



HUERTA DEL VALLE

JUNE 2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by: Maria Alonso, Arthur Levine, and Andre ChenFeng

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

¡Bienvenidas! 2018-2019 has been a fruitful season of growth for Huerta del Valle. With the generous support of our funders and successful partnerships, we have secured four more locations (about 30 acres of land) to continue our vision of becoming an innovative model for community farming in the Inland Empire region.

I am proud of the work we have done together as a community, surpassing all obstacles that have challenged me and our organization. In light of the significant growth in size, I am aware of the need to intentionally create **sustainable practices** for the organization so that the staff's wellbeing is also being met.

Looking to 2020, our staff is excited to deepen our community partnerships to collectively promote the values of **justice, respect, support, and responsibility** with the environment.

As we strive to reimagine what our urban farms can look like in our community, let us remember that the work of social justice starts with our own healing as individuals.



Maria Alonso - Executive Director

WHERE ARE WE NOW

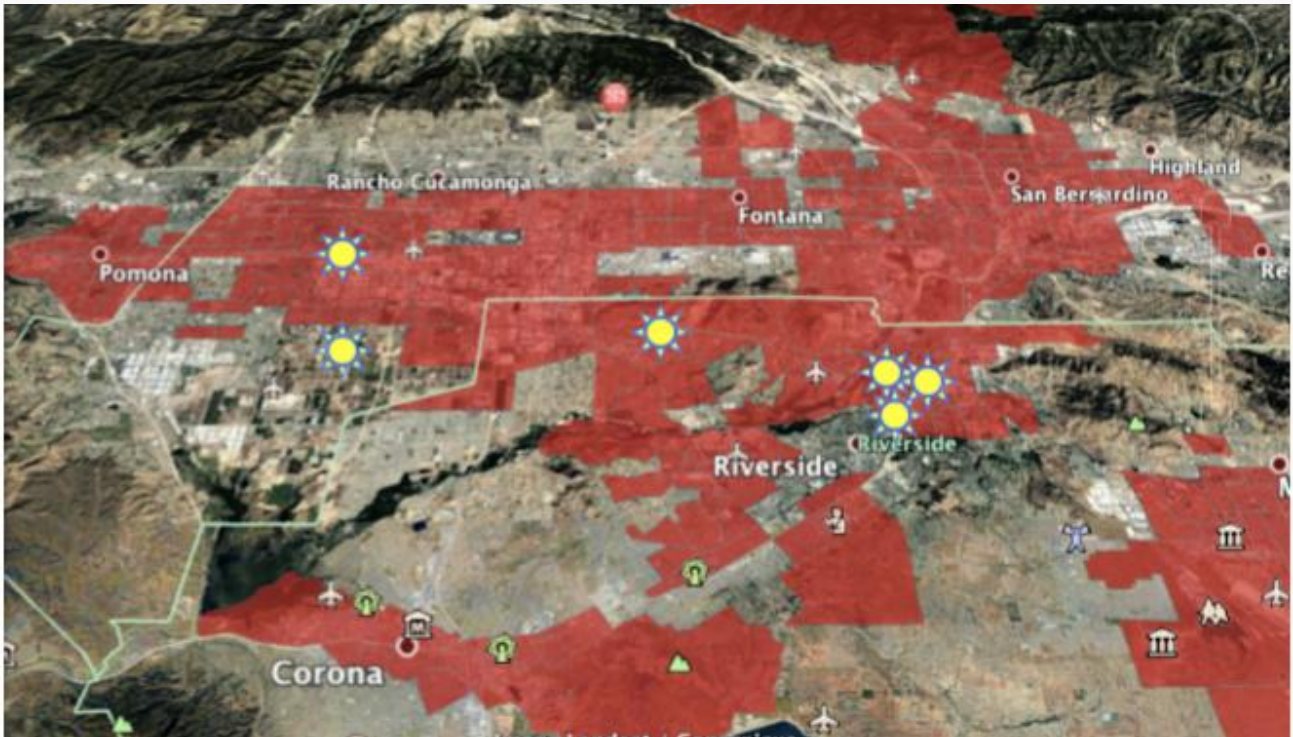
Huerta del Valle has experienced unprecedented growth in the fiscal year 2018-2019. HDV is on the verge of becoming a regionally impactful organization and is in the process of the ever necessary “replication” and “scaling” of its work. HDV enjoyed many successes in terms of growth, development, and fundraising this year as well as missed the mark of some and faced some challenges. As with every success, there are ever-growing responsibilities and needs.

Huerta del Valle is thrilled to continue to offer community garden plots to 60 families and programming to hundreds more at our flagship site in Ontario. We are proud to continue to offer produce boxes and affordable markets to the public so that all people can enjoy fresh food. We are extremely proud of our community for becoming more and more involved this year with 30+ attendees at our regular monthly garden meetings and events. We are inspired by the growth of our second community garden in Jurupa Valley with over 15 plots occupied and we are anxious to develop our three other sites in Riverside County as incubator farms.

With our ongoing educational programs and our highly successful new farmer training program we know we are having impact with people in our community. Where we are now is an amazing moment almost right as a seed is about to sprout. We can't wait for what 2019-2020 will hold.



ONE GARDEN EVERY MILE



Map of socially disadvantaged communities in the inland region and and Huerta del Valle's planned project sites:

Our vision of building *one garden every mile* and transforming our urban landscape into one that is equitable address systemic inequity in our vulnerable local communities. Our work offers affordable access to the highest quality foods through sustainable land management and pushing the emerging industry of green collar food system jobs. We believe this vision will create a unique opportunity for Huerta del Valle and for our region to serve as an innovative model of sustainable environmental justice in the region and nationally.

Ontario Flagship Community Garden


Jurupa Valley Community Garden

TCC - Carbon Farm Project Composting Project

Riverside Co - Jensen Alvarado

Riverside Co - Crestmore Manor

Riverside Co - Rubidoux Nature Center Collaborative Project

A long table covered with a white tablecloth is set for an outdoor meal in a lush garden. The table is arranged with white plates, glasses, and water bottles. A centerpiece of vibrant flowers, including red and yellow blooms, runs down the length of the table. The garden is filled with various plants, trees, and a string of white lights hanging above the table. The scene is bathed in natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

*“A garden is a grand teacher.
It teaches patience and careful watchfulness;
it teaches industry and thrift; above all
it teaches entire trust”*

-Gertrude Jekyll

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION AT HDV

Mission

HDV sees education as a vital aspect of understanding our role as human participants in a dynamic and interconnected world. HDV is committed to cultivating the consciousness of individuals in relation to our communities, our environment and ourselves.

Strategy

Our strategy is to engage children, youth, and adults in analyzing critical issues and involve them in active problem solving. HDV plans to accomplish this by facilitating classes, internships, trainings, field trips, and workshops.

Saving Poppy Seeds



Harvesting Food they Grew



Superbloom



Youth Gardening



Worm Composting



Winter Solstice Planispheres



Butternut Squash Pie



NEW FARMER TRAINING

In May 2019, we started our inaugural class for our *New Farmer* training program at the Crestmore site in Riverside County. This site also serves as an **incubator farm sites** for program graduates. Graduates will be able to rent up to an acre of land on one of the sites for up to five years as they launch their own farm start-up business. This program is the first of its kind in the Inland Valley and represents a long-term effort of HDV to access land for farmers, grow the local food system, and create job opportunities for socially disadvantaged communities through farming, and sustainably steward land.



Pictured above: Arthur Levine (3rd from left), HDV Project Manager provides hands-on training for new farmers at the Riverside Crestmore site

NUTRITION CLASSES AT HDV

The nutrition series, *Reclaiming Our Health, Reclaiming Our Food* was launched in January 2019 at the HDV Community Garden in Ontario with a returning nutrition instructor Beatriz.

Participants signed up for the donation-based program for Winter and Spring. Although our hopes were that participants would complete the entire series, we are finding that a few participants are able to commit to this. To increase community engagement, we are now exploring the possibility of offering topical classes individually in the coming year.

Grocery Store Treasure Hunt



Nixtamalized Tortillas

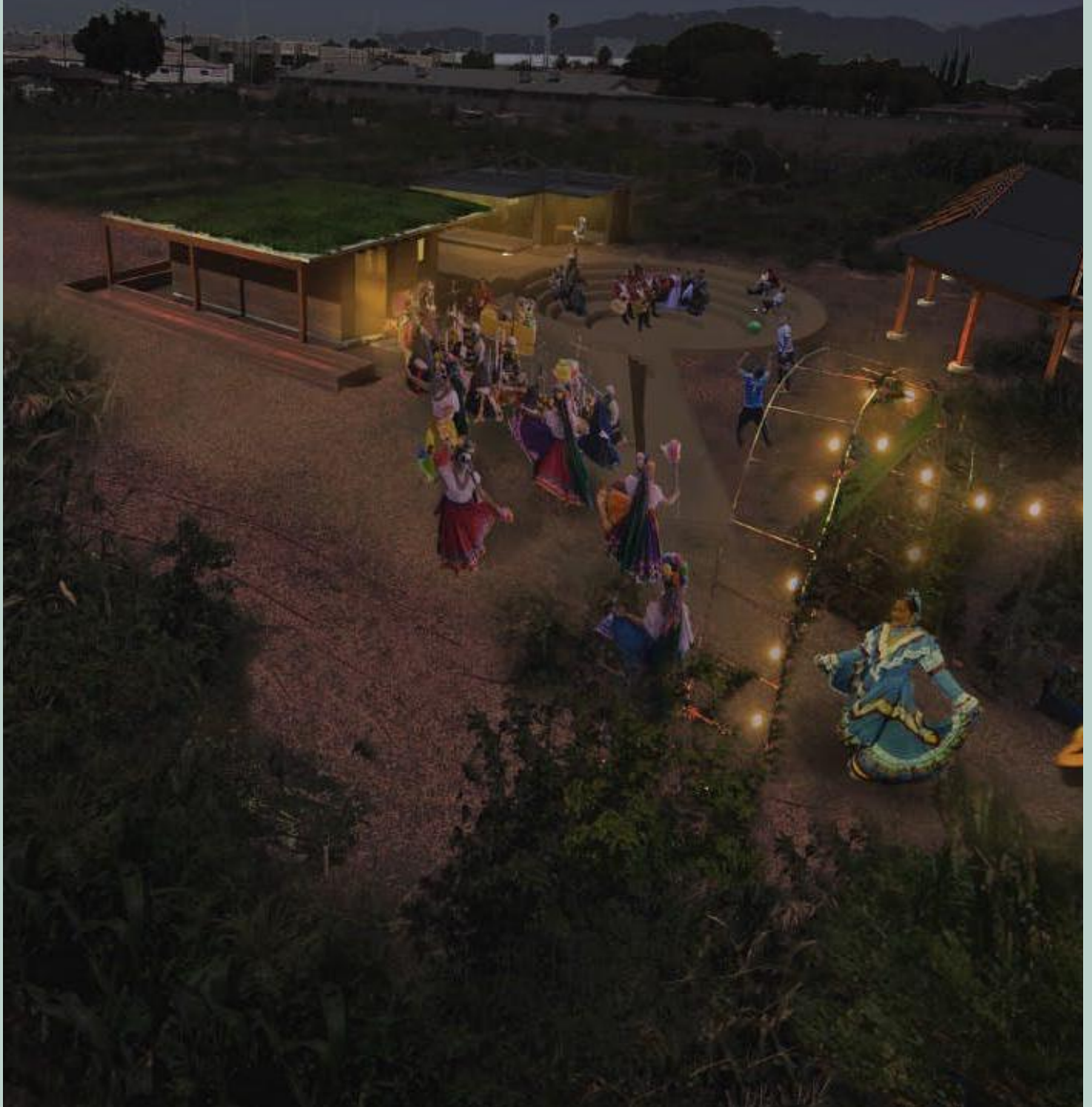


Harvesting and Pickling Vegetables



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

– Arthur Levine



HDV COMMUNITY GARDEN IN JURUPA VALLEY



Ingrid Salazar, one of the founding farmers in Jurupa Valley.

In April 2019, we celebrated the inaugural opening of our second site, **Huerta del Valle Community Garden in Jurupa Valley**. The project was started in December 2017 and is being developed to be a replica of our flagship community garden in Ontario.

There has been significant progress in bringing to life for the four-acre space. We have over 150 fruit trees on site, many of which were donated to us by *Dave Wilson Nurseries*.

There are currently **fifteen** families gardening on our new site, and we have room to triple that amount in the coming year. They have planted crops including strawberries, collard greens, radishes, mustard, dill, arugula, potatoes, and watermelon.

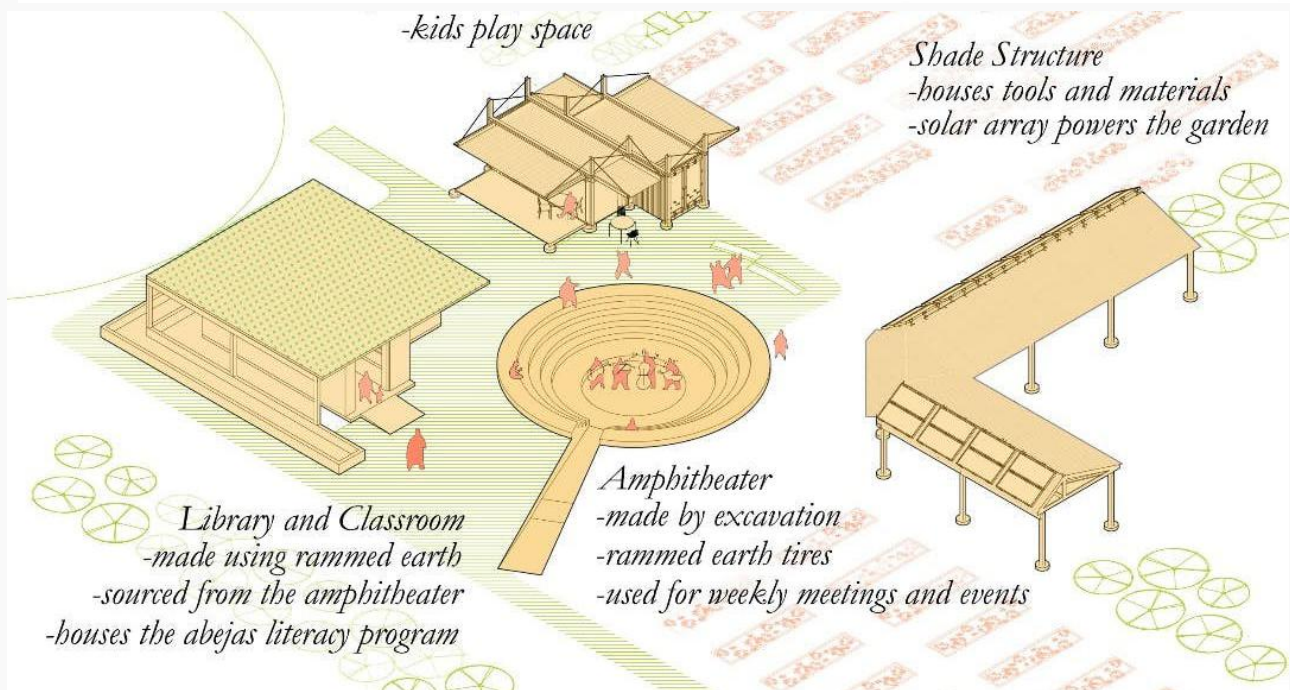
One of Huerta's closest partners is the *Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD)*. With their support, we were able to construct an on-site **Native Plant Nursery** in which we now have dozens of different species of native California plants

New Project Sites!

Through partnership, Huerta del Valle has been able to gain access to significant land resources in FY 2018-2019 to replicate and scale our work and create more land access for new farmers and communities.



UPDATE: THE DREAM OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN



Back in January 2016, architecture students Hana L., Necils L., and Kirill V. launched a successful Kickstarter campaign to reimagine what a community garden can look like and feel like. The team's innovative plans include the use of rammed earth construction, recycled shipping containers, and solar power. These environmental features complemented HDV's vision for the new education building to become a transformative space where it will connect community members to resources as they connect to one another. In June 2019, with great excitement Necil and Kirill shared their plan with the city of Ontario. The building's anticipated completion date is in Spring 2021.

PROGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

HDV Impact

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

1,728

**NUMBER OF HOURS COMPLETED
BY YOUTH INTERNS**

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

23

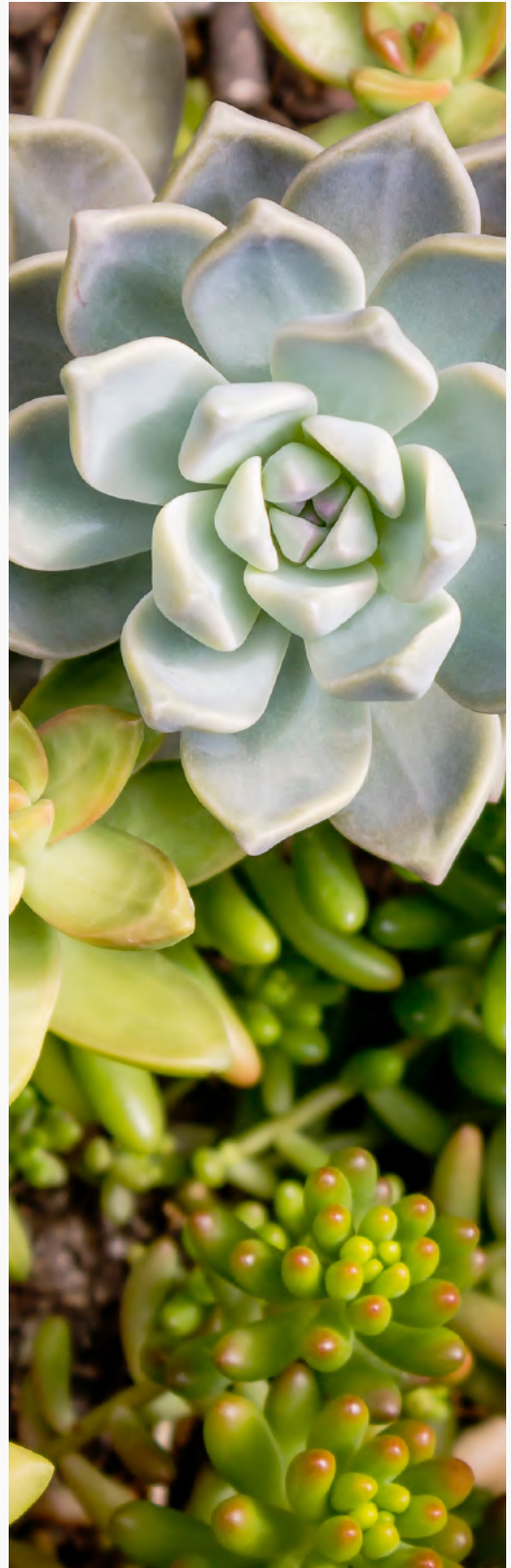
NEW FARMERS IN TRAINING

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

\$454,500

AMOUNT RAISED IN FY 2018-2019

Number includes grants, in-kind donations, and fellowships.



CSA PROGRAM AND ORGANIZATION SUSTAINABILITY

Huerta del Valle seeks to expand our impact as an organization. This growth, however, may be difficult given the current resources and funding available, creating a need for an improved **Community Supported Agriculture**. We sought help from Los Angeles Community Impact (LACI) to make our CSA program and the incredible resources HDV provides more integral to our community.



TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Our CSA aims and goals for 2020 are based on the findings from the LACI program development report. The report's recommendations support the sustainable functions and growth of the CSA Program and will help HDV to accomplish our goals while fulfilling our mission. Each building block addressed below will empower the Ontario community to be more involved in supporting the functions of HDV, which was a key challenge addressed in the report. Overcoming barriers of resources and staff through these recommendations will help better answer our key question:

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

Short Term



Long Term



Organizational
Changes



Digital
Resources



Community
Partners



Volunteers and
Coordinators



Incentives for
Growth

GOALS FOR CSA GOALS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

CSA Target Numbers:

To produce and sell 200+ boxes per week

Increase options within the CSA to make it more attractive to customers.

Grow our weekly markets to 100 customers per week

Organizational Sustainability

Tap into human capital and physical resources the community is willing to give.

Community Buy-In

Provide a platform for community voice in the program and increase incentives to encourage others to join.

Organizational Sustainability

Work to rene organization guiding documents to actively align with com needs after a refreshed community scan.

Develop strong policies and procedures for organizational operations.

Continue to seek diverse funding sources.

Continue to build partnerships across sectors to support the work

Implement more non-grant fundraising.

Leveraging Resources

Work to levearge funds we already have to access buy-in and support from other funders. Use current grants as match for other grants.

Work with partners to support initial capital investments in new projects while grants reimbursements come.

Thank you

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

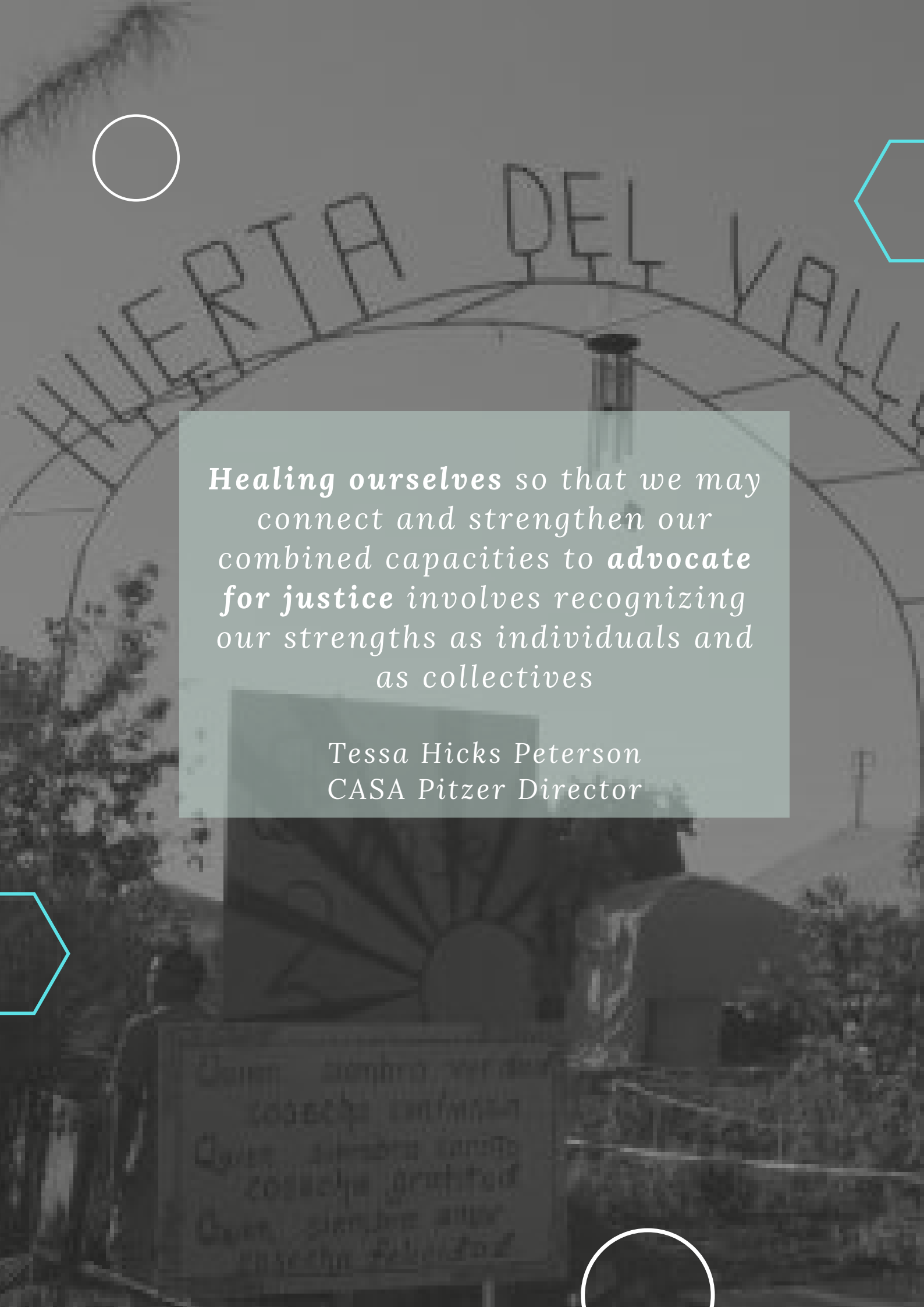
THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FUNDERS

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
Kaiser Permanente
Loma Linda University Health
Metropolitan Water District
Multinational Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture
NRCS-Redlands(Inland Empire)
Offices of Freddie Rodriguez
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

Thank you to so many more who have our backs!

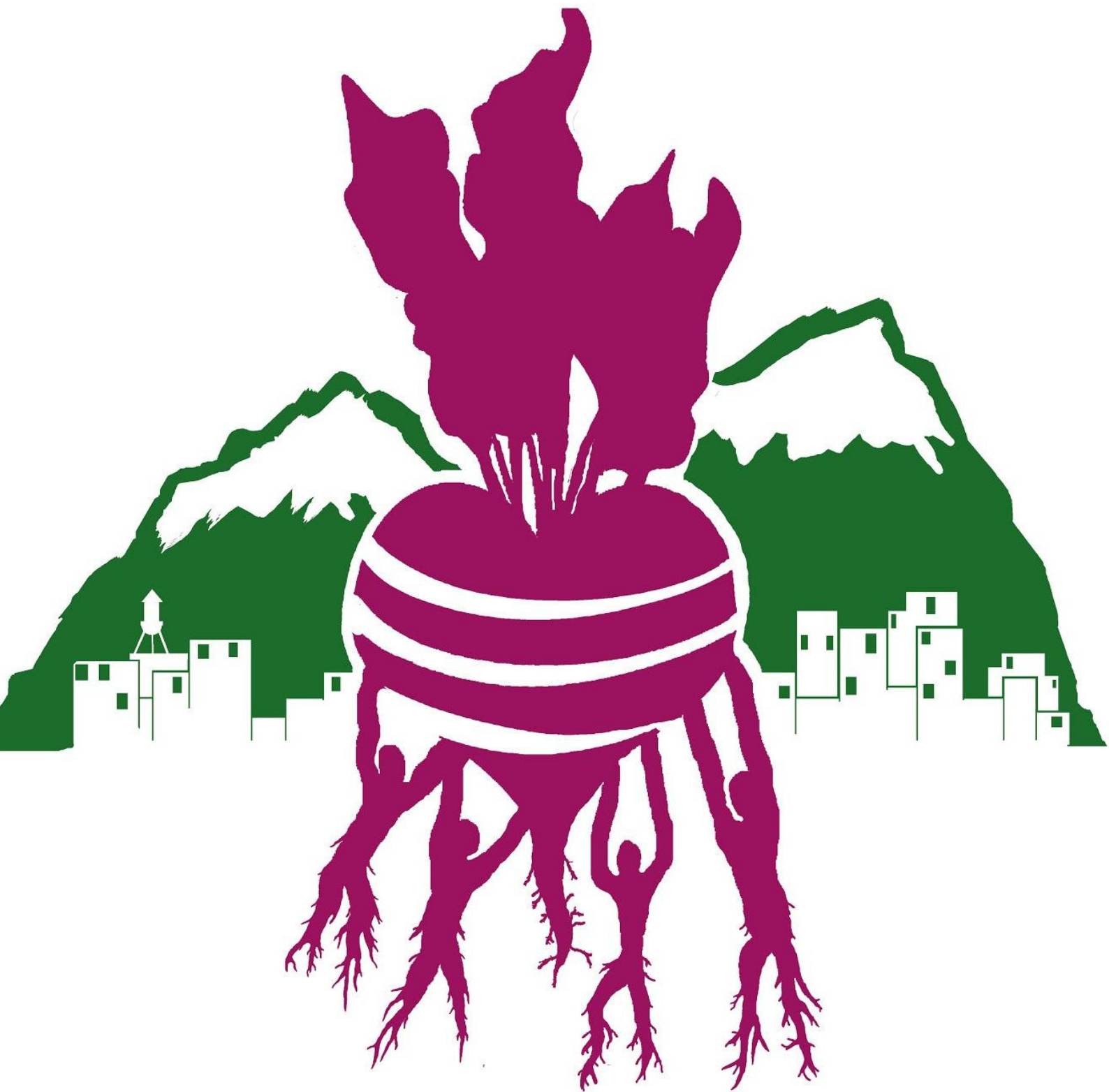
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS





*Healing ourselves so that we may
connect and strengthen our
combined capacities to **advocate
for justice** involves recognizing
our strengths as individuals and
as collectives*

Tessa Hicks Peterson
CASA Pitzer Director



Huerta del Valle

jardín comunitario

Keep in touch

www.huertadelvalle.org

ig: @huertadelvalle

info@huertadelvalle.org

fb:Huerta del Valle Community Garden