

Fulfilling Our Mission

Dear Friends,

As I think ahead to next spring and summer, I know that gardening means much more than just having a delicious vine ripe tomato to eat. Planting seeds and cultivating the soil are deeply personal experiences and something we also share in common. Those of us who have the "gardening bug," even if we can't articulate why, know that we'll never stop being gardeners.



I came to gardening in my early twenties when I found myself wanting to spend more time outside. A friend invited me to a community garden to help, and I thought it seemed like a nice way to enjoy nature. Now, as I finish putting my garden to bed for the tenth year, I am completely aware of my good fortune to have a small plot of land where I can grow the fresh food I love. There are many reasons I garden—not only for the bounty that gardening provides, but for the friends and family that I have the opportunity to share my produce with.

Hidden in this basic act of caring for the earth is something which should not go unsaid. Each seed we place in the ground means our local community becomes more self sufficient—and less reliant on far away places that provide the "rest" of our food. Our neighborhoods, economy, and environment reap rewards that last far longer than the summer salad or squash we enjoy. Gardening is, in it's own small way, a revolutionary act.

We are grateful to the supporters of Friends of Burlington Gardens for helping us achieve so much this past year. Many people were able to garden for the first time, while others kept alive the cultural traditions of planting and harvesting. With your help, new communities will experience the benefits of growing fresh food in 2006. Like the seeds we plant in fertile ground, your gifts to support our gardening mission will return much more.

Jules Fishelman
Board President, Friends of Burlington Gardens

Major Goals Achieved in 2005

Gardens Created

- The Community Teaching Garden at Ethan Allen Homestead expanded to include 24 participants ages 18 to 75.
- FBG worked with children and volunteers to create a colorful garden mural at Burlington's Sara Holbrook Center.
- Clients and staff of Joseph's House and the Champlain Senior Center partnered with FBG to install new gardens in June.
- FBG secured timbers and top soil for raised bed gardens at Burlington High School, Flynn School, and C.P. Smith School.

Gardens Enhanced

- FBG led a hands-on Garden Day Camp for children and youth at the Sara Holbrook Center June 20—July 1.
- FBG and the Vermont Humanities Council worked together to bring *Seedfolks* author Paul Fleischman to Burlington.
- The Burlington High School International Garden, Lakeview Community Garden, and Medical Center Community Garden finished 1-2-3 in the 2005 Burlington Blooms Awards contest sponsored by Gardener's Supply Company.

Gardens Preserved

- Gardener's Supply and FBG co-sponsored the Vermont Community and School Garden Expo held February 5, 2005.
- FBG's first book, *Patchwork: stories of gardens and community*, was published by Community Works Press.
- Burlington residents rallied together to gain City Council support for greenbelt gardening and neighborhood beautification.
- FBG expanded its web site at www.burlingtongardens.org to host the Vermont Community Garden Network.



Friends of Burlington Gardens

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Web site: www.burlingtongardens.org

Annual Report

Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year 2005

12/1/2004—11/30/2005

Operating Revenues FY2005

Grants & Awards	14,940.54
Sales & Events	12,972.26
Contributions	12,716.71
Projects & Services	1,761.75
Total Revenues	42,391.26

Operating Expenses FY2005

Payroll: full-time staff	22,404.26
Sales, Events	6,291.68
Projects, Programs	5,089.46
FICA, Medicare Match	1,720.04
Printing, Photocopies	1,466.02
Mileage	1,170.69
Insurance	1,057.00
Postage	759.59
Equipment, Supplies	756.89
Fees, Dues, Services	612.91
Phone, Internet, Utilities	515.31
Photography	238.55
Volunteer Support	219.94
Total Expenses	42,302.34

Balance Sheet FY2005

Beginning balance 12/01/04	1,512.11
Net operating income	88.92
Ending balance 11/30/05	1,601.03

Contributors 12/1/2004—11/30/2005

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2005 Major Funders

Ben & Jerry's Community Action Team •
 Burlington Neighborhood Project • Community
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 tion Anti-Hunger Challenge • First United
 Methodist Church Thrift Shop • Gardener's
 Supply • General Dynamics Employee Action
 Council • Harris and Frances Block Founda-
 tion • IBM Matching Gifts • Sid and Cecelia
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 Foundation / Sustainable Future Fund

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 Linda Deliduka, Day Camp Director
 Susanne Whyte, Asst. Day Camp Director
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