



**JOVIAL  
CONCEPTS**

**Annual Report  
2020**



“ This program has helped my family a lot. Since the pandemic, it's been difficult for us to find a job and have food at the table. I would like to say that I am very grateful for the great food that I have received from this program. The food is always fresh, with great vegetables, fruit, eggs, milk and so many other things. With everything going on with the Pandemic, it's so nice to not have to go out to the packed grocery store, and most days it's just hard to afford to go to the grocery store anyway. Sometimes you have to choose between paying bills, or putting gas in your car, or going to the doctor. It's just so nice to be getting help with groceries once a week, and I am forever grateful. My 2 granddaughters that stay with me enjoy the cereal, and fruit very much. We all would all like to say thank you so much for helping us during these tough times. ”

**- Peggy Suebaca**



# Vision

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

## Mission Statement

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



# Financials

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2020

### Assets

#### Current Assets

USB - Checking	\$34,200.33
USB - Checking Co-Op	\$21,182.65

#### Total Checking/Savings **\$55,382.98**

Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
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#### Total Current Assets **\$55,382.98**

#### Fixed Assets

Furniture/Fixtures	\$4,872.76
1st Ave Building	\$546,231.00
1st Ave Improvements	\$294,453.22
1st Ave Land	\$60,500.00
Computer	\$6,129.76
Trailer	\$300.00
Truck	\$9,150.00
Loan Fees	\$10,834.00
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$88,563.57

#### Total Fixed Assets **\$843,907.17**

Other Assets	\$25,337.20
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#### Total Assets **\$924,627.35**

### Liabilities & Net Assets

#### Liabilities

Long Term Liabilities	
CHFA Loan	\$420,478.78
N/P Monacal	\$297,289.27
N/P Trustee	\$9,000.00
N/P Other	\$11,182.06
N/P Soupis	\$0.00

#### Total Long Term Liabilities **\$737,950.11**

#### Total Liabilities **\$737,950.11**

#### Net Assets

Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$186,677.24
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#### Total Net Assets **\$186,677.24**

#### Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$924,627.35**



## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2020

### Support and Revenue

### Unrestricted

### Total

#### Support and Revenue

##### Contributed Support

Individ, Business Contribution	\$21,546.01	\$21,546.01
Gifts In Kind	\$216,489.00	\$216,489.00
Corportate Contributions	\$13,816.41	\$13,816.41
Foundations/Grants	\$233,575.00	\$233,575.00
Government	\$160,321.18	\$160,321.18

<b>Total Contributed Support</b>	<b>\$645,747.60</b>	<b>\$645,747.60</b>
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<b>Rents/Lease Income</b>	<b>\$40,716.20</b>	<b>\$40,716.20</b>
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##### Program Income

Events	\$39,619.96	\$39,619.96
Jovial Gardens	\$5,556.75	\$5,556.75

<b>Total Program Income</b>	<b>\$45,176.71</b>	<b>\$45,176.71</b>
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<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$731,640.51</b>	<b>\$731,640.51</b>
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<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$731,640.51</b>	<b>\$731,640.51</b>
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### Expenses

#### Expense

Awards and Grants	\$12,662.60	\$12,662.60
Jovial Gardens	\$483,469.43	\$483,469.43
Co-Op	\$132,343.78	\$132,343.78
General and Administration	\$46,660.19	\$46,660.19
Fundraising	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Plant the Seed	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$685,136.00</b>	<b>\$685,136.00</b>
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Other Income/Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
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Change in Net Assets	\$46,504.51	\$46,504.51
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Net Assets at Beginning of period	\$140,172.73	\$140,172.73
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<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$186,677.24</b>	<b>\$186,677.24</b>
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# 2020 Impact Overview

## Volunteer

638

2020

750

2019

## Volunteer Hours from Adults and Students with Disabilities

740

1,120

## Volunteer Hours

2,970

4,890

## Pounds of Food Donated

4,794

4,719

## Pandemic Stats

- 2020: 750,000 lbs donated
- Holiday Boxes- 60 Thanksgiving and 100 Xmas
- Provided 33,550 USDA approved Meals to students who do not have access outside of school hours.
- Allocated \$24,000 to pay Energy Bills for our neighbors, allowing them to focus on paying for food and rent.







# Jovial Gardens

Jovial Gardens continues to maintain over 60 gardens across the Denver metro area and supply much needed access and education around healthy food. During Covid, we provided just under 5k pounds of food despite having very few volunteers and limited staff. Our residential gardens continue to spread and we now have over 20 Gardens in Denver proper. Due to pandemic related complications we were unable to complete the Native Pollinator Garden at Edgewater Elementary and hope to revisit this next year. Jovial did build 2 garden beds for Barnum Elementary students. Many of our school programs were put on pause due to closures and we hope to return to some degree of normal in 2021.

In addition to our Residential and School programs, Jovial Gardens was able to create robust programming for individuals with disabilities, living in Denver, to work outside in the gardens. We hosted groups one day per week that focused on teaching life skills, job skills, healthy eating and sustainable environmental practices.

**Thank You Colorado Garden Foundation  
for your support of Jovial Gardens!**

**Staff:**

Garden Manager Di Collinwood

**Team Leaders:**

Gavin Willow

Jeanette Uhler

Andrew Gillet

Katy Casper



# Co-op at 1st

Before COVID, the Co-op at 1st proved to be a self-sustaining model to promote food, health access, social enterprise, education, and community. We have a program that is designed to offer a greater diversity of food in the supply chain including access to local healthy foods by increasing SNAP enrollment and the use of Double-Up Food Bucks. In addition, the co-op program provides invaluable support to the community with healthy food education and community-building relationship opportunities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jovial Concepts/The Co-Op at 1st market has continued to adjust operations to best address the increased food need in our community. Additionally, we have taken the challenges we have been faced with, and lessons learned during this crisis to create an innovative vision for the future.

- Empowering 83 Nonprofits and Entrepreneurs
- 12 free community events
- Over 100 free and donation-based classes
- 6 Donation Based Medical Clinics





# Board of Directors and Key Support

## Board of Directors

Robin Arnett

Jeffery Lawhead

Jessica Andersen

Lila Veronica

Courtney Butler

Alexis Irias

Kristina Welch

Yvonne Welch

Quency Moye

## Key Support

Alyssa Angel

Claudia Sanchez

Danny Johnson

Corey Hixson

Alia Mendoza

Cailyn Eveland

Elly Voz

Ruben Valentin

Kristina Welch

Coby Wikselaar



# Sustainability

This is the 1st year Jovial has included a committee dedicated to holding us accountable to our standards of environmental sustainability. Sustainability is a big part of what Jovial Concepts encompasses. Jovial Gardens are set up to use drip irrigation, organic seeds, compost, among other sustainable practices. Our garden program also promoted healthy and sustainable living to our Garden Hosts, volunteers, interns, and others by teaching them how to create easy access to fresh produce. Our Food Program was aimed to help families struggling with the effects of COVID. We were able to make adjustments throughout the year to make sure this program ran as sustainably as possible. We worked to reduce food waste by using food that would otherwise be thrown away, and packaging in compostable, and reusable containers. We also bought as much food as possible from local farmers and vendors to reduce food miles and support the local economy.

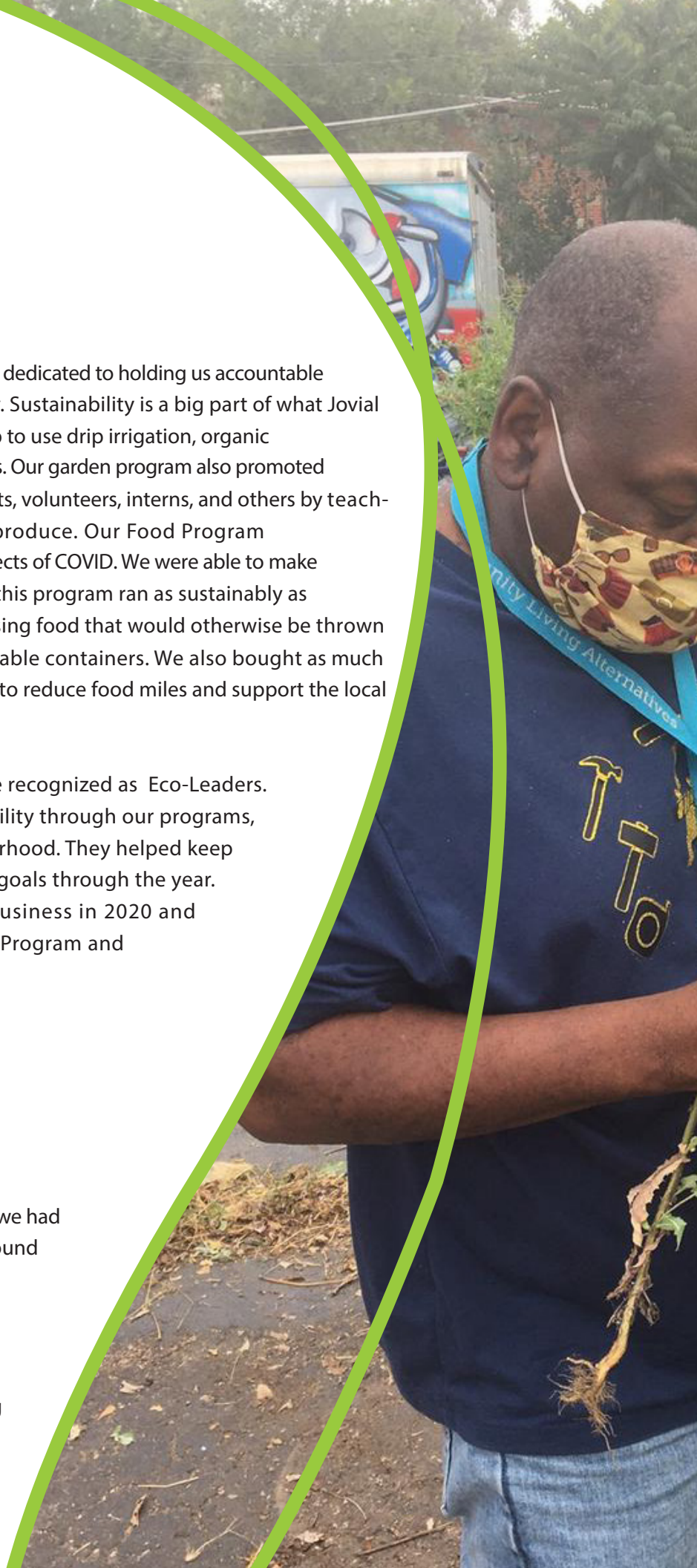
The Committee met once a month and became recognized as Eco-Leaders. They worked to spread education on sustainability through our programs, events, community meetings, and the neighborhood. They helped keep Jovial Concepts on track with its sustainability goals through the year. Jovial Concepts was also a Certified Green Business in 2020 and participated in the Environmental Leadership Program and Food Recovery Challenge.

## **Environmental Programs we were part of**

- Certified Green Business
- Environmental Leadership Program
- Food Waste Recovery Challenge

## **Reduced waste by:**

- Held two waste audits and found where we had contamination and educated people around the building to prevent further contamination and waste
- Donating leftover food from food program to Denver Indian Center
- Using leftover ingredients/food expiring soon for meals







### **Reduced waste by: (cont)**

- Putting "use me first" stickers on food items given to families that expire soon
- Hand out milk from Royal Crest to families that are going to expire soon
- Using yard waste for mulch/organic matter in garden beds
- Upcycled and recycled building materials

### **Reduce Water by:**

- Using drip irrigation in gardens
- Maximized dry cleaning methods
- Diverted 40,000 lbs from landfills to compost

### **Education:**

- Had 10 sustainability interns
- Worked with Ecocycle to start an eco leaders team of about 6 members.
- For the events, we were able to hold we helped attendees learn which bin their trash belonged in and educated them on sustainability
- Lead a class at MSU on how to bring sustainability to the workplace. The class also highlighted how sustainable practices can help low-income neighborhoods.
- Our garden program teaches garden hosts and volunteers how to successfully garden without pesticides or other conventional gardening practices. Our gardens are as organic and sustainable as possible.

### **Community Events:**

- We attended community events: Women in Sustainability, Lakewood City Council, and Sustainable Neighborhoods meetings

### **Upgraded:**

- Maintenance plan: We are regularly having our fridges, freezers, and HVAC maintenance to improve energy efficiency
- Old fridges/freezers that were not energy efficient

### **Limitations:**

- Due to COVID the building was used very differently than in previous years. Therefore it was hard to determine how much water, energy, and waste was saved from the previous years



# Partners and Donors

Thank you, sincerely, to all the amazing organizations, partners, foundations, government agencies, volunteers, donors, staff, community members and board members that have supported Jovial Concepts and The Co-op at 1st in becoming staple organizations in our communities in SW Denver and Jefferson County. We could not be who we are without you!

***THANK YOU!***





# Looking Forward

1. Increase our harvest to 7,000 lbs donated to families in need.
2. Build a Pollinator Garden in partnership with Ewing Irrigation, Audubon International, and The Colorado Garden Foundation at Edgewater Elementary School to compliment the 3rd graders' research on Monarch Butterflies.
3. Continue to help the under-served community around the Co-op during these unprecedented times.
4. Continue to help supply healthy food options for families in need.
5. Expand our work with individuals living with disabilities to include The City of Denver and incorporate life skill development, such as shopping and healthy meal creation.
6. Create online classes where participants can engage and learn different skills pertaining to healthy eating and sustainable living.





[info@jovialconcepts.org](mailto:info@jovialconcepts.org)  
5045 West 1st Ave.  
Denver, CO 80219  
Phone: 303-578-2569  
Fax: 720-386-0300

**Thank you, Partnership for a Healthier America for  
the donation of the fresh produce boxes!**

**Thank you, Sysco for the donation of food products  
for the Emergency Meal program!**

**Thank you, City of Denver for all the Emergency Food Support,  
Unsung Hero Award, and a multitude of community programs  
from HHS to Food in Communities!**

