



2021

Annual Report



COLUMBIA CENTER FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

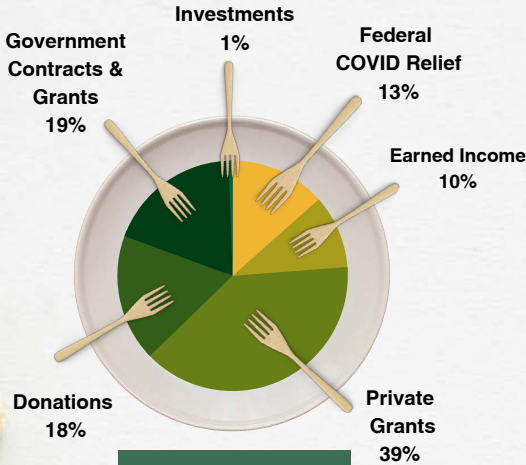


Note from **the Executive Director**

2021 was an exciting year here at CCUA! The barn, schoolhouse, and office trailer were all completed and ready to use at the Agriculture Park. We were able to host dozens of field trips onsite, the Harvest Hootenanny was back in person at the Ag Park. Reduced restrictions allowed more VA patients to get their hands dirty at the Veterans Urban Farm. We launched new programs, we expanded existing ones. I am grateful for all of our volunteers, donors, staff, and program participants. Together you helped make a big impact in our community. I invite you to donate, volunteer, and get your hands dirty with us again in 2022!

- Billy Polansky

2021 Financials



2021 Income:
\$1,324,825



2021 Expenses:
\$994,009

Planting for the *Pantry*

38,774 pounds of fresh produce was grown and donated to families in need.

"This place (The Central Pantry) is amazing. Being on a fixed income I can hardly afford my bills."

- Central Pantry User

Opportunity Gardens

98 low-income families received support and mentorship in their backyard gardens.

"My garden has given me a sense of pride and confidence. I'm happy to say that I cook with food out of my garden." - Opportunity Gardener

Veterans Urban Farm

Veterans participated in over **2,027** hours of job training and recreational therapy.

"Working at the Veterans farm helped me to understand there are other people who share the same struggles that I do. I don't feel so alone in life anymore." - Veteran Participant

PLANTS

Farm to School Partnership

Students had over **15,516** hands-on experiences with food and gardening.

"A huge success I've noticed is students wanting healthier options for their breakfasts and lunches. They are becoming more conscious of their choices!" - CPS Teacher

GardenPro Services

68 households and businesses hired CCUA's Garden Pros for help building and maintaining their gardens.

"What a great experience! I couldn't be happier. They did all of the hard work for me, and now I have happy pollinators visiting my yard. I can't wait to see how this garden develops!" - *GardenPro Client*

New!

Therapy Gardens

476 individuals in treatment programs participated in therapeutic gardening with CCUA's staff.

"It's beautiful to watch the growth because it gave me hope for my own growth." - *Phoenix Patient*

New!

Produce Prescription Program

44 families shopped for free fruits and vegetables at Columbia Farmers Market, as prescribed by their doctors.

"My family has more energy from eating the fresh food versus certain processed foods that leaves my family feeling fatigued all day." - *Produce Prescription Patient*

New!

Henry Kirklin Black Farmer Scholarship

\$9,000 was distributed to three new farmers to kick-start their businesses.

Pictured right: **Edward Linzie**, a lifelong Boone County resident and the first recipient of this scholarship

