

# ANNUAL REPORT

“What’s Growing On?”



## 2023

### OUR VISION

A city with dynamic and vibrant neighborhoods that provide access and opportunities to every resident.

### OUR MISSION

To transform under-resourced neighborhoods through urban agriculture with community engagement, empowerment, and entrepreneurship.

### OUR TEAM

Jodi Sarver

Jose Abreu

Amanda Mitchell

Andre Davis

Kahlil Siler

### OUR BOARD

Dr. Patrick Harman

Founder & Board Chair

Jerry Mingo

Vice President

Randy Carda

Treasurer

Rishaunda Moses

Secretary

Kristin Boggs

Tanya Boone

Lee Gann

Dr. Hannah Harrison

Smedes Lindner

Michelle McNair

## DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

Dear Friends,

GHP has experienced another year of exceptional growth, and we have **YOU** to thank!

Growdega sales have increased exponentially each year since 2021, demonstrating that our community welcomes locally grown wholesome food. Sales in 2021 were just over **\$12,000**, and by December 2023 we exceeded **\$80,000**! We are happy to report nearly **\$8,000** in EBT discounts were provided this year to our community to make healthy food more affordable. Investing in our local food system is creating positive change in the health and economy of High Point, and your support has helped to make it possible.

2024 is the year of people at Growing High Point - more people shopping at Growdega, more people enrolling in our programs, and more collaborations with community partners. With your continued support, Growing High Point is on course to have our greatest year yet!

Sincerely,

JODI SARVER

Executive Director

[GrowingHighPoint.org](http://GrowingHighPoint.org)

[info@growinglocalhp.com](mailto:info@growinglocalhp.com) | 336-848-1516



# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

At Growing High Point, our commitment runs deep as we actively engage in the transformation of our urban core. We're on a mission to address food insecurity and nurture our community, farming 2.49 acres and supporting urban farmers on another .78 acres, two greenhouses, and an apiary. What's truly remarkable is the profound impact our work has on neighborhoods, particularly through the transformation of 14 formerly vacant lots. By converting these spaces into vibrant, productive areas, we don't just improve the aesthetics; we elevate the very essence and value of our neighborhoods, fostering a sense of pride, community and opportunity. These transformations breathe new life into High Point's urban heart, creating a cascade of positive change that extends well beyond the boundaries of our organization.

## 15,000 LBS

FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED INTO OUR COMMUNITY, ENSURING THAT NUTRITIOUS, LOCALLY GROWN FOOD IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

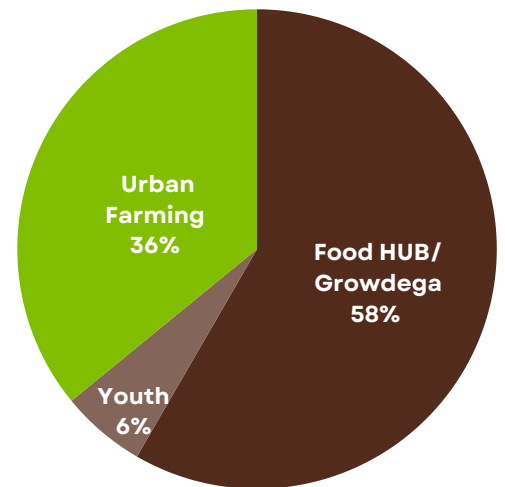
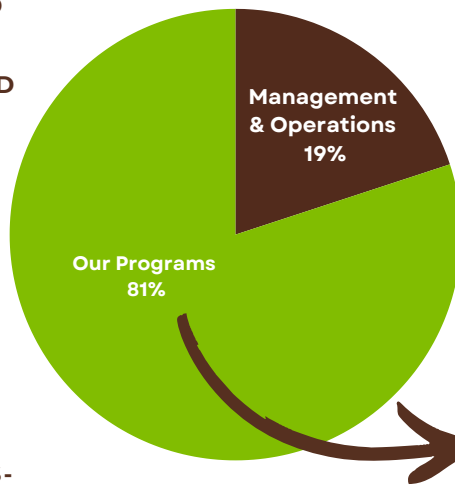
## 9,000 LBS

PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES TO INCREASE FRESH PRODUCE AVAILABILITY

## 45 LBS

HONEY HARVESTED FROM OUR HIVES- NEARLY A 30% INCREASE FROM 2022!

## EXPENSES



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

St. Mary's Episcopal Church and The Friendship Table have been invaluable partners. The 2023 Friendship Table was comprised of young adults committed to a yearlong initiative to combat food insecurity in High Point. Alan George and Stephanie Peramas dedicated countless hours working in gardens, on Growdega, and delivering produce to the local community. Additionally, St. Mary's donates fresh produce from their "Good News Garden" to aid our Farm to Senior Produce Program. Their unwavering commitment significantly aids our mission to increase food access, and we're deeply grateful.



# BRIDGING THE FOOD GAP

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Berry Ridge Farm came from a collaboration between Leadership High Point's class of 2023 and Growing High Point, realized through community support and diverse funding. Students also provided over 200 volunteer hours.

Sponsors: Greater High Point Food Alliance, City of High Point, High Point Market Authority, Emmanuel Lutheran, United Rentals, Signature Wealth Strategies, Truliant Federal Credit Union, Lowder Steel, DH Griffin Companies, Lowe's, Home Dept, and Alpha Graphics.

## POWER OF PRODUCE (POP) CLUB

In partnership with the High Point Public Library, POP Club is designed to educate children about healthy food choices. Each week, participating children receive three \$1 tokens, which they can spend on locally grown produce at Growdega. In addition, they receive educational materials and crafts to enhance their understanding of nutritious food options while learning about food production from our local farmers.

## FARM-TO-SENIOR PRODUCE PROGRAM

Our Farm-to-Senior Produce Program emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide additional relief to senior citizens within the city. For 51 weeks out of the year, we deliver a Farm Share of fresh produce to 20 seniors in High Point. In collaboration with UNCG's Recipe for Success, we are able to provide them with recipe cards to coordinate with seasonal produce.

## GROWDEGA'S IMPACT

Growdega is on a mission to bring fresh produce to communities often labeled as food deserts, or areas where one would have to travel over a mile to receive fresh, healthy foods. With our community-focused approach, Growdega offered **12 weekly stops in 2023**, strategically positioned to reach neighborhoods that have historically struggled with access to healthy food options. Support our work by ordering your own weekly box filled with high-quality organic produce.

Scan to subscribe to  
a weekly Farm Share  
delivered to you!





# LET'S GROW GALA

In 2023, Growing High Point hosted our third annual Let's Grow Gala, an evening that surpassed all expectations and left a lasting impression. Our community and esteemed guests were treated to an exquisite local dinner featuring the freshest produce from our urban farms, complemented by a selection of locally sourced craft beer and wine.

The outpouring of support from our community was simply phenomenal, and it is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge the efforts of our Gala Planning Committee, led by Randy Carda, who meticulously orchestrated this extraordinary event. Randy was assisted by Carrie Carda and Smedes Lindner, whose dedication and commitment ensured the Gala's success.



**Barn Builder Presenter Sponsor:**

**Dr. Michael Lucas & Mrs. Rita Lucas**

**Master Gardener Sponsor:**

**Pinnacle**  
FINANCIAL PARTNERS

**LEIF PETERSEN, INC.**

**Community Gardener Sponsor:**

**Candace & William Fenn  
Dean Sink  
J. Patrick Harman**



# UNITY FESTIVAL

The Washington Street Community Association hosts a free yearly community festival to celebrate the history of Washington Street. The festival features a variety of music and activities such as a local food fair and games and fun for individuals of all ages! We strive to bring together the community and local Washington Street businesses to promote awareness of the rich history and culture of the area, and to connect other nonprofits with the community. Unity Festival took place on October 29, 2023, at Morehead Recreation Center.

As a proud sponsor and collaborator, GHP contributed significantly to the festival's success. GHP farms' locally grown produce was prominently featured. Attendees wandered through our pumpkin patch and experienced the offerings from Growdega.



710 Washington Street  
High Point, NC 27260

[GrowingHighPoint.org](http://GrowingHighPoint.org)

