

# EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED



Thanks to you, 2018-2019 was another successful year for The HEAL Project. Your continued support meant that we were able to provide thousands of children with meaningful lessons about the importance of our local agriculture and food systems. This year, we completed the two-year process of developing our organization's strategic plan. which allowed us to set a clear path on how we can have the greatest impact and propel our mission forward for many years to come. With generous funding from the Sand Hill Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The HEAL Project was able to complete our Strategic Road Map, Theory of Change and Evaluation Plan. We are proud of this work because it will allow us to expand program participation and collaborate with key partners to increase access to quality food systems education.

The work we do is all about connecting the dots, showing students how the food we eat affects the health of our bodies, and how we grow that food affects the health of the planet. Another one of our accomplishments this year that precisely illustrates that connection was piloting and adopting a new hands-on compost education program.

66

My daughter comes home inspired creatively, eager to cook and plant! She enjoys spending all day on the farm, being so close to nature.

99

- Camp parent



By partnering with San Mateo County Office of Sustainability, this program provided compost lessons to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. The program is a hybrid model structured around learning sessions at two sites: a class visit to the San Mateo County School Farm and an educator visit to their classroom. The farm visit includes an introduction to composting. In winter, educators visit the classes to continue compost instruction and to help students set up their own worm bin. This program helps to reduce food waste, increase awareness around the importance of compost, and provides students with an opportunity to act as environmental stewards in their own classroom.

This report is just a snapshot of what we have been up to for the past year. The numbers illustrated here represent not only the dedication of our team but the countless moments of students' curiosity, discovery, and understanding about the world around them. Because of your help, our kids will lead healthier lives, they will eat more fresh fruit and vegetables, and they will have a greater respect and wonder for how they were grown.

With your support, we accomplished a lot last year. Here are just a few highlights we'd like to share with you...



This is one of the few ways I've been able to get my little girls to explore the outdoors. It's also expanded their understanding of farming and their willingness to try new foods. My kids had a blast!

99

-Camp parent



#### The HEAL Project's Top Ten for 2018-2019:

- 1. Created **Theory of Change** to show the path of The HEAL Project's long-term impact.
- 2. Developed an **Evaluation Plan** to measure and improve our programs.
- 3. Created a **Carbon Farm Plan** to evaluate and increase both soil health and carbon sequestration at the farm.
- 4. Won Half Moon Bay's Chamber of Commerce Education Award.
- Sold out Spring Ahead event tickets and broke our fundraising record.
- 6. Started **Community Farm Days**, a monthly Saturday work day held at the farm from April to November.
- 7. Piloted and adopted a **hybrid farm/classroom program focused on composting** in schools across the county.
- 8. Built an **Upcycle Garden** at the farm to educate students about repurposing unwanted items.
- 9. Expanded our education staff and welcomed 2 new instructors to the farm team. Plus brought on a new educator to run the program at each school garden.
- 10. Collaborated with San Mateo County Office of Education in two ways:
  - a. as a Community Based Environmental Learning Partner (CBELP) THP is included as an Environmental Literacy Provider for schools a part of the county's Environmental Literacy Initiative.
  - b. and as a trainer of teachers at San Mateo Environmental
     Learning Collaboratives (SMELC) during two summer teacher
     fellowships (Science & the Environment and Zero Waste)

Whether you volunteer, donate, attend one of our events, shop at our Farmers' Market booth, or have a student who participates in our programs, we are all working toward The HEAL Project's vision for our children to grow up to be engaged citizens in a world where everyone understands the connections between our food, our health, and our environment.

See you at the Farm,



#### THEORY OF CHANGE

#### **PROBLEM**

Kids' behavior today is different from previous generations:

- Door diets full of convenience foods
- Lack of connection with the outdoors
- Excessive screen time

We now see short and long term health consequences of these choices. Kids need to be reconnected.

#### **STRATEGY**

Teach kids where food comes from and why it matters.

- SCHOOL
- Garden Programs
- FADM

Field Trips & Camps

COMMUNITY

Farmers' Market & Food Systems Leadership in San Mateo County

#### **SHORT TERM RESULTS**

- Confidence to prepare a healthy snack
- Local agriculture and food systems knowledge
- Overcome fear of trying new foods

#### CONNECTION

Kids develop a sense of wonder, knowledge, skills and confidence

#### LONG TERM RESULTS

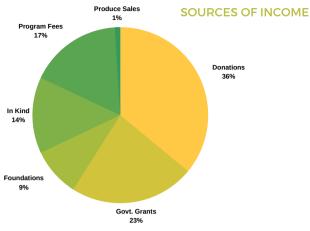
- Confidence to make healthy choices and influence family
- Understand the connection between food & the environment
- Practice social responsibility
   & environmental stewardship

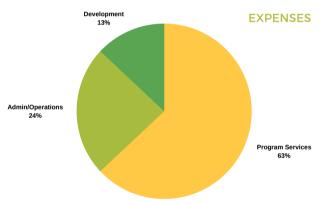
#### **VISION**



Children grow up to be **ENGAGED CITIZENS** in a world where everyone understands the connection between our food, our health, and our environment.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW







#### Revenue

Donations and Fundraisers	181,527
Government Grants	120,000
Foundation Grants	46,500
In Kind Donations	74,008
Program Fees	85,639
Produce Sales	4,899
Total Revenue	\$512,573

#### **Expenses**

Program Services	309,888
Administration and Operations.	114,685
Development and Marketing	63,978
Total Expenses	\$488 551



The HEAL Project camp helps to reinforce the important environmental lessons we try to instill in our children. Conserving, recycling, growing our own food, being kind to all living things, Planet Earth is a precious gift we are all borrowing for a short time.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS

STUDENTS SERVED

**©3,009** 

VOLUNTEERS GAVE

1,069 C

HEALTHY SNACKS SERVED

7,327

48
FIELD TRIP
SCHOLARSHIPS
PROVIDED





93%

OF TEACHERS
REPORTED THAT THEIR
STUDENTS HAD AN
INCREASED INTEREST
IN THE ENVIRONMENT
AFTER ATTENDING A
FIELD TRIP



58 SCHOOLS VISITED THE FARM

# OUR EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

At The HEAL Project, we believe that agriculture-based education is a valuable tool to help students connect with their place in the environment. All participants in our farm and garden programs see science, art, and math concepts come alive through interactive activities. Student participants are encouraged to find wonder in nature and to nurture that wonder beyond their time with us. By promoting students' self-sufficiency and skill-building, we foster students' connection between food, health, and the environment in order to grow the next generation of environmentalists, scientists, sustainable farmers, and change-makers.

All program participants have the opportunity to "dig their hands in" and contribute to the well-being of the soil, plants, and animals on and around the farm and gardens. Our teaching practices encourage students to make connections between the health of our local environment and their own health by demonstrating how food is grown and how we use that food to feed ourselves.

Though available to all grades, our biggest impact is via programs for elementary-aged students at the San Mateo County School Farm. We strive to be culturally relevant, ageappropriate, accessible, and fun. We offer programming to all students in San Mateo County through free or low-cost farm field trips. Our educational philosophy encourages wonder and builds connections between the student, the natural world, and the food system.









At the San Mateo County School Farm, The HEAL Project strives for sustainable farming practices that reflect our desire for farms to be community hubs, wildlife habitat, and vibrant sources of food and fiber for the local community. Our farming philosophy encourages natural systems to do what they are designed to do with minimal inputs and sequester carbon to help reverse the effects of climate change. Read our complete farming philosophy on our website at thehealproject.org/what we do





Every March, The **HEAL Project hosts** our annual fundraiser, Spring Ahead. 2019 was a particularly special vear because Pasta Moon invited us to host our event in their new restaurant space. Guests gathered to enjoy a one-of-akind. 5-course strolling supper created by our amazing local chefs featuring coast-grown ingredients. Our supporters made it a record breaking year, raising over \$70,000 to fund our food systems educational programming! We are so appreicative of this community's support and generosity. Thank you for your commitment to making sure our children grow up to be informed. engaged citizens. See you at Spring Ahead next year March 18, 2020!

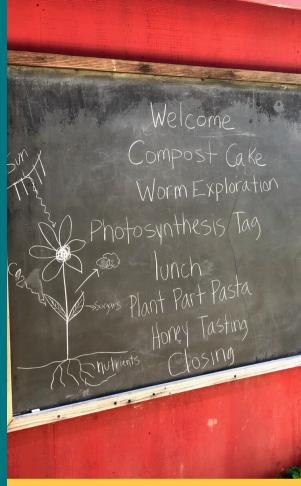
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**Intensive Garden Instructor** 





I would always choose to bring children to a farm. I feel that it is very important for our children to see how and where our food comes from. They need to make sure we have land to grow food in the future. The field trip was terrific. My students share their knowledge any chance they get! They are so proud of their new knowledge!

-4th Grade Teacher

# **A CELEBRATION OF OUR DONORS**

We simply would not be able to provide this valuable education to our students without donors like you supporting us. Thank you for making our programs a reality. Special thank you to our donors who give monthly and to our donors who give over \$1000 annually.

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Monterey Bay Aquarium

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San Mateo County Food Systems Alliance

San Mateo County Health

System

San Mateo County Health System - Nutrition Education

and Obesity Prevention

TomKat Education Foundation San Mateo County Nutrition

Action Plan (CNAP)

San Mateo County Office of **Education - Community Based** 

**Environmental Literacy Partners** 

San Mateo County Office of Sustainability

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YOUR SUPPORT **GROWS HEALTHY** KIDS FROM THE **GROUND UP!** 

#### 6 WAYS TO HELP THE HEAL PROJECT CONTINUE TO GROW!

# FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

thehealproject.org

- Tell one new person about The HEAL Project this year.
- Consider a first time financial gift or an increase in your giving this year. Check out our Pollinator Giving Club.
- Send us a note about how involvement with THP has touched your life. Email stories@thehealproject.org
- 4 Stay in the loop with our monthly newsletter.
- Volunteer on the Second Saturday of the month, April-November at our farm in El Granada.
- Organize a corporate volunteer day with your team.



P.O. Box 3051 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 650-918-2422 info@thehealproject.org www.thehealproject.org



The HEAL Project is a 501(c)(3) organization Tax ID # 27-0192940

We'll keep you posted!

@thehealprojectusa