



# Gardens for Humanity

*Our mission is to develop and share our relationships with  
Humanity and Nature through gardening, art, and education.*

November, 2025

Dear Member and Friends,

**Building Community:** For our Autumn Equinox–Harvest Festival, *Gardens for Humanity* brought together over a hundred people in our local food community to celebrate our harvest and our shared work. We are gardeners, farmers, families, food artisans, educators, advocates, and restauranteurs, each a key part of our growing local food system.

Together, we amplify the voice of Nature, and strive to achieve the ideal of a healthy Community. Nature thrives through cooperation, diversity, and balance, with every element playing its part. In that harmony, we see the true meaning of Community.



Each program we offer, from the Seed Library to the afterschool clubs, strengthens the link between people, Nature, and each other. We're grateful to serve a diverse community united in creating a food system that is sustainable, healthy, and fair—and rooted in respect for Nature.

Our programs are a source of encouragement and optimism, providing the tools to be a partner with Nature as we create healthy food and beauty in our surroundings! At the same time, we are creating a model of how together we make a better, more sustainable, and harmonious future.



**Exploring Ecosystems through Gardens and Art:** In our six afterschool clubs, serving over 100 kids in Sedona and the Verde Valley, kids explore the garden habitat – soil, seeds, plants, water, climate, and critters – and create artwork about the garden through drawing, painting, collage, sculpting, singing, poetry, story-telling, and music.

We have found that when children explore Nature in our garden and art clubs, it is truly transformative! How do you measure the value of transformation?

A student once exclaimed after an art project using fruits and flowers, “I will never look at a vegetable or a flower in the same way again.” This is how our programs awaken the senses!

**Verde Valley Seed Library:** Our seed library, now in its tenth year, continues to bring together local gardeners to share seeds that have now become regional success stories. A local gardener told me that seeds from this library, that local gardeners have saved, were the most successful she grew last season.

**Verde Thumbs Garden Club:** For more than twelve years, the Verde Thumbs have offered monthly meetings, bringing together gardeners from across our region. They are a key part of our community garden education efforts. This year, they began a *Verde Thumbs Kids Club* to involve youth in garden activities and skills. Kids and their parents are participating and teens are helping.

**Community Gardens:** We are sponsoring and mentoring two projects developing demonstration gardens. The first, “The Garden of Life” promotes the reconnection with Yavapai-Apache Nation land, traditions, and cultural ways of life. The second, “Seeds of Hope Garden,” in Camp Verde, has a garden education focus. Both provide community members and youth opportunities to participate in small gatherings to learn different subjects pertaining to soil creation, germination process, seeding, transplanting, harvesting, nutrition, health, food sovereignty, and seed saving.

By donating, you nurture creativity, community, and care for the Earth—helping kids and families experience the joy of art and gardens. Your support allows us to keep bringing the wonder of Nature to young people while cultivating a more sustainable, caring world.

With gratitude,

Richard Sidy, President

