

2025

**IMPACT
REPORT**
DOWNTOWN GREENS



A YEAR OF GROWTH

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

This past year has been one of meaningful growth, thoughtful stewardship, and deeper community connection. Thanks to your continued support, we have made significant strides in enhancing our spaces, expanding educational opportunities, and strengthening our vision for the future.



At our Downtown Campus, we introduced a new permeable walkway in the Upper Garden, improving accessibility while supporting sustainable water management practices. The Lower Garden now features educational signage, helping visitors better understand the plants, ecosystems, and purpose behind our work.

Our commitment to food access and community care also grew this year with the addition of another “Take What You Need” garden bed located by the Free Fridge. This space continues to embody our belief that fresh, healthy food grown in a sustainable way should be available to all.

For our Belman Road Campus, we are especially excited to share that we have signed an agreement with Virginia Tech to develop a comprehensive site plan. This partnership marks an important step forward in shaping a thoughtful and sustainable future for the property. In the Fall, we were honored to dedicate the Gratitude Rock at Belman Road, a lasting tribute to the generosity of our donors.

Education remains at the heart of our mission. We proudly continued both Garden Sprouts and the Youth Farm Program, engaging students in hands-on learning and fostering a deeper connection to the land while teaching the importance of working with nature. In addition to our student-focused classes, we have continued to offer garden and outdoor education programs for all ages.

These include a gardening series in partnership with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library that highlights sustainable practices and encourages community members to become stewards of their own spaces, as well as nature walks at our Belman Road Campus, and a variety of other nature-based classes designed to inspire people to get outdoors and appreciate the beauty around them. We believe that providing educational opportunities for all ages is a vital part of our mission to connect people with nature.

Our environmental stewardship efforts also expanded, with the removal of invasive plant species across all three properties—an essential step in preserving the health and biodiversity of our ecosystems.

Finally, we unveiled a new logo and refreshed branding, reflecting both who we are today and where we are headed. This new identity captures the energy, growth, and community spirit that define our work.

None of this would be possible without you. Your support, whether through time, resources, or advocacy, continues to make a lasting difference. Together, we are cultivating not only gardens, but a stronger, more connected community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christie Hoerneman". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Board President

EDUCATION

PEOPLE
REACHED

889

KIDS
TAUGHT

252

ADULTS
TAUGHT

494

Garden Sprouts Program

In partnership with Fredericksburg City Schools, our signature program served preschoolers in Head Start and Virginia Initiative Programs for its eighth year. Children learn to identify and taste vegetables, plant seeds, care for plants, and harvest what they grow. Pre- and post-program evaluations continue to show strong results.

Field Trips

Five field trips brought three community groups to our Upper Education Garden in 2025. Tours included the education and Take What You Need gardens, composting, a garden activity, a short lesson, and a take-home craft. We welcomed 63 children and 25 adults - 88 visitors in all.

Youth Farm Program

Students from Stafford Junction returned for our farm-to-table Youth Farm Program. They planted, weeded, maintained, harvested, cooked, and tasted food from the garden. The YFP garden grew 24 types of fruits and vegetables. Our measurable harvest was unfortunately reduced by some extremely enthusiastic groundhogs and rabbits.

Adult Education

Classes were offered on site and with the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. Vegetable Gardening 101 drew 30 people. Other topics included foraging, composting, garden design, wildlife gardening, basket weaving, fall and winter gardening, culinary herbs, and garden pests.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Community Outreach

In 2025, our educational work expanded beyond our gardens through community tables and speaking events. Board members and staff connected with neighbors at the Master Gardeners' Seed Swap, COAR's UMW Volunteer Event, Student Climate Action Summit, Wild & Scenic Film Festival, UMW Earth Day, Fredericksburg Parks & Recreation Earth Day, CRRL Fun Fest, Fabulous Friday Pollinator Event, Tree Fredericksburg's Native Plant Festival, UMW Tree Festival, Gratitude Market, Spotsylvania Towne Centre's Giving Tuesday event, and several speaking engagements throughout the year.

PRESERVATION

Educational signage was also added to the Lower Garden, helping visitors understand the plants, ecosystems, and importance of our preservation work. The signs were made possible by a grant from Keep Virginia Beautiful.



58.95

**Acres
Preserved**

656

**SQFT. of
Invasive Species
Removed**



VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

272

Volunteers

786

**Volunteer
Hours
Worked**

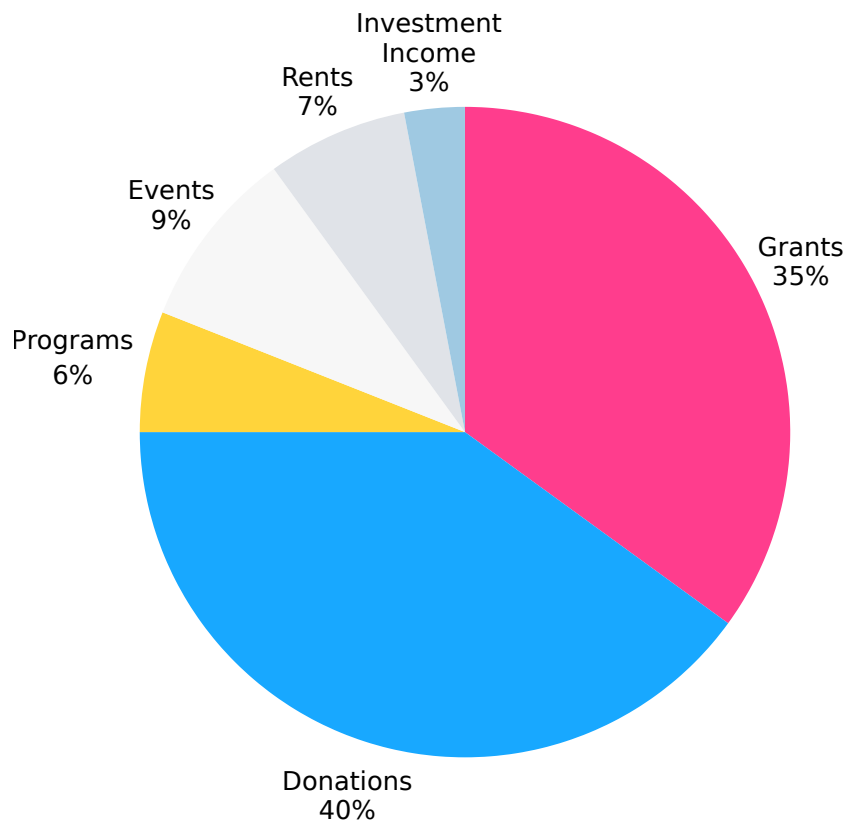
With almost 60 acres of greenspace across three properties, volunteers are essential to maintaining and improving our spaces. In 2025, 272 volunteers contributed 786 hours of work.

We are grateful to Clark Construction, Fredericksburg Academy, University of Mary Washington COAR groups, James Monroe High School's Ceili Lahey Senior Day of Service, Girl Scout Troop 263, Tree Stewards, Virginia Master Naturalists, and every individual who showed up with time, energy, and a willingness to get their hands dirty.

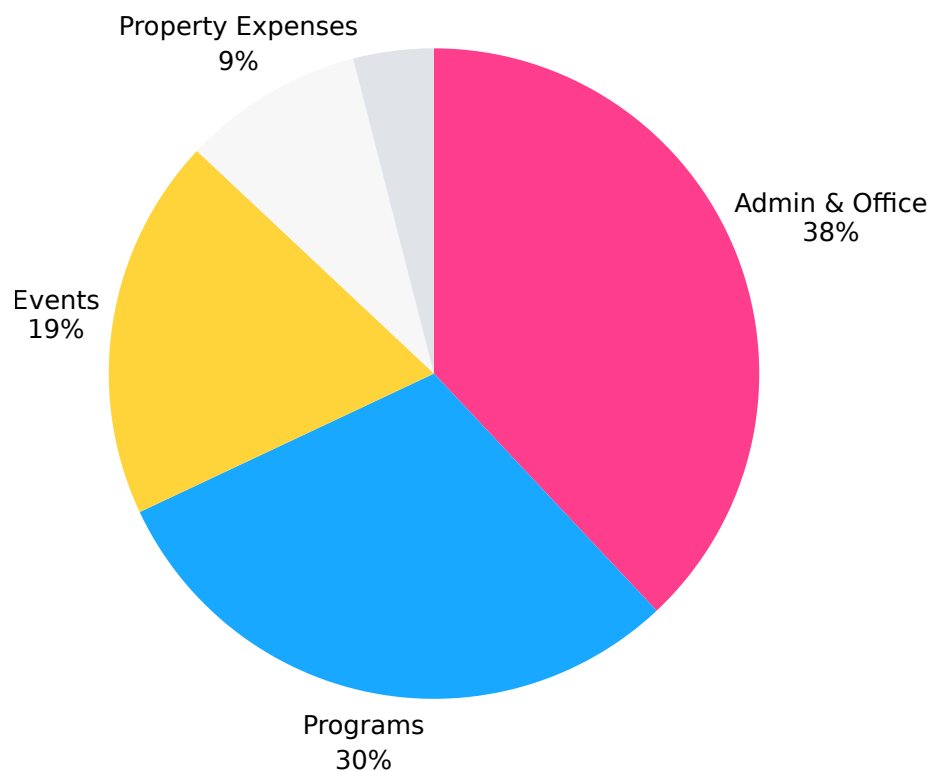


FINANCIALS

Revenues:



Expenditures:



PARTNERS + SPONSORS

Partners

Stafford County Public Schools • University of Mary Washington COAR • Central Rappahannock Regional Library • Central Rappahannock Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists • Rappahannock Valley Garden Club • Rappahannock Beekeeping Association • Stafford Junction • Kulean Mushrooms • Tree Fredericksburg • George Washington Regional Commission • The Land Trust of Virginia • Virginia Land Conservancy • Friends of the Rappahannock • Fredericksburg City Public Schools • Earth's Echo Farm

Sponsors

The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region • Mary Washington Healthcare • Keep Virginia Beautiful • Pure Strategies • WFLS • Print Jazz • Wren & Sparrow • Cary Street Partners • Davenport & Company LLC • First Citizens Bank • Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen • Nest Realty Fredericksburg • Action Window Tinting • Rebecca Rubin • Stafford Printing • Fredericksburg Technology • Rosemary and Larry Pitts • B&L; Consulting • LibertyTown Arts Workshop • Marie William Capital • Linda Caporali • Front Porch Magazine • Margaret & Rich Martin • Latitudes Fair Trade • Rim & Kathy Vining • Planty of Happiness • Christie Hoerneman • Topside Federal Credit Union • Apex Masonry • Jim & Rita Schepmoes • Roof Maxx of Fredericksburg • Tree Fredericksburg



SAVE THE DATE

DOWN HOME BALL 2026

Saturday, November 7
Brock's Riverside Grille

