



LEAF 2019

ANNUAL REPORT



LEAF'S MISSION IS TO CULTIVATE YOUTH LEADERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS THROUGH MEANINGFUL WORK IN THE FOOD SYSTEM.

MEET OUR STAFF



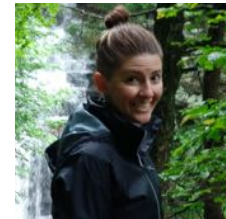
Heidi Witmer
Executive Director



Dave Cleck
Accountant



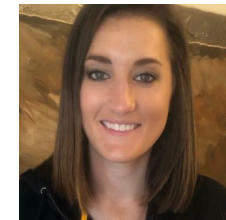
Ricki Horne
Program Coordinator



Erin McCusker
Organizational Support Coordinator



Amber Bahn
Farm Manager



Karli Wood
Development Coordinator



Shane Kaplan
Director of Learning

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That gorgeous flower on the front page of this report is a squash blossom and we normally raise a lot of them on the LEAF Farm. The appearance of their blooms signify all kinds of things- that the summer season is in full swing, that our chef partners' menus will be featuring this amazing edible bloom, and that a brand new crop of youth crew members have been hired and are learning the ropes at the LEAF Farm. In thinking about this impact report, we chose this image to signify the moment of growth LEAF is in (you knew we weren't going to pass up the chance to share a farming metaphor, right?). The flowering phase of an annual plant is one of both beauty and accomplishment. That plant has grown through that early fast-paced development of a new plant, where the majority of its energy came from within. When the plant throws open its first flowers, it's an invitation to its ecosystem to pollinate and to share its nectar, to partner in its growth. LEAF too has grown past our fast-paced start up phase. Now, we're now reaching out to our

community, to give and to grow. In this report, you'll see stories of 2019's achievements and goals for growth, stories of how our youth transformed and how we are partnering with other organizations to expand our youth leadership and impact. This season, as we all adapt to how the pandemic has impacted our community, we're pivoting to let those blossoms mature into squash so they can feed a larger number of people in our community. We're grateful to have the ability to respond to our community's needs for safe, local food, for meaningful engagement of youth, and to partner in meeting LEAF's mission - to cultivate youth leaders from diverse backgrounds through meaningful work in the food system - remains as necessary as ever. Come grow with us!

Growing Together,
Heidi Witmer
Executive Director



In 2019, LEAF hired **23 youth**,
and over the summer:

92% of the youth improved their
**understanding of food systems and
nutrition**

87% improved in **leadership skills**

83% of the youths' families surveyed
eating more, or maintained a **high level
of produce consumption** after the
program.

In addition, **4,080 community members**
were impacted through youth led
farming and cooking education
programs.



I think a lot about the lessons that I have learned at LEAF. I consider my beliefs and the consequences of my actions on the world that I think I once took very much for granted; I think about what we are all capable of contributing to change, even on the most minute of scales and I think about how important it is to stay mindful and appreciative of what I have.

~Lena, 16; Youth Crew Intern

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Youth are at the center of our organization. They grow alongside the plants they cultivate through taking leadership roles in the community and LEAF's own food system.



I know now, that I can be a leader and the things I really want to do. LEAF has taught me, that as a leader, it is okay to ask questions. It means that you're actually paying attention to what another person is saying and helps you build meaningful relationships.

-SYDNEY, Age 19

My favorite part about LEAF is meeting and building strong friendships with all the amazing people on this crew. This has allowed me to open up more and share my feelings. I've grown as a leader and have found my voice.

-JARED, Age 15



I will always remember the people of LEAF and the memories I made with them. Knowing and working with them has made me more understanding and less judgmental, especially towards the farming community.

-KATE, Age 16





LEAF IS GIVING & GROWING

LEAF's focus in the past year has been to deepen our investment in year round youth programming while partnering with other organizations to expand our impact. Just like the flowering plants, we're giving and growing.

INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

- **Youth Scholarships** - While we have always divided our youth time between meaningful work on the farm and developing their own future leadership skills, LEAF now awards second year youth leaders with scholarship funds to pursue their dreams.
- **Pre-Apprenticeship Program for Diversified Vegetable Farming** - LEAF is in a unique position to engage youth in the future of the food system. In partnership with industry leaders, LEAF youth can now pursue a PreApprenticeship certification that recognizes the knowledge and skills they bring to the craft of raising vegetables.

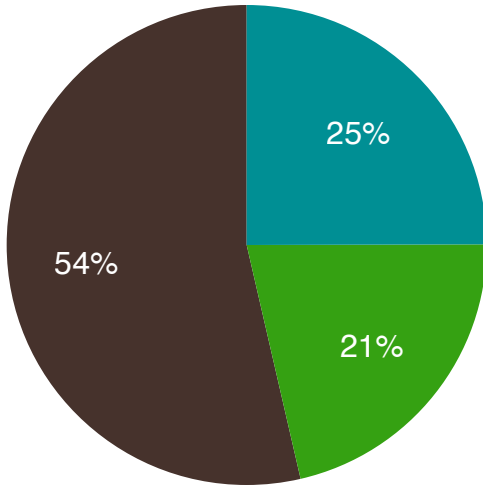
PARTNERING IN OUR COMMUNITY

- **Youth Summit** - In collaboration with the 2020 Pasa Conference, LEAF hosted a Youth Summit which brought together 6 youth programs from across Pennsylvania to explore pressing issues in their local food system.
- **Neighborhood Garden Box Project**- In 2020, LEAF is working with community organizations and families to provide garden kits and instruction so our community can learn how to grow their own food.
- **School Partnerships**- Another project for 2020 involves working with local schools to provide tailored field trips and in class agricultural and food systems education.

2019 ANNUAL FINANCIALS

REVENUE

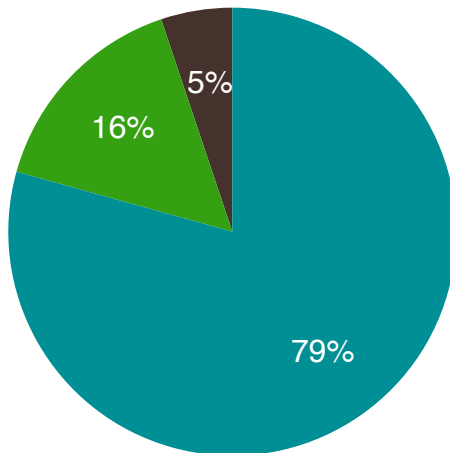
- Self Generated
- Contributions
- Grant Funding



TOTAL: \$ 308,123.13

EXPENSES

- Program
- Administrative
- Fundraising



TOTAL: \$ \$ 295,071.12



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MAKES LEAF POSSIBLE!

GRANT FUNDING

Clif Bar Family Foundation • The Stabler Foundation • G.B. Stuart Charitable Foundation • J. William Warehime Foundation • Josiah W. & Bessie H. Kline Foundation • Lawrence L. & Julia Z. Hoverter Foundation • Newman's Own Foundation • PA Dept. of Agriculture • Partnership for Better Health • PNC Charitable Foundation • PPL Foundation • The Foundation for Enhancing Communities

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