



## SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY EDUCATION CENTER

165 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange, MA 01364 • (978) 544-9023

November, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Seeds of Solidarity is known as an ever-creative organization and 2020 has certainly put that to the test! Amid the challenges of a tangled health, economic, and political climate, **we persevered** to carry out programs that distribute fresh food, promote wellness, and illuminate paths to climate justice, plus **launched new initiatives** that are increasingly relevant as we approach a new year.

At this moment, **your contribution is essential to our ability to carry on with courage, vision, and stability in 2021.** Please read on for inspiring stories of resilience from this year, and what your generous support will make possible as we move forward with renewed dedication.

**Years of experience, efficient use of resources, and strong partnerships enabled us to act quickly and effectively in 2020.**

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and hunger and isolation increased, we launched two programs that connect farm fresh food with households facing food insecurity. As winter



approaches, we initiate a third. With our wonderful partner Quabbin Harvest food coop, these

initiatives—including the Stocking Up Share

illustrated here—provided free farmshares totaling

over 15,000 servings of vegetables to families and elders in need, while

creating sales for farmers suddenly at a loss for markets. As we carried out

efforts locally, we established a similar, new solidarity effort with Sta

Maodzwa, a vital member of the Seeds of Solidarity team who is from Zimbabwe. Together we raised funds enabling Sta to coordinate deliveries of

fresh food from farmers to families facing extreme hunger amplified by

COVID-19, with these boxes of produce and staples arriving on doorsteps

throughout the Zimbabwe winter and economic strife.



To complement our food distribution efforts, we created a colorful Recipes for Wellness resource that was provided to over 1,000 households through agencies in our network, and virtually to many more. We also offered physically distanced workshops on no-till methods, container gardening and food preparation. We provided our DIY and video resources freely and actively to support a radical



increase in gardening interest; created new

videos posted to our 'Cardboard Method'

YouTube channel; and participated in

webinars and legislative forums, all to help

people regionally, nationally, and

internationally Grow Food Everywhere to

spread food justice. To support young people in keeping

passion and purpose awake during disruptive times, we

shifted our Craft Your Own Life intensive to a small group

format, plus safely hosted wonderful interns and volunteers

to gain learning and healing on the land.



(over)



As the season progressed, we erected a structure of local lumber with a solar roof with the help of amazing neighbors. This multipurpose space has already proved useful, enabling five spacious Garlic Saturday events in lieu of our annual festival. (Meanwhile, the remarkable festival committee assembled a playlist of 120 engaging new and archival videos). This indoor/outdoor space, dubbed the Sunrise Building, will be essential

in 2021 as an expanded farmstand and base for workshops and programs. These include a new initiative, Women Healing Women Healing Earth: a restorative program for women impacted by economic and racial injustice, conceptualized by the team pictured at right.



In this year like few others, uncertainty looms. What we know is that the value central to our name, solidarity, is a rallying call that must fuel nourishing food, clean water, and healthcare for all; a restored climate; redistribution of wealth and land reparations; and creation of dignified, meaningful and fair wage work in all communities.

**We are immensely grateful to you, our supporters.** The vibrant packet of seeds enclosed is a practical gift to help spread goodness, and as a symbolic reminder of that we must remember and restore. **Plant Love, Grow Justice, Cultivate Hope!** You'll find many resources to do so at [seedsofsolidarity.org](http://seedsofsolidarity.org).

We deeply value your gift. An envelope is enclosed for your check, or make your donation online today at [seedsofsolidarity.org](http://seedsofsolidarity.org). We have worked tirelessly to keep our farm and programs vibrant and serving during this challenging year, and will forge onward to the portal of possibility with renewed dedication, so long as we have you with us.

Ricky Baruch and Deb Habib, Co-Founders



PS: The beautiful seed packet art is from the cover of our book, *Making Love While Farming: A Field Guide to a Life of Passion and Purpose*. It serves as inspiration and creative workbook for many individuals and communities. Order one for yourself or a gift from [levellerspress.com](http://levellerspress.com)

