



ANNUAL REPORT

SEVEN GENERATIONS AHEAD

2015

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As Seven Generations Ahead (SGA) enters into its 15th year, I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished. We have grown like a healthy, well-nourished organic plant — consistently and steadily feeding off of our own dose of inspiration, creativity, energy, partners and supporters to become who we are today. The greatest compliment we get regularly is how surprised people are by how much we get done with so few staff. We take pride in our strategic decision-making, efficient use of resources, focus on results and ability to identify and work with strong, like-minded partners. We are also blessed to have many long-term supporters and new additions to our fold, whether they be private foundations, individual donors, sponsors, or the 92 craft breweries that participate in our annual fundraiser.



2015 was a banner year for SGA. Top-level highlights include:

- Authoring the landmark *Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report* in collaboration with our **Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC)** partners, working with our co-founders to solidify the organizational structure of the IFSC, and designing an implementation plan for 2016 that builds upon the recommendations in our January 2015 Report.
- Facilitating and authoring the **Healthy West Chicago Community Action Plan** in collaboration with the City of West Chicago and key partners, and working with partners to design an implementation work plan, secure implementation funding and establish a plan for moving forward.
- Facilitating PlanItGreen through the OPRF Community Foundation's *Communityworks* initiative, including driving implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan for Oak Park and River Forest and producing the project's second **Community Sustainability Report Card**.
- Producing two GreenTown events, in Illinois and Ohio, in collaboration with co-producer a5 Group Inc., and host partners, the City of Aurora and Kent State University — and driving the formation of the **Fox Valley Sustainability Network (FVSN)**.
- Supporting the authorship of the **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Sustainability Plan Tool Kit and Indicators Guide**, designed to provide local communities with guidance on creating sustainability plans and developing metrics.
- Launching and facilitating the **Illinois Farm to School Network (IFSN)** with key partners, driving Illinois' first implementation of the Great Apple Crunch local food procurement initiative, and being awarded with our Kane County Health Department partner, the only USDA Farm to School grant in Illinois.
- Implementing the first **Chicago Public Schools** commercial food scrap composting system pilot in five schools, building off of our work in Oak Park and other Chicago metro area communities.
- There are more, but these accomplishments provide a quick glance of how busy we and our partners have been, and how impactful our supporters have been through their generous financing of our work.

Thank you for being a part of the work of Seven Generations Ahead, and for being a driving force for sustainability change in our region.

Sincerely,

Gary Cuneen

Founder and Executive Director

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



90,000 students crunched into locally grown apples for The Great Apple Crunch



0 to 200+ Illinois Farm to School Network Members in 2015



100% of D97 Oak Park Schools have zero waste lunchrooms where they commercially compost food scraps and trays



17,000 lbs. of resources (including 400,000 milk cartons) are diverted from the landfill in the Chicago Public Schools Composting Pilot which engaged 5 schools in commercial composting. That's 17 grand pianos worth of resources recovered!



200 municipal, community and private sector leaders convened at GreenTown Aurora in 2015, realized a need for collaboration and created the Fox Valley Sustainability Network



A 10% decrease (or more) in energy and water usage in the Oak Park and River Forest Communities thanks to PlanItGreen initiatives

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Healthy West Chicago

SGA guided the strategic planning process for the Healthy West Chicago community initiative, aimed at combating obesity, improving access to nutritious foods and increasing physical activity among the DuPage County city's 27,000 residents. A series of 10 community forums, facilitated by SGA, for parents, park district users, faith-based communities, the school district, seniors and other constituents led to the Healthy West Chicago Community Action Plan that was rolled out in May.



Illinois Food Scrap Coalition

In January, the Coalition released the “Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report,” designed to educate elected officials, composting industry stakeholders and advocates, and the public at-large about opportunities and strategies related to developing a robust food scrap composting industry in Illinois. IFSC leveraged the reach of social media, creating a successful Facebook awareness campaign called “I Compost Because” that, over the course of several months, promoted the reasons members of IFSC compost — while also encouraging others to reduce the amount of food scraps they send to the landfill.



Illinois Farm to School Network:



SGA is the lead agency for the Illinois Farm to School Network, which grew significantly in 2015 —from 0 to more than 200 members. In April IFSN held its first conference call meeting, then later switched to an online webinar format for its monthly meetings. IFSN launched a new website and distributes a monthly newsletter to share resources from the national network, USDA Farm to School and its own growing base of knowledge. The highlight of the year was the statewide Great Apple Crunch in October, which aimed to raise awareness about healthy eating by serving locally grown apples to schoolchildren around the state. More than 90,000

schoolchildren participated. IFSN shares its expertise through trainings and presentations, and took part in 11 conferences and events — from Chicago to Carbondale.

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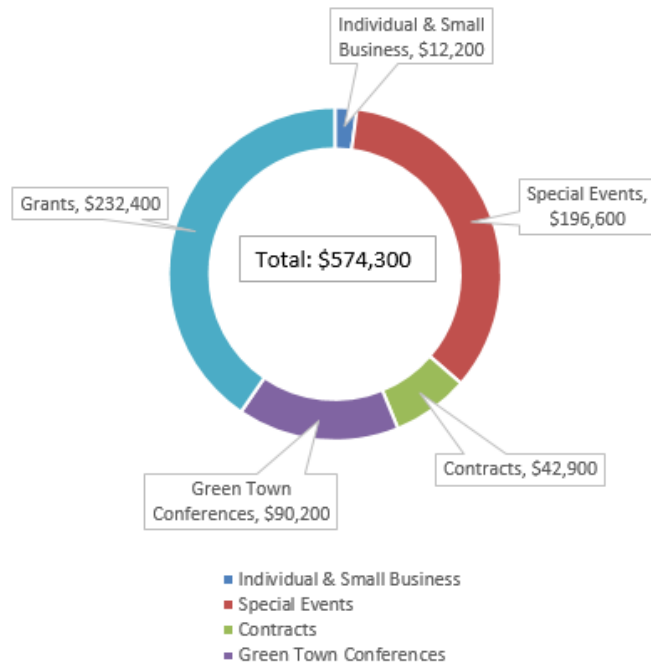
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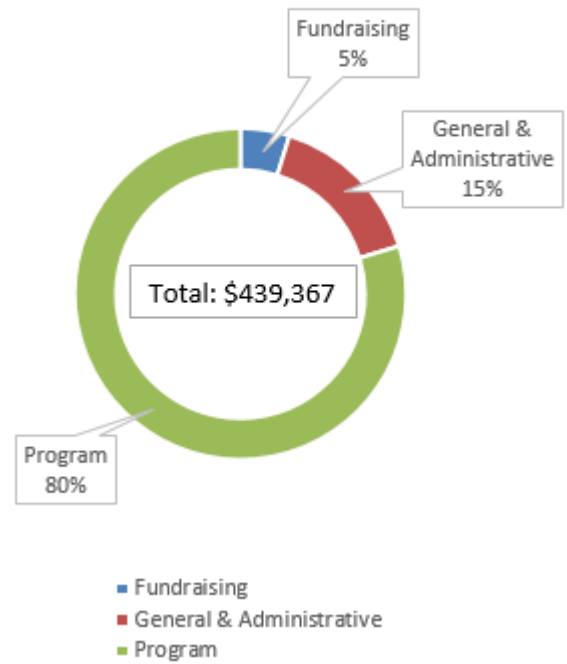


INCOME & EXPENSES

Income



Expenses



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