



GARDENS FOR HUMANITY

Connecting people to place and to one another by cultivating gardens and celebrating the arts.

Dear Members and Friends.

Wow, what a wonderful year we had in 2017! We expanded the number of participating schools in our school garden program from 7 to 14 gardens throughout Verde Valley and Sedona. School gardens are a crucial step to ensure food resilience within our communities. This expansion represents the commitment Gardens for Humanity has made to help local schools educate youth about the origins of food in connection to their own health and well-being and towards a more sustainable environment.

Our program, *Celebrating the Art in Earth*, in its sixth year, provides children opportunities in both art and environmental education, two important areas typically underfunded in school budgets. We introduce students to the life cycle and beauty of Nature through many types of creative artistic expressions.

We are working with Verde Thumb's Garden Club to grow the Verde Valley Seed Library. This library makes available heirloom and open pollinated seeds to Verde Valley residents. We are continuing to make the Peace Garden a botanical sanctuary for people and wildlife in Sedona and helping develop other healing gardens in our communities. These programs could not exist without your contributions.

Your membership donation to Gardens for Humanity will help us continue this important work, and accomplish even more. We have included a few stories below to show our work and commitment to this community and its impact. You can send your membership donation in the envelope provided or contribute online at <http://gardensforhumanity.org/donate/>.

As always, we thank you for your continued dedication to our cause. We look forward to serving you for another year!

Sincerely,

Richard Sidy
President



As a founding member of the Sustainability Alliance, **Gardens for Humanity** has been active in the Education for Sustainability Teacher Trainings and has worked on the development of the Sustainable Business Certification and for policies in our region related to food security and to healthy ecosystems essential for a resilient and sustainable future.

Your Annual Membership Donation will help us Continue Serving our Community!



Artwork by 3rd grade students – Desert Star Community School

P.O. BOX 1202 • SEDONA • AZ 86339

www.gardensforhumanity.org

GARDENS FOR HUMANITY is a 501(C)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

Stories from Gardens for Humanity

Celebrating the **Art in Earth** – what some 3rd grade students say:

"Mrs. Nancy helped me overcome my fear of singing in front of other people."

"When we mixed the colors together to make the color wheel, I learned a lot about how colors are made."

"Mrs. Martha's dance class made me happy. I am not shy about dancing in front of other people anymore."

"I loved Mr. Tom because I like how he taught us about the life cycle of plants and the parts of a seed, and we made poems."

"Ms. Patty was great because we got to paint fruits and vegetables. We also learned about nutrients!"



School Gardens:



The school garden movement is starting to take hold in our region. This year we sent out surveys to eighteen schools to find out their interest in having us assist them in developing a school garden. Fourteen school administrators returned the survey!

We now have two School Garden Coordinators working with teachers, parents, and community members, to build, improve and energize school gardens making them places of learning and fun. At least four schools have started after school garden clubs with which our coordinators help out.

The Verde Valley Seed Library:

The Verde Valley Seed Library started as a collaboration of Gardens for Humanity and the Verde Thumbs Garden Club, recognizing that in order to develop and protect the genetic diversity and hardiness of local food varieties, backyard gardeners were on the front line of preserving the biodiversity and sustainability of our local food system. The seed library, in its second year, continues to grow, share seeds, and teach about the art and science of saving seeds.

"When you choose a seed, you choose an entire agricultural system. If we want to be free, the seed must also be free, because we are literally of the seed, alive only by the gift of her sustenance."

– Bill McDorman, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance

Peace and Healing Gardens:



We believe that gardens can be sanctuaries – sacred places to reconnect with nature and with our own nature – habitats with the power to instill gratitude, harmony, beauty, contemplation and peace.

The Peace Garden at the Creative Life Center and the healing garden at Sedona Winds Assisted Living have become models of such gardens. We are currently working with hospice centers to help them design gardens to bring peace for residents and their families as they face the transition of loved ones at the end of life.

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