



# ***2023 Gratitude Report***

## Dear Community,

The humble piece of land known as the Kingston YMCA Farm Project resides in the heart of Midtown and serves as a hub of growth, both for vegetables and people. Looking back to 2013, we never imagined how our 1/3 acre piece of land would transform into such a vibrant urban farm and surrounding Y Park, providing a much loved greenspace for our community. Over the past 10 years we expanded the growing space, built a new public playground, reclaimed land for a pollinator garden, supported community gardeners, and so much more. We also cultivated a deep sense of connection and belonging within the young people we have worked with. This year, the start of our second decade, we will start seeds in our new larger greenhouse and have the infrastructure to support our seedlings and programming with our outdoor container kitchen.



**Building the farm in 2013**



Photo credit: Cole Wilson

**Celebrating a decade in 2023**

Through the support of our community, near and far, we were able to accomplish our steady, thoughtful growth. Thank you to those who have contributed to our farm community: financially through grants and direct donations that support the backbone of our work; volunteers who roll up their sleeves to shovel, push wheelbarrows, plant, weed, or educate kids; and all those businesses and community members who provide us with in kind services and donations that help us keep buzzing along. **We are grateful for our community!**





Looking ahead, we are excited to deepen the care for our Youth Crew by answering their direct requests with a **Seeding the Future Scholarship** to aid them in their future educational endeavors after graduation.



Please enjoy this **2023 Gratitude Report!** We are sharing highlights of our work this past year, beginning to look ahead to the next 10 years, and extending Gratitude to all who support our work. We hope to see you playing on the playground, exploring the pollinator garden, shopping at our farm stand, or volunteering with us this growing season. We hope to see you at our annual fundraiser - the **Summer Celebration** - at the farm on **Tuesday June 18**.

Thank you,  
KayCee, Susan, Pat & Briana

# Thanks to the contributions of our supporters, this is some of what we accomplished in 2023:



**Cooking Crew made 500+ meals for Kingston's Community Fridges**



**Metro Youth Design Team presented their design and program ideas to the community**



**Hosted 4 visits with The Timbuctoo Institute from SUNY ESF**



**Honored the contributions of our youth at our Youth Voices event**



**Youth-led farm stand ran for 9 months, June - February**



**The Farm Crew grew 5,300 pounds of vegetables**



**Supported Youth Crew in financing college**

## What we accomplished in 2023, continued:



**Celebrated our 10th year at the Summer Solstice Celebration**



**Cooked and ate together at Cooking Crew and on the farm**



**Hosted 350 elementary school students for field trips**



**Convened over 60 youth working in agriculture at Sky High Farm**



**Grew quality, affordable seedlings for our Seedling Sale in May**



**The Farm Crew built garden beds at RUPCO's Landmark Place**

# Thank You to our 2023 supporters!

We are grateful to the following foundations and government funded grants that made our work possible in 2023:

Anonymous Fund at Amalgamated Charitable Foundation, Hannaford Supermarkets, Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food Grant of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Lester and Phyllis Epstein Foundation, New York State Community Gardens Grant , New York State Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant, NoVo in Kingston, and The Osceola Foundation.

Huge gratitude to the **Hudson Valley Farm Hub** for year-round support and partnership.

Thank you to **Phoenicia Diner** for sponsoring our Winter Cooking Crew programs!



Thanks to **Kingston Bread and Bar** for weekly loaves of bread! Huge love to **Rebecca Ffrench** of **The Upstate Table** for opening her heart and space to us! Thank you to **Scott Dutton** for welcoming us into the Fuller Building; some say it is where we do our best thinking!

We are grateful to every single donor who chooses to support our work. A complete list is on our website: [kingstonymcafarmproject.org](http://kingstonymcafarmproject.org)



Thanks to **Hannaford Supermarkets** for food and monetary donations as well as hours of volunteer work on the farm.

# 2023 Solstice Celebration



In celebration of our **10th anniversary**, we re-envisioned our annual beloved fundraiser. We are grateful for the more than 200 people who gathered to celebrate with us. Youth Crew members past and present spoke about how working with the Kingston YMCA Farm Project has positively impacted their lives. The creativity and talent of our community contributed to the festivities.



The Upstate Table, Table 75 and Bridget Dawson expertly provided event planning and coordination.

The Broken Heartstrings played live music. MacKenna Lewis and Cole Wilson photographed the event. Deep Tanks ran his artful photo booth. Delicious food was lovingly prepared by Black Eyed Suzie's, bluecashew Kitchen Homestead, Common Table, Hare's Hollow, Kingston Bread and Bar, Kingston Standard, Promises Kept, Samosa Shack, Thaiglish, and The Upstate Table.

Beverages were provided by Kingston Standard, Kingston Wine Co., Metal House Cider and West Kill Brewing.



The Solstice Celebration was made possible by our generous sponsors RBW Lighting, Hudson Valley Farm Hub, Miller Howard Investments, Radio Kingston, Scenic Hudson, Chronogram, Dutton Architecture PLLC, Ryan & Ryan Insurance Brokers Inc., Timely Signs, and Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

We are looking forward to this year's Summer Celebration on Tuesday, June 18.





"My role as Conservation Pathways Coordinator is to bridge the gap between marginalized youth and the environmental conservation field. My goal is to introduce young people to career opportunities they often don't have exposure to. In the future I'd love to see more diversity in the environmental science/conservation field."

~Briana Gary

**USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Youth Crew and Empowerment Coordinator alum, Briana Gary, will spend the next two years deepening our programming to highlight educational and career pathways in conservation and natural resources for the youth that we work with and youth working in peer programs of urban agriculture in the Mid Hudson Valley. Briana's role is funded by an Equity in Conservation grant through the USDA-NRCS.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**SUMMER  
CELEBRATION**

**TUESDAY  
JUNE 18  
2024**



Cover photo credit MacKenna Lewis

[kingstonymcafarmproject.org](https://kingstonymcafarmproject.org)

[yfarmkingston](https://www.instagram.com/yfarmkingston)

[KingstonYMCAFarmProject](https://www.facebook.com/KingstonYMCAFarmProject)