro