



# Annual Report 2021

## STAFF

**Audrey Tehan**  
Executive Director

**Caroline Hager**  
Sisters Farmers  
Market Manager

**Hannah Joseph**  
Education & Outreach  
Director

**Helen Vaskevitch**  
Director of Operations

**Madeline Steen**  
Asst. Farm Director

**Devin Kessner**  
**Monica Hescheles**  
**Yu-Shing Ni**  
Rogue Farm Corps

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Barb Schulz**  
Chair

**Fran Willis**  
Vice-Chair

**Jessica Callinan**  
Secretary

**Katy Yoder**  
Community Outreach

**Renee Wirth**  
Member

**Tish Gowgiel**  
Treasurer





SEED TO TABLE  
DONATED

**\$69,940**

WORTH OF FRESH  
VEGGIES

SISTERS FARMERS  
MARKET BY  
SEED TO TABLE

**777**

VISITORS WELCOMED  
WEEKLY

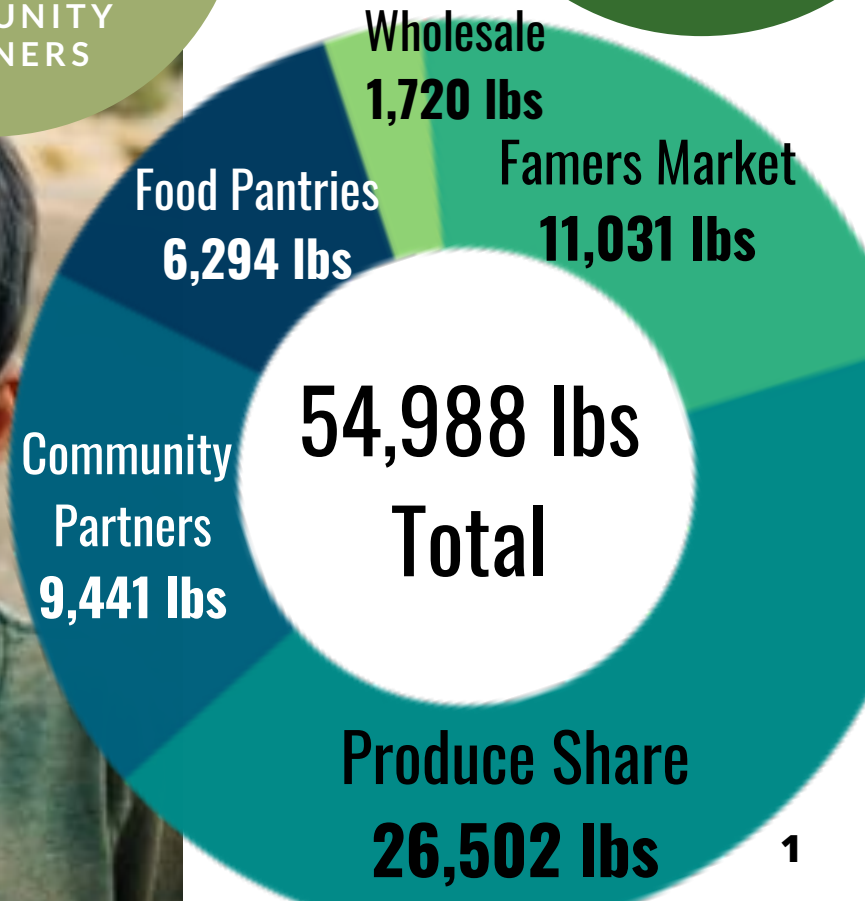
IN  
COLLABORATION  
WITH

**13**

COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS

**924**

STUDENTS  
ENGAGED





## Letter From The Executive Director

Thinking back on 2021, I am in awe of Seed to Table’s staff, board, partners, volunteers, and supporters who came together to not only expand the farm to meet increased demands but to dig down deeper and continue learning how we can best serve our community. The second year of the pandemic only furthered Seed to Table’s focus as community needs continued to rise: 42,000 individuals, nearly 15,000 more than pre-pandemic times, relied on Central Oregon food pantries each month. Thousands of students and teachers sought safe, hands-on learning opportunities, and surrounding all of this, our community yearned to connect with one another. Out of these hardships came incredible opportunities for our community to work together and make our biggest impact yet.

Seed to Table launched a substantial community-backed effort to expand the farm’s growing capacity after calls from our partners to ensure that hunger, especially a lack of fresh foods, was not a symptom of the COVID-19 pandemic. With backing from 220 donors, multiple foundations, and 13 partners, S2T doubled the amount of land in production from two to four acres. With the increase there will be a doubling of the amount of food produced over the next four years to 80,000 pounds of food annually.

The impacts of COVID-19 in 2021 continued to weigh on students who had to adjust to remote learning and time away from community. Our education staff was steadfast in working alongside determined teachers, parents and students to ensure student learning would not only continue, but deepen with a renewed sense of the importance of outdoor education. In 2021, our team asked what more our programming could do to support wellness and learning opportunities for the 900 students we served. This blossomed into in-class cooking, new exploratory lessons, and more time for student-directed learning.

The community’s thirst for connection propelled our Sisters Farmers Market (SFM) team into weaving an intricate ecosystem where people not only shopped for local and artisan goods, but engaged with others who were navigating the pandemic. Even with the challenges of a continuing pandemic, nearly 14,000 individuals joined SFM throughout the summer, connecting with programming, local farmers, ranchers, food producers, and artisans.

I want to give my sincerest thank you to all the S2T team members who showed up every day to work toward our mission. 2021 was challenging not only due to the pandemic, but also heat waves, smoke from forest fires, and more unforeseen challenges. Sometimes it felt like an insurmountable feat to overcome these obstacles, but our team never gave up bringing the S2T vision to life. With so much work done, we know we have so much more to do as we adhere to our mission to increase the health and wellness of the Central Oregon community through providing equitable access to fresh farm produce and opportunities in farm-based education. Thank you for joining us.



Audrey Tehan,  
Executive Director



## A Community-Driven Mission

Seed to Table is dedicated to working alongside our community, striving to provide equitable access to farm based education and fresh, local foods that are in keeping with the preferences of those we serve.

**Our mission is brought to life through three program areas:**



K-12  
Farm-Based  
**Education**



**Feeding Families**  
Farm fresh  
produce



Management of  
**Sisters Farmers  
Market**

# OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY



Seed to Table envisions a community where people of all races, religions, ages, sexual orientations, genders, abilities, geographies, and socioeconomic statuses have access to fresh produce and farm-based education. Our board and staff are dedicated to growing and providing organic, fresh veggies that are nourishing, locally grown, and reflect the preferences of those we serve.

Seed to Table recognizes that within Central Oregon systemic injustices, such as racism, classism, ableism, ageism, and sexism perpetuate conditions that sustain poverty, cause hunger, and deny access to education and fresh produce essential to health and wellness. With this understanding, we commit to serving our community with dignity and value for each individual and their lived experiences.

We resolve to listen to and learn from our community. We will continue to educate ourselves on systems that sustain hunger and poverty and interrupt these systems where we can. We will work to increase access and stay rooted in the knowledge that learning is never finished. We understand that we have and will undoubtedly make mistakes. When we do, we will learn from them and take action to do better.

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Across All Levels



## Students Members Served

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| K-6 Seed to Table Field Trip Series.....             | 623 |
| Sisters High School Community Agriculture Program..  | 47  |
| Youth Summer Farm and Science Camp.....              | 87  |
| Community Planting, Harvesting and Cooking Days..... | 127 |
| Sisters Farmers Market Youth Activities.....         | 147 |
| Rogue Farm Corps Adult Farmer Training Program.....  | 3   |
| Farm Education Teacher Training.....                 | 8   |



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Increasing Experiences



At the heart of Seed to Table is connecting students with farm grown veggies through hands on exploration and learning.



“Seed to Table has been a powerful experience for students. Students return from field trips fueled with excitement for learning and eating. The success of the program is reflected in students running back into the school with stalks of kale and beets. S2T’s increased presence in our school helps them create positive relationships with fresh vegetables that will last the rest of their lives.”

**- Joan Warburg,  
Sisters Elementary School  
Principal**



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## A 3rd Grader's Seed to Table Journey

### Field Trip 1: Fall Harvest

What evidence supports my finding?

Seed Saving

Fabulous Five  
Needs of Plants

### Field Trip 3: Ready for Spring

Can I build my own soil ecosystem?

Inside a Seed

Soil Building

Planting

### Field Trip 5: Spring Journey

How does weather affect plants?

Transplanting

Exploring the Elements

### Field Trip 6: Summer Bounty

How do plants vary?

Salad Creations

Discovering our Five Senses

### Field Trip 4: Spring Has Sprung

How can I be open to explore new flavors?

Tasting Challenge

Design Your Own Plant

### Field Trip 2: Winter Cooking

What can I fuel my brain and body with?

Seed Bites Energy

Measuring & Math!



# FEEDING FAMILIES

Breaking New Ground



**Expansion**  
Greenhouses  
(1/4 acre)

**Upper Field**  
**2021 Expansion**  
(2 Acres)

**Lower Field**  
**Original Garden**  
(1.5 Acres)

**Thanks to a huge community backed effort Seed to Table expanded our growing capacity to four acres!**



**4**  
ACRES IN  
VEGGIES

**30**  
VARIETIES  
OF VEGGIES  
GROWN

WEEKLY  
**704**  
INDIVIDUALS  
PROVIDED  
WITH FRESH  
PRODUCE

# FEEDING FAMILIES

## RESPONDING TO INCREASING DEMANDS



### DEMAND IS INCREASING

Individuals served each month across  
Central Oregon Food Pantry

**2019**  
**28,000**  
individuals



**2021**  
**42,000**  
individuals

Neighborhood Impact 2022

According to Susannah Morgan, director of the Oregon Food Banks, "COVID-19 brought our state into a 100-year flood of hunger." Numbers continued to skyrocket into 2021 with nearly 40,000 families in our area relying on food pantries on a monthly basis. In comparison, 28,000 individuals were utilizing food pantry resources each month pre-COVID-19. Many dimensions and factors overlap and contribute to hunger; in the face of this complex issue, Seed to Table Oregon (S2T) increased efforts to support partners in the work to ensure a lack of fresh foods is not a symptom of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, our farm team and board had been envisioning a farm expansion to explore just what our potential was in the face of increasing demand. Once the pandemic hit, it became apparent the time to expand production was now. Support from individuals and grantmakers was key to farm expansion, enabling our team to break ground in 2021. The process of getting to the first harvest of sweet broccolini from the new field in June of 2021 was a thrilling and exhausting process all wrapped up with hints of success, failure, new challenges and resilience.

Central Oregon growing is surely nothing that goes as planned each season. Dreaming, community support and stubbornness really got us through this first season of learning and doubling the land we are cultivating.

The expansion now holds a doubling of the size of the farm plot to four acres - adding two 100' x 30' greenhouses and new cultivation equipment. With this expansion and use of technology the team estimates that by 2025 Seed to Table's annual output will be nearly 80,000 pounds of veggies each year! More learning curves are sure to come, but in our first year we were able to harvest an additional 10,000 pounds from the new areas!

**"One of the top requested items across all Central Oregon Neighborhood Impacts sites is fresh, garden grown vegetables."**

- Karly Sanders, Executive Director  
Neighborhood Impact



# FEEDING FAMILIES

## ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Wellhouse Market  
Food Pantry



Shuwiyasha Project  
Warm Spings  
Community Action Team



Kiwanis Sisters  
Food Pantry



"The partnership has allowed our families to feel honored and cared for with quality produce, education, and genuine concern from Seed to Table staff."

-Theresa Slavkosky and Dawn Cooper,  
Sisters Family Access Network Advocates



Biblioteca en Camino  
Deschutes Public Library



High Desert Food &  
Farm Alliance



Nutrition Services  
Sisters School District

"Our most important role in food distribution is listening to our community members and partners who are intimately aware of where produce is needed and the barriers to access it. From transportation, accessibility, information, cooking supplies, and having preferred veggies, there are a lot of factors and community collaboration in distribution."

- Madeline Steen, 2021 Assistant Farm Director

# SISTERS FARMERS MARKET

## BUILDING CONNECTIONS



There was a buzzing excitement as we entered 2021, the second year of S2T managing the Sisters Farmers Market. Local events were returning, businesses were reopening, and people were ready to connect. SFM's attendance of vendors, volunteers, and shoppers grew significantly, doubling in size by the end of the season. SFM responded by adding a volunteer committee and planning for our biggest, busiest summer yet. Through the continuation of the Pandemic, we were inspired by community support to bring in more vendors, shoppers, and partners than ever before.



This past summer, SFM returned with a new layout at Fir Street Park to accommodate more vendors. The splash pad was reopened and enjoyed by countless children, pets, and playful adults! Collaborative, colorful chalk art decorated the ground of the Market entrance. And the favorite reintroduction this year—a variety of talented local musicians performing on the Songbird Stage.



Twenty returning vendors and over 35 new vendors in 2021 added more variety as SFM maintained a dedication to supporting additional local growers, producers, and artisans. Our end-of-year vendor survey gave us helpful feedback to continue to shape and grow the market in the future.



SFM continues to be a successful community event thanks to volunteers, staff, vendors, sponsors, donors, the City of Sisters, and countless additional supporters in the Sisters community and beyond. In return, we hope to continue to provide a community gathering place for years to come. Thank you!



Caroline Hager  
SFM Manager



Chloé Lepeltier  
SFM Committee Member



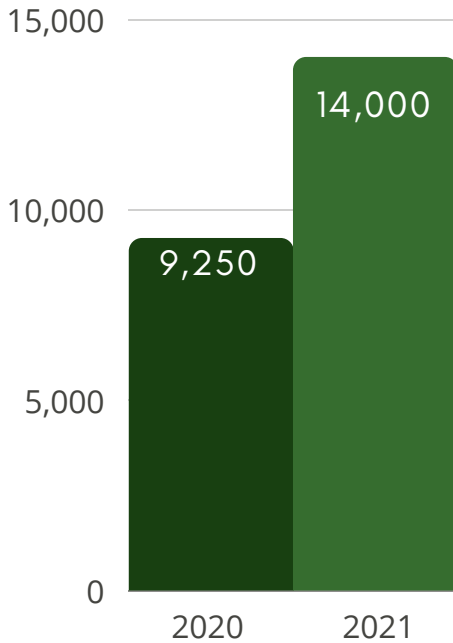
Fran Willis  
SFM Committee Member

# SISTERS FARMERS MARKET

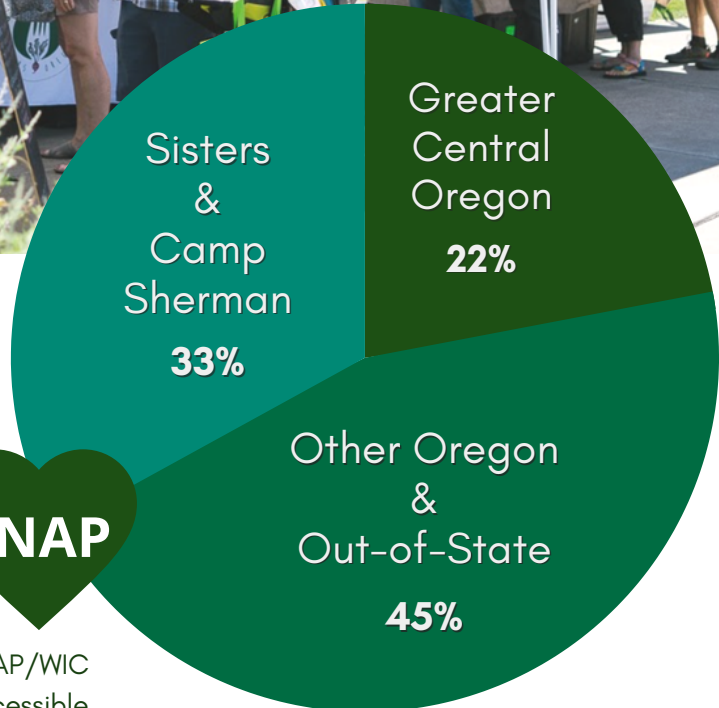
GROWING COMMUNITY



## TOTAL ATTENDEES



The Sisters Farmers Market serves as a resource and attraction for locals and visitors alike



Pets Welcome



Age-Friendly



Accessible



SNAP/WIC  
Accessible

## OUR PART IN SISTERS COUNTRY VISION

### PROSPEROUS SISTERS

- Tourist and visitor destination
- Contributing to artisanal capital
- Supporting small local businesses
- Adding to a vibrant & diverse local economy

### RESILIENT SISTERS

- Supporting an age friendly community

### LIVABLE SISTERS

- Providing access to fresh foods & produce in walkable downtown

### CONNECTED SISTERS

- Adding to the small town atmosphere
- Supporting an inclusive environment where everyone belongs
- Creating a setting for leadership training and development through summer employment opportunities

# SISTERS FARMERS MARKET

## INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY



## SNAP & DUFB

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provides benefits to qualified households to buy nutritious food at participating locations. More than 70 Oregon markets accept SNAP benefits and other critical food assistance because of the belief that fresh, healthy food is for everyone. **After this season, we can add Sisters Farmers Market to the list of SNAP participating markets.**

In Oregon, we're fortunate to have state-wide funding available for markets through Double Up Food Bucks (DUFB), a SNAP matching program. Doubling up happens when SNAP participants take out money to spend via tokens (if \$20 of SNAP dollars are spent at Sisters Farmers Market, DUFB provides another \$20, giving participants double the value for more locally grown fruits and vegetables).

Over the course of the 2021 season, over **\$5,500 of SNAP and DUFB was distributed to 50 families** to spend on fresh, local food. We know there is still much work to be done and are excited to continue to grow this and other programs dedicated to providing equitable access to fresh, local foods.

### A HUGE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

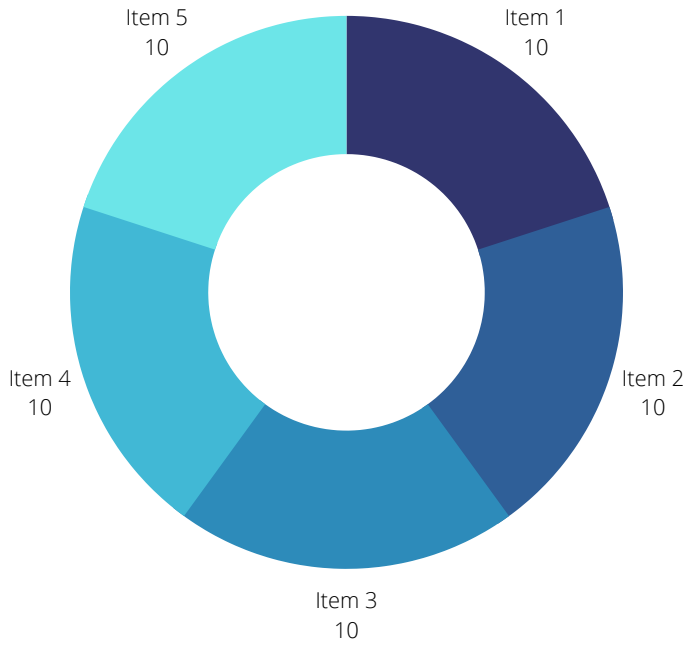


FIVE PINE



# 2021 FINANCIALS

## Revenue



## Expenses

