



AQUIDNECK COMMUNITY TABLE



2022 ANNUAL
REPORT

THANK YOU TO

Our Board & Staff

MISSION

Our mission is to grow a healthy food system, accessible to all on our island

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FROM THE DESK OF

Our Executive Director

2022, Aquidneck Community Table's seventh year of life, began with the uncertainty and loss of the pandemic still hanging over us all: could we finally triumph over the challenges of the past two years? Would we soon gather without masks, finally able to see smiles on the faces of friends, family, and community again? When would students resume a normal school day - could we find ways to support them to catch up on two lost years?



We asked these questions as we began to plan the upcoming season. As spring unfolded, so did our excitement at being able to reopen programs dormant during COVID: the fledgling farmers market in the North End – operated in partnership with the Newport Health Equity Zone – reopened in Miantonomi Park.

ACT's Food Explorers program, engaging and educating children and families about the tastes and benefits of fresh produce, returned to our markets. Our second cohort of Root Riders was enrolled for ACT's still new summer youth employment program, and summer camp experiences for Fab Newport and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center students were held at ACT's community gardens. In September, our garden education program at Pell Elementary School saw students finally return to the exuberant learning experiences that a school garden offers.

This restoration of health would not have been possible without your vibrant support. We remain deeply thankful for a dedicated and resilient staff; energetic and committed board members; and for so many of you who helped with your hands and hearts, giving a wealth of gifts to sustain and grow our programs.

Thank you for believing in our mission and the power inherent in a community working together for greater good. Our work would not be possible without your conviction that change is possible. I invite you to turn these pages for stories from 2022.

With appreciation,

Bevan Linsley

44,000

visits made by
market shoppers

\$30,000+

distributed in food
support programs



**“If I had to choose one word it would be ‘quality’.
Everything is made and grown with love, which
translates to value.”**

- Market Customer



45+

farmers and small
business market
vendors featured
annually

273

children and
families learning
about healthy foods
through the Food
Explorers program

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Growers Markets

Providing easy access to regionally-grown food and strengthening our local economy

ACT's Growers Markets burst with seasonal, regionally-grown food and locally made products. Annually, we manage four market locations featuring a range of farmers, local artisans, and small food businesses. These markets play a vital part in strengthening our local economy while also providing a direct-to-consumer experience that guarantees quality and value for shoppers.



“Eating is an agricultural act”

- Wendell Berry



The Fresh Bucks/Bonus Bucks system offers our SNAP clients a 100% bonus when shopping at the markets, making access to fresh foods affordable for many financially challenged households.

In summer, the Food Explorers program inspires children to taste fresh produce and educates them and their families about the benefits of a healthy diet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Education

Youngest community members build knowledge, confidence, and the framework for a lifetime of healthy habits

ACT's partnership with the Claiborne Pell Elementary School in Newport began in 2018 with the construction of a new school garden, made possible by generous community support.

Since then, we have offered seasonal garden education programs for hundreds of students, enthusiastic about hands-on science lessons, growing and tasting plants, tending a garden, and observing the miracle of a tiny seed turning into a pumpkin. We ask students questions to encourage them to use critical thinking skills and to be inquisitive learners as they work together in the garden.



It is rewarding to hear students recount stories and draw pictures of what they have learned and to hear teachers say, "This aligns perfectly with what I've been teaching in class!"

An overhead photograph of several children's hands reaching into a blue-edged garden bed filled with dark soil. Some children are holding handfuls of soil, and one child is holding a small black object, possibly a seed or a small insect. The children are wearing various clothing, including a blue shirt and a red shirt.

336

Pell students
participated in
garden education
lessons

25

students in summer
garden education
at Great Friends
Community Garden

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Root Riders



The Root Riders summer youth employment program offers high-school students six action-packed weeks learning first job skills, teamwork, leadership, and basic growing practices while tending ACT's school and community gardens and sharing produce they have grown with neighbors in need.

10

Root Riders
participated in
ACT's summer
youth employment
program



“Root Riders taught my son how to create something beautiful (home-grown food) from a pile of dirt and some seeds. We highly recommend this program!”

- Root Rider Parent



“I love being able to grow my own food and I don’t have the space otherwise. Every year I garden I learn so much about the world... I feel much more connected to the cycles of the earth and how I fit into it.”

- Community Gardener



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Community Gardens

Ensuring access to healthy foods by providing low cost places to grow produce with guidance from experienced growers



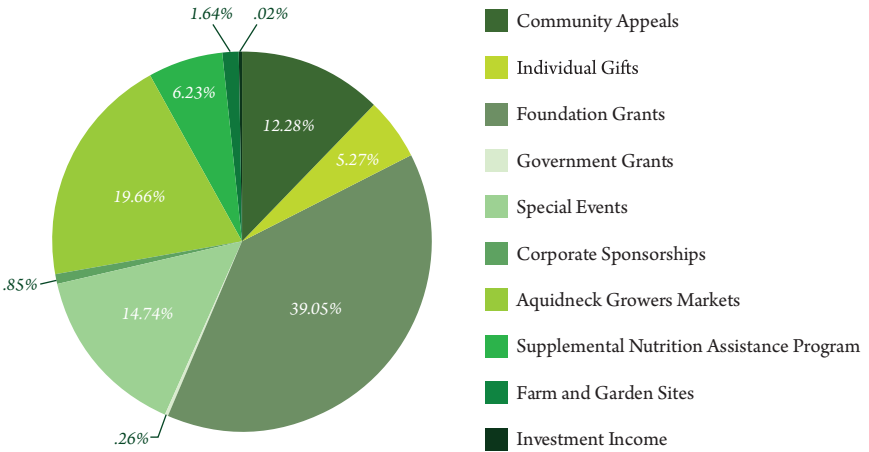
ACT manages 80+ community garden plots at five sites across the island, ensuring access to gardens and food production at low to no cost so that people of all income levels can participate, improving a household's access to a healthy diet while also learning lifelong skills. Community gardens are spaces that offer an opportunity for people of all backgrounds, ages, and ethnicities to work together across boundaries, combining digging in the dirt with the principles of an equitable and sustainable food system.



FINANCIAL REPORT

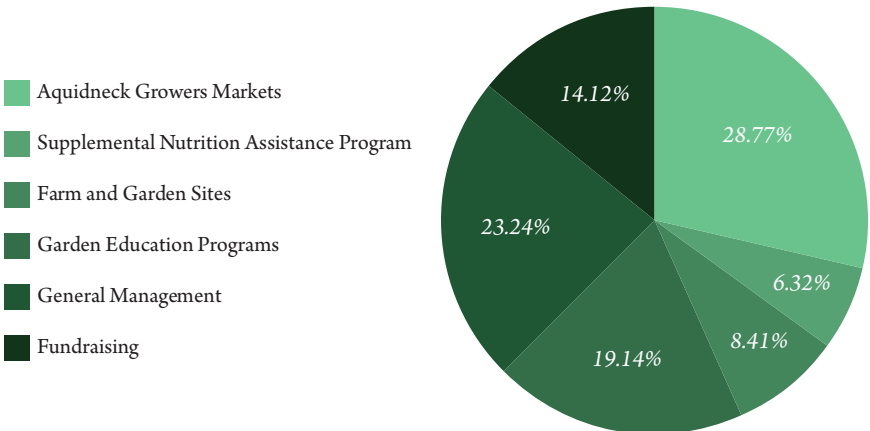
Income & Expenses

FY2022 Revenue



Total Revenue: \$378,619

FY2022 Expenses



Total Expenses: \$401,332

Net Assets December 31, 2022: \$165,886

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\$100 - \$499

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*Recurring donations are vital to our organization and year-round programming.
To give a monthly contribution please visit us at aquidneckcommunitytable.org/donate*

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Generous grants ensure our programs and community thrive

\$30,000+

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\$20,000 - \$29,999

de Ramel Foundation

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Prince Charitable Trust

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The Merritt Fund, Aquidneck Land Trust

The State of Rhode Island Senate Legislative Grant

THIS GARDEN IS
A PROGRAM OF



AQUIDNECK
COMMUNITY
TABLE

THANK YOU TO

Our Volunteers & Educators

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MJ Santry
Rachel Playe





**Special thanks to our writing, editing, and design team:
Annie Tuthill, Liz Rose, and Bevan Linsley**

Our team has worked hard to ensure all donor information is assembled accurately. If something is incorrect, please accept our sincerest apologies for the error and let us know at info@aquidneckcommunitytable.org

**GROWING A HEALTHY FOOD
SYSTEM, ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ON
AQUIDNECK ISLAND**



AQUIDNECK COMMUNITY TABLE

PO Box 1481 | Newport, RI 02840

aquidneckcommunitytable.org