



SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY EDUCATION CENTER

165 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange, MA 01364 • (978) 544-7564

November, 2022

Dear Friends,

We celebrate a full year, one that marks almost 25 years since inception. Thanks to your support, Seeds of Solidarity remains an ever-creative force for positive change. Our multiple programs meet critical needs and solid community partnerships amplify our reach. You uplift our work that teaches thousands locally and globally to Grow Food Everywhere, promote wellness where there is despair, and educate for climate justice.



As we approach a new year, **your tax-deductible contribution is vital to sustain our programs and energize fresh vision forward.** Read on for a taste of what **your generous support makes possible**, as well as the significance of the basil we chose for a gift to you in our Plant Love, Grow Justice, Cultivate Hope seed packet.

This year we ran not one, but two fresh food programs for families struggling to make ends meet. Thousands of servings of vegetables and meal kits (plus container gardens!) were provided free of charge through our Solidarity Farmshares initiative at our site, and Stocking Up program in collaboration with Quabbin Harvest food coop. In addition to these, brimming boxes of our produce go to SNAP beneficiaries each week through Quabbin Harvest.



As a small but mighty organization, approaches to leadership that bring many to the table enliven and strengthen Seeds of Solidarity. An example is our Women Healing Women Healing Earth program. An awesome team of culturally diverse educators co-create and provide fabulous arts, nature, cooking, and healing workshops where women connect and create beauty together, especially needed due to pandemic stress and isolation.

Collaborations broaden our reach, generate shared goals, and blossom joy. New this year was our intensive held on Earth Day for low-wealth and farmers of color called *Making a Livelihood on the Land*. A weekend we held for young adults — *Building Immersion, Life Tools* — was a



*Seeds of Solidarity Education Center Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
Visit seedsofsolidarity.org for more: programs, events, resources or to make a donation.*

great success, as was our *Rich and Healthy Intensive* on no-till farming and gardening. Public programs included a six-session *Grow Food Everywhere* series with a local library, *Solidarity Inspiration*

presentations at our farmstand, and virtual workshops for those near and far. For the sixth year, we provided organic gardening courses for women and men incarcerated at

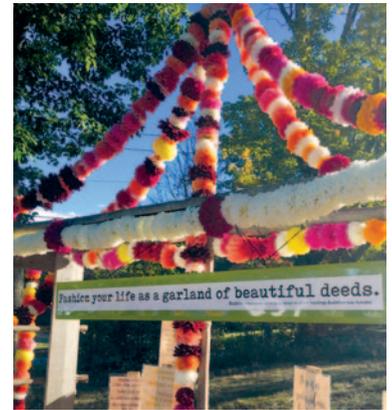


our county jail for which participants receive college credit along with much needed outdoor time and new skills (a class participant's powerful artwork will be featured on our thank you card to donors). At summer's end, Congressman Jim McGovern led over 40 local, state, and federal policymakers on a visit to our farm to learn about climate resilient growing methods, then bring recommendations to the first White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health held in 50 years.



thousand arrived for this all volunteer, neighborhood fun event that is a vital source of income for area artists and farmers. Imagine (or you experienced!) a stunning farm field with electric vehicle education on one end, free-range kids making art at another, three stages with music and performance, and the contemplative space at our Garden of Peace designed by SOS board member Phyllis, featuring garlands of 600 fresh flowers and words from the wise and courageous across the globe.

Of exciting note is the return of our beloved North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival after a pandemic hiatus. Eight



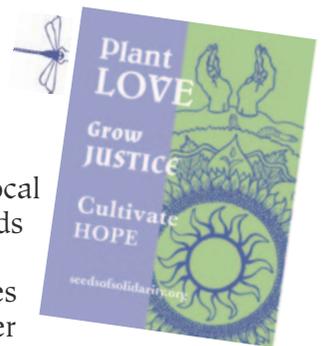
We have worked tirelessly to keep our mission and programs vibrant and innovative for almost 25 years, and will forge onward with renewed dedication with your support. Every gift matters! An envelope is enclosed for your check, or donate on-line today at seedsofsolidarity.org.

We await your reply with joy and gratitude,

Ricky Baruch and Deb Habib,
Co-Founders



P.S. Why basil seeds? In addition to the uplifting fragrance and flavor, we graduated hundreds of local teens from our SOL (Seeds of Leadership) Garden program over two decades and the signature summer lunch was always basil pesto pasta with fresh tomatoes! For some, this was their first experience of cooking and eating fresh food, and sharing a meal over conversation. Many still make pesto, now for their own children, from their gardens that flourish with skills gained here and that they carry on to the next generation.



Seeds of Solidarity Education Center Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Visit seedsofsolidarity.org for a list of our board members and current grants/funders.