



2023 *Rooted* IN WYOMING



Impact Report



Our Mission

To connect communities
through local food



Our Vision

Every community in Wyoming
can grow its own food.

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Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends of Rooted,

As Rooted in Wyoming's new Executive Director, it is my pleasure to provide some highlights of our work conducted in collaboration with numerous partners across our outreach programs in 2023. It is exciting to see the growing number of students and participants welcomed at 20 school and community gardens and greenhouses.

During 2023, ten raised beds were installed at the VA Victory Garden, the Easterseals Who's Blue Garden was built, a caterpillar shaped Hugelkultur mound was added to the Henry A. Coffeen Garden, and an agreement was made with SCSD2 to build a Geodesic Greenhouse at John C. Schiffer Collaborative School.

The Farm Wall at Smith Alley continued to draw much interest in local food production, and Rooted awarded six Mini-Grants to partner projects.

In July, the Board thanked Jodi Kenney, Project & Outreach Coordinator since 2021, for her capable service. Before Jodi moved her family back home to Montana, we welcomed aboard Ian Cannon-Wallace as Rooted's new Program & Outreach Coordinator. Rooted hosted the community at its seventh annual Farm to Table fundraiser in September, with local chefs collaborating to prepare the menu, and food sourced from nearly 20 local producers, with beef and pork raised by local 4H students.

We said thank you to exiting board members in December. Amy Bouley, Lise Foy, Bonnie Gregory, and Kim Jacobsen provided insight, support, and dedication, serving Rooted well for many years. Seven new board members - Falk Alicke, Micah Most, Donna Harris, Ann Perkins, David Wasitowski, Hanne Wellborn, and Micah Wyatt were approved for initial two-year terms. Returning Board Members Ellie Martin, Olivia Koltiska, and Victoria Gray Martin were elected to officer roles for 2024-2025.

I hope you enjoy reading this report. Thank you to the Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation for their vision in making Bridges a flourishing place to benefit our community. Rooted is grateful to our volunteers, partners, and donors who worked with us in 2023. Our joint efforts are contributing to a stronger local food system, and healthier lives across Wyoming.

David Johnson

Volunteers!

Jessie Adams
Annie Addlesperger
Lisa Austin
Tye Bach
Janeal Barney
Jenn Bishop
Jessica Bohnsack
Amy & Eric Bouley
Mercy Brandow
Adam Bunker
Kate Burchell
Erin Butler
Scott Campbell
Nicole Christensen
Ashley Cooper
Anara Cooper
Steve Crow
Dee Davis
Tracee Davis
Jody DeHaven
John Dick
Edwards Family
Pam Emerson
Emily Emond
Cody Englert
Jenny Epperson
Ashli Filkins
Beth Fowers



Lise Foy
Callie Frazier
Roseanne Gentry
Wanda Gibson
Bob Giurgevich
Harold Golden
Victoria Gray Martin
Janice Green
Gregory Family
Helen Haile

Donna Harris
Dorothy Hartford
Kim Jacobson
Brenda Jacobs
Kenney Family
Gwen Kepley
Kevin Knapp
Olivia & Jarad Koltiska
Sherrie Kunsman
Ellie Martin & Family

Lisa McClintock
Derek Mentock
Crystal Merriam
Anto & Brian Miller
Many Morris
Micah Most
Tris Munsick
Beth Music
Kim Newman
Carla O'Leary

Maui & Brooke Orum
Kathy Owen
Cathy Pelissier
Christina Pierce
Lucianna Raymond
Katie Reed
Zia Robbins
Carola Schmidt
Erin Schreinert
Lacie Schwend
Lindsey Skatberg
Lisa Smith
Joe Surwald
Adrienne Tatman
Roxanne Tervola
Svetlana Tikhomirova
Courtney Todd
Jane Varah
Alicia Veinbergs
Mark & Cathy Wallace
Kent & Cathie Waugh
Hanne Wellborn
Joe Wesnitzer
Wheeler Family
Emily Wille
Gabrielle Wollert
Mo Zaazaa
Landis Zebroski

*Plus over 40 volunteers at our 7th annual Farm to Table Fundraiser Dinner,
and other anonymous volunteers throughout the year.*

2023 Rooted in Wyoming Interns



Rooted in Wyoming hosted two interns in 2023. Leah Bouley, a Senior Music Education major at Wheaton College, helped research and draft a report for Rooted's collaborative food center. Leah also got her hands dirty at Easterseals' Who's Blue Garden. Mystica Canterbury, a Freshman at John C. Schiffer Collaborative School, drafted a proposed layout for Schiffer's upcoming Geodesic Dome Greenhouse.

2024 Rooted in Wyoming Board of Directors & Staff



Ellie Martin
Chair



Olivia Koltiska
Vice Chair/Treasurer



Victoria Gray Martin
Secretary



Falk Aliche



Donna Harris



Micah Most



Ann Perkins



David Wasitowski



Hanne Wellborn



Micah Wyatt

Rooted in Wyoming's Board of Directors is a diverse group with a broad set of backgrounds and experiences. 2023 saw significant transitions, with longtime board members and staff moving on from the organization. New members of the Rooted team have brought their own passion and commitment to help strengthen the local food system in our state.

Rooted continues to operate according to its core values:
community, collaboration, cultivation, and resilience.

Thank you board members past and present for your leadership.



David Johnson
Executive Director



Ian Cannon-Wallace
Program & Outreach Coordinator

Our Strategic Plan



Strategic planning session in May, 2023

The 2023-26 Strategic Plan sets out three new directions

1. Create Opportunities and Spaces for Food Security
 - Establish Rooted Infrastructure
 - Nurture Local Food Resources
2. Optimize Internal Operations
 - Foster a Healthy Organizational Culture
 - Improve Internal Efficiencies
 - Cultivate Consistent Funding
3. Deliver Impactful Collaborative Programs
 - Partner Strategically
 - Optimize Volunteer Efforts
 - Provide Quality Programs
 - Enhance Community Awareness

Partner Garden & Greenhouse Collaborations

As of 2023, Rooted has established collaborations with 20 partner organizations to develop growing spaces that foster community and local food.



VA VICTORY GARDEN

Fort Mackenzie, Sheridan VA Medical Center

GREEN HOUSE LIVING FOR SHERIDAN GARDEN

Green House Living for Sheridan

SAGEBRUSH STUDENT SEED STARTERS

Sagebrush Elementary

SHERIDAN FOOD FOREST

City of Sheridan, Powder River Basin Resource Council, & Partners

SCSD2 FIFTH ST. GREENHOUSES

Sheridan High School

GARDEN OF GRACE

Grace Anglican Church

ROOTED AT THE HUB

The Hub on Smith

FARM WALL AT SMITH ALLEY

Smith Alley Brewing Co.

GARDEN OF ISIDORE

Holy Name Catholic School

HIGHLAND PARK GARDEN

Highland Park Elementary

HENRY A. COFFEEN GARDEN

Henry A. Coffeen Elementary

WHO'S BLUE GARDEN

Easterseals

MEADOWLARK GARDEN

Meadowlark Elementary

EAGLE'S NEST GARDEN

Tongue River Vally Community Center, Ranchester

SCHIFFER GEODOME GREENHOUSE

COMING SUMMER 2024
John C. Schiffer Collaborative School

ROOTED IN WYOMING TEACHING GARDEN

COMING SUMMER 2024
Bridges

GARDEN OF PRIDE

Woodland Park Elementary

EVANSTON YOUTH CLUB GREENHOUSE

Evanston Youth Club for Boys and Girls

RAM HARVEST GARDEN

Big Horn Elementary

KAYCEE SCHOOL GARDEN

Kaycee K-12 School





Student Seed Starting

Last year over 550 students participated in Rooted's Seed Starting program, planting a variety of vegetables. Highland Park, TRVCC's after school program, and Wyldflower Learning Community all had Rooted volunteers help students plant on site. Visiting UW's ShREC greenhouse for Seed Starting were a group of 41 homeschoolers, as well as groups from Woodland Park, Sagebrush, Henry A. Coffeen, Meadowlark, Holy Name, and Big Horn Elementary. Over 200 more students also started lettuce seeds at Meadowlark Elementary. The participants learned about seed identification, worms & composting, soil types, and got to plant seed starts for the school gardens. Thanks to the support provided by Beth Fowers, UW Extension, and to the many volunteers who helped these students have a great experience!



VA Victory Garden Upgrades

2023 marked the second year of upgrades to the VA Victory Garden at Sheridan's VA Medical Center. Raised beds and mulch pathways were added to improve access to the garden for veterans. Volunteers from Frontier Asset Management, First Northern Bank, and the Elks Lodge were among the many who helped make this garden a success. Master Gardner Bob Giurgevich shared his expert knowledge with other gardeners while tending his amazing plot at the Victory Garden, and was named Outstanding Participant Gardener of the Year. VA employee Eric Vielhauer was named Garden Leader of the Year.



Who's Blue Garden Build

With funding from Love Tito's, Rooted partnered with Easterseals to build a garden at their HUD residencies in Sheridan. The garden has been named Who's Blue, as in, "Who's blue, let's go to the garden"! Volunteers from Tito's and No Name Bar helped assemble a dozen raised beds for the garden. There is a blue bench and shade sail, and a beautiful garden shed donated by Knecht Home Center and painted blue by Ashley Cooper & Easterseals participants. A big thank you to Jill Terry, as well as Kent and Cathie Waugh for their leadership.



Hügelkultur Build at HAC

The garden at Henry A. Coffeen Elementary is a beautiful space, and now has a smiling 50-foot-long caterpillar! This project was funded by the Wyoming Hunger Initiative, First Interstate Bank, and by Rooted's sponsors and donors. Rooted volunteers, SCSD2 grounds staff, Bridges property manager Tris Munsick, a team of First Interstate Bank employees, and the entire first grade class collaborated to create a unique garden feature. A core of logs and grass will slowly decompose, feeding crops over time.



Culinary Collaborations

Cooking with fresh produce from the garden is a true pleasure. Students from Highland Park Elementary searched their school garden to discover various herbs and some beautiful zucchini. Cottonwood Kitchen chef Tye Bach then taught Highland Park students to make garlic zucchini bites! Meadowlark Elementary students harvested lettuce and dug for potatoes in their school garden. Chef Anto of Bonafide taught the students how to make delicious oven roasted potatoes and a lovely salad.



Teaching Garden & Greenhouse

Rooted is grateful to be part of such a collaborative community. Rooted in Wyoming's Teaching Garden and Greenhouse is being developed at Bridges, on the Big Goose west of Sheridan. The donation of a small greenhouse for seed starting and hydroponics was the first step in the project, with more to come in 2024. Intended as an ongoing garden experiment, this collaborative space is being developed with UW Extension Master Gardeners to demonstrate various growing methods, with produce planned for local schools and food banks in coordination with UW Cent\$ible Nutrition.

Gordon & Jeannie McConkey donated two Harbor Freight greenhouses!

\$6,712 in Mini-grants Awarded



SCSD2 Fifth St. Pilot Project, \$2,000



Raised Garden Beds for Seniors, \$750



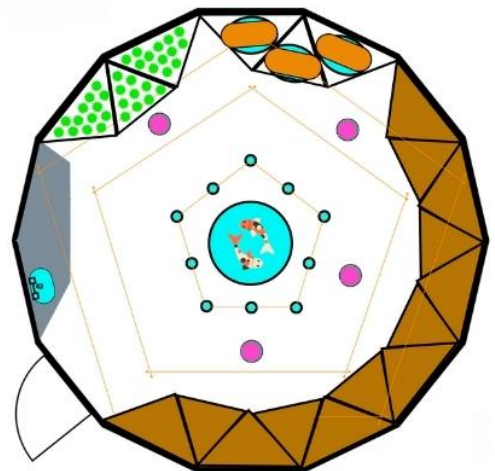
Meadowlark Garden Upgrades, \$962



Green House Living for Sheridan
Greenhouse, \$1,000



Evanston Youth Club Greenhouse, \$1,000
Uinta County



John C. Schiffer Collaborative School
Greenhouse supplies, \$1,000

Farm to Table

The 2023 Farm to Table fundraiser dinner was a beautiful harvest party! Guests, volunteers, chefs, and musicians gathered at Born in a Barn on the autumnal equinox to show their support for local food and Rooted in Wyoming.

Guests raved about the charcuterie, the meal, and especially the desserts. A team of talented chefs volunteered a huge amount of time and effort to highlight food from nearly 20 local producers. Thank you to the chefs, Brian & Anto Miller, Tye Bach, Travis Egan, Judy Fuller, Rob Gaarde, Michael Mericle, Phill Smith, and Joe Surwald!

Will Ferguson from Eatons' Ranch was auctioneer. A variety of fabulous donated items and experiences



were open to bidding. Thank you to the community for giving generously to support Rooted's programs.

The evening featured live music from two wonderful Wyoming bands. Shot in the Foot played their unique country style, and delighted attendees with their charming banter. Guests wrapped up the event with spirited dancing to the beautiful folk sounds of 10¢ Stranger.

Rooted in Wyoming is deeply grateful for the support of our amazing community. By backing collaborative programs and innovative projects, Rooted's sponsors and donors are helping cultivate resilience in Wyoming.

2023

FARM TO TABLE PRODUCERS

ANNIE'S FARM
BOX CROSS FARMS
CAROLA SCHMIDT
CLOUD PEAK CULTURES
CROSS E DAIRY
FARM GIRL GROCERY
LEGERSKI SAUSAGE
LE ULM MARCHE
LOHOF GRASS-FINISHED MEATS
OLHAS' MARKET
PAPA JOE PRODUCE
SHILOH VALLEY FARM
TONGUE RIVER HONEY
WELLBORN FARMS
WESTERN VARIETY FARM
WYOMING HERITAGE GRAINS
WYO HISER SPICES
40 MILE COLONY



Papa Joe (Joe Wesnitzer) and guests enjoying the meal at Born in a Barn, September 23.

Thank You
SPONSORS
& DONORS
20 ROOTED IN WYOMING. 23
Annual



Standish Family Fund



HOMER A. & MILDRED S. SCOTT
FOUNDATION

**Fehir Charitable
Foundation**



Hughes
Charitable
Foundation



WOLD
FOUNDATION



**ROBERT GOULD
FOUNDATION**

LOVE,
Tito's



**ROBBINS FAMILY
FOUNDATION**



GREGORY FAMILY



**Navajo Transitional
Energy Company**



First Northern Bank
of WYOMING



CENTURY 21
BHJ Realty, Inc.



**STAR
VIDEO AUDIO**



ANNIE'S FARM, AMY & ERIC BOULEY, FREEBORN FOUNDATION, BOB GIURGEVICH,
LINE RIDER LLC, CHRISTY LOVE, NAVE ENERGY, REBECCA NEWMAN, BILL RADER,
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD, MICHAEL EVERS, FOY FAMILY, SHAWN & WANDA GIBSON, BETTY MCKINLEY,
ALPHA GRAPHICS, JOHN ARAMBEL, ANTONIA ARMENTA-MILLER, BOB & ROSIE BERGER, MIKE BOEHRER,
CENTURY 21 BHJ, VICTORIA GRAY MARTIN, TYLER HERT, DAVID & KATHI JOHNSON, OLIVIA & JARAD KOLTISKA,
GORDON & JEANNIE MCCONKEY, NANCY MICKELSON, ANNE PENDERGAST, LYNN REEVES, KIM RYAN, ANNETA
SAYER, HEATHER SHIDEMAN, STEAMBOAT INVESTMENT, HEATH STEEL, KRISTI VON KROSIGK, ARIN WADDELL

We need your help on the Garden to Cafeteria Team!

Students, Parents, Grandparents, Friends, Neighbors, and Master Gardeners!



Seed starting

Tending

Harvesting

Enjoying!

Please consider giving your time to a mission with impact.

Community members like you help us ensure
a bountiful harvest from school and partner gardens.

Garden to Cafeteria Cycle



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PLEASE REGISTER
TO VOLUNTEER



CONSIDER DONATING
TO SUPPORT
ROOTED'S WORK



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