

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

ASPIRING FARMER RESIDENCY



This was the first year of the Aspiring Farmer Residency - a year-long program supporting five resident farmers with a place to live while they learn how to develop a sustainable market farm business plan and grow crops on six plots of land in the Gifford Park Neighborhood of Omaha, Nebraska.

The inaugural Aspiring Farmer Residents - Taylor Jespersen, Kia Beason, Cadence Hernandez, Terry Salem, Emily Hefeli - were remarkable in their growing pursuits. Especially considering all the first year challenges they were up against - construction delays, minimal resources, and limited staff capacity. Regardless of

adverse conditions, they initiated their own 25 member, 16-week Community Supported Agriculture Program, vended weekly at the Gifford Park Neighborhood market, facilitated 5 youth garden programs, designed and built a chicken coop, made a hot sauce with Crazy Gringa and engaged in many community partnerships. Thanks to the inaugural cohort, the Residency is set on a strong, defining path forward.

Self-Efficacy Evaluation Outcomes

Residents recorded their perceived skill levels for a range of topics in agriculture, totaling 92 responses, before their residency experience. They rated their skill level on a five point Likert scale. Residents then return to the same list of topics and evaluate their skill level after completing the residency. From the evaluations, we found that the greatest impact the Aspiring Farmer Residency had on Residents is in cultivating their retail business skills, a highly transferable, cross-sector skill. We also found that residents develop marginal knowledge of fruit production from the residency. Below is the full results of the combined numbers for all residents:



Skill (measured in points)	Pre	Post	Δ
1. Retail Business	90	155	65
2. Livestock Care	71	124	53
3. Greenhouse Management	99	151	52
4. Field Management	99	146	47
5. Production	103	146	43
6. Wholesale Business Skills	56	97	41
7. Farm Maintenance & Repair	50	80	30
8. Fruit Production	91	106	15



ASPIRING FARMER RESIDENCY



2018 Residents from Left to right: Gavin Johnston, Laura Simpson, Kaya Baker, Shatice Jones, Jess Dooley.

Kaya Baker // Fargo, ND - Kaya graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota with a Bachelors of Arts in Biology and Spanish in 2017. She has experience as a Permaculture Specialist for the campus garden and helping build community gardens in food desserts for New Americans.

Jess Dooley // Omaha, NE - Jess is currently in the midst of obtaining an Associates Degree in Horticulture at Metropolitan Community College. From a simple backyard garden he developed a strong interest in Biodynamic farming methods. He believes in the healing properties of plants and is continually learning about the different properties of plants.

Gavin Johnston // Wisner, NE - Gavin grew up around farm life styles through friends and family in Northeast Nebraska. Currently he is attending

Metropolitan Community College, pursuing a degree in Horticulture Management with the vision of operating a community based sustainable farm of his own.

Shatice Jones // Lincoln, NE - Shatice is enthusiastic about advancing her growing skills and pairing this knowledge with culinary endeavors at the Institute for Culinary Arts while in-residence. She likes being involved in collaborative, community building activities that foster positive change in the urban landscape.

Laura Simpson // Omaha, NE - Laura interned with Petshop Gallery and Benson First Friday in 2017, which has motivated her understanding of bringing ideas and goals into direct action through collaboration. She is currently pursuing a degree in Fine Arts at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

PARTNERSHIPS

Creighton Land Transfer to Big Muddy



Working together with Creighton University and Gifford Park Neighborhood Association, Big Muddy was gifted ownership of a vacant lot of land at 3028 Cottage Grove Avenue (formerly teen market garden).

OPS Education Specifications Committee



Big Muddy participated in the design process of a new Elementary School being built in Gifford Park set to open Fall 2019.

FARM TOURS

Big Muddy hosted over **200** guests for a season total of **15** group tours!

Farm tours are provided to a range of groups - some from outside Nebraska (NUSA Conference and Local Foods at Local Tables Conference) while some are partnerships with area schools (Blackburn, Street School, Marrs) and some are with corporate business for team building activities (Kelloggs). The diversity of tour participants is in accordance with our mission based work of making sustainable agriculture accessible to all.

1. Open House Tour and Volunteer Day
2. Neighborhoods USA Conference Tour
3. Girl Scouts
4. Blackburn High School
5. Omaha Street School
6. Non-Profit Association of the Midlands Drivetime Networking
7. Kelloggs Corporate Teambuilding
8. City Sprouts Interns
9. Nebraska Conservation Education Fund
10. Local Foods at Local Tables Conference
11. Marrs Magnet Center
12. Area Health Education Center
13. Family Tour
14. Integrated Life Choices
15. Cooper Farm Urban Agriculture Education Center



GIFFORD PARK YOUTH GARDEN

32 youth gardeners explored their surrounding agricultural landscape on a field trip to Honey Creek Creamery near Crescent, IA.

For a majority of youth gardeners, this was the first time being on a commercial farm, touring a small scale cheese making facility, and the hands-on experience of milking a goat. In addition to the field trip, Aspiring Farmer Residents lead five youth garden sessions including:

- 1) Garden Design
- 2) Planting your garden
- 3) Chicken Biology & Care
- 4) Canning and Preserving and
- 5) Pizza Party with garden fresh veggies



This year's field trip and youth garden supplies were possible through a generous grant from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE).



FUNDRAISING

Big Muddy is a 501(c) nonprofit organization

Big Muddy is now a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit. We delivered our Form 1023 application to the IRS on December 27th, 2016 and received our determination letter, giving us tax-exempt status, on February 2nd, 2017.

Omaha Gives! (May 24th, 2017)

This was the first year Big Muddy participated in Omaha Gives! We raised awareness mainly through social media channels by creating four video appeals that generated 5,600 total views! Not only were we blown away by the amount raised, but that the support came from 81 individual donors!

Together, we raised:

\$2,817

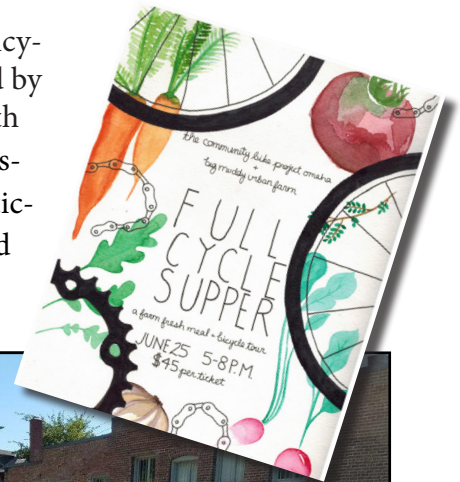
Fundraising Goal for 2018:

\$5,000



Full Cycle Supper (June 25th, 2017)

The Full Cycle Super is a progressive five-course, farm-fresh meal where bicyclists tour each of the five BMUF plots, enjoying a unique course, prepared by a local chef, at each plot. This collaborative fundraiser is in partnership with Community Bike Shop Omaha cross pollinating missions and activities. Aspiring Farmer Residents grew ingredients for each course. Local chefs participating this year were Tim Maides, Chad Lebo (Cure), Kane Adkinson, and Ted & Wally's with donations from Farnam House Brewery.



Together, we raised:

\$600

Fundraising Goal for 2018:

\$650



FUNDRAISING

LET'S GROW HERE GALA

Friday, November 3rd, 2017 // University of Nebraska Medical Center - Sorrell Center

What an amazing place to start! At the University of Nebraska Medical Center Big Muddy kicked off their first ever Let's Grow Here Gala. Over 200 neighbors and friends attended in a showing of support that has defined the meaning of community support. It is from this supportive culture continually cultivated in Gifford Park that Big Muddy was able to grow from a seed of an idea - to grow vegetables and raise livestock for our neighbors in the urban environment while also sharing skills and resources with our community.



The celebration included:

A FILM

Premiere of original short-documentary Let's Grow Here

SPEECHES

Impassioned speeches by all five inaugural residents, addressing what they had learned while-in residence.

GOOD FOOD

The Grey Plume, Kitchen Table, and Table Grace Cafe provided a wonderful spread of delicious bites for the celebration.

FUNDRAISING

Guests planted pumpkin seeds (donations) with the help of Gifford Park Youth Gardeners, growing a pumpkin patch of community support for Big Muddy's educational programs.

Together, we raised:

\$17,488

*before costs

Fundraising Goal for 2018:

\$20,000



*Thanks to the 2017
Gala Presenting Sponsors*

The Foster Family
The Janousek Family
The Paulman Family
Mutual of Omaha

Cooper Farm Urban Ag Center



SAVE THE DATE // 2018 Let's Grow Here Gala - Friday, November 2nd, 2018 // Sponsorships available now

GRANTS

SHERWOOD FOUNDATION PROGRAM & OPERATING GRANT



THE
Sherwood
FOUNDATION®

Big Muddy established its first year of the Aspiring Farmer Residency thanks to a \$25,000 Sherwood Foundation program grant, applied for under the fiduciary agency of Gifford Park Neighborhood Association. After Big Muddy received its own independent tax-exempt status, we were

approved for a \$50,000 two-year program grant and a \$25,000 operations grant for 2018, helping further our mission and goals of making accessible educational opportunities, improving the health and safety of our neighbors, and developing an equitable local food system that challenges food insecurity.

WASTE MANAGEMENT THINK GREEN GRANT



We were awarded the Waste Management Think Green Grant of \$500. Funds from this grant will go towards youth garden programming and supplies. We will be purchasing pullets for youth gardeners to experience raising chickens from baby chick to adult hen, and canning supplies to learn how to preserve our bounty.

2017 Board of Directors

President, Jen Miller

Jen is a farmer, owning and operating Miller-Dohrmann Farms in Ponca Hills. She has extensive experience in corporate marketing.

Treasurer, Rich Callahan

Rich is a Senior Relationship Banker with Bank of the West who has served on many non-profit boards including Stephen Center and Midtown Business Assoc.

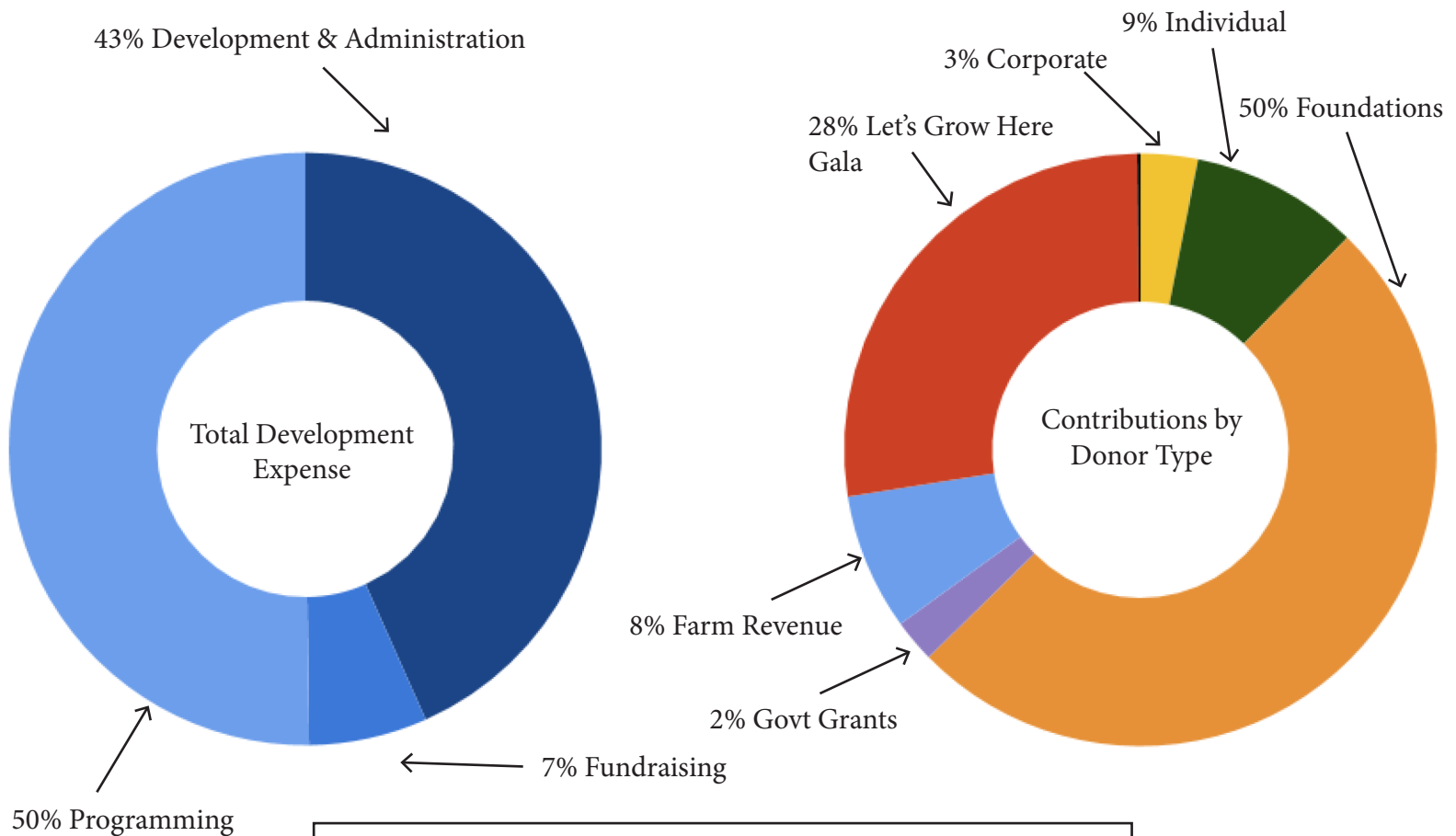
Secretary, Ali Clark

Ali Co-founded of Big Muddy Urban Farm and currently runs Snowshoe Candy Company in the winter and Little Mountain Farm in the Summer.

Erin Higgins

Served on the Big Muddy Board with an education acumen. She departed from the Board in December 2017.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Support & Revenue	2016	2017
Individual Contributions	\$2,787	\$5,861
Foundation Grants	\$10,472	\$32,200
Other Income	\$100	\$110
Government Grants	-	\$1,500
Farm Revenue	-	\$4,772
Corporate	-	\$2,000
Let's Grow Here Gala	-	\$17,488
Total Support & Revenue	\$13,360	\$63,932
Expenses		
Development & Administration	\$8,141	\$17,506
Fundraising	\$659	\$2,611
Program	\$1,353	\$20,283
Total Expenses	\$10,153	\$40,401
Assets & Liabilities		
Total Assets	\$35,547	\$41,995
Total Liabilities	\$0	\$1,800

SPECIAL THANKS

Special Thanks to our supporters and partners that make it all possible!

Sara Adkisson Joyner	Ann Ealy	Scott Larsen	Shacole Sanders Pierce
Trudie Ahlstrom	Leigh Ellis	Chad and Cynthia Lebo	Carol Pinard Cronin
Vicki and Steve Allely	Susanna Von Essen	Legal Aid	William Powers
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Becky Anderson	Aaron French	Amy Soboda and Phil Lewiston	Joseph and Lori Schaaf
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anonymous	Nancy Gaarder	Barb Lubbert	Sherwood Foundation
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Big Garden	The Grey Plume	Shelli Mayer	Katharine Susman
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Richard Callahan	Deanna Hanes	Metro Area Planning Agency	Michael Taylor-Stewart
Kelly Carder	David Harding	Micah House	Terry Troxel
Caitlin Caughey	Abigail Heithoff	Jen Miller and Kevin Dohrmann	Susan Urban
John Cavanaugh	Brenda Hennigs	Ryan Morrissey	Urban Agriculture Initiative at
Charles Drew Health Center	Blake and Brittany Heybrock	Tina Moulton	Cooper Farm
Amy Christenson	Erin Higgins	Steven Mullaney	Brayden Vickers
Kent Cisar	Rosey Higgs	Mutual of Omaha	Ellen Walsh-Rosmann
City Sprouts	Chris and Kelly Hochstetler	Nebraska Sustainable	Waste Management
Dave and Jessica Clark	Honey Creek Creamery	Agriculture Society	Maggie Weber
Alison Clark	Mark Hunsicker	Rebecca Nichols	Matt Weber
Community Bike Shop Omaha	Bob and Virginia Hutton	Molly Nicklin	Katie Weitz
Creighton University	Patti Hynek	Kelly and Sue Nicklin	Weitz Family Foundation
Mary Current	Sanjuanita Jaimes	No More Empty Pots	Matt Wettengel
Sarah Dawson	John Janousek	Dene Oglesby	Lawrence and Jane Whelan
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Drew Dietle	Alex Jochim	Omaha Public Schools	Roxanne Williams Draper
Jonathan Dodd	Simon Joyner	Paul and Audrey Paulman	Jane Wilson
Joy Doll	Kitchen Table	Nisha Pecolatto	Kay Wilwerding
Steve and Barb Drehsen	Marin Krause	Eliza Perry	Aaron Wolfson
Colin and Jessica Duggan	Paty Kuehl	Adrian Petrescu	Melissa Wurth
Bren and Pell Duvall	Pam Labanowski	Alissa Pierce	Layne Yahnke