



**JOVIAL  
CONCEPTS**

*Annual Report*  
**2015**

JovialConcepts.org

*“Everything changes. Everything on this earth is in a continuous state of evolving, refining, improving, adapting, enhancing...changing. You were not put on this earth to remain stagnant.”*


*- Steve Maraboli, Life, the Truth, and Being Free*



## Mission Statement ~ 2015

**“To empower under-served communities to thrive, by offering sustainable solutions and educating future leaders.”**

2015 truly represented a year of **evolving, refining, improving, adapting, enhancing**, and **changing** for Jovial Concepts. Due to the amount of growth each of our initiatives was experiencing, we thought it best to narrow our focus to sustainability initiatives in low-income neighborhoods. We have moved away from our Peace Day and Jovial Futures initiatives to focus on creating food security and responsible diversion of organic waste.



# Evolving

## Jovial Futures

### Mission

To support the futures of underserved youth in our community by providing the skills and experience necessary for college and career.

Through our program our students learned that they could “Be whatever they wanted to be” and “that they could do anything” by discovering what they’re spark is and using it to enrich their future.

**26 Students**

**17 Mentors**

**100 Volunteer Hours**

### School Closure and Transition

School administration came to the decision to merge the Edgewater middle school and high school together in an effort to improve overall academic performance. Families seeking mentoring for their students should utilize the Goodwill Program that is now being offered at Jefferson Jr./ Sr. High as it offers goals and objective similar to Jovial Futures. With the rapid growth of our neighborhood sustainability projects, Jovial Futures decided that 2014-2015 would be its last school year. Students currently teamed with mentors from Jovial Futures will be able to continue to their relationships with the full support of Jovial Concepts.





# Refining

## Community Initiative Contest

Every year Jovial Concepts offers micro-grants via our video contest to individuals or groups that promote sustainability and strengthen their communities.

**Congratulations to our 2015 winners:**



### **Project Kirotshe- \$500**

Project Kirotshe was created to provide children in Kirotshe, DR Congo with the means to obtain an education and experience athletics in a country that has been war-torn for many years.

### **Grauer School - \$250**

The Grauer School's learning model fosters nurturing as well as close tutorial relationships between teachers and students. With a student to teacher ratio of 7:1, teachers know each student's personality, learning style, strengths, weaknesses and academic objectives.



### **Cops and Kidds - \$250**

Cops and Kidds helps to strengthen the ties between the community and those that help to protect it. Local authorities and youth interact by participating in local music and basketball. Their goal is to create a unified and peaceful community.





# Improving

## Jovial Gardens

### Mission

Jovial Gardens addresses the problems of food scarcity in low income neighborhoods by converting lawns and other public spaces into garden classrooms. We use the gardens to provide classes and job training which support overall community growth. We use the produce we grow to feed local families in need.

**7,100 Sq Ft** of Garden Space

**413** Volunteers

**2,065** Volunteer Hours

**4,022 lbs** of Produce Grown

**5,924 lbs** of Food Donated

More than **33,040** Meals

Worth over **\$17,772**

# Adapting

## Fall Festival

We recently partnered with a local organization, ACS Community LIFT, that offers food, emergency clothing, utility assistance, emergency shelter, and domestic violence assistance.

**In honor of World Food Day**, we served a free organic meal and hosted a backyard produce cooking demo. All proceeds went to ACS Lift and Jovial Concepts to continue growing food and providing free medical care!

**127 Attendees**

**33 Volunteers**

**94 Volunteer Hours**

**1 Cooking Demonstration  
by Chef Lilly Steirer**

**Over 100 Happy Bellies**







# Enhancing

## Garden Classrooms

By having school gardens, greenhouses, or garden clubs students are empowered to learn where their food comes from and how to make healthy food choices. This program is designed to help curb the increase in diabetes and diet related illness among youth living in low-income households in Jefferson County and Colorado, while increasing students relationship to their school, education, peers, and environment.

### 3 Elementary Schools

#### 1 Garden Club

#### 1 Seed to Table Program

**46** Student Participants

**2,500** Seedlings Grown

**18** Volunteers

**338** Volunteer Hours

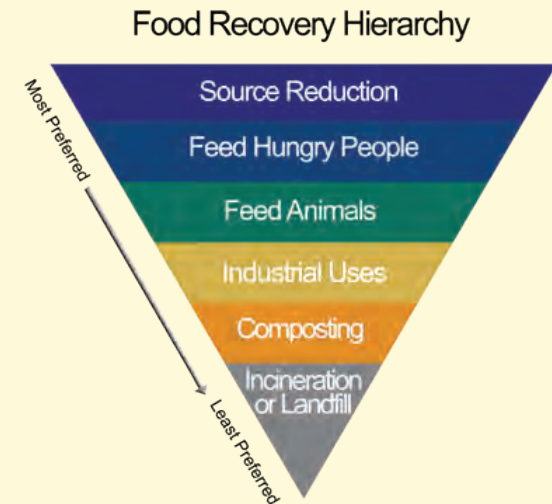
**411** students with increased access to organic vegetables in their school lunches.





## Waste Diversion

As we move our focus to creating sustainability in low-income areas, we are rapidly developing new programs to support our work. Through our EPA partnership Jovial Concepts aims to lead local residents, schools, and businesses in taking a more responsible and sustainable approach to organic waste through compost, animal feed, and donations to food banks.



**3** CSU Interns

**106** Volunteer Hours

**53,000 lbs** of Waste Diverted

Official Partnership with **EPA**

**Launched** Neighborhood Compost Program

## Board of Directors

Kristina Welch  
*Executive Director*

William Davis  
*Vice President*

Yvonne Welch  
*Treasurer*

Kati Latulip  
*Secretary*

## Key Support

Emily Carr  
*School Programs*

Seth Mund  
*Horticulturalist*

Mike Geddes  
*Garden Manager*

Jason Bump  
*Master Composter*

## Advisory Board

Bonnie McNulty, Mayor  
*Edgewater, CO*

Thomas Slabe, Biologist

Kimberly Weeks, L.C.S.W.

Jane Ambrose, Founder  
*One Sky, One World*

## 2015 Impact Overview

**465 Families Served**

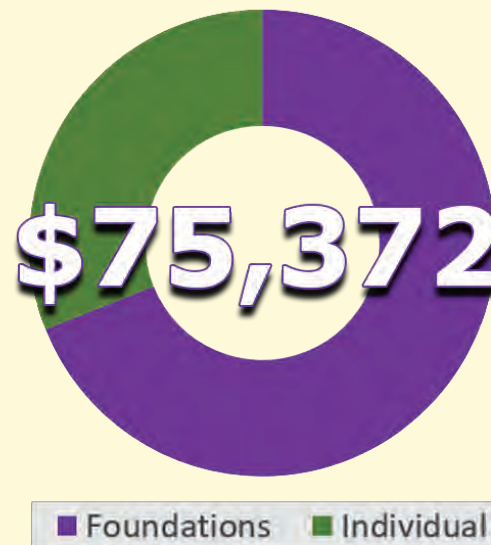
**484 Volunteers**

**2,703 Volunteer Hours**

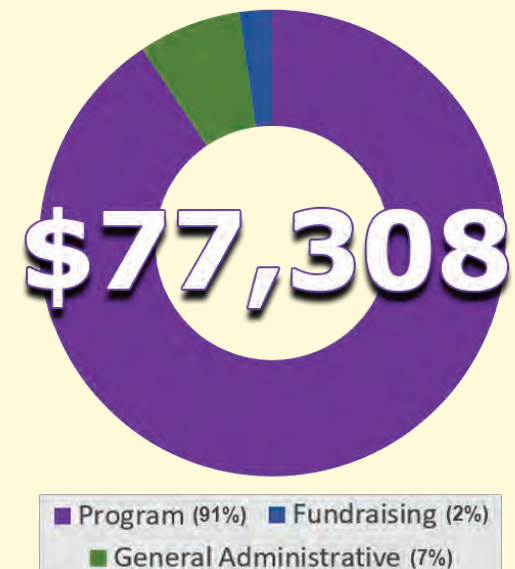
**Value of Volunteer Time \$39,842**

## Financial Overview

**Income**



**Expenses**



# Changing

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## Looking Ahead

In 2016 Jovial Concepts plans to:

Expand into 3 new neighborhoods.

Divert over 75,000 lbs of organic waste from landfills to animals, compost, or food banks.

Expand to 50 Gardens, totaling 12,000 sqft, and grow an additional 2,500 lbs of food

Donate 8,000 lbs of food

Bring in 5 new corporate partners

Team with 12 new partners from schools, restaurants, and other local businesses to divert local waste away from landfills

Launch our neighborhood compost program in Edgewater

Support 3 volunteers in successfully achieving employment in partner garden centers

Begin active garden clubs at 3 partner schools

Host garden walks and showcases

Increase participation with farmers markets

The City of Lakewood has chosen Jovial Concepts to represent sustainability in Lakewood and has asked us to run and receive the benefits from the Beer Garden at their Annual Earth Day Event!



# Thank You!

## AI CAPITAL



# Partners and Donors

21st Century Grant  
5280 Burger Bar  
Abiding Hope  
Ace Hardware  
ACS Community Lift  
AmeriCorps  
Ball Corporation  
BBB Seeds  
City of Edgewater  
City of Lakewood  
CODA Coffee  
Colorado Academy  
Colorado Gives  
Conscious Earth Gathering  
Cultivate Colorado  
Denver University  
Environmental Studies  
Living Learning  
Community  
DISH Cares

Eagleton Elementary  
Edgewater Collective  
Edgewater Elementary  
Eiber Resilience Circle  
EPA  
Global Giving  
HEALthy Edgewater  
Home Depot  
The Hydrostore  
Industrial Hemp Recycling  
Jamba Juice  
Jefferson County Ladies  
Homesteading Group  
Joy Ride Brewing  
Jun-Key Co-Op  
King Soopers  
Kyffin Elementary  
Lowes  
MSU of Denver Dept of  
Health Professions

Neville Teagarden  
One Brick Denver  
Overhaulics  
Pablo's Coffee  
Project Helping  
Rainbow Lightning  
Regis University  
Rosie Acre Farms  
Safeway  
Sample Support  
SeedMoney  
Sonshine Electric  
SOS Outreach  
Taja Indian Restaurant  
Third Way  
Wheatridge 5-8  
Yard Busters, LLC



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