



Huerta del Valle
jardín comunitario

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

July 1 2019 - June 30 2020



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2019-2020 FY Report

Coordinating Lead Authors

Necils Lopez, Tracey (Walters) Kimura

Lead Authors

Arthur Levine, Nick Flores, Rosalina Ramirez, Tracey (Walters) Kimura, Autumn Yanez-Jacobo, Necils Lopez

Contributing Authors

Maria Elena Bastian

Reviewers

Maria Alonso, Evelyn Hurtado, Kirill Volchinskiy, Autumn Yanez-Jacobo

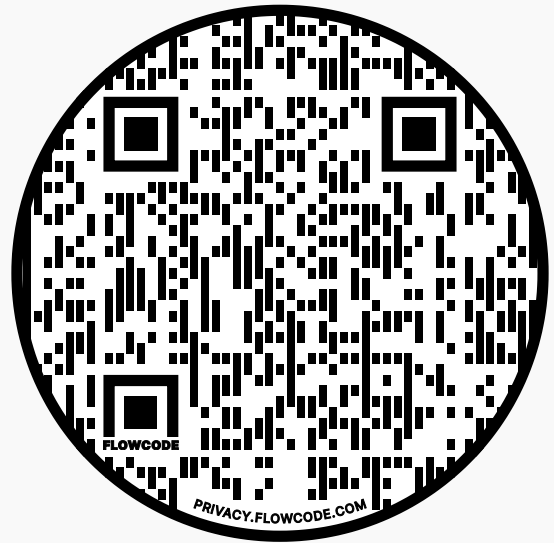
Designers

Necils Lopez - OCA.LA
Evelyn Hernandez - evelyndezez.com

Market Hours

Monday 2pm-5pm (half price)
Wednesday 9am-1pm (half price)
Saturday 8am-12pm

for up to date news and info visit our links



Cover Photo

NECILS LOPEZ/Office for Collective Architecture

INDEX

2019-2020 FY Report

INTRO.....	PAGE 04
HUERTA'S CURRENT STATUS.....	PAGE 05
OUR MISSION.....	PAGE 06
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.....	PAGE 08
AGRICULTORES DEL VALLE (ADV) - FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM.....	PAGE 09
NUTRITION.....	PAGE 11
YOUTH PROGRAM.....	PAGE 12
OUR FIRST GARDEN.....	PAGE 14
JURUPA VALLEY GARDEN.....	PAGE 15
EL JARDIN DE LA SALUD.....	PAGE 16
CRESTMORE - INCUBATION FARM.....	PAGE 17
JENSEN ALVARADO HISTORIC RANCH.....	PAGE 18
NEW PROJECT SITES.....	PAGE 19
HDV IMPACT.....	PAGE 20
CSA PROGRAM.....	PAGE 21
PARTNERS & FUNDERS.....	PAGE 24
HDV TEAM.....	PAGE 25
VOLUNTEERS.....	PAGE 26

FROM OUR FOUNDER

a brief update

¡Bienvenidos! This year the pandemic has created many challenges, but also opportunities for growing positive awareness and change. With the support of our community and partners, despite setbacks, we've been able to continue developing our additional sites and shifting our programs to continue working towards our vision for this region.

Many have experienced significant distress and losses during this time, and we are more motivated than ever to continue providing support to our communities who are most impacted by this pandemic. We are grateful to be in a position to provide essential access to food as well as healing spaces to find support and connection during this time of extreme isolation.

This time of isolation and loss, has also been a time of reflection to remember deeply why we are working towards our mission and how important it is that we can create and maintain these sacred spaces where we can grow love, compassion, and care for one another, ourselves, and our Mother Earth.



Maria Alonso
CEO - Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Alonso', written over a white background.



HUERTA TODAY!

our current status

Huerta del Valle experienced incredible growth during the 2019-2020 fiscal year allowing us to grow into a regionally influential organization. We are sharing and scaling up the work, knowledge and experience we've gained from establishing our first garden site in Ontario. In this report, we look forward to sharing our successes, challenges, and future goals. As with all success, our responsibilities and needs have increased.

We continue to provide public gardens to over 60 families, along with numerous other projects, programs, and resources from our founding garden in Ontario. We also continue to offer affordable produce through our markets to share fresh locally grown produce with the community we serve. This year in particular has demonstrated the value of beautiful and safe outdoor community gardens throughout the impacts of the pandemic as we've seen consistent participation of community who attended our regular garden gatherings and events. Encouraged by the impacts of our Ontario garden, we are eager to continue development of our second garden in Jurupa Valley which is home to more than 15 residential hubs. Currently, we are also working to develop three other sites through a partnership with Riverside County Parks to address this growing need.

We are also thrilled to share the phenomenal achievement that our San Bernardino Garden family has accomplished with the establishment of their garden known as El Jardin de la Salud, "The Garden of Health". Knowing we are inspiring and making an impact in our communities through sharing knowledge, experience, and vision through leading by example makes this work all worth it.

Additionally, our farmer training program, Agricultores del Valle (ADV) has seen great improvements, interest, and recognition from farmers and organizations even beyond our Inland Region. This has allowed us to make connections and extend our network across Southern California! We are in an amazing moment where the seeds we've been planting for the past 9 years are beginning to germinate. Through the global COVID-19 pandemic, our community gardens are experiencing increased traffic and a new wave of energy from families eager to attend our events and support our vision of having a garden every mile!



Andres Vicario - Full time HdV Farmer

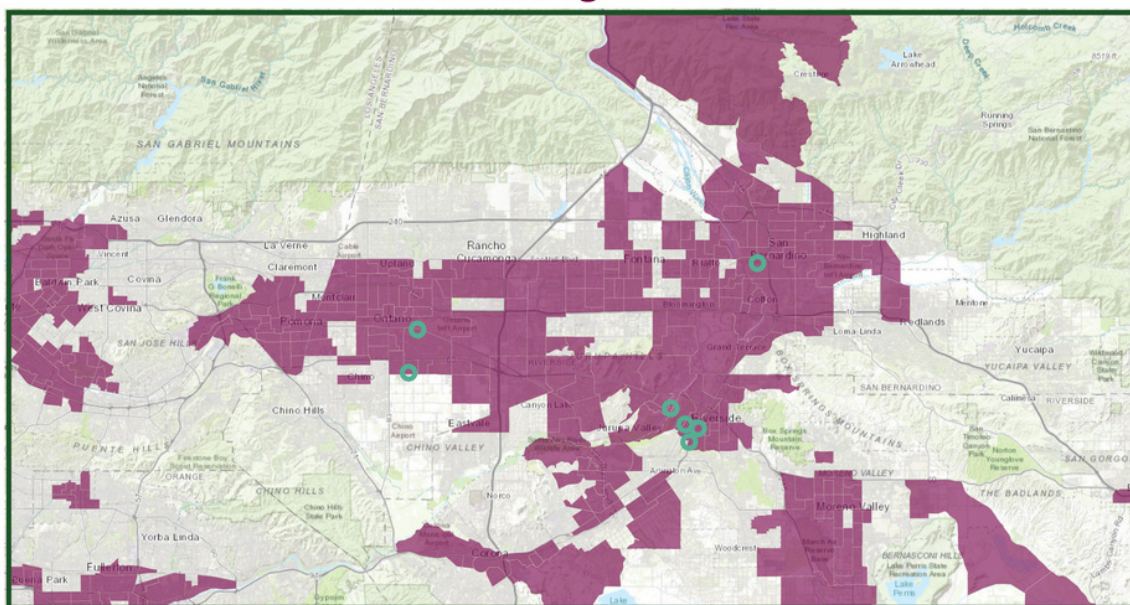


Jacob Vicario and his mother Catalina Lopez Hernandez

OUR MISSION

one garden every mile

SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities



September 9, 2020

Map of socially disadvantaged communities in the inland region

○ Huerta del Valle's planned project sites

1:288,895
0 3 6 12 mi
0 4.75 9.5 19 km

City of Fontana, County of Riverside, San Bernardino County,
Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA,
EPA, USDA, NPS

Our vision of building one garden every mile, transforming our urban landscape, and addressing systemic inequity in our vulnerable local communities has begun to really take shape. Our work offers affordable access to high-quality foods through sustainable land management, uplifting the emerging industry of green food systems jobs. This vision has created unique opportunities for Huerta del Valle and our region to serve as an innovative model of sustainable environmental justice. As of June 2020, we are proud to announce our seven sites, all creating community impact and growth. Our vision is becoming our reality.

1. Ontario - Funding Community Garden
2. Jurupa Valley - Second Community Garden
3. TCC - Carbon Farm Project Composting Project
4. Jensen Alvarado Ranch - Incubator space and CSA Farm
5. Crestmore Manor - Incubation Farm & Pilot Farm
6. Louis Rubidoux Nature Center - a 40-acre partnership
7. San Bernardino Community Garden - Jardin de la Salud - Loma Linda

***“We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.
- Cesar Chavez***



LEARNING AT HUERTA DEL VALLE

growing together

Mission

HdV views education as an essential part of understanding our role as participants in a powerful and connected world. Therefore, HdV strives to develop an awareness of individuals about our community, our environment, and ourselves.

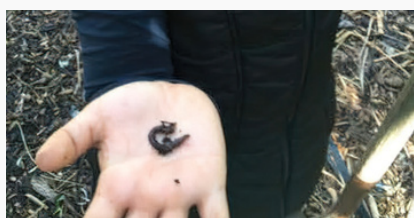
Strategy

Our strategy involves children, adolescents, and adults analyzing critical problems and engaging them in active problem-solving. HdV aims to achieve this by facilitating classes, internships, training, field trips, and workshops through our various programs.

Like the rest of the world, COVID-19 is a challenge we are actively adapting to. While this has hindered many of our educational programs since March 2020, we are finding ways to get creative. For example, when the community is looking for ways to stay healthy, we run online programs and find CDC-approved ways to use outdoor space to keep our communities safe and healthy.

To reduce the risk of spread, we will continue to provide all of our sites with gloves, hand sanitizer, masks, safe distancing, and disinfecting gardening equipment after use.

(Pictures were taken in 2019 during pre-pandemic times)



Worm composting w/ abejas kids



Butternut squash pie w/ the kids



Winter Solstice Planispheres



Abejas plot superbloom



Abejas kids tending to their plots



Abejas kids harvest their own food

FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM

Agricultores Del Valle (ADV)

Our farmer training program, Agricultores del Valle (ADV), debuted our first pilot in May 2019 and graduated 20 new farmers in the first cohort! Our program is a 6 month program that was co-developed with community members, local experts, and our staff to feature various topics including: community building and critical agriculture, agroecological theory, organizational and financial management, and farm management and production. Learning styles include: classroom lectures, hands on workshops, field trips, and panels. We prioritize BIPOC students as well as instructors in our programming and we also offer scholarships to increase accessibility.

We currently have about 14 entering into our Incubation program using our Crestmore site in Riverside County. Our training program is unique because of our incubation feature as this provides vital land access to new farmer graduates who can apply to access ¼ acre of land at one of three locations. The lease can be renewed up to five years to help graduates start up their own agricultural business. This program is the first of its kind in the Inland Valley and represents a long-term HdV effort to provide access to land for disadvantaged farmers while also helping to grow our local food system. Therefore through this program, we are creating new economic opportunities for socially disadvantaged communities through sustainable agriculture.



2019 Graduates

FARMER TRAINING PROGRAM

Agricultores Del Valle (ADV)



2019 Politics of Land Class



2019 Vermicomposting workshop



2019 Herbalism workshop with Berenice Dimas of Hood Herbalism



2019 Local Farmer Panel



2019 Seed Saving Workshop with Maggie Oniell from UCANR



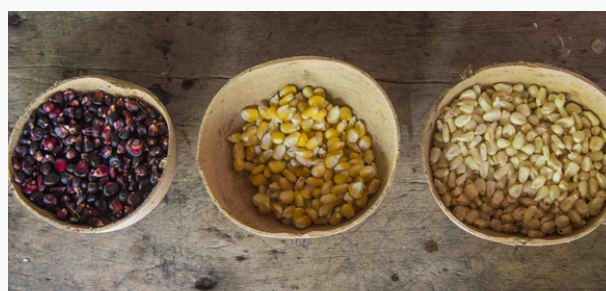
2019 Compost Application workshop

NUTRITION

Reclaiming our Food, Reclaiming our Health

Reclaiming our Food, Reclaiming our Health, is a nutrition series that first began in January 2019 at the HdV Community Garden in Ontario led by nutrition instructor Beatriz and was offered again in November 2019. The series consisted of six a-la-carte classes and requested a sliding scale donation fee of \$5-\$20 per class.

1. Introduction to Reclaiming our Food, Reclaiming our Health
2. The Importance of Eating Organic
3. Healthy Fats
4. Meat and Dairy Products
5. Fermented Foods
6. Traditional Seed Preparation



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Summer Youth Education Program

This year we successfully completed a youth program focused on the consumption of California specialty crops in the Inland Valley, particularly among low-income families, through a youth-led awareness building campaign.

Nine local high school students completed a paid internship where they received specialized on the farm training, funded by CDFA's Specialty Crop Block Grant. Each participant was trained in different topics such as food, agriculture, environmental conservation, and nutrition. Interns were then guided on how to develop presentations and share knowledge gained with their peers by presenting in local schools and recreation centers in the following year. This program primarily focused on the consumption of "specialty crops" with a limited budget to gauge the effectiveness of an awareness campaign to support the increased consumption and integration of locally sourced specialty crops in individuals' diets.

The program was evaluated collected data to assess the participation and effectiveness of the interns' presentations in promoting the consumption of California's specialty crops, particularly those produced regionally and locally. Unfortunately, the emergence of COVID-19, prevented us from effectively completing program follow up assessment due to state mandates to close schools.

Despite the challenges in this program we were still able to reach 1,010 children and youth and 32 adults in this program and increase knowledge about specialty crops - in how to grow, prepare, and consume them.

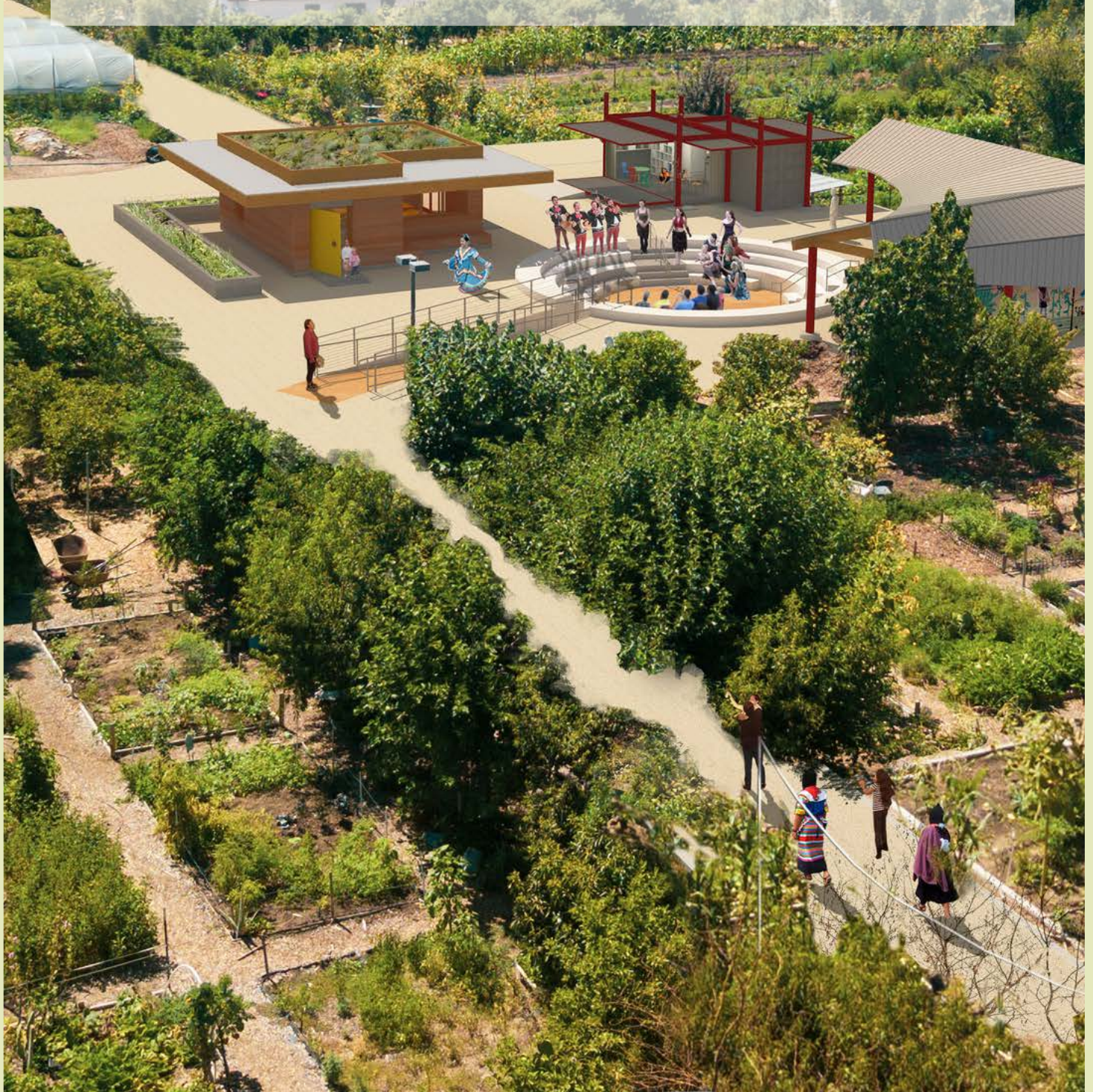
Next year, the program will focus on increasing the recruitment of more youth, establish better relationships with school districts, and create more career and professional development opportunities for youth through our network and programs.



HS Interns at program celebration meal in Dec 2019

***“Education is a tool for raising
consciousness...
a process of growth, humanization, and
self-actualization or realization.”***

– Arthur Levine



OUR FIRST GARDEN

Ontario -- huerta's origin

Huerta del Valle Community Garden

Coined as "Huerta" by community members and staff, our Ontario site is our flagship location where it all began! All other community gardens function as replicas modeled from our Ontario Site.

Highlights:

Huerta offers affordable community garden plots, where members can produce food to supplement nutrition, offset grocery costs, and engage with nature and other members in a beautiful and safe outdoor space.

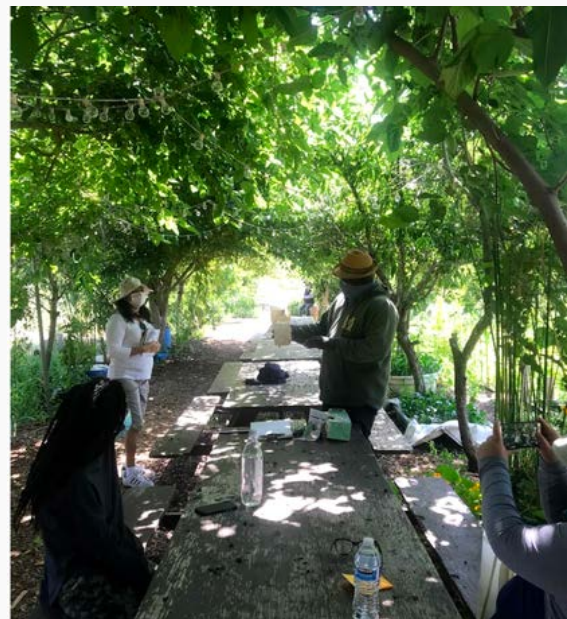
Andres Vicario is our staff farmer that oversees production at Ontario which feeds into our CSA program and open market on site (Mon, Wed, & Sat) as well as markets at our Jurupa and San Bernardino gardens.

We've thoughtfully designed our space in Ontario, to invite and encourage community relationships and belonging. One example is centering long bench tables at the heart of the garden to create an inviting space for members to rest and connect with one another. At these tables, we host workshops, classes, and community garden meetings. Even in the pandemic, these tables have provided a place for the community to continue connecting with us and each other (with safe distancing) in our beloved garden.

Our Ontario site is currently the largest composting producing site, which helps to divert thousands of pounds of food waste on an annual basis and transforms it into vital and nutrient dense natural fertilizer for our crop production.



Gala Dinner prior to COVID-19



Community garden meeting during COVID-19

OUR SECOND GARDEN

Jurupa Valley

In April 2019, the second site, HdV Jurupa Valley, opened right next to Glen Avon Heritage Park. Developing since December 2017, we intended to replicate the success of our Ontario Garden. This year would mark the first anniversary, but due to Covid-19, we had to postpone the celebration in person.

However, significant progress in these four acres of space has encouraged our team to keep going. There are more than 150 fruit trees on the premises, many donated by Dave Wilson Nursery. With the recent installation of irrigation lines, we have had the best production year ever. Our community would like to have permanent PVC lines but given the lack of funds for this particular project, we are working collectively to find solutions. To date, we've successfully distributed tons of mulch and of compost throughout the site, allowing us to regenerate the health of the soil.

Today, our Executive Director, Maria Alonso, hosts regular garden meetings on-site. A variety of events in partnership with IERCD has also allowed our community to continue to learn. At monthly meetings, we had active participation of 14 to 20 active members. Currently, 25 families are gardening at Huerta del Valle Jurupa.

Nicolas Reza, is our HdV farmer that oversees production at our Jurupa and Crestmore sites. Produce grown and harvested, is also used in our distribution in CSA's and open markets.

Additionally, we launched a weekly production market on the Jurupa Valley site with increased production and community involvement!



Farmer Nicolas Reza, harvest veggies from Jurupa



Harvested produce is ready to be sold at our markets (we currently only have one cold storage that services our three markets)

SAN BERNARDINO COMMUNITY GARDEN

Jardin de la Salud

In January 2020, we broke ground and began working with community members to officially develop El Jardin De La Salud's construction. Our newest garden in San Bernardino sits on a 1.5-acre property granted for our use in November of 2019. Our access to this land is thanks to our partnership with Loma Linda University who helped acquire and kickstart the funding to get this project going. This site will replicate the successful programs and outcomes we implemented in Ontario.

As COVID-19 peaked, many of our communities began to follow stay-at-home guidelines. Our team took a significant break on this project from March until May, which affected our community engagement and participation, pausing development. Despite the few challenging months, we now have 29 actively engaged members who built a strong community. San Bernardino is our newest location, but incredibly it produces the most revenue from CSA sales. All thanks to the participation of the Loma Linda community, who actively shop at our open markets and order CSAs.

With a newly implemented irrigation system, we have increased the production at this location, with plenty of room to grow with a total of 55 plots available. We are excited to see what this garden will become. Recently, our community has come together to paint a mural that represents what we stand for. We hope to see even more community and growth at this location in the years to come!



Back side of mural sketched out right before final paint



Paint day w/ community members



Final mural - community members come together to paint a beautiful and vibrant mural at the San Bernardino site

CRESTMORE

Incubator Farm

The Huerta del Valle Crestmore Site hosts our farmer Incubation program, for graduates of our farmer training program, Agricultores Del Valle (ADV). Previously an organic farm that dissolved, this site has been transformed into a place where newly trained farmers can benefit from access to affordable land. The goal is to get new farmers to jumpstart a sustainable urban farming community in the Inland Empire.

The site has 17 incubator plots available. In addition to hosting incubators, the site is a part of the Healthy Soils Program where compost will be applied annually with the help of incubator farmers. When it is safe, the site will be also available for events and educational programming!



Tim Summers, Carlos Pantoja, Arthur Levine, Lynn Summers, Ingrid Salazr



Autumn Yanez-Jacobo



Incubating farmer & HdV Staff, Nicolas Reza enjoying the fruits of his labor

JENSEN ALVARADO

Food Garden & Incubation Farm

We are very proud and honored to share our vision at the Jensen Alvarado Historic Ranch. The site is a historical ranch and museum in the network of Riverside County Parks. The farm is a multi-use space shared with the larger community. HdV has committed to taking on about 17 acres of the total land. This will be for the use of three significant programs: farmer incubation, large-scale production for our markets, and an animal husbandry program. In addition, we are also able to steward and care for 5 acres of citrus trees that have historically been this region's most successful crop.

Jensen Alvarado had a successful and bountiful Orange harvest this year. We hope this site allows us to begin our journey with animal husbandry in the coming years. Here we have also included this site as one of the beneficiaries of CDFA's healthy soil program. Significant unique practices specific to the site are; no-till farming and direct water use from the Jurupa Ditch.

This project is also an opportunity for us to understand how to solve a regional issue of water supply in the Jurupa Ditch. We received \$50k through Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) for research in regards to understanding how to increase the water in the ditch to be able to provide more water for sites that use this water resource, which now only holds about 50% of the supply it needs to water all sites effectively. This problem affects 10 shareholders that rely on this source to water crops and natural habitats in the region. Working with various stakeholders, including Inland Empire Conservation District, Riverside County Parks, Orange County Water District, Sunshine Haven Animal Rescue and Wildlife Rehabilitation, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District; this project aims to provide a solution to a very complex and large issue that will provide great benefits to the community and ecologies that relies on this water source.



Orange harvest from Jensen Alvarado



Recently trimmed orange grove at Jensen Alvarado



Oranges from Jensen Alvarado

NEW PROJECT SITES

Coming SOON!

Through partnerships, Huerta del Valle has continued to gain access to significant land resources in 2019-2020 to replicate and scale our work and create more land access for new farmers and existing communities. These projects are underway!



Google satellite view of Carbon Farm



Google street view prior to acquiring site



Ontario Carbon Farm

Street View of Carbon Farm leveled out



Spreading mulch at LRNC



Google satellite view of LRNC



Louis Rubidoux Nature Center

Spreading mulch at LRNC

THIS YEARS PROGRESS!!!

By the numbers

HdV Impact

HdV is working diligently to create an infrastructure that can capture and measure our growth. Stay tuned.

2,000

NUMBER OF HOURS COMPLETED BY YOUTH INTERNS

Nine interns learned and applied nutrition principles from our Reclaiming our Health, Reclaiming our Food curriculum.

20, 15 & 10

OUR ADV PROGRAM WELCOMED 20 ENROLLED STUDENTS, 15 GRADUATES, & 10 NEW FARMERS WITH INCUBATION PROJECTS ON HDV LAND.

Students engaged in composting, soil remediation assessment, water conservation, and irrigation.

\$623,844

AMOUNT RAISED IN FY 2019-2020

Number includes grants, in-kind donations, and sales of produce



CSA PROGRAM

Community Supported Agriculture

During 2020, we were grateful for the opportunity to provide essential services and support to many during the pandemic that has greatly impacted our community. From April to July, we distributed free produce from our farm to people in the local communities around 3 different sites (Ontario, San Bernardino, and Jurupa). Each time we donated 100 boxes of produce to each site containing several products, totaling in 1200 boxes of donated produce!

This inspired us to expand our CSA program to include mutual food aid partnerships with local organizations, helping us to increase our overall impact and reach to those that need it the most in a more sustained way. So we now offer a 20% discount on produce boxes for community organizations buying CSA boxes in bulk for mutual aid.

Through this new collaborative model we feel we can continue to grow mutual food aid in the region. Some partnerships we were able to create this year include: Feed Black Futures and the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ). In total, we distributed over 800 produce boxes through these partnerships this past year where our quality produce supported: families affected by COVID-19, unemployment, incarceration, and other life stressors.

In total we were able to provide 2000 boxes of food towards mutual aid through donation or partnerships where we provided fresh high quality nutrient dense local produce to our community, especially essential during the COVID19 pandemic.

In our regular individual CSA memberships, individuals can pay for individual boxes or can sign up and pay for the entire season upfront for \$5 less per box. On top of this, we continue to offer discounted options for members paying with EBT/SNAP, to make our program even more accessible to those in need.

Autumn Yanez-Jacobo is our CSA and Market Manager and we are grateful for her to helping us grow our CSA program to what it is today.



Feed Black Futures members at HdV Ontario



Autumn and CCAEJ staff with delivered produce boxes

CSA PROGRAM

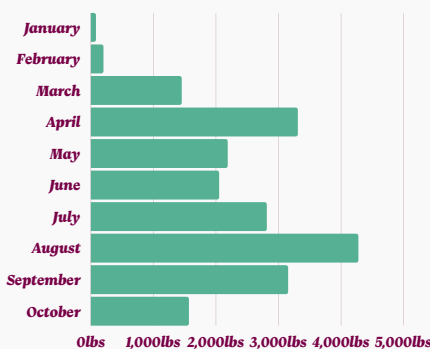
Building on Self-Sufficiency

This year we sought help from Los Angeles Community Impact (LACI) to make our CSA program and distribution more financially sustainable. So this year, we began formally tracking and collecting data in an effort to understand how to set achievable economic goals for ourselves based on production. We trained our farmers to keep track of the harvested produce and this year, we are excited to share the production data we've gathered since March for the following sites; Crestmore, Jurupa Valley, and Ontario. Because this is a task assigned to farmers who are still developing technical skills, the data is incomplete and does not yet accurately represent our production. We are still refining our record keeping for our production. Part of our goal towards self-sufficiency is to overcome these organizational challenges and continue to grow sustainable funding efforts.

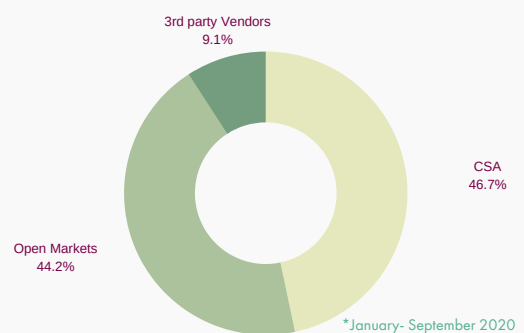
Our CSA goals for 2020 come from the LACI program development report. The report's recommendations have been in effect this fiscal year and have improved our trajectories. We are excited to see continual growth alongside the implementation of the recommendations. We have seen the CSA program grow, and the consistent performance in addressing these findings will support our organization's sustainable functions and growth.

This guide will help our team accomplish our goals while also fulfilling our mission. Actions and efforts made towards this goal include: Organizing administrative tasks, adopting Barn2Door as an online sales service, and creating a more streamlined business plan. Each building block illustrated below will empower our collective community to support the organization's functions, a key point of improvement identified by the LACI team. Overcoming barriers of limited resources and staffing through these recommendations will help find creative solutions for our biggest challenges.

CSA Produce Harvested



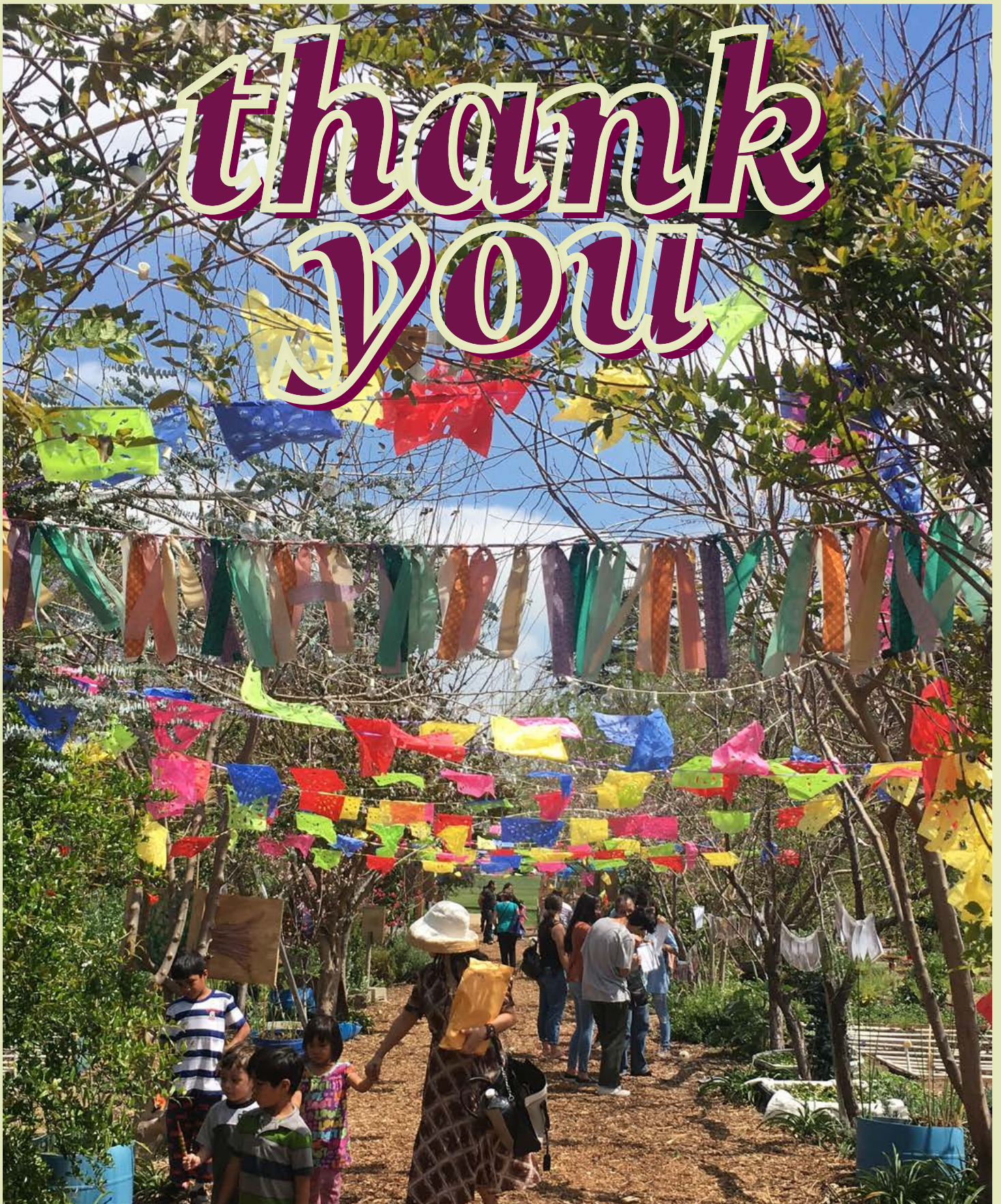
2020 Profits at a Glance



How can we adapt the CSA program to better fit the needs of the community and increase member retention and buy in?



*thank
you*



**YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO REIMAGINE
WHAT COMMUNITY GARDENS LOOK LIKE IN
THE INLAND EMPIRE.**

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FUNDERS

We love you all!!!

Blooming Prairie foundation
Cal Recycle
Pitzer College and CASA Pitzer
CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
City of Ontario
Claremont McKenna College
Challah for Hunger
Earthwatch
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
Inland Empire Health Plan
Jurupa Area Parks and Recreation District
Loma Linda University Health
Metropolitan Water District
Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture
NRCS-Redlands (Inland Empire)
Offices of Freddie Rodriguez
Offices of Connie Leyva
Rathmann Family Foundation
Riverside County Parks and Open Space agency
Scripps College
Strategic Growth Council of CA
UC-Riverside Center for Social Innovation
University of La Verne
USDA-NIFA
UPLM - Unidos Por La Musica

Thank you to so many more who continue to trust in us!

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S HDV TEAM

You make this vision a reality!!!

STAFF

Maria Alonso - Executive Director
Arthur Levine - Project Manager
Andres Vicario - Farmer (Ontario)
Jesus Astudillo - Farmer (Jurupa)
Nicolas Reza - Farmer (Crestmore & Jensen Alvarado)
Maria Elena Bastian - SB Site Manager
Tracey (Walters) Kimura - New Farmer Training Coordinator
Autumn Yanez-Jacobo - Market and CSA Coordinator
Berenice Mendoza - Volunteer Coordinator
Xochitl Alejo - Administrative and Office Staff

TEAM

Evelyn Hurtado - Market Coordinator (IERCD)
Adlemi Hernandez - Media and Marketing Communications Manager
Lucy Ceja - Market Volunteer (IERCD)

BOARD MEMBERS

President – Maria Alonso - malonso@huertadelvalle.org
Treasurer – Maria E. Bastian - mariaelenabastian@huertadelvalle.org
Board Member – Stephanie Silvia - computerclassesbystephanie@gmail.com

Thank you to our team, who have embarked on new exciting journeys.

Ingrid Gutierrez (former programs director)
Ingrid Salazar (former farmer)

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

The core of all we do here at Huerta!!!



Volunteers spreading mulch at Jurupa Valley



Spreading compost at Jensen Alvarado



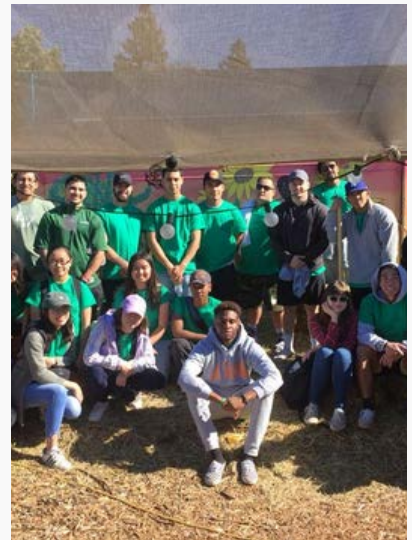
Volunteers spreading mulch at Jurupa Valley



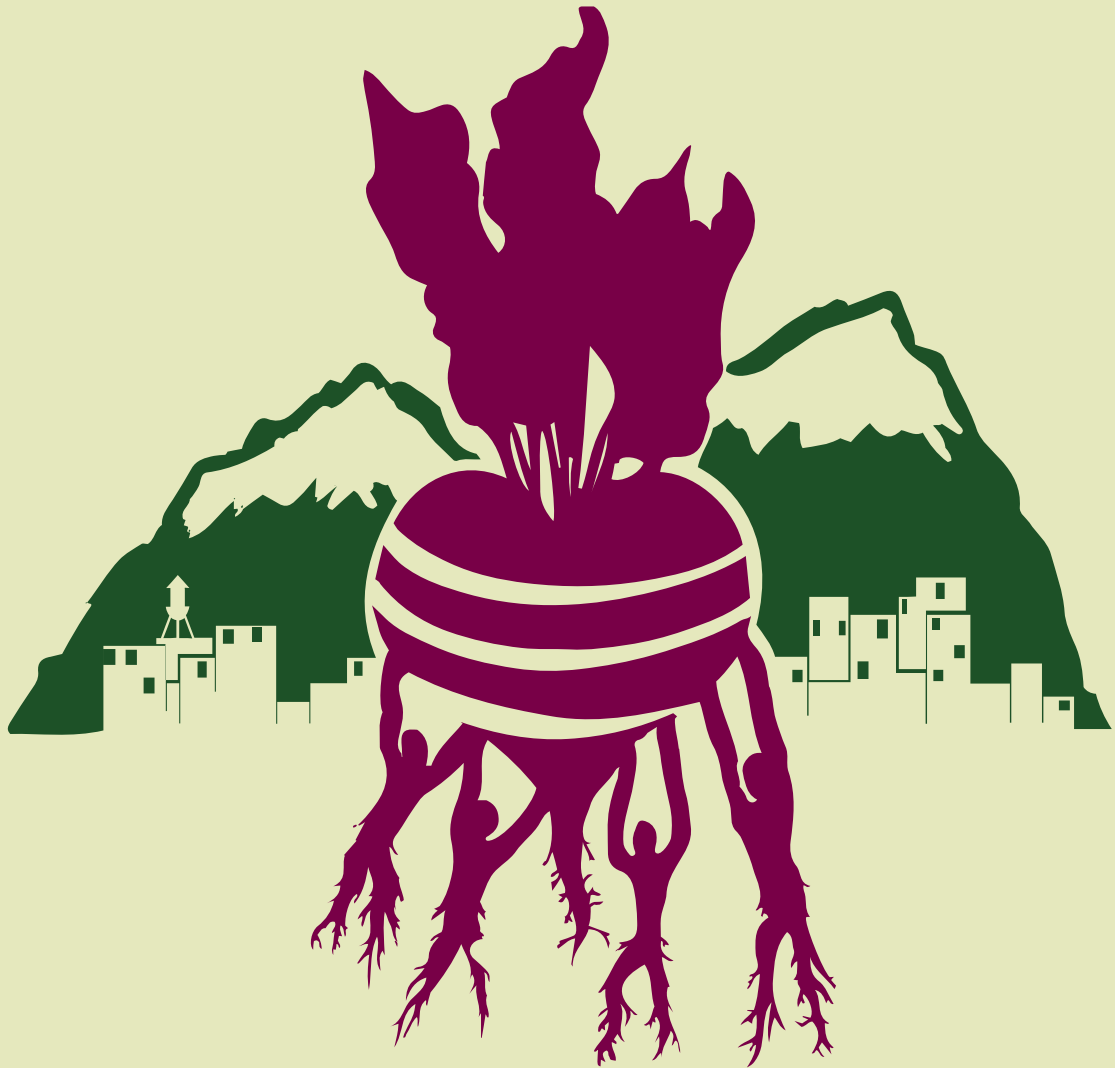
Produce bags donated during covid



Produce bags donated during covid



Volunteers at Huerta, Ontario



Huerta del Valle
jardín comunitario

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
WWW.HUERTADELVALLE.ORG | INFO@HUERTADELVALLE.ORG

