Dear Friends,

A parent recently shared a moving story with us about her daughter’s experience with Hudson Valley Seed this past school year. She explained that all year the written school work her child brought home showed a lack of interest and a disempowerment of her daughter’s inspiration and creativity. She told us about the incredible moment of finding her daughter’s garden journal, full of detailed drawings of radishes and collard greens, labeled with accuracy and careful handwriting. She said it was the best piece of work her daughter had brought home all year.

When we began working with fifty-six students in Sargent Elementary School in Beacon two years ago, we focused our work on healthy eating and academic achievement. Through talking with our students, collaborating with teachers, and listening to parents it has become clear that curriculum-integrated garden education produces a richer and longer-lasting impact than we could have imagined. Hudson Valley Seed’s program empowers children to be informed ecological citizens through year-round garden education focussed on healthy eating, food literacy, environmental stewardship and academic achievement.

As thousands of children across the Hudson Valley participate in weekly standards-based garden education, they develop a love of learning and the outdoors. As students plant seeds, steward the land, and share new foods with their peers, they are also cultivating compassion, patience and self discipline. By partnering with schools to provide students with innovative, experiential and project-based food education, Hudson Valley Seed helps students connect discoveries in the classroom to action in the community.

With over 13,000 students on our waiting list and collected data that proves program success, we are looking ahead to the 2015-2016 school year with great enthusiasm.

To the individuals, volunteers, businesses, foundations and schools that have made this work possible, thank you.

This year of success is ours to celebrate together.

Sincerely,

Ava Bynum, Executive Director  
Seamus Carroll, Board Chair  
July 2015
1,716 students visited the garden every week this year to study math, science, reading and more.
Hudson Valley Seed has a New Mission Statement

Hudson Valley Seed educates children in school gardens, empowering students through curriculum-integrated lessons focused on healthy eating, food literacy, outdoor learning, and academic success.

As thousands of children across the Hudson Valley participate in weekly standards-based garden education, they develop a love of learning and the outdoors. As students plant seeds, steward the land, and share new foods with their peers, they are also cultivating compassion, patience and self discipline. By partnering with schools to provide students with innovative, experiential and project-based food education, Hudson Valley Seed helps students connect discoveries in the classroom to action in the community.

Our founding mission statement was to educate children in academics and wellness through curriculum-integrated lessons in school gardens. This revision reflects the broader impact of Hudson Valley Seed’s work and the bigger outcomes we are achieving through garden education.
Participating Schools

SARGENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BEACON, NY
377 students  |  Joined 3/13

SOUTH AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BEACON, NY
375 students  |  Joined 9/13

J.V. FORRESTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BEACON, NY
289 students  |  Joined 9/13

THE GARRISON UNION FREE SCHOOL
GARRISON, NY
325 students  |  Joined 3/14

TEMPLE HILL ACADEMY
NEWBURGH, NY
961 students  |  Joined 9/14

GLENHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BEACON, NY
473 students  |  Joined 9/14

FOSTERTOWN MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NEWBURGH, NY
624 students  |  Joined 3/15

HORIZONS ON HUDSON MAGNET SCHOOL
NEWBURGH, NY
534 students  |  Joining 9/15
Sargent Elementary School

Beacon, NY | 377 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in March, 2013

Sargent Elementary School was the very first school to begin weekly garden time with Hudson Valley Seed. The Sargent Garden was started with the help and dedication of Sargent parent Gretchen Larson-Wolbrink. This past year Gretchen also served as the lead garden educator for Sargent Elementary School and also taught at South Avenue and J.V. Forrestal. Now entering into their fourth year of garden time, the Sargent community is an example of the long-term impacts of garden education. During monthly taste tests of the vegetable of the month, ninety-six percent of Sargent students voted that they liked the new vegetable. Their enthusiasm for vegetables, bugs, and garden exploration is a testament to the cumulative effect of Hudson Valley Seed’s work.

“
This program has opened a door for children who may never be able to have their own garden. It has given them the experience to try foods they may never have access too!

— Kaitlin King, Teacher, 2nd Grade, Sargent E.S.
The South Avenue Elementary School Garden was built by Hudson Valley Seed with help from volunteers during a United Way Day of Service. Fifty-seven percent of students at South Avenue qualify for a free or reduced-cost school lunch, which is six percent higher than the New York State average. The Hudson Valley Seed program was piloted by Sue Lee’s first grade class in the fall of 2013. Starting in September every K-5 class in the school will participate in garden time!

“This is learning at it’s best; it’s highly, naturally motivational, hands-on learning which translates into embedding of concepts. What concepts could be more worthy in the 21st Century than an appreciation of nature? This turns into life-long learning, care of precious resources and the advancement of healthy lifestyles.”

— DEB JOYCE, TEACHER, 2ND GRADE, SOUTH AVE.

South Avenue Elementary School
Beacon, NY | 375 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in September, 2013
J.V. Forrestal Elementary School

Beacon, NY  |  389 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in September, 2013

J.V. Forrestal Elementary School has the newest and largest school garden. The garden was built to facilitate outdoor learning with meandering pathways and lots of space. Yosef, a first grade student, wrote about the J.V.F. School Garden, “The garden is big. I see vegetables and a lot of food. It is awesome to be in the garden. I see vegetables grow in the garden every day and vegetables are healthy and they have nutrients.” J.V. Forrestal was also the first elementary school in Beacon to participate in the vegetable of the month program, which all Hudson Valley Seed schools now enjoy every month.
The Garrison Union Free School
Garrison, NY | 325 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in March, 2014

The Garrison Union Free School Program would not be possible without the support of the Garrison Children’s Education Fund. Thanks to their efforts to bring this program to Putnam County, every K-5 student will participate in garden time during the 2015-2016 school year. The Garrison School garden is inside the school in the courtyard, which allows students to peek at what is growing as they walk to and from class.
Temple Hill Academy
Newburgh, NY | 961 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in September, 2014

The Temple Hill Academy Garden program is made possible through the generosity of the United Way of Dutchess and Orange Counties. Temple Hill is the largest school Hudson Valley Seed partners with. There are fourteen K-2 classes in the school who all participate in garden time. Many of the classes served during garden time are dual-language classes, where Spanish and English are both used during instruction. Bi-lingual garden educator Isaac Solano makes garden time accessible to all students. En el transcurso del año, los estudiantes cosecharon lechuga, ajo, zanahorias, repollo, y más. ¡Que bueno!

Hands-on programs like the Hudson Valley Seed program help students relate knowledge and learning with hands-on experience, enhancing their learning.

— R SANCHEZ, TEACHER, 2ND GRADE, TEMPLE HILL ACADEMY
Glenham Elementary School

Beacon, NY | 473 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in September, 2014

Glenham Elementary School was the last school in the Beacon City School District to join the Hudson Valley Seed program. During the 2015-2016 school year grades 3-5 in Beacon will participate in garden time, meaning that now every elementary school student in the district has garden time with Hudson Valley Seed. The Glenham school garden is inside the school courtyard and was started by a dedicated ESL teacher before Glenham officially partnered with Hudson Valley Seed.

“Throughout the year and our partnership with Hudson Valley Seed I have seen the students grow their love and understanding of gardens and how our food is grown. The time has also expanded their horizons with the food they will eat, many have had chances to experience vegetables that they have grown and may never have tried otherwise.”

— AMY WHALEN, TEACHER, 2ND GRADE, GLENHAM E.S.
Fostertown Magnet Elementary School
Newburgh, NY | 624 students
Joined Hudson Valley Seed in March, 2015

Fostertown Magnet Elementary School is the newest school to join the Hudson Valley Seed program. All five second grade classes visited the garden this Spring, and Fostertown will expand the program with a newly-built garden for the 2015-2016 school year. Fostertown teachers are particularly excited about the garden journals students write and draw in each week. Journals give students an opportunity to connect disciplines like math and art and bring creativity into their academic learning.
Horizons on Hudson Magnet School
Newburgh, NY | 534 students
Joining Hudson Valley Seed in September, 2015

Horizons on Hudson Magnet Elementary School will be the third school in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District to join the Hudson Valley Seed program. Almost eighty percent of students at Horizons on Hudson qualify for the free and reduced-cost lunch program, making it a great next school to bring on board with the Hudson Valley Seed program.
A Year in Numbers & Financial Overview
Students Taught Per Year

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Students Taught</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012–2013</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013–2014</td>
<td>470</td>
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<td>1,716</td>
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<td>Fall 2015</td>
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**VEGETABLE OF THE MONTH**

- **1,716** students participated in garden time this year.
- **1,942** students tasted 10 new vegetables in their school cafeteria this year.
- **13,291** students on Hudson Valley Seed’s waiting list.

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS VOTED THAT THEY LIKED THE VEGETABLE OF THE MONTH**

- **82%**

**PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO VOTED THAT THEY LIKED THE VEGETABLE OF THE MONTH AT SARGENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- **57%** in 2013–2014
- **96%** in 2014–2015
Contributions From Schools

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<th>10k</th>
<th>25k</th>
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<td>2012–2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015–2016</td>
<td>25k</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Diversified Funding Support

- **2013–2014**
  - Individuals: 84%
  - Grants/Foundations: 6%
  - Schools: 10%
  - In Kind Support: 0%
  - Corporate Support: 0%

- **2014–2015**
  - Individuals: 28%
  - Grants/Foundations: 5%
  - Schools: 3%
  - In Kind Support: 11%
  - Corporate Support: 54%
**Financial Overview**

### Assets

- **FY ’15**
  - CASH: $15,831
  - PLEDGES RECEIVABLES: $26,525
  - OTHER ASSETS: $1,600
  - **TOTAL ASSETS**: $51,219

- **FY ’14**
  - CASH: $1,346
  - PLEDGES RECEIVABLES: $1,883
  - OTHER ASSETS: **TOTAL ASSETS**: $52,565

### Support & Revenue

- **FY ’15**
  - CONTRIBUTIONS: $129,617
  - CORPORATE SUPPORT: $78,000
  - FOUNDATIONS AND SCHOOLS: $15,245
  - **TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE**: $222,862

- **FY ’14**
  - CONTRIBUTIONS: $59,022
  - CORPORATE SUPPORT: $29,041
  - FOUNDATIONS AND SCHOOLS: $5,621
  - **TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE**: $93,683
Financial Overview

Results for Hudson Valley Seed in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 show that total operating expenses were $207,031, up from $41,118 spent in FY14. This increase in expenses was driven by the addition of five individuals to the Hudson Valley Seed staff. The new team, including Education Director Susan Hereth and four part-time educators, made it possible to educate over 1,500 children every week during the school year. Total revenues increased from $93,683 in FY14 to $222,862, with strong growth in all revenue categories. The organization is continuing to grow in order to accommodate the 13,000 students on Hudson Valley Seed’s waiting list.

Expenses

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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TOTAL EXPENSES:

- FY '14: $41,118
- FY '15: $207,031

SURPLUS/INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

- FY '15: $15,831
- FY '14: $52,565
13,291 students are on Hudson Valley Seed’s waiting list.
In September we asked Joshua, a second grade student at Glenham Elementary School in Beacon, to tell us what a garden was. He said, “It has grass and plants”. In June we asked Joshua the same question. He said,

“A garden is something you eat from. It has flowers and food, fruits and vegetables. Bees and garter snakes sometimes live there.”

— Jennessa, 2nd Grade

“A garden is a place that has vegetables that are healthy for you.”

— Amir, 2nd Grade

“You can grow food in a garden so you don’t have to buy it.”

— Leonardo, Kindergarten

Quotes from Students

In September we asked Joshua, a second grade student at Glenham Elementary School in Beacon, to tell us what a garden was. He said, “It has grass and plants”. In June we asked Joshua the same question. He said,

“A garden has carrots, worms, flies, plants, bean stalks, and ladybugs to eat the tiny bugs that are eating the delicious beans.”
A metaphoric paragraph about growing up.

The wind has taken a well overdue vacation and the sky is a robin egg blue filled with lushes clouds. The world has become green and beautiful all over again. I look out of our classroom window and see our school's garden. Us fifth graders are like seeds. At first, you must water us and care for us, for we are only tiny creatures. As we develop into strong firm plants, we do not need as much watering and care. We learn to find water in the ground and soak it up through our roots. One day we will wilt and will not be able to provide the world with our health, but come next spring, you will see us again. As we grow, we will change physically and emotionally. We may live long enough to see the world change with us, but we must remember that these things take time and there are many moons left to be a seed.

Yahl, Felix Brody, 5/11/2015
List of Supporters

BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT HUDSON VALLEY SEED
- Antalek and Moore Insurance
- Artisan Wine Shop
- Beacon Falls Café
- Bent Creative
- Common Ground Farm
- Dogwood
- Elia’s Bellas
- Four Winds Farm
- Goldman Sachs
- Greenway Environmental Services
- The Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
- Hudson Valley Fresh
- Longhaul Farm
- Philosophia Photography
- Podington Bear
- Poppy’s Burgers and Fries
- River Therapeutic Massage
- Salisbury Bank and Trust Company
- Stop and Shop
- Tiny Hearts Flower Farm
- Tito Santana
- The Verplanck Garden Club
- Utensil

INDIVIDUALS THAT SUPPORT HUDSON VALLEY SEED
- Clarice Allee
- Elizabeth Anderson and Joseph Mahon
- Alison Anthoine
- Rebecca Arndt
- Sidney Babcock and Jose Romeu
- Douglas and Sarah Banker
- Mark and Michelle Barbera
- Sarah Bartlett
- Brian Bergen and Melissa Aase
- Nancy and Tom Berner
- Jonathan Bickoff
- John and Sue Bliss
- Shelley Boris and Peter Lewis
- Gwendolyn Bounds and Lisa Bernhard
- Susan Branagan
- Helanna Bratman
- Michele Bray
- Katherine Brechner
- Chris Buck and Hara Schwartz
- Bill Burbback and Peter Hofmann
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- Emily Burke
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- Peter Bynum
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- John Christian and Ingrid Caruso
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- Maureen Darras
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- Howard Davis
- Davoren Farms
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- Gale Epstein
- Helen C. Evarts
- Holly Evarts
- Yahli Felixbrodt
- Irvine and Elizabeth Flinn
- Kevin Foley
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Linda Lange
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Oliver Lanzenberg
Linda Law
Larry Lebow
Michelle Lewis and Jan Gould
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David and Cathy Liburne
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George and Judy Lowry
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Guy Felixbrodt
Jon Miles
Deana Morenoff
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Karen Nelson
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James O’Barr
Mary Ellen O’Brien and Dan
Benanav
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Michelle Smith
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Anne Symmes
Suzi Tortora
Pia Wasterval
Jacob Weintraub
Ned Whitney
Julia Wynn
Keeva Young-Wright and
Jay Wright
Grey W. Zeien

FOUNDATIONS THAT SUPPORT HUDSON VALLEY SEED
The Dyson Foundation
The EASTER Foundation
Farm Fresh Food Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
The Garrison Children’s Education Fund
New York Community Trust
The United Way of Dutchess and Orange Counties