

FED Urban Agriculture Society

FED

# IMPACT REPORT

2025

CRA #: 75333 1339 RR 0001



## **FED's Mission**

To create **high-impact** urban food systems projects that contribute to an **equitable** and **regenerative** future

# ABOUT FED

FED Urban Agriculture is a charity that creates high impact urban food systems projects that meaningfully connect Victorians to local food through innovation and genuine engagement. For over 10 years, FED has explored the gaps and opportunities of southern Vancouver Island's food system.

## The 3 main pillars of our work are:

- Food Access

## Helping vulnerable populations grow food.

- Garden Creation

## Establishing gardens on underutilized urban land.

- Education
- Creating low-barrier learning opportunities.



# OUR TEAM



**BRIANNA STEWART**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



**ASH WHELAN**  
PROGRAM MANAGER &  
FARM OPERATIONS



**SARAH  
MASTROMONACO**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR



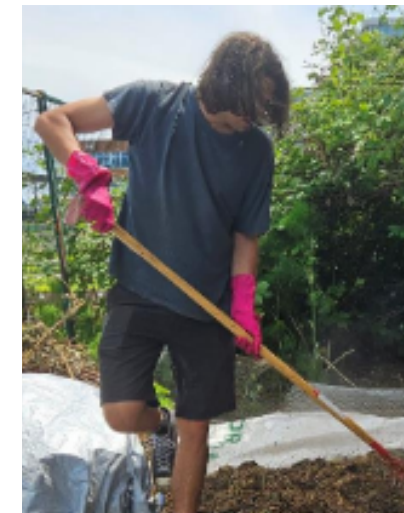
**LIAM SIMCIC**  
FARM SUPERVISOR



**ALISTAIR HOWES**  
SPECIAL PROJECTS &  
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



**MADISEN DRUYTS**  
GRANTS COORDINATOR



**BRODIE FORREST**  
FARM TECHNICIAN &  
PROJECT COORDINATOR



# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



# OUR BOARD



**JILLIAN DOUCETTE**  
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



**BEN CLARK**  
BOARD CHAIR



**STEPHANIE JACOB**  
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



**JUDITH EITHER**  
TREASURER



**CALEN MCNEIL**  
DIRECTOR - AT- LARGE



**LIZA COUSE**  
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



**STARR MCMICHAEL**  
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



**KYLE EMPRINGHAM**  
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

# 2025 IMPACT-AT-A-GLANCE



**10,000+ lbs**

Food grown across  
all programs in  
2025



**5300**

Community members  
engaged through  
tours, events,  
volunteers &  
programs in 2025



**20+**

New and ongoing  
partners to our  
work



**7**

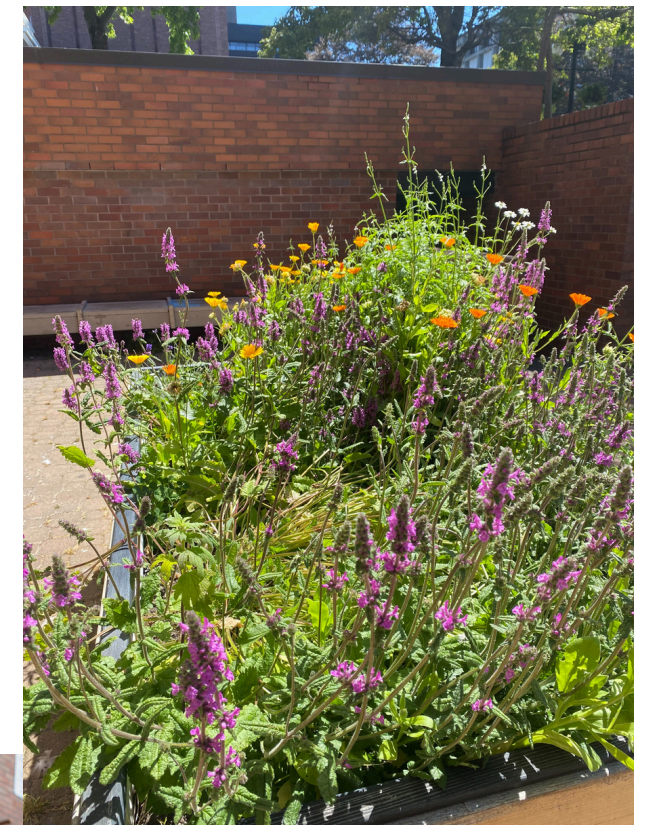
Months of food  
production across  
the city.



# DEMONSTRATION GARDENS



The **Urban Learning Garden** located in Victoria's downtown core, is a space that aims to promote a **balanced relationship between society and nature** through educational events, and community engagement.



# FED URBAN FARM

**FED Urban Farm** (formerly Topsoil Urban Agriculture) was acquired in February of 2024 by FED Urban Agriculture. The farm is **situated** on top of a **contaminated brownfield site** using **modular** geotextile grow bags that can be adapted to any size or scale.

FED Urban Farm operates as a **dual** social enterprise and demonstration site that **showcases** sustainable food systems, **engages** with and **educates** the public, and **provides** fresh healthy vegetables to surrounding restaurants and community.

25,000  
square  
feet

Growing Space

over 70  
crop  
varieties

Cultivation

80 CSA  
program  
members

Membership

24 tours &  
engagement  
events

Community

1500+  
pounds of  
food  
donated

Donations

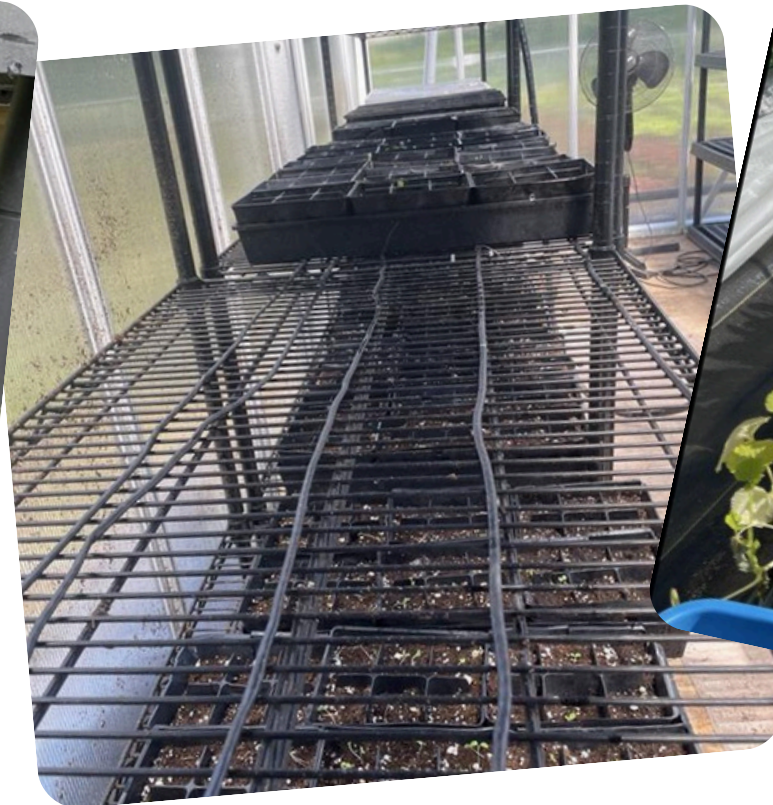


# EXPANDING SPACE, EXPANDING IMPACT

In 2025, FED received funding from the Federal grant, **Local Food Infrastructure Fund**. Funding allowed us to increase space at FED Urban Farm **expanding crop production by 3000 sqft** and increasing our capacity to grow **twelve total cultural crops** for community members!

“Access to infrastructure funding through LFIF supported not only farm expansion, but also enhanced our ability to utilize the land and water more efficiently by introducing drip irrigation, heating mats for our nursery, and hoop houses. Now we can grow more food for longer”

- FED Urban Farm Manager



# CATALYST YOUTH PROGRAM

The **purpose** of the Catalyst Program is to **empower youth-facing-barriers** with the skills and experience needed to launch a career in urban agriculture, food systems and entrepreneurship.

We remove barriers by providing *earn-while-you-learn* training and skill development experiences that **build skills, confidence, connection, and shared narratives** for a prosperous future. 2025 was a piloted launch of this program and we look forward to carrying this work into 2026.



12.7%

BC Youth Unemployment Rate (December 2025)

Less than 10%

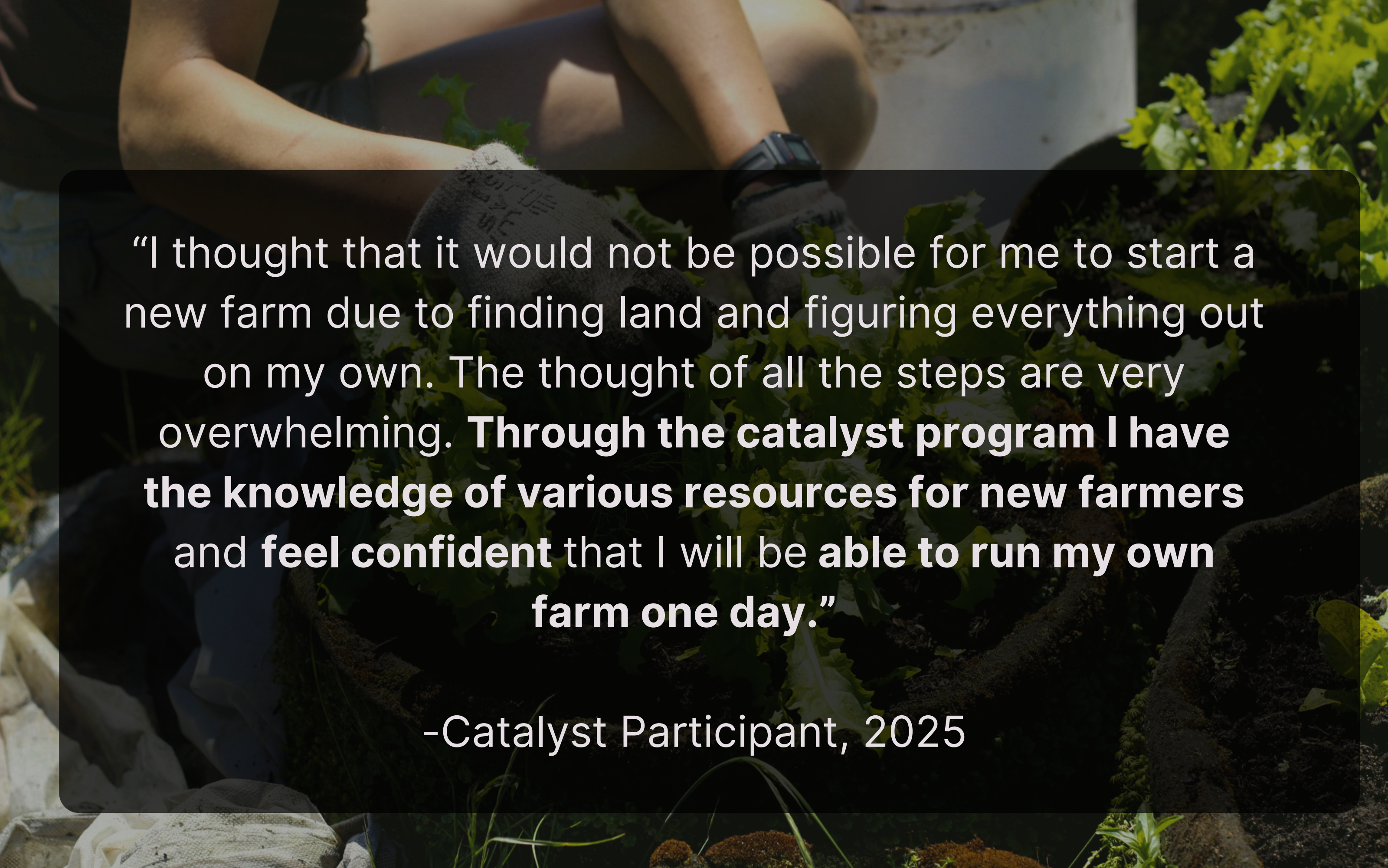
Of farmers in Canada are under age 35.

95%

Catalyst Program Completion Rate in 2025

# CATALYST INTERNS 2025





“I thought that it would not be possible for me to start a new farm due to finding land and figuring everything out on my own. The thought of all the steps are very overwhelming. **Through the catalyst program I have the knowledge of various resources for new farmers and feel confident that I will be able to run my own farm one day.**”

-Catalyst Participant, 2025

# ROOFTOP GARDENS

**Our rooftop gardens have transformed underutilized urban spaces into productive growing hubs where we produce fresh healthy vegetables for vulnerable populations.**

## OUR PLACE SOCIETY

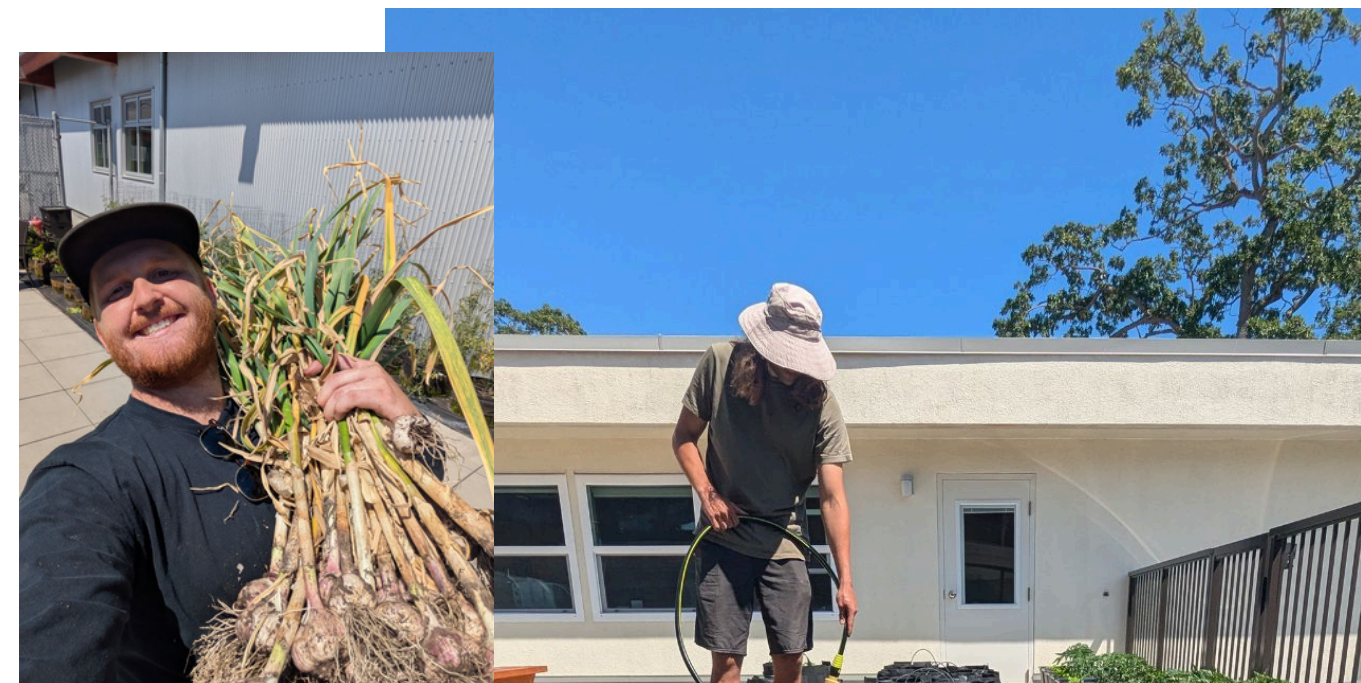
The produce grown on the rooftop garden, installed by FED in 2021, is used in the 1400+ meals Our Place provides daily. In 2025 we,

- We increased the growing space size
- Focused on key crops to improve kitchen use
- Upgraded growing materials, tools and storage

## SONGHEES WELLNESS CENTER

The herbs and vegetables harvested from the rooftop are given away to the community through their salad bar program and local distribution networks.

- We increased the growing space size
- Focused on key crops to improve kitchen use
- Upgraded growing materials, tools and storage



**785 pounds of food produced on FED rooftops in 2025!**

# MY FED FARM

2025 saw the return of the **My FED Farm** program, after a pause in 2024. This program is **pivotal** to the work FED has achieved in the community

Through **collaboration** with our many community partners, we were able to deliver garden kits to newcomers to Canada, community support workers, indigenous communities and others. By providing modular garden containers, soil, seeds, plant starts and education, **we provided people with the tools to grow their own food.**



24.4%

of British Columbians experience food insecurity

50%

Of Food Bank usage on Vancouver Island is by women.

44%

of British Columbians used a food bank in 2025.



**“Having garden kits from FED was invaluable.  
This program bridges a gap so community  
members can access the resources they need  
to grow food at home.”**

**-Kayla, Songhees Nation Food Coordinator**

# FEEDING FAMILIES

**Did you know?** Food Banks Canada reports that food bank usage has increased by 90% since March 2019.

Through our FED Feeding Families program, we partnered with **Vic West Community Association & Food Security Collective** to provide families with bi-weekly veggie boxes. Food donations also supported community organizations included, **Sandy Merriman House, Community Food Support, Iyé Creative, Rainbow Kitchen & Red Cedar Cafe.**



6  
Program  
Partners

100+  
pounds  
of food

10  
families  
supported

FED

# ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, we engaged with over **5000 community members** through community events, presentations, and tours. We welcomed over **1000 visitors** to our farm and we engaged with **4000 community** members across the region!

## Montessori School Visit

At FED, it is important to us to engage children in youth with hands-on food growing experiences. In doing so, children gain valuable life skills, strengthen their connection to nature, and foster an appreciation for healthy, local food.

**In September 2020**, our community gathered at the first annual FED Farm Harvest Dinner to close out summer in the best way possible! Guests wandered the rows, played lawn games, and bid on local treasures in the silent auction, all while helping us reach our annual funding goal. A big shout-out to the local businesses that supported our silent auction!

“From the drawing of the plants, to scavenger hunt and tasting new plants harvested in front of our eyes... We loved the farm and felt inspired from our experience. I would definitely bring my class back here!”

-Grade 1 & 2 Teacher,  
Montessori School



# THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



## 2025 SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS:

- INN AT LAUREL POINT
- STUDIO 106
- THE LAB YOGA
- YESHI DRESSINGS
- MALAHAT SKYWALK
- BUTCHART GARDENS
- MERRIDALE CIDERY
- 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET BAR AND GRILL
- VESSEL LIQUOR
- MARKET COLLECTIVE
- COLD COMFORT
- PUZZLE LAB
- FLAVOUR
- BELLE GENERAL
- DUMPLING DROP
- BOLEN BOOKS
- FIRE UP! CERAMICS
- FERNWOOD INN
- CHERRY POINT ESTATE WINES
- MUNRO'S BOOKS
- HAVN
- FLOAT HOUSE VICTORIA
- PIZZERIA PRIMA STRADA
- CENOTE
- TRACTOR FOODS
- PENDRAY INN AND TEAHOUSE

# GRATITUDE FOR OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

