



Huerta del Valle Corporate Office
310 E. Philadelphia St #71
Ontario, CA 91761
Eng: 917-734-8108
Span: 909-509-2996

YEAR END REPORT: Gratitude and Emotion

July 1 2015- June 30 2016

Letter from CEO

I would first like to thank all of the people and organizations that make Huerta del Valle possible: my beautiful community, the City of Ontario, Pitzer College, Kaiser Permanente, and the UCI law clinic to name a few.

This year has been a year of great growth for our organization. Huerta del Valle completed our second year of being a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We are so thrilled to be growing and developing our capacity to implement our organizational mission. We feel excited and ready to take on all of our upcoming projects as we continue full steam ahead. We are so proud at what our community has been able to accomplish this last year. Our composting program has grown, our community garden has improved, our urban farm has produced and distributed more than ever before, and we have developed the framework for a number of educational programs to be housed at the garden.

All of this growth and new connections have come because of the huge amount of work that our community and partners have put into this project. Huerta del Valle is showing the fruits of multi-sector collaboration and we look forward to the upcoming year of bringing more partners into fold and serving the community even more effectively.

Maria Alonso – Executive Director



Programs and Activities:

3-year Anniversary

This year we celebrated our 3 years of building a community food hub in our city. We celebrated with a large event that was attended by over 700 people and featured local and regional music groups as well as organizations and delicious food prepared from the garden by gardeners.

Gala Dinner

We hosted two Gala-style dinners at the garden in October and June as a new fundraising strategy. Local chefs prepared 100% locally sourced meals with a majority of ingredients coming from the garden itself. Over 100 people attended the two events and it served as a great fundraising strategy for the garden as well as a way to make new



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connections in the community. Look out for our next Dinner events!

Community needs assessment

A powerful research tool was employed at Huerta del Valle this fall to better understand the fundamental community needs and struggles facing members of the garden. The results from this activity will greatly support future fundraising and strategizing allowing Huerta del Valle to better bring the resources needed to serve the community.

Farmers Markets

Huerta del Valle produced enough food this year to be able to participate in our first farmers Markets. We participated in four markets this year including Chino, Ontario Town Square, Upland Market Nights, and the Running Springs farmers market. This has been a great opportunity to bring



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in more income to the farm and spread our work to greater populations.

New Partnerships

Huerta del Valle has built some exciting new partnerships this year including with Cal Poly Pomona, University of Laverne, the Ontario City Library, and the NRCS and IERCD. We are thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with such institutions to bring more resources to each others' programs and enhance our impact on the region.



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The NRCS has worked with us to provide a grant to allow us to build our first “Season Extension High Tunnel.” We are thrilled to be able to put their resources towards growing better foods all year round.

Composting

Huerta del Valle has operated a composting operation since May 2013. Since then the composting at Huerta del Valle has educated hundreds about the benefits of composting and diverting food wastes from the landfills. The farm and gardens have been kept fertile with regular applications of the finished compost. This year we composted more than ever totally well over 500,000 lbs of organic wastes.

Urban Farming

Our urban farm is a 2.5 acre demonstration farm that serves four main purposes: 1) Farmer training, 2) Food production



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for sales off site at retail prices to generate needed resources for long term sustainability, 3) Production of high quality nutrient dense foods for access locally on site at affordable prices, and 4) Employment opportunities. This year was our best production year as we really saw reliable quality and availability of crops.

Community Gardening

Our community garden has served residents since July 2013. This year was no exception. With 60 families participating having plots we have been able to have a deep impact on their lives by creating access to the resources needed to grow their own fresh foods.

Education and Leadership Development

Huerta del Valle has hosted a weekly members' meeting every Monday since June 2013. This is an opportunity for members to develop not only as participants, but also as



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leaders. This year members elected a garden manager, organized monthly work-days, monthly pot-lucks, and helped to organize our 3 year Anniversary event. Since October 2013 selected members have acted as leaders within the garden helping to operate open hours as well as encourage their fellow gardeners. This year the leaders have been more organized than ever to lift the spirit of the garden and create a thriving community.

Abejas Youth

Our Youth Literacy Program called Abejas has continued to fluctuate in and out of session. It thrives when local college students spend time tutoring local youth in areas that they are struggling with in school and it has created wonderful garden-based activities for local children. We recognize the value of the program and will be seeking more resources to create a permanent educator position at the garden to keep the program consistent and expand it.



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Community Supported Agriculture

This summer we launched a pilot CSA program for 13 weeks (1 season). We has successes and lots to learn from. We had to stop the program after 1 season to regroup. We were thrilled to offer the program and know that we were serving a hyper-local customer base. That said we recognized the need to reorient our production practices to better serve the program and that a staff is needed to coordinate the effort given such high demand. We will be pursuing resources to bring a staff onboard next spring.





Our year in numbers

Food waste composted – 500,000 lbs

Produce harvested – 30,000 lbs

Farm sales - \$50,000

Families in the garden - 60

Visitors and volunteers - 1756

Workshops at the garden – 12

Weekly meetings - 50

Gardener/Community leadership roles - 8



Visit us and learn

Huerta del Valle is open to the public six days a week.

831 E. Belmont st. Ontario, CA 91761 on the West side of Bon View Park.

Open hours are 8am – 12pm and 4pm – 7pm subject to seasonal change.

Huerta del Valle has hosted tours for schools, foreign exchange students, young farmers, local nurses, university students, city officials, aspiring gardeners and many more. Contact us at info.huertadelvalle@gmail.com for volunteer opportunities and/or to schedule a tour.

Weekly meetings are held at the garden on Mondays one hour after the garden opens. These are open to the public and it is highly encouraged for you to attend.

Monthly meetings/workshops are held every third Monday of the month and are themed according to community input from the prior month.

Monthly workdays are also open to the public and usually take place one Saturday each month. Dates tba based on agreements at weekly meetings and announced via social media.



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Involvement opportunities

We will be creating a website in 2017. Look out for it and more ways to get involved.

Follow us on facebook and instagram for the latest information on events and ways to be a part of this movement.

Contact us via email: mariaalonso1223@gmail.com or artmaxlev@gmail.com

For any inquiries related to our Froms 990 or other public information related to organizational finances please contact: mariaalonso1223@gmail.com or artmaxlev@gmail.com



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Notable Awards

American Planning Association Regional and State Level “Grassroots Initiative Award.”

Sub-Grantee of Kaiser Permanente HEAL Zone Grant Phase II

“Certificates of recognition of excellence” from Ontario City Council, Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, San Bernardino County Supervisors office, and Congresswoman Norma Torres.

