Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 7 San Diegans were food insecure. Now, 1 in 3 local households is hungry. Coastal Roots Farm’s Organic Food Distribution Program ensures marginalized, low-income, food insecure community members have equal and dignified access to fresh, organic, nutrient-dense produce.

Thanks to the generosity of over 200 supporters, we exceeded our Year-End Appeal goal and raised more than $130,000 including $50,000 in matching donations to feed 8,125 families nearly 32,500 pounds of Coastal Roots Farm produce.

The Farm helped me keep food on my table during these tough times. It is absolutely necessary for me or I would have no food.

Did you know? Topsoil is one of the most important components of our food system, but half has been lost in the last 150 years worldwide.

At the Farm, we practice regenerative agriculture in order to enhance the health of soil, grow nutritious food for those in need, build healthier ecosystems, and fight climate change.
NEW IN EDUCATION AND EVENTS

COVID-SAFE EVENTS

This quarter featured COVID-safe drive-thru programs including a modified “Sukkot Harvest Festival Drive-Thru Experience” in partnership with the Hive and a “Drive-Thru Chanukah on the Farm” event. These unique programs answered the community’s call for opportunities to connect with Jewish life during these otherwise isolating times. More than 400 guests enjoyed guided audio content and hands-on, one-by-one activities including Sukkah decorating and candle-making.

We were also pleased to release our new mini-film, “With Heart and Soil, Nourishing Community from the Ground Up” highlighting our approach to and philosophy about regenerative farming. View it on our website!

AFTER-SCHOOL FARM CAMP CONTINUES

Farm Camp meets childcare needs for families and invites kids grades K-5 to spend more time in nature and less time behind the screen. Getting youth outdoors matters, but nature-based educational opportunities are not equally available for youth from low-income communities. In Quarter 1, 160 “Farmers-in-Training” attended our After-School Farm including 25% on scholarship.

I can’t imagine a better program for young kids. The way you are able to teach them to be good citizens and build character in a fun and engaging way is remarkable.

Internship Program re-launch welcomed 6 Education Interns!

ONLINE LEARNING IS THE NEW NORM

Our Virtual Environmental STEM Education Programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of each school and group. Previously available for K-6th grade students, our Virtual School and Group Visits expanded this quarter to reach 7th-12th grade students. In Quarter 1, 659 students participated in this program.

One educator shared, “The Virtual Visit allowed my students to connect a real life experience with their classroom learning. It was beneficial for them to have their questions answered by a real person they could see and hear.” Virtual School and Group Visits are free to Title-I, Title-V, and low-income schools and groups.

OUR EVER-CHANGING CAMPUS

Space improvements have taken center stage as we eagerly await the opportunity to re-open to the public. New signs have been installed, the Nature Play and Environmental Learning Space construction continues, Education Farm and Garden paths are widening, final touches are being added to the Farm STEM Science Lab, newly-activated silvopastures can be found in the Food Forest, and we have a brand-new mobile teaching kitchen for nutrition-based learning.
THANK YOU Q1 FUNDERS

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For other ideas on how to join us in our work, check out our Fundraising Toolkit!