

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



CITY FARM SLO STAFF

Kayla Rutland, Executive Director
Kate Ditrani, Farm Operations Coordinator
Sequoia Colvin, Farm Education Coordinator
Shane Lovell, Strategic Farm Advisor
Sarah Raines, Administrative Assistant
Clare Beezhold, Farmer
Emma McLaren, Farm Educator

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Dear Friends,

This past year brought significant challenges for nonprofits and the broader community, yet thanks to your support, City Farm SLO has continued to expand our impact. In 2025, we made a concerted effort to grow our community and education programs to expand access to the life-changing experiences that the farm provides. Because of your generosity, each of these new initiatives has flourished.

Our Pay-What-You-Can Farm Stand, launched in summer 2025, broadened local access to fresh, sustainably grown produce while supporting our youth programs and tenant farmers. The stand allows community members to take home nutrient-rich food at little or no cost while farmers are still paid a fair price for their high-quality produce.

Our Junior Farmer Summer Camp and After School Programs offered a new way for local youth to experience the farm. We've become a lively hub for hands-on learning through community events such as Family Cook Nights, farm skills workshops, and culinary classes offered in partnership with local chefs.

At the same time, our core programs continue to deepen their reach. More than 1,000 K-12 students visited the farm through our school programs, and 41 teens graduated from our Youth Empowerment Program. On the agricultural side, we expanded our regenerative growing space, producing over 14,500 pounds of food, more than 10,400 pounds of which were donated to local food banks and pantries.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower youth to live healthier lives through farm-based education. Especially in light of federal funding cuts, your continued support is more important than ever. Sending sincere thanks to our volunteers, donors, staff, interns, and partners for standing with us in this work.

With gratitude,



Kayla Rutland
KAYLA RUTLAND
Executive Director



Gina Brausch
GINA BRAUSCH
Board Chair

2024-2025 IMPACTS AT A GLANCE



EMPOWERING YOUTH

1,048 YOUTH IN OUR PROGRAMS

901 children participated in Farm Field Trips

41 teens graduated from the Youth Empowerment Program

39 youth participated in weekly Therapeutic Horticulture



INCREASING FOOD SECURITY

14,527 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

10,430 pounds were donated to local food banks & pantries

15% of produce at our Pay-What-You-Can Farm Stand was provided at no cost



ENAGAGING COMMUNITY

237 VOLUNTEERS ON THE FARM

5,788 volunteer hours were completed on the farm

822 community members participated in educational events, workshops, and tours



SUPPORTING FARMERS

42 FARMERS CONNECTED

19 acres of land were organically farmed by the City Farmer collaborative

5 Members of the City Farmer Collaborative sold produce in new markets



GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION



MEET OSHAN!

Oshan has been participating in weekly sessions at City Farm SLO for the last four years as a part of the Therapeutic Horticulture Program. Oshan says, *"I like to clean the chicken coop, collect eggs, and water plants. I like cooking on the farm and sharing with my friends"*

Rob Robertson, Education Specialist, notes *"The farm helps our students see that everyone has something meaningful to contribute. Having something tangible to show for their work gives students such a sense of value and purpose."*

JUNIOR FARMERS PROGRAM LAUNCH

In 2025, we launched the *Junior Farmers Summer Camp*. Campers spent a week gardening, caring for our animals, exploring Prefumo Creek, and learning all about regenerative farming. This program is particularly exciting because it expands opportunities for students to participate in immersive experiences at City Farm outside of their school day.

The program was so well received that it evolved into our *Junior Farmer's After School Program*, offered year round and twice-weekly.





In the 2024-2025 academic year, **901 students** visited City Farm for Farm Field Trips where they explored concepts in plant science, soils, nutrition, and food literacy.

"It is so wonderful to have a working farm that students can visit! Our students loved the animals. It's such a gift that you let them eat the food you are growing, and expose them to the different tastes."

-Alexandra Bacle, 4th Grade Teacher

This year, City Farm SLO celebrated the **5th year of our Youth Empowerment Program** for underserved teens. Since inception of the program in 2021, **173 teens graduated from the program**, and **8 alumni completed paid summer internships on the farm**. As a result of programming, 94% of graduates had increased access to and intake of fruits and vegetables, 96% of graduates reported improvements to their mental health, and 100% of graduates reported that they are more prepared for employment.

"I definitely feel so much more confident in my time management. Coming everyday to YEP and seeing the whiteboard filled up with the schedule for the day makes me feel relaxed in knowing what to prepare for. It has made me create my own schedule at home, making it easier for me to go to bed early and get the rest I need."

- YEP Graduate

4,947

Individual Instruction Hours were delivered in our youth programs

1,048

Students were enrolled in our youth programs

COLLEGE CORPS FELLOWSHIPS



The **College Corps Program** provides debt-free pathways to higher education while providing a meaningful opportunity for Fellows to serve their community. City Farm has hosted Fellows in partnership with Cal Poly and Cuesta since 2022.

Meet Moises! When Moises joined the College Corps program at City Farm SLO, he was eager to step beyond his comfort zone. "I wanted to gain more work experience... and connect with people," he shared. Having previously worked alongside his dad at an equestrian facility, Moises saw the farm as a chance to build new skills and confidence.

Through his service, Moises has become an integral part of City Farm's work to grow food for the community. One of his proudest moments came while delivering produce to the SLO Food Bank: "I felt really good... maybe it's something I planted and helped grow. That made me feel proud of myself."

"The Food Bank delivery was really special. Knowing that something I helped grow could feed someone made me proud of what I'm doing."

-Moises Cisneros

18

College Corps Fellows served at City Farm in the 2024-2025 Academic Year

8,192

Service hours completed by College Corps Fellows at City Farm in 2024-2025





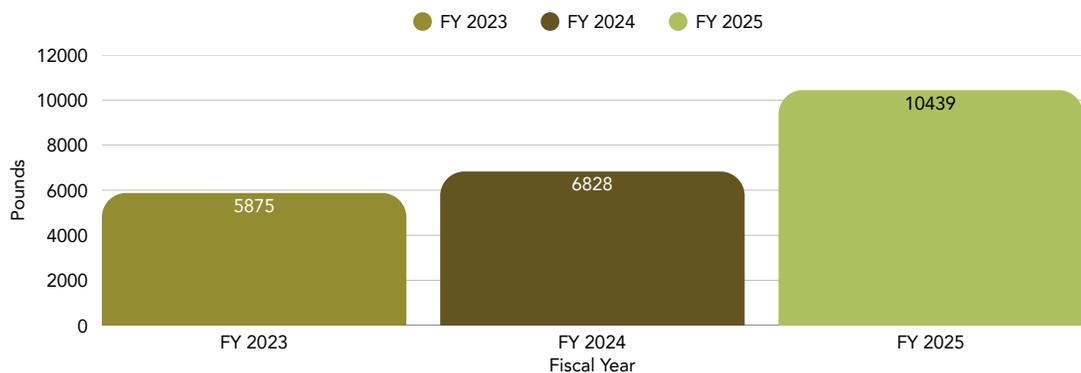
INCREASING LOCAL FOOD ACCESS

In August 2025, we launched the **Pay-What-You-Can Farm Stand** to make fresh, local food accessible to **everyone** while creating an additional sales outlet for our tenant farmers. In the first month of operation, **15% of Farm Stand produce was provided to customers at no cost.**

"The Farm Stand has been my go-to for fresh fruit and veggies all summer. I know what I find is grown organically right there on the property. I also appreciate their pay-what-you-can option for the times when funds are a little tight." - Farm Stand Customer

As our yields increase, so do our donations to local food relief organizations. In 2024-2025, we delivered **10,439 pounds** of produce to local food banks and pantries. Our team collaborates with food relief organizations to understand which produce items are in greatest demand, and grow accordingly. We believe that **everyone deserves access to nutritious, high quality foods.**

Pounds of Produce Donated to Food Banks and Pantries





ENABLING SMALL-SCALE FARMERS



The City Farm Collaborative provides training, technical assistance, and marketing services to the tenant farmers operating at City Farm SLO. In 2024-2025 the Farmer Collaborative increased sales for tenant farmers by \$16,320.

"Because of extra income from the Farm Stand, I can invest in new plants, build hoop houses, and try growing new crops." – Farmer Frank

With funding from the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program Grant, City Farm SLO convened regional farmers and technical assistance providers for three gatherings addressing **Disaster Relief Funding, the Sustainable Ground Water Management Act, and Food Safety**. Participants learned directly from subject matter experts and shared best practices with one another.



\$16,320

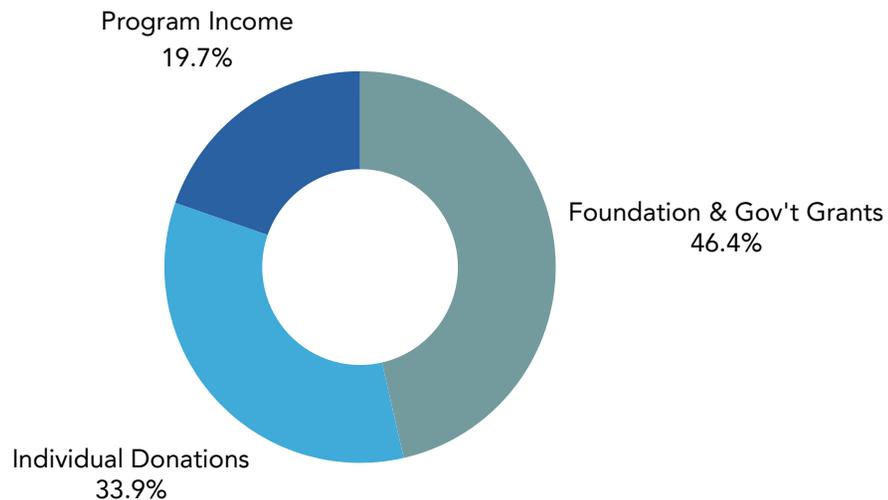
Sales increase via the City Farmer Collaborative

87

Regional farmers and technical assistance providers gathered for educational events

FINANCIAL GROWTH

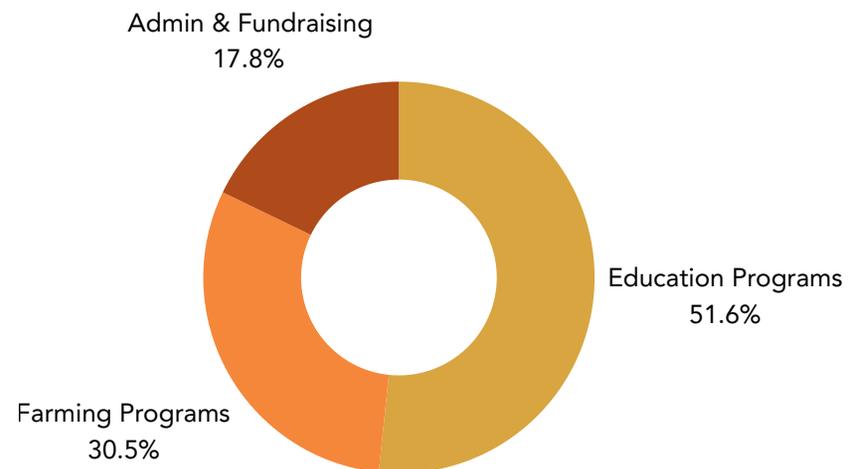
2024-2025 Fiscal Year Revenue



In Fiscal Year 2024–2025, City Farm SLO’s income exceeded expenses, reflecting a year of strong community support and strategic financial stewardship. Total income was \$538,576, with \$377,913 in expenses.

The resulting surplus is being intentionally set aside to **build reserves as we prepare for a year of economic uncertainty** and changes in public funding. These reserves will strengthen our long-term sustainability and allow us to **expand staff capacity** to deliver more programs for youth, adults, and community members across San Luis Obispo County.

2024-2025 Fiscal Year Expenses



OUR WORK DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT!

- Make a [donation](#)
- Become a [Friend of the Farm](#) with a monthly gift
- Our local business community is invited to support our work by becoming a [Corporate Partner](#)
- Purchase our [Meat, Flowers, and Produce](#) via [Harvestly.org](#) or at our [Pay-What-You-Can Farm Stand](#)



GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to the following supporters whose generosity made our programs possible. The following list reflects donations received from September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025.

\$1,000+

Linda Halisky
Lynn Hansen
Harrison Harbers
Terry Hicks & Megan Michael
Josh & Kayla Kouri
Steven & Jan Marx
John Swift
Gail Williams & Carolyn Bartlett

\$500- \$999

Wendy Brown
Danielle Carruth
Gillian Cole-Andrews
Susan Conner-Steeb
Lisa Dietz
Diane Howard
Shane & Candice Lovell
Lee Townsend
Eric Veium

*Special thanks to photographers
Brittany App and Ian Sanderson
who generously donated many
of the photos included in this
report .*

\$100 - \$499

Thomas Barber
Anne Marie Bergen
Alexander Burck
Matthew Clevenger
Kathleen Copeland
Robert Costa
Shanny Covey
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Ron Diamond
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Sandy Greene
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Jane Griffith
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Larry Lovell
Frank Martinon
Alma Martinon

\$100 - \$499

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Alexander Wilson
Rosemary & Cal Wilvert
Kara Woodruff
Julie Workman
Chad Worth

Friends of the Farm (Monthly giving program)

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Shanny Covey
Ron Diamond
Joel Diring
Julia Gomes
Linda Halisky
Mary Haring
Josh Kouri
Mary Renard
Daniel Renner
Gina Reudebusch
Keith Rutland
Laurie Schneemann
Anne Marie Simpson



*"I am a Friend of the Farm
because I believe in the
educational programming that
the Farm provides, and I am
inspired by the expansion of
programs and outreach that
City Farm does in the
community."
-Anne Marie Bergen*

If you are interested in supporting our work, please visit cityfarmslo.org/donate or contact us at info@cityfarmslo.org.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Local Businesses Making Real Impact

City Farm SLO's **Corporate Partnership Program** invites businesses to invest in the next generation of environmental stewards and community leaders. Corporate partners make a tangible impact by expanding hands-on education, therapeutic horticulture, and regenerative agriculture training for local students. Partnerships sustain our farm as a living classroom while aligning companies with visible, values-driven community engagement.



In 2025, **Nuveen Natural Capital** became City Farm SLO's **Foundational Corporate Sponsor**, marking a partnership dedicated to empowering local youth through farm-based education. Nuveen has committed a **three-year, \$90,000 gift** to support our youth empowerment programs, with a particular focus on the expansion of the **Therapeutic Horticulture Program** which serves children and young adults with disabilities.

"City Farm SLO's mission serves the families of those working on our vineyards within the region. We are honored to offer support" - Eric Pooler, Nuveen Natural Capital

Thanks to our 2025 Corporate Partners

Harvester Partner (\$30,000)

nuveen
NATURAL CAPITAL

Pollinator Partner (\$5,000)

 **Harvestly**
Delivering Fresh and Growing Community

Seedling Partners (\$2,500)

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JOIN OUR "FAMILY"!

Make a Donation!

- Become a **Friend of the Farm** with a monthly gift
- Make a one-time gift at cityfarmslo.org/donate
- Make a gift or grant from your **donor advised fund**



Become a Volunteer!

Join us on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays** for hands-on farming alongside other sustainable agriculture enthusiasts. Register at Cityfarmslo.org/volunteers.

Buy our Produce, Flowers, and Meats!

Every purchase supports our mission. Find City Farm products on Harvestly.org or at our **Pay-What-You-Can Farm Stand**.

Tour the Farm!

Book a **private tour** with your family, office or small group. OR drop in for a **community tour** on select Saturdays.

Attend an Event!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook (@cityfarmslo) for the latest **workshops, family cooking nights**, and other special events.

Become a Corporate Partner!

Your business can enjoy **exclusive benefits** while supporting our work.

Contact Us

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