Friends of the Farm,

We are extremely grateful to all our community partners and supporters that have elevated the Farm’s impact again this year. Our committed and passionate team welcomed more youth to the Farm for hands-on experiences than ever before, sustainably grew more food with regenerative farming practices caring for the soil, distributed and donated more food to feed more people, diverted more material from the landfill to our compost to create rich soil, and cultivated friendships and partnerships as we took our farming and education off-site to support people growing their own food in BIPOC and underserved communities. This continually increasing level of impact was achieved with modest growth in our operating and generous community support from people like you.

Today we hear more and more about the importance of being proactive around climate change, providing for families facing food insecurity, equitable access and benefits of outdoor environmental education experiences and early childhood education, and supporting Jewish life by creating welcoming spaces and experiences for people of all backgrounds to connect with the land. Coastal Roots Farm is uniquely positioned to have a positive impact in all these areas with our commitment to “nourishing community” as we care for people and planet.

Over the course of this last year, the seventh year of the Farm and also a Shmita year in the Jewish tradition, our team rested the land, cared for the soil, deepened collaborations with Indigenous neighbors, and pursued a more equitable world providing dignified access to food, education, and experiences to a growing number of community partners.

This reflection year was also the first year of our new 3-year strategic plan which invited us to look back to where we have been and collectively envision where we are going. As we continue our good work, expand off-site offerings, and continue to make the Farm more accessible for people of all abilities and backgrounds, we invite you to join and “Gather” with us.

Javier Guerrero
President and CEO
Coastal Roots Farm
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Regenerative Agriculture
Growing organic, nutrient-dense food by prioritizing soil, mitigating climate change.

Equitable Food Access
Reaching the most marginalized, food insecure members of our society.

Environmental Education
Inspiring climate activism and a love of nature through barrier-free programs.

Jewish Life
Engaging diverse community members in rich, land-based traditions and values.

**FY22 Annual Report**

**Page 3**

**FY22, October 2021-September 2022**
Since inception, 2014-2022 Q4
FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH SOIL

Soil health is essential in cultivating a thriving ecosystem and is the foundation of regenerative food production. Working with the land—not against it—increases yield potential and mitigates the effects of climate change.

Building soil health promotes biodiversity, increases resilience to pests and disease, reduces erosion, maintains moisture, and eliminates the need for chemicals that harm people and planet.

At Coastal Roots Farm, we prioritize building soil organic matter to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and produce the best food possible for our neighbors in need.

Did you know? Food waste

As much as 40% of food produced in the US goes to waste, making up nearly 1/4 of US landfills where it produces methane. Though less abundant than carbon dioxide, methane is far more potent in terms of atmospheric warming (and therefore a promising target for intervention).

Farming highlight of the year: Achieving no-till

Low and no-till farming reduces erosion, increases biological activity, and increases soil organic matter. At Coastal Roots Farm, we balance extracting from the soil with feeding it (see Figure 1) to keep our most precious resource healthy.
EQUITABLE FOOD ACCESS

Donated 75% of food grown to food insecure community members.

REDDUCING FOOD INSECURITY

The Farm reduces local food insecurity by providing equitable access to healthy food, nutritional resources, and storage information regardless of ability to pay.

We prioritize feeding:
- Low income seniors and families
- Active-duty military and veterans
- Indigenous and Native families
- Holocaust survivors
- Immigrants and refugees

Figure 2 Organic Food Distribution Program growth over 4 years

65% of Farm Stand customers...

...relied on the pay-what-you-can option to feed themselves or their families.

23% of beneficiaries were seniors.

Food partner highlights of the year:

1. Responding to increased need

This year, our team was honored to deepen our impact and increase distributions of food to communities in need. We fed 25% more people through our partnership with the American Indian Health Center, 50% more active-duty military and veteran families, and increased from intermittent deliveries to regular twice monthly distributions serving seniors at Mercy Housing.

2. Tribal Food Sovereignty Project

In addition to providing food grown at the Farm to Indigenous/Native community members around the County, our team partnered with San Pasqual Band Mission Indians, Campo Kumeyaay Nation, and Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel to build garden beds on their reservations to support tribal community members growing their own food.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Farm’s visibility as a valuable field trip destination has dramatically increased this year, with nearly double the number of students visiting the Farm from around San Diego County compared to last year (see Figure 3). The Farm hired additional Outdoor Educators to meet increased demand and anticipates additional growth due to new and continuing school district partnerships in the upcoming year.

School and Group Visit Growth

This year, the Farm introduced Nature Play on the Farm where children ages 0-5 and their caregivers engage in nature-based learning and unstructured play. Since opening in October 2021, Nature Play has welcomed nearly 3,000 children and adults.

At Coastal Roots Farm, nobody is turned away for inability to pay. 54% of campers and students received program scholarship.

Education highlights of the year:

1 LAUNCHING NATURE PLAY

This year, the Farm introduced Nature Play on the Farm where children ages 0-5 and their caregivers engage in nature-based learning and unstructured play. Since opening in October 2021, Nature Play has welcomed nearly 3,000 children and adults.

2 SCHOOL AND GROUP VISIT GROWTH

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1,089 volunteers and interns contributed over 2,000 hours

100% of teachers agreed... The School and Group Visit met or exceeded expectations. 100% also agreed they would recommend the program.

Figure 3 Youth reached through education programs

Inspired nearly 9,000 young nature lovers and climate advocates!

Our 17-Acre Classroom

The Farm’s “cradle-to-career” curriculum provides participants with hands-on, real-world exposure to climate education, environmental science, nutrition, and workforce development.

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Cycles of time are central to Jewish life. At Coastal Roots Farm we are guided by Earth’s seasons, the cycle of plant and animal life, and the cycle of the Jewish calendar including holidays whose celebrations often integrate seasonal foods.

Shmita is a year-long Sabbatical practice that was introduced in the Torah and occurs on the last year of a seven-year cycle. Whereas Shabbat marks one day of rest following six days of work, Shmita marks one year of rest following six years of work.

Literally translating to “release,” Shmita’s modern-day lessons are about environmentalism and justice. It reminds us of our responsibilities as land stewards and promotes equity, two values that are central to Coastal Roots Farm’s work.

The Farm invited its diverse community to explore the value of Shmita this year through our Sukkot Harvest Festival, Tu B’Shvat Food Forest Festival, and 7 Shmita-inspired ethnobotony workshops and meditation highlighted teachings shared across Jewish and indigenous traditions.

This year the Farm welcomed Cantor Rebecca Joy Fletcher to the team as its first Director of Jewish Life. In her role, she will oversee the Farm’s Jewish Life initiative, fortify partnerships with Jewish and interfaith communities, and further integrate earth-based Judaism into Farm programs open to all.

“Connecting the items found on the Passover seder plate to the earth where they came from is powerful!”

1,478 guests attended 17 Jewish programs.

84% 45% 74% 59%

...of surveyed guests at Great Outdoor Shabbat Shmita workshops Sukkot Harvest Festival Tu B’Shvat Festival

...identify as Jewish.
**FINANCIALS**

**Figure 4 Organizational budget**

Between FY19 and FY22, our budget increased by **29%**.

**Figure 5 FY22 Revenue**

- **Grants and Contributed Revenue**: $1,948,007
- **Earned Revenue**: $518,148
- **In-Kind**: $250,660

In the same time period, Coastal Roots Farm:

- **Grew 97% more food** using regenerative, organic farming to build a better food system and ensure a more sustainable future for our region.
- **Donated 143% more food** reaching the most marginalized, food-insecure members of our community.
- **Fed 91% more people** through our pay-what-you-can Farm Stand and off-site food distributions.
- **Reached 467% more youth** including those who have been historically underserved through equitable, accessible nature-based learning.
THANK YOU FY22 DONORS

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WITH GRATITUDE

Join us as we cultivate healthy, connected communities.

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