



Annual Report 2025

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 our health, environment, and economy.



NOTE FROM THE CEO

We want children to live healthy, joyful lives.

In 2025, federal legislation rolled back protective food access programs, increasing the number of hungry kids in our community. That's not something I could accept. In that moment, I made a commitment that we would double the number of schools we serve to 40, and that we would expand our program model to add food distributions after cooking classes. We are currently on track to reach 40+ schools this school year!

We have expanded our program so kids have food—healthy food. Families tell us they are eating healthier because of us. They are cooking the vegetables we send home, because their children are participating in our hands-on cooking and nutrition classes and have fallen in love with healthy eating.

One mother hugged us. “My husband told me we would have to wait for groceries,” she explained. “I prayed on it, and here you are.”

This work is possible because of donors like you. Thank you for being there for us so we can be there for our children.

With green bean gratitude,

Amber

Amber

For three 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.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Ellen Brown, UC Davis Health

Erica Holland, EraeHolland

Nia Jones, California Department of Public Health

Isaac Gonzales, DIYSL Consulting

Keilani Paneda, Sutter Health

Sean Timberlake, Prism Group

Bekka Rosenbaum, Still Water Consulting

BROCCOLI BRAIN TRUST

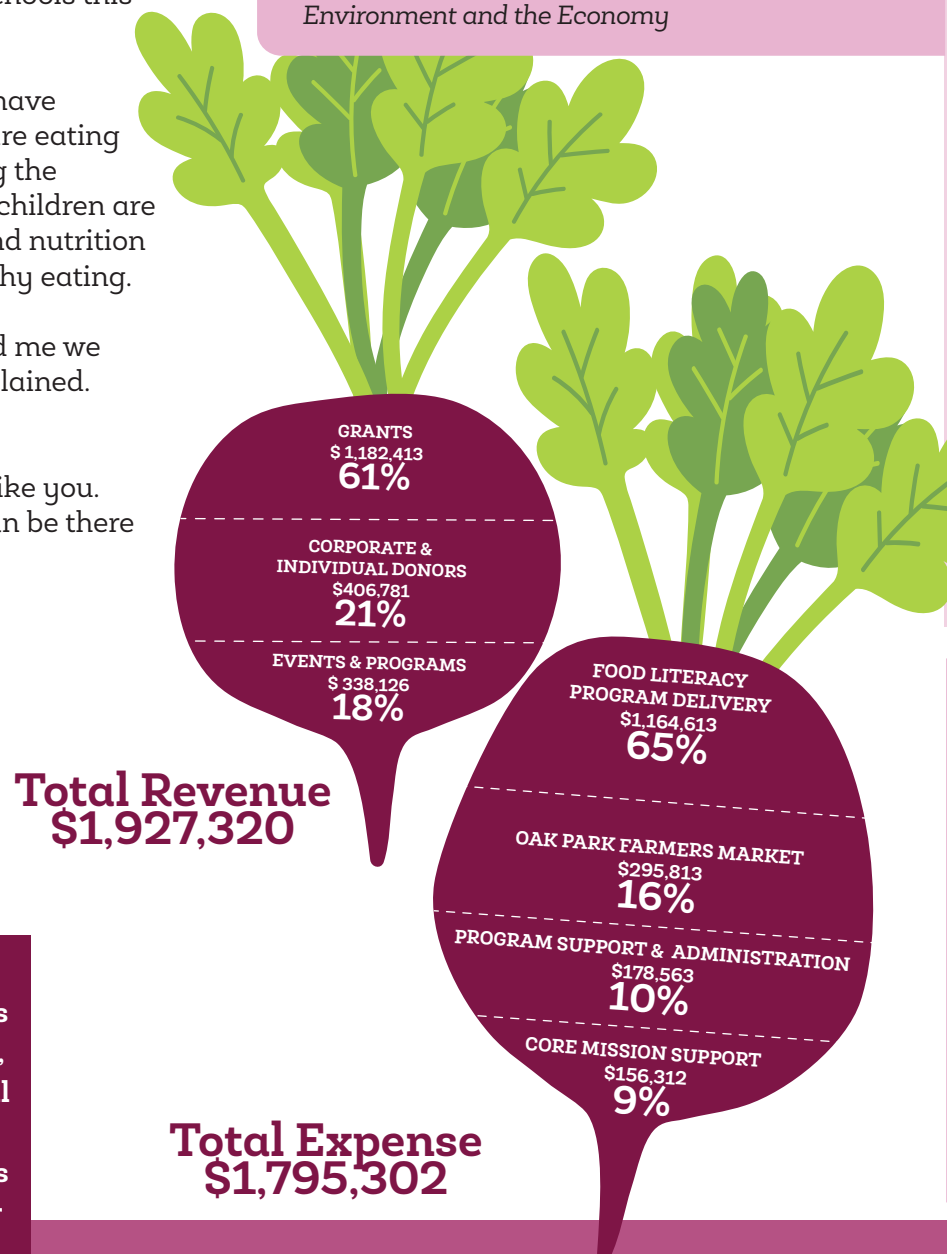
Elise Bauer, Founder, Simply Recipes

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





Inspiring Food Adventurers

In the 2025-2026 school year, we accomplished the following:

- 1,896 K-6th students in 23 Title 1 schools received free, hands-on cooking & nutrition classes. 296 students served in Robla School District and 1,501 students served in Sacramento City Unified School District.
- 229 Leataata Floyd students received 10 weeks of hands-on garden classes
- 229 Leataata Floyd students received 10 weeks of hands-on cooking classes
- 2,559 meals were delivered through take-home Food Adventure Meal Kits
- 18,147 lbs of produce distributed to the Sacramento City Unified and Robla School Districts to combat food and nutrition insecurity.
- 598 11th and 12th grade students at Title 1 Luther Burbank High School received free, hands-on cooking and nutrition classes.
- We served 3 different districts including Robla, Sacramento City Unified School District, and Washington Unified. We served 494 students and held 21 field trips.

Robla

Bell Ave
Main Avenue
Taylor Street

SCUSD

Father Keith B.
Kenny
Nicholas
O. W. Erlewine
Isador Cohen
Suy:u

Edward Kemble
Rosa Parks
Cesar E Chavez
H. W. Harkness
Abraham Lincoln
Elder Creek
John Bidwell

Parkway
Hollywood Park
Susan B Anthony
New Joseph
Bonnheim
Caroline Wenzel

Welcomed 218 volunteers and interns. They served:

3,613.85
Volunteer Hours

THANK YOU
volunteers!

OUR STUDENTS EAT THEIR VEGGIES!

95% fearlessly tasted a new fruit or vegetable each week as Produce of the Day.

90% can identify the difference between fruits & vegetables.

VEGGIE OF THE YEAR

Chef Greg Desmangles, Culinary Director - Urban Roots -

Team Poblano Pepper - Veggie of the Year Winner

Chef Aidan Hennessey, Hook & Ladder -

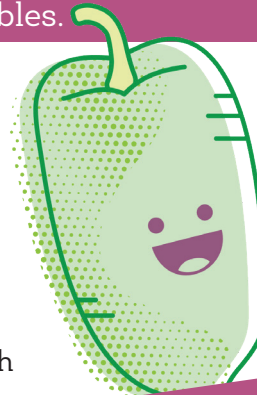
Team Brussels Sprouts - People's Choice Winner

Chef Mark Casale, Executive Chef - Dos Coyotes, Team Okra

Chef Keith Swiryn, Executive Chef - Morning Fork, Team Squash

Chef Zion Taddese, Executive Chef -

Queen Sheba Ethiopian Cuisine, Team Cucumber



The 2025 Veggie of the Year Champion
Chef Greg Desmangles, Culinary Director -
Urban Roots



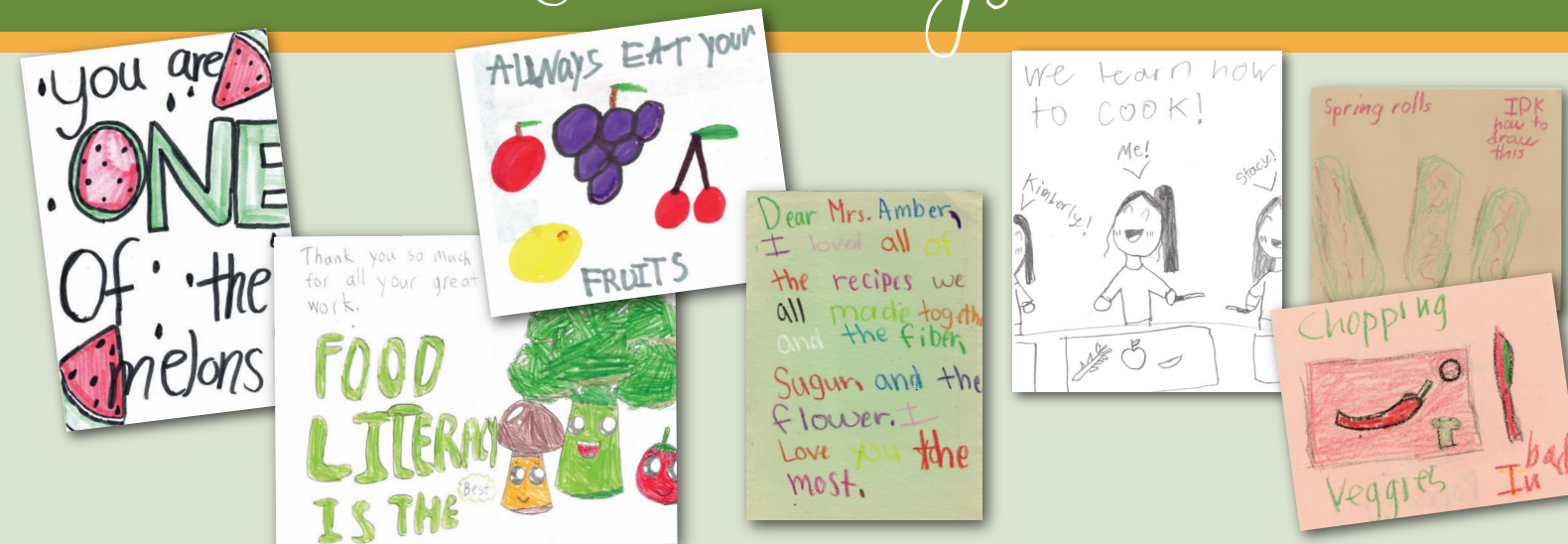


15 Years, By the Numbers

Artwork created by our students

HAP-PEA 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, FOOD LITERACY CENTER!

2011	2026
1 school served	30 schools served
1 school district	3 school districts
120 students served	21,538 students served
1 intern & our founder	130 trained food geniuses





“Now, when I am serving kids at school, I can say c’mon, let’s be adventurous and try our new recipe.

That is something I actually learned here at Food Literacy Center.”

–Central Kitchen team member

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRAL KITCHEN

In 2025, we received a California Department of Food & Agriculture Farm to School grant for \$258,510 with Sacramento City Unified School District’s Central Kitchen school lunch program.

Problem

One of our challenges in scaling to more schools: decreased volunteerism nationally since the pandemic. We send only one paid educator to each school, making volunteers necessary as we grow.

Solution

Central Kitchen’s cafeteria staff are going home from their jobs just as our team arrives at school cafeterias. Through this grant, Food Literacy Center trains these Central Kitchen staff as volunteers, and Central Kitchen pays them to work in our classes.

Outcomes

In the 2026-27 school year, we will expand to 7 additional schools in SCUSD (28 total). We have trained 20 Central Kitchen staff to date.

“I didn’t think a lot of kids would want to try the vegetables, but they are really open to it. Most of them, like 90% of them, try it. A lot of them, when I have my own little groups, will ask, ‘Can we have it on the salad bar because it was good?’

–Christina Bartholomew, Edward Kemble Elementary

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Conference 2025

We were hap-pea to host CDFA’s first regional Farm to School gathering in partnership with Central Kitchen.





FARM TO SCHOOL LEGISLATION

California has made lasting change for Farm to School programs: Governor Newsom signed legislation making the state's Farm to School program permanent! This story began nine years ago.

In 2017, our Chief Food Genius, Amber Stott, was asked to share her ideas with the Metro Chamber's Food & Agriculture advocacy group. She had been looking into her crystal ball and asking: What would create lasting change for California kids? Her idea: replicate the new federal Farm to School program in the State of California. The pitch was well received. The program was formed, and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom would shortly after make this work her platform issue.

Today, the program has permanent funding instead of relying on year-by-year allocations.

It takes a village to create meaningful change. It requires leaders to ask people on the ground what they need, then work alongside them to turn the vision into reality. It takes patience, perseverance, and collaboration.

We're so proud of California's leaders! Thank you for making this dream a reality for kids across our state!

INSPIRING CHANGE AT TERRA MADRE AMERICAS



**TERRA
MADRE**
— americas

In September, we participated in Terra Madre Americas. Food Literacy Center was proud to contribute to the culinary experience.

Our Founder and Chief Food Genius, Amber Stott, joined Diana Flores, Executive Director of Nutrition Services, Central Kitchen, and Distribution Services, for an on-stage conversation about our partnership.

OUR COOKING SCHOOL & FARM CELEBRATE 5 YEARS!

During that time, we have provided school day cooking and gardening classes for 229 students from Leataata Floyd Elementary School, hosted 41 field trips for 969 students from three school districts, served 30+ schools, and welcomed community members.

See our work in action. Scan the QR code to take a virtual tour of our cooking school and explore our programs, community events, and activities.

*We know kids are
learning in our
program, because
they tell us!*





*"I've never had avocado before.
I always wanted to try it.
This recipe is pretty good."
-4th grade*

TOP FUNDERS



2025 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, 2025 and December 31, 2025.

\$500,000 to \$50,000

City of Sacramento
Sacramento City Unified School District, Nutrition Services, Central Kitchen & Distribution Services
Sacramento Region Community Foundation
State of California Department of Food & Agriculture
Donald & Denise Timmons

\$20,000 to \$49,999

Blue Diamond Growers
Dignity Health
FNL Foundation
Margaret Deterding Fund
Oak Park Business Association
Raley's Family of Fine Stores
Robla School District
The Albertsons Companies Foundation
The Setzer Foundation
UC Davis Health

\$10,000 to \$19,999

Bank of America
Charles Schwab
Fidelity Charitable
Katherine Mawdsley
The Mill at Broadway Northwest
Land Park, LLC

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Deacon Charitable Foundation
Frans DeBry Fund
Marilyn Isenberg
Kelly Foundation
Bridget & Jeffrey Levich
Karen Lindfors & Patrick Moore
Josh & Katrina Nelson
Nugget Markets
Sutter Health
The Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation
Sean Timberlake & dpaul brown

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Karen Andrews
Elise Bauer
Sharon Beckett
Benevity, Inc.
Karen Bersche
Ellen & Michael Brown
Capitol Optimist Club of Sacramento Foundation
First Northern Bank
Innovations Health
KRU Contemporary Japanese Cuisine
Bekka Rosenbaum-Furquims
Sacramento Bee Book of Dreams Fund
Sacramento Public Library
Martin Steiner
Amber Stott & Brendan Belby
Rob & Dana Sweetin
The Richard & Kathleen Zacky Family Foundation
Thrivent
United Way California Capital Region
Vanguard Charitable
Washington Unified School District
Wilton Rancheria
Jeff Yee

\$1,000 to \$2,499

American Heart Association Sacramento
Natasha Baker & Andrew Shaw
Linda Brandenburger
Charge Across Town, Inc.
City of Sacramento, Councilmember Caity Maple
Dorothy Cousins
Susan & Dwayne Covey
Stephen Curtis
DAFgiving360
Roger Dickinson
Ecology Center
Kathryn & Robert Elsaesser
Alfred Fong
Barbara Gardner & Donald Thornberry
Isaac Gonzalez
Bridget Halvorson
Felicia James
Laura Jenkins
Nia Jones
Keller Family Pathway Fund
Michael Koltnow
Tawney Lambert
LDK Ventures
Keilani Paneda
Ranna Prajapati
Gary & Susan Reynolds
Robert Rosenbaum
James Rosser
Sacramento Association of REALTORS
Sorooptimist International of Metropolitan Sacramento
Kathleen Stack
The Allspicery
Visit Sacramento
Ryan Von Sossan