



# greenguerillas

## 2015 Annual Report



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## 2015 Accomplishments

### **Green Guerillas engaged in an array of activities to support community gardeners and strengthen community gardens. Our staff, interns, and volunteers:**

#### **Distributed plants, soil, and materials to community gardeners**

*Spring Giveaways:* Green Guerillas organized giveaways in May in Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant, and the Bronx. 75 community garden groups received tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, okra, kale, cabbage, broccoli, collards, calaloo, swiss chard, and a selection of herbs. Light refreshments helped gardeners enjoy the day as they socialized and planned for the upcoming season.

*Soil Giveaways:* We distributed 7 tons of fresh, healthy soil to 8 community garden groups in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick, and Harlem to help make garden beds even more bountiful.

*Cool Food Giveaway:* In August we distributed cool season vegetable seedlings to 9 Bedford-Stuyvesant community garden groups to help them grow food into the cooler months.

*Fall Giveaways:* We held a giveaway in Harlem where 18 community garden groups chose from a selection of perennial shrubs and bushes, flower bulbs, garlic bulbs, and cover crop seeds. Gardeners also came together to celebrate the growing season and share stories.

#### **Provided organizing, fundraising, and organizational assistance to garden leaders**

*Bronx and Manhattan Land Trusts:* Our executive director led efforts to provide organizational assistance to these two grassroots land trusts and their 32 members gardens. We helped them engage in effective property management, manage water systems, organize fundraisers, manage their finances, and communicate better with their member gardens.

*Central Brooklyn Gardeners Coalition:* Green Guerillas helped Bedford-Stuyvesant community garden leaders support each other, organize garden workdays and events, and bring resources into their neighborhood.

*Fundraising assistance:* Our executive director helped 9 community garden groups raise and manage grants and donations from the Citizens Committee, the NY City Council, and individual donors. Groups included: Phoenix Community Garden, Liz Christy Garden, Bruce Reynolds Memorial Garden, La Perla Garden, Serenity Garden, Hope Steven Garden, Convent Garden, and Harris Garden.

#### **Helped the Youth Farm at the HS for Public Service thrive**

We helped the Youth Farm team raise and manage funds, do outreach, and strengthen their program. This dynamic group of farmers and youth managed a 1 acre farm that provided fresh healthy food to 100 Crown Heights/East Flatbush families through a CSA and a weekly farmers market. They engaged more than 500 youth in classes and farm activities to help them gain skills, learn where their food comes from and learn to eat and cook healthier. Hundreds of community residents and youth from other schools engaged in farm workdays, visits, and workshops.

#### **Organized the Harvest for Neighborhoods Campaign**

We provided vegetable seedlings, advice, information and assistance to 75 community garden groups in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Harlem, and the Bronx to help them grow more food and engage more people in the harvest. We provided the materials and labor to help Tranquility Farm in

Bedford-Stuyvesant install a large compost system and expand their chicken coup. We provided materials and labor to help Mo Pals Garden in Harlem and Madison Street Block Association Garden in Bed-Stuy completely re-build all of their vegetable beds. We provided La Finca del Sur with a large amount of vegetable seedlings and herbs to help them boost the harvest at their South Bronx urban farm.

### **Launched the Grow Vertical NYC Campaign**

We organized and Grow Vertical NYC working group and partnered with Brooklyn Grange to install 4 pilot vertical growing systems at the Clifton Place Memorial Park and Garden in partnership with the community gardeners there. We provided plants, soil, and assistance to help them manage the systems and organized a community celebration. We also distributed how-to information to 50 central Brooklyn community garden groups to help spark interest in vertical growing as a tool to creatively grow more vegetables and herbs.

### **Engaged 10 youth at the core of our work**

*Youth Tillers:* We hired 8 teenagers for paid urban agriculture internships that took place on the Youth Farm in Crown Heights. The tillers cultivated fruits and vegetables, worked at a weekly farmers market, gave cooking demonstrations and garden tours, and did community outreach. They participated in workshops and field trips to round out their experience.

*Young adult interns:* Green Guerillas engaged 2 young adult interns at the Youth Farm to provide mentoring and supervision for the Youth Tillers and manage a weekly farmers market.

### **Advocated for garden preservation**

*HPD list:* A number of important community gardens are on a list of possible development sites for an HPD affordable housing RFQ. We wrote letters to the mayor and City commissioners asking them to remove the gardens from the list and encouraged our members and supporters to do the same.

*La Perla Community Garden:* The gardeners at this beautiful Manhattan Valley garden face the loss of one third of their garden because a private owner plans to sell one of the lots. We helped the La Perla gardeners obtain pro-bono legal assistance, organize and fundraising event, and strategize on options for keeping their garden intact.

### **Organized community arts activities for youth**

We helped engage youth in various community arts project to help them unleash their talents and creativity. Teenagers at the Youth Farm engaged in culinary arts activities and painted colorful signs. At Phoenix Community Garden, children and teenagers engaged in a vibrant Children's Harvest Festival that included varied community arts activities.

### **Engaged garden stewards**

Our annual meeting and our benefit party served as energetic, educational, and celebratory opportunities to inspire our members, supporters, and board of directors to support the work of community gardeners. GGs also helped gardeners in the East Village and Harlem hold walking tours of community gardens.

### **Measured the effectiveness of our work**

GGs staff used formal and informal methods to monitor the effectiveness of our work and ensure that our programs met the needs of community gardeners. We utilized meetings, phone

interviews, and one-on-one discussions with garden leaders. Our board of directors closely monitors the organization's fiscal and programmatic efficacy.

**Board of Directors**

Thomas Ching

Patti Hagan

Beth D. Jacob (secretary)

Andrew Reicher (treasurer)

David Sherman (chairperson)

Garry Smalley

Adam Stolorow

Michelle Vazquez

Leonora Wiener

Linda Yang

**Executive Director:** Steven Frillmann

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**THE GREEN GUERRILLAS, INC.**  
**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>2015 Total</u>	<u>2014 Total</u>
<b>Revenues and Support</b>				
Foundation support	\$ 135,809	\$ 35,000	\$ 170,809	\$ 313,017
Government grants	4,000	-	4,000	29,644
Membership dues and other support	88,637	-	88,637	75,349
Annual Benefit	18,175	-	18,175	17,428
Youth Farm fundraising events	11,015	-	11,015	2,919
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>55,000</u>	<u>(55,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
			-	-
Total Revenues and Support	<u>312,636</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>292,636</u>	<u>438,357</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program services				
Youth program	153,221	-	153,221	152,186
Organizing, assistance and education	<u>163,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,540</u>	<u>224,261</u>
Total program services	316,761	-	316,761	376,447
Supporting Services				
Management and general	11,392	-	11,392	14,040
Fund raising costs	<u>16,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,622</u>	<u>16,713</u>
Total Supporting Services	<u>28,014</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,014</u>	<u>30,753</u>
Total Expenses	<u>344,775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>344,775</u>	<u>407,200</u>
<b>Changes in Net Assets, before investment loss on pledge receivable</b>				
	(32,139)	(20,000)	(52,139)	31,157
<b>Investment loss on pledge receivable</b>	<u>(25,608)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(25,608)</u>	<u>(10,090)</u>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	(57,747)	(20,000)	(77,747)	21,067
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>412,194</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>467,194</u>	<u>446,127</u>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 354,447</u>	<u>\$ 35,000</u>	<u>\$ 389,447</u>	<u>\$ 467,194</u>

**THE GREEN GUERILLAS, INC.  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

	Youth Program	Organizing Assistance Education	TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	General and administrative	Fundraising	TOTAL EXPENSES
Salaries and interns	\$ 27,738	\$ 52,538	\$ 80,276	\$ 4,308	\$ 3,308	\$ 87,892
Payroll taxes and benefits	3,318	12,538	15,856	519	253	16,628
Rent	3,653	16,727	20,380	2,407		22,787
Professional fees			-	3,200		3,200
Insurance	1,320	3,313	4,633			4,633
Office expenses	5,429	6,738	12,167		899	13,066
Auto and travel	432	1,540	1,972			1,972
Consultants and outside services	81,475	19,049	100,524		6,400	106,924
Supplies and other expenses	29,856	51,097	80,953		5,762	86,715
Depreciation			-	958		958
Total expenses	\$ 153,221	\$ 163,540	\$ 316,761	\$ 11,392	\$ 16,622	\$ 344,775