



BUTTE COUNTY

LOCAL
FOOD
NETWORK

WHAT WE ARE UP TO
REPORT FOR 2023

Our mission is to create a more healthy, just, resilient,
regenerative local food system in Butte County

<https://bclocalfood.org>

Our Vision

Our Vision for Butte County is to create a strong local food system as the basis of a strong local economy, anchored in a healthy community that thrives on neighbors helping neighbors.

This report is a celebration of what we co-created as a community for local food sovereignty in 2023

We invite you to join us in 2024 and beyond to create a more joyous community that grows food together.

What your Partnership creates and supports

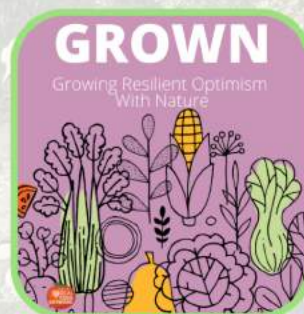
It takes a universe of a village to create a strong local food system.
We could not do any of our projects without YOU!



Growing 1000 More food for locals in backyard, community, and school gardens



Managing and/or supporting seven Community Gardens across Butte County



Supporting kids in three k-12 and three daycare schools to be more food literate



Backyard garden installations via a support system of neighbors helping neighbors



Food Systems Change Collaboration and Leadership at the local, state and federal level



Community composting to keep food out of landfills and returning it to soil for our local gardens



Talks, workshops, Farm to Fork Dinners, movies and more to engage and educate the community



Bringing locally grown food closer to Concow and Magalia

1000 ACRES MORE
 Because Every Garden Counts

Grow More Food Be a neighborhood ambassador Join the Garden Brigade

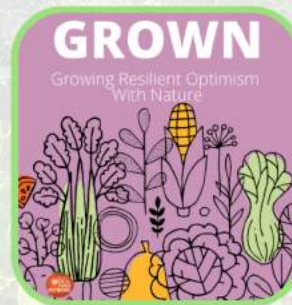
bclocalFood.org

LOCAL FOOD NETWORK

QR code

Our country came together to be more food sovereign during the World Wars of the 20th century. Victory and War Garden efforts grew 40% of our produce. We aim to grow 1000 Acres More food that feeds locals via backyard, school and community gardens to do the same thing, but this time for love and community instead of war.

The program has three major divisions that all overlap and work together to create a community that grows food together.





2023 GARDEN BLITZ

What is the Garden Blitz? People order or apply for a scholarship garden package that includes a raised bed with hardware cloth for critter control, soil, plants and mulch. The community then comes together to build the boxes then install the gardens in back yards and community spaces throughout the county.

The 2023 Blitz In Numbers

- 2 weekends
- 3 donated staging locations in Chico, Oroville and Paradise
- About half of the garden boxes were made from milled wood from a Redwood tree from Magalia
- 125+ volunteers
- 128 gardens total in 2023, 100 scholarship gardens
- 415 Blitz gardens installed since March 2020
- 10,000+ smiles



Stacy Weston got a garden for her daughter Ava, who is passionate about growing food



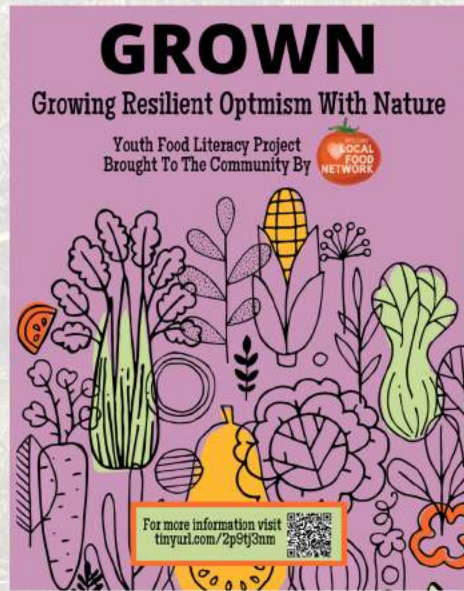
Bill Happ. Tractor Hero, volunteers for the third year to be our soil loader in Paradise

Mobile Hands On Construction Training works with Ridgeview High School and Chico Achieve Charter School to construct garden boxes



Many thanks to the 2023 Blitz Sponsors





364 kids learn the magic of growing food in harmony with nature from soil to bugs to eating healthy veggies, composting and more.

We aim to inspire our youth to grow food, eat healthier and become the next generation of farmers.

We support students at Achieve Charter Schools in Paradise and Chico, Ridgeview High in Paradise and two daycares in Chico



***“We LOVE GROWN and need you forever!!!”
-Casey Taylor, Superintendent,
Achieve Charter Schools!***

Community Gardens



Bumblebee Garden's first year! This Demonstration Food Forest in Paradise displays art from a grant from Upstate Creative Corps.



College Corps Fellows helping upgrade the Community Garden at Esplanade House in Chico, laying the ground for community cooking classes.



As one of the three pillars of the 1000 Acres More project, we are managing or mentoring 7 developing Community Gardens in Gridley, Durham, Paradise, Magalia and Chico.

We also actively partner with gardens run by other organizations in Chico (Butte Environmental Council) and Oroville (African American Family and Cultural Center).



In the heart of Chico, Vecino Garden has been our homebase garden since 2020. It hosts our first Community Composting Center, events and more



Working with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Chico so they can fulfill their spiritual mission of supporting people in need of food.

Other 1000 Acres More Projects

Gleaning and Grassroots Food Distribution



Over 6600 servings of fruit, veg and herbs were collected by our Glean Team and distributed via the Marketmobile and our Free The Food Stands to direct food out of landfills and into hungry bellies.

Community Composting



Nestled in Vecino' Community Garden's back corner is our Community Composting Center. With very little advertising, 25+ families who don't have the resources to compost at home bring their table scraps to be turned into lush soil. A grant from CalRecycle and California Alliance For Community Composting supports this program.

Seeds



In partnership with Harvests and Habitats Nursery, Paradise Seed Lending Library, Trinity Methodist Church and Chico Natural Foods, close to 200 people attended seed swaps in Chico and Paradise. We also hosted a monthlong educational event with 20+ workshops and two Community Seed Cleaning days.

Art Inspires Growing and Celebrating Local Food

Our longstanding dreams of inviting artists to create art to inspire our community to grow food together was finally realised in 2023! We were overjoyed to receive a grant from the California Arts Council and Upstate Creative Corps. Unless otherwise noted below, all the work was a result of that grant. Taking themes from the Victory Garden art of the last century, we asked a few artists to join us. We are so excited to expand on with more art adventures in 2024.



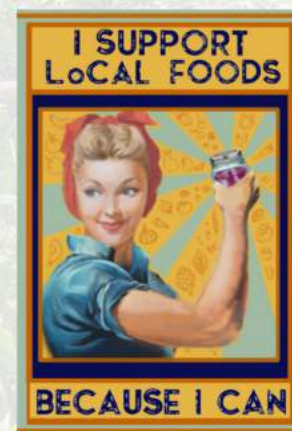
Poster for a Farm To Table Duck Dinner by Caira Hart, pre grant.



Mural on the side of a shed at Vecino Garden donated by Ascha Rowley pre-grant



Fun, interactive mural by Ascha Rowley at Bumblebee Garden in Paradise



Poster by Caira Hart



Poster by Ascha Rowley was chosen to be on the cover of the Edible Shasta Butte Magazine, Fall 2023 edition



Building Community

Farm To Fork Meals



"La Dolce Vida" at GRUB CSA Farm



Farm to Fork Meals bring the community together to celebrate the abundance grown by our local farmers. Depending on the meal, 70-95% of the ingredients are donated by our local farmers- from oils to butter and cheese to alcohol and food. Between guest and volunteers, around 280 people got to celebrate at two dinners- La Dolce Vita and a celebration of Ducks provided by our friends, the Lopes Family Farm. Music, community and good food. It doesn't get any better than that.



Lopes Family Farm "Duck In Five Ways Dinner" in partnership with Butte Environmental Council.



In partnership with the Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT) we installed gardens in Everhart and HOPE tiny home villages to help at risk individuals (some being seniors) to have more food security

We got to spread the good news about local food with the community at 22 talks, workshops or tabling events in 2023.



1400 students of the Paradise Unified School District attended The Youth Career Expo at Paradise High School



In partnership with Butte Environmental Council and the Hands On Tools Mobile Construction Training, 27+ volunteers came out to build four Free the Food Stands at Bidwell Park on October 21.



California State University **Chico**

CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS

Office of the Governor

#CaliforniansForAll

CollegeCorps



CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION CORPS

In partnership with CSU Chico, we were blessed with the opportunity to host 2 Climate Corps and a total of 30 Climate Corps Fellows in 2023 (17 in Spring and 13 in Fall).

College Corps fellows worked with us 10-15 hours a week gardening, helping out the Farmers Marketmobile, doing cooking classes and tabling at community events to spread the good news about eating local food, social media and more. In return, they got help paying for their tuition and a living allowance.

Our two Climate Corps Fellows, Maddy Mikles and Cambria Brown, enabled us to increase our day to day capacity in gardens, outreach and composting fun.

Both these projects are provided by the Office of the Governors California Volunteers Initiative to get more folks out, working to make our communities stronger. We are so grateful to CSU, Chico for the program and want to give a special shoutout to Emelyn Sheffield for making it so that small organizations could get more support to do the work we do. Thanks, Chico State for your service to our community!



Linen and Cass bring food from our local farmers and that they've gleaned to Concow on Saturdays and Magalia on Sundays.



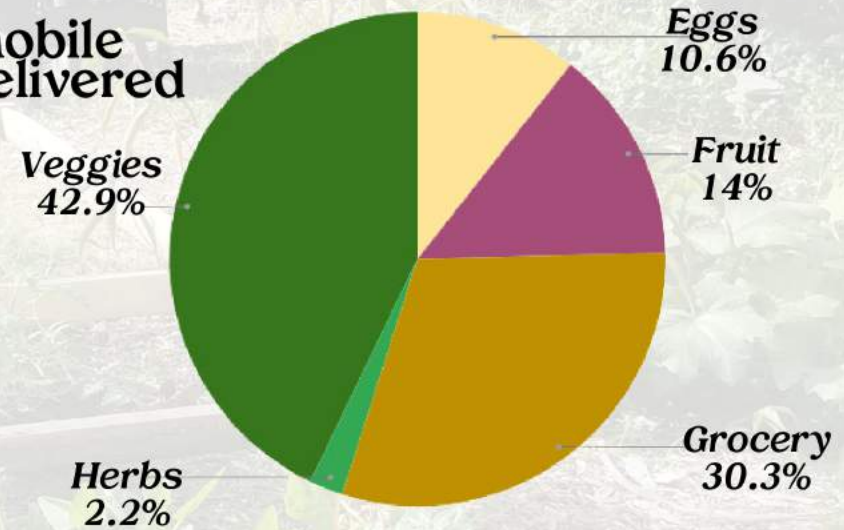
Local Food Feeding Locals



Leftover food is distributed to small food pantries such as the Stirling City Pantry and our Free The Food Stands

Marketmobile Servings Delivered

Fruit	10,388
Grocery	22,468
Herbs	1,643
Eggs	7,853
Veggies	31,784
Total	74,136



Thanks to the 2023 Marketmobile Sponsors



Food Systems Collaboration and Leadership

Local



The Food Systems Collaborative (FSC) is a subset of the Healthy Communities Collaborative, which was created by Adventist Health Feather River Health Foundation, Enloe and other partners. It provides a platform for health in our community in three major areas: Food Security, Movement, and Connection and Meaning.

BCLFN contributes to each of the subgroups, but we are, obviously, invested in the Food Group and are a part of its “Champion” leadership team. The FSC has been meeting for one and a half years now. Together, we have written numerous grants to support all and collaborated on a number of projects.

Watch as we cocreate a healthy community that grows food and connection together!

We are also on the Ag Subcommittee of the North State CA Jobs First (formerly CERF) and are active participants of the Butte County Resilience Hubs Collaborative

State and National

Working together with CA regional Food Policy Councils to ensure California is a leader in good local food focus and policy for All.



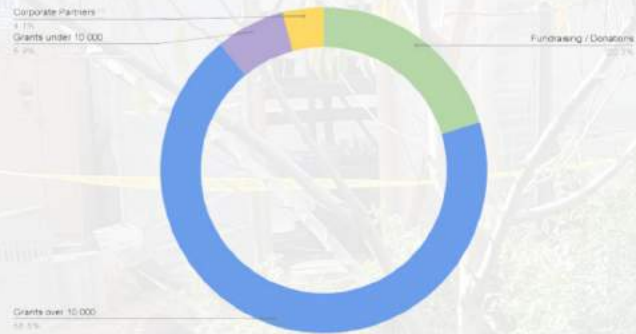
**FOOD SYSTEMS
LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

Making a difference on a national level regarding policy, funding focus and systems implementation

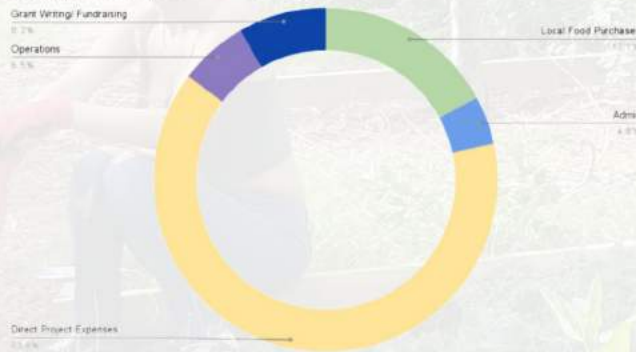


Financials

Financials - Total Donations and Income \$272,300



Total Expenses 217,500



Our Board And Staff

The Board

Amy Roseman
 Donna Garrison
 Geri Mahood
 Maria Giovanni
 Matthew Martin, President
 Michael McGinnis, Treasurer
 Pamm Larry
 Rosemary Febbo
 Toni Zanella, Secretary

Staff

Marketmobile-Cassidy Wear and Linen Cannon
 GROWN- Kari Maggiano, Eric McAnlis, Hailey Dodge
 Community Gardens- Amber St. Clare,
 Maddy Mikles (Climate Corps Fellow)

*Crop from the poster for our Lopes Family
 Farm to Fork Duck Dinner Fundraiser*

Deep Gratitude to our major fiscal donors and sponsors

We Thank Our Major Donors For Your Service To Our Community.
Thanks for helping create a community that grows food together.



Alberta S. Kimball-Mary L. Anhaltzer Foundation
California Foundation For Stronger Communities
Peter Padon
The Strong Foundation For Environmental Values

Thank you to our partner farmers, businesses and organizations for your ongoing in-kind support. Your generosity make this a community!



Farmer Partners



California Olive Company

Divide Ranch

Gold Roots

Good Faith Farm

Isern Organic Olive Oil

La Rocca Vineyard

Lopes Family Farms

Massa Organics

Mushroom Adventures

Rumiano Cheese Company

Business Partners

Bella Sun Luci

Camina Bakery

Chico Locker and Sausage

Grocery Outlet

S & S Produce

Sierra Nevada Brewing Company

Sierra Nevada Cheese Company

Toni's Restaurant

Trader Joe's



American Red Cross



Thanks, again, Butte County, for all the wonderful times in 2023. We look forward to continuing the adventures with you in 2024. If we've not yet met you, we'd love to do so.

Please visit our website at bclocalfood.org

Write us at info@bclocalfood.org

Follow us on Facebook at

*<https://www.facebook.com/ButteCountyLocalFoodNetwork>
or on Instagram @bclocalfood*

*With your help, we are changing our county (and the world)
one tasty bite at a time*

