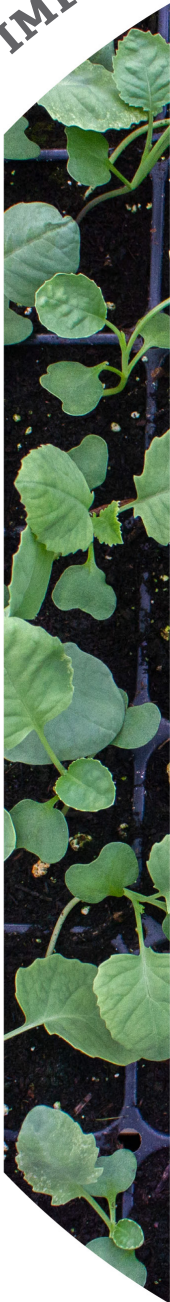
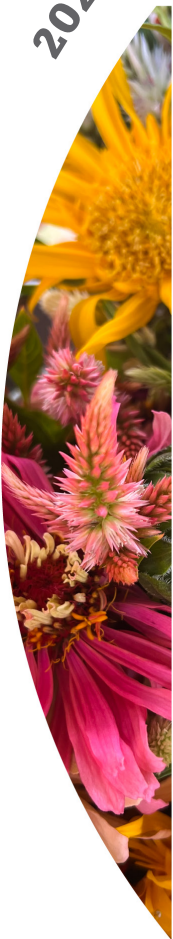


2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



JONES VALLEY TEACHING FARM

# *Celebrating*



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IMPACT



Jones Valley Teaching Farm has always believed that food can be the foundation for so many things. As we watch young people discover the powerful act of growing their own food, cooking their own food, and sharing their harvest with others every day, we have never been more certain that this is true.

Through Good School Food, our education and apprenticeship model, we see young people find joy, wonder, and curiosity in learning; create meaningful careers; and build skills that will last a lifetime. This is big, important work, and we do not take one moment for granted.

The dream for the Center for Food Education was based on the question: How can as many young people as possible experience the joy, wonder, curiosity, learning, growth, confidence, individuality, and belonging that Jones Valley Teaching Farm fosters? As we welcomed students, educators, and community members to the Center for Food Education and launched new programming this year, I am reminded that our motivation to build the Center has always been driven by young people and their desire to positively impact our community.

Our new strategic goals reflect our belief that to create true impact - at the individual and collective levels - we must start by investing in our youth. This Impact Report introduces the new strategic goals that will guide JVTf's work and growth. Each is rooted in youth-led community change. I know that the young people who will experience this opportunity—this joy, this wonder, this belonging—will lead us through the next 20 years.

As I reflect on our last year and 20-year growth, I am filled with hope and gratitude because I know for certain—thanks to the many people past and present that have invested in JVTf— we have the foundation in place to make our dreams a reality.

With so much gratitude,  
Amanda

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda M. 85".



DOWNTOWN FARM ESTABLISHED 2007



CENTER FOR FOOD EDUCATION ESTABLISHED 2021



*Food is our foundation;  
people grow here.*

## **Jones Valley**

**Teaching Farm** uses  
food as a foundation so  
that young people can  
lead, create, and grow  
a healthy future for  
themselves and their  
community.

*We envision communities  
inspired by food and  
transformed by youth.*

# 20 Years of Impact

“JVTF started as a dream that Birmingham could be known for more than just a place where iron ore, coal, and limestone happened to be available for making steel. The soil underneath Jones Valley holds something so much more important! It holds the power to bring life to the people who walk above ground and to bring those people together. Together to celebrate the ancient act of breaking bread, to teach us how much we have in common, and how we all want the same things for our children. We planted a seed 20 years ago, and now it’s grown beyond our wildest imagination into something owned by the children who were not yet born when the first seed was planted”

— Edwin Marty, JVTF Co-founder  
& Former Executive Director

## 2015

Launched the paid part-time Woodlawn High School Internship.

## 2018

Created the salaried full-time Apprenticeship for graduates of Birmingham City Schools.

## 2020

Broke ground for the Center for Food Education at the Downtown Farm to expand the impact and reach of the Good School Food Education and Apprenticeship model.

## 2007

In partnership with the James Rushton I Foundation, JVUF moved to the 3-acre Downtown Farm.

## 2007–2012

Conducted Seed to Plate field trips, partnered with John Herbert Phillips Academy, created an internship with Alabama School of Fine Arts, worked with school systems on wellness policies, conducted Farm to School initiatives, welcomed volunteers, and nourished our community with a CSA program and sales at the Market at Pepper Place.

## 2014–2016

Scaled Good School Food by building 5 Teaching Farms located at Birmingham City Schools in the Woodlawn Community: Henry J. Oliver Elementary, Avondale Elementary, W.E. Putnam Middle School, Hayes K-8 School, and Woodlawn High School.

## 2013

In partnership with Birmingham City Schools, JVTF co-created the 1st Teaching Farm at Glen Iris Elementary and piloted the Good School Food education program.

## 2012

Jones Valley Urban Farm (JVUF) becomes Jones Valley Teaching Farm (JVTF).

GOOD  
SCHOOL  
FOOD

## 2021

Successfully raised \$8.3M with Ready to Grow Capital Campaign and opened the Center for Food Education.

## 2022

Launched new initiatives at the Center for Food Education, including Good Community Food, Good School Food field trips and camps, and venue rental opportunities.

# JVTF Teaching Farms



GLEN IRIS ELEMENTARY | TEACHING FARM ESTABLISHED 2013



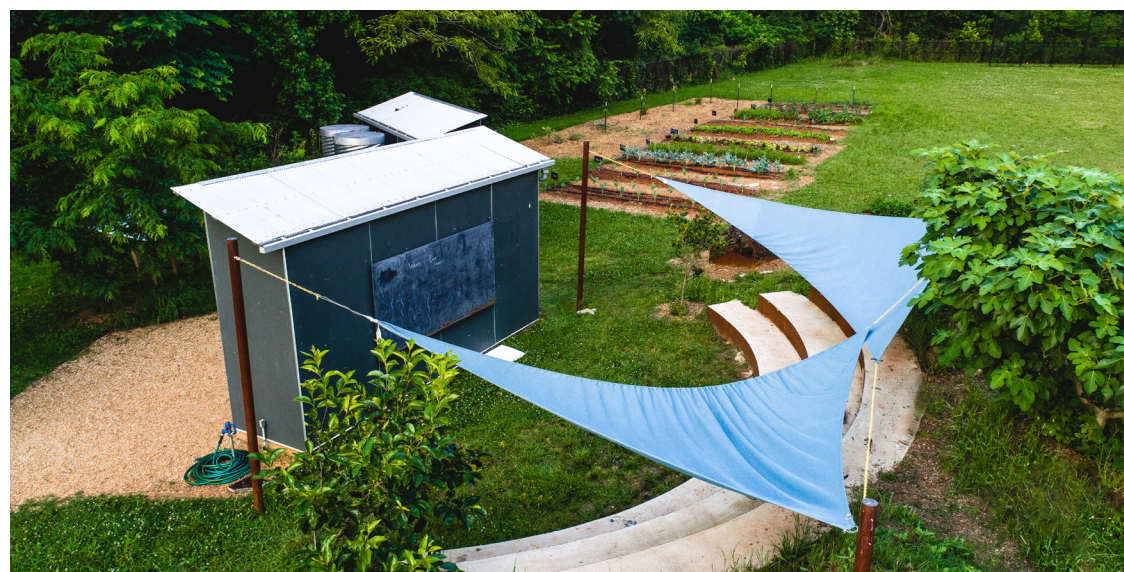
HAYES K-8 SCHOOL | TEACHING FARM ESTABLISHED 2015



AVONDALE ELEMENTARY | TEACHING FARM ESTABLISHED 2014



W.E. PUTNAM MIDDLE SCHOOL | TEACHING FARM ESTABLISHED 2015



HENRY J. OLIVER ELEMENTARY | TEACHING FARM ESTABLISHED 2014



WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL | TEACHING FARM ESTABLISHED 2016

# EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION



**Strategic Goal:** Using food as the foundation, Jones Valley Teaching Farm’s Good School Food pre-K-12 education model brings learning to life, inspiring youth through experiential and hands-on learning.



“If every school in the country could have a Jones Valley Teaching Farm, I think they would. JVTf is creating an incredible outdoor learning space and providing extremely engaged individuals to lead and guide lessons. It’s such a unique opportunity to educate kids.”

— *Scotty Feltman, Former Birmingham City Schools Educator and JVTf Instructor*

# Good School Food

Launched in 2013, Good School Food is a food-based education and apprenticeship model. Using cross-curricular experiential lessons, youth find joy in learning by using food, farming, and the culinary arts as a foundation for academic exploration and environmental stewardship.



## DURING SCHOOL

Instructors collaborate with teachers at every grade level to design lessons to complement and expand what students are learning in the classroom. Lessons span across all subject areas, including science, math, social studies, English language arts, health, and art.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Through our STEM and standards-based after-school enrichment programs, students grow, harvest, and cook produce.

## CAMP GROW

Camp Grow is an educational and interactive learning opportunity for students who are curious about food, farming and the culinary arts. Campers explore the natural world through inquiry, experimentation, and hands-on activities. In 2022, we launched Camp Grow at the Center for Food Education, making this unique learning opportunity accessible to students across the Birmingham area during Spring and Summer Breaks.

During the summer, 108 2nd-5th grade students participated in week-long camps that explored different topics related to agriculture and the culinary arts. Twenty-two middle school students participated in Community, Food & You—a unique two-week offering. Each day, campers enjoyed lunches created onsite by Chef Ama Ifágbàmíla” Shambulia as well as interactive experiences with Chef Jorge Castro, Chef Adam Evans, and the Pihakis Restaurant Group team. Thanks to many generous donors, 60% of Camp Grow students attended with a full scholarship.



## FIELD TRIPS

Field trips at the Center for Food Education occur throughout the academic year and afford students from across Birmingham and Alabama the Good School Food immersive learning experiences. Each field trip is designed to support current learning objectives for the visiting class.

*In the past 20 years...*

# 27,200+

Students reached

# 100+

Good School Food lessons developed



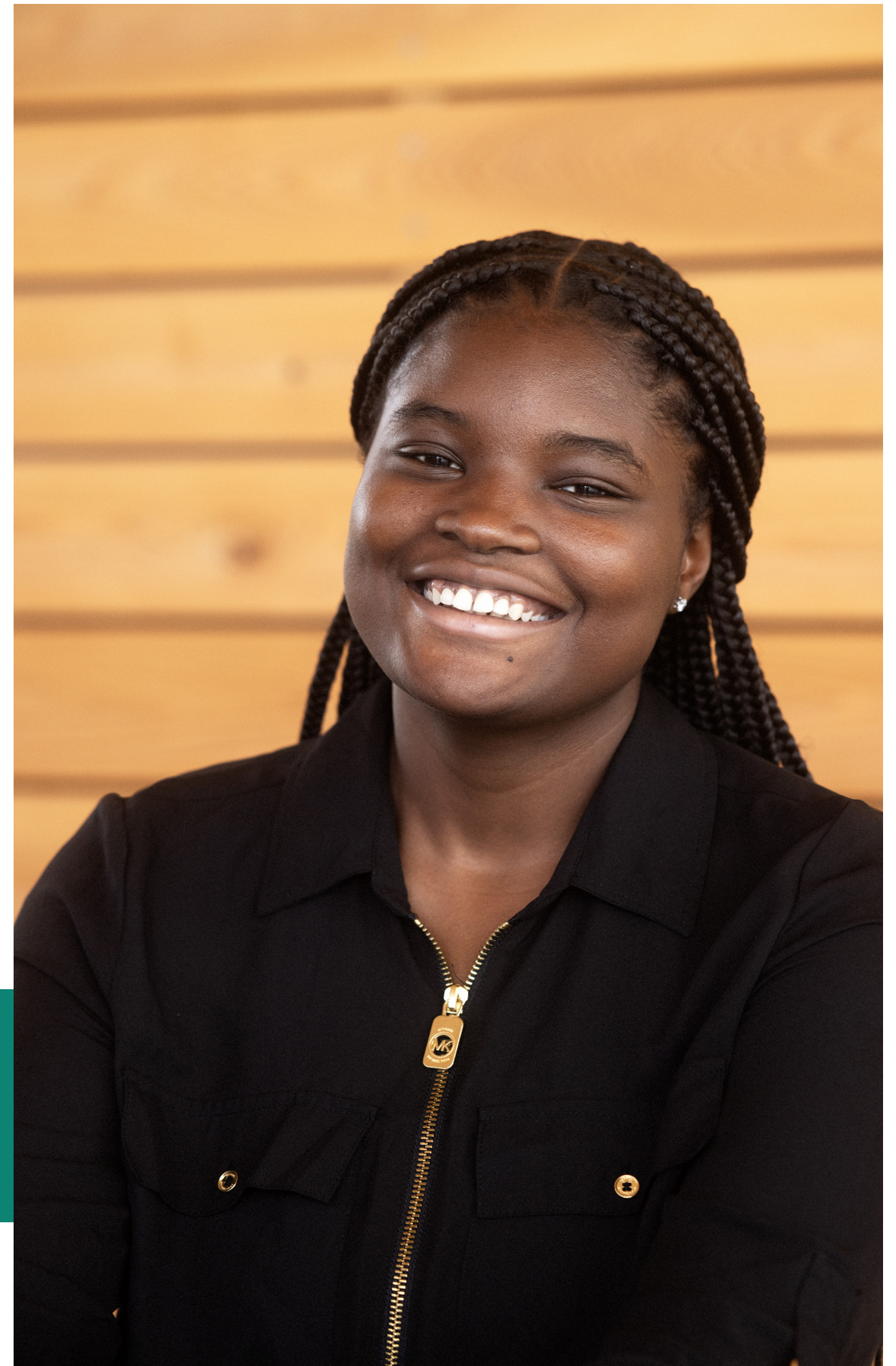
# ECONOMIC MOBILITY FOR YOUTH



**Strategic Goal:** Jones Valley Teaching Farm is committed to creating pathways for youth to achieve economic mobility. Through on-the-job training, we develop talent and connect youth to post-secondary education and career opportunities.

“From the end of my internship to the beginning of my graduate apprenticeship it was a lot of responsibility that I was tackling. I would be the person facilitating the farm clubs instead of being the participant. I was helping the students with their culinary skills, teaching them different ways to cut and cook, how to farm correctly, how to weed, and helping them identify different plants. Moving into the apprenticeship and actually being the one to facilitate was very exciting.”

— *Destiny Nelson-Miles, JVTf Finance & Administration Specialist,  
Former Apprentice & High School Intern*



# Apprenticeship Model

The JVTF Apprenticeship Model consists of the High School Internship and the JVTF Apprenticeship. Together, they continue the education of Birmingham City Schools students and young adults through on-the-job training, professional work experience, mentorship, support services, and create pathways to full-time employment or post-secondary education.



## HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP

The High School Internship provides up to eight high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to participate in a paid internship for course credit. Interns manage a two-acre urban farm adjacent to Woodlawn High School (WHS) and operate the WHS Farm Stand by harvesting, marketing, and distributing the

food they grow directly to the residents of Woodlawn and surrounding communities. These experiences build deep agricultural skills and workforce preparedness. Interns also receive personalized counseling including FAFSA completion, scholarship, college applications, financial literacy, and introductions to career pathways.



## JVTF APPRENTICESHIP

The JVTF Apprenticeship is designed to help Birmingham City Schools graduates realize their passions and gain traction in meaningful careers. This full-time, year-long apprenticeship pairs on-the-job training with tutoring, credentialing, leadership training, career and high-education exposure, career coaching, and workforce development training. Prior to the conclusion of the program, participants identify one of four pathways (internship, externship, post-secondary degree, or career) to pursue. Upon program completion, JVTF aims for 50% or more of Apprentices to transition to STEM, nature or culinary-related careers, or post-secondary education.



*In the past 20 years...*

**45**

Number of High School Interns

**16**

Number of Apprentices

**25%**

Percent of JVTF staff that graduated from Good School Food

# FARMING AND FOOD RESILIENCY



**Strategic Goal:** Jones Valley Teaching Farm believes that when communities know how to grow, cook, and share food, we collectively build food-resilient, healthy, and connected communities.

“JVTF is great for students to be able to use as a stepping stool to whatever they are doing next. Doesn’t have to be farming; doesn’t have to be food-related. Whatever journey they are taking, I think Jones Valley is the stepping tool for them. The skills that they learn are life skills. It doesn’t pertain to one career. It’s universal. I’m glad to be part of it and be one of those persons who instill those life skills.”

— *Mohamed Jalloh, Youth Pathways & Experiences Manager*



# Sustainable Urban Farming

With year-round programming in mind, our farm staff creates crop plans with a focus on seasonal diversity, innovation, and soil health. Annually, our downtown farm's fields and orchards are home to more than 200 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers and provide a rich habitat for urban wildlife and honey bee colonies.



## GROWING PRACTICES

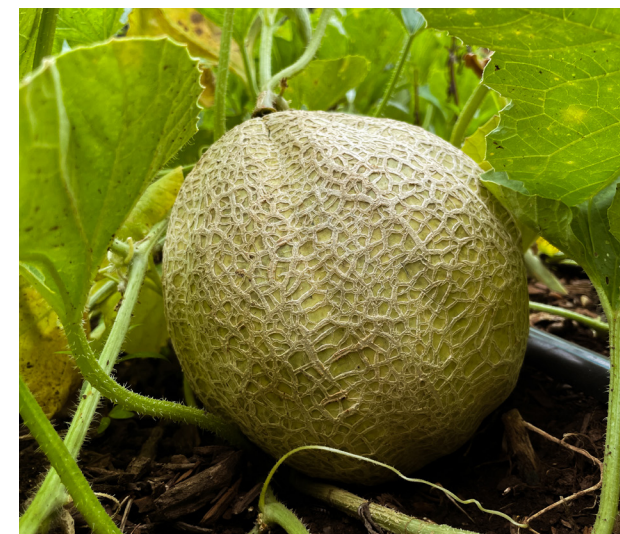
Whether selecting seed varieties, planting, cultivating, or harvesting, we thoughtfully steward over 10 acres of urban farming land and engage students of all ages in the care of our Teaching Farms. With year-round programming in mind and the need for a consistent flow of high-quality produce, our Farm Team and Instructors create crop plans with a focus on seasonal diversity, innovation, and soil health.

This past year, we increased our commitment to sustainable farming practices to help promote biodiversity at each of our sites. We strategically grow a variety of crops and flowers that increase pollination, organically deter pests and diseases, and leach soil of unwanted bacteria, all while feeding the good microorganisms. Our farmers promote bioremediation by way of integrated pest management, solarization, crop rotation, and the use of cover crops.

We believe that to feed the plants, we must first feed and steward the soil. Throughout each season, we amend our soil with locally made compost, as well as compost we make at each Teaching Farm. Six of our seven teaching farms have a functional water feature that hosts marine and aquatic plant life. Our two largest sites have bioswales that help neutralize and remove any contaminants.

## FOOD RESILIENCY

JVTF believes that when communities know how to grow, cook, and share food, we collectively build food-resilient, healthy, and connected communities. We employ a multi-pronged approach aimed at increasing access to quality fruits and vegetables for Jefferson County residents who lack convenient opportunities to enjoy affordable produce where they live. All produce is sustainably grown on our seven Teaching Farms by JVTF's Farm Team, Apprentices, and High School Interns. Each week from April through November, we harvest and process produce that is distributed for free to our community, strategically focusing on the highest need communities.



*In the past 20 years...*

**249,833+**

Seedlings grown

**200+**

Varieties grown

**118,926+ lbs**

Produce Harvested

## GREENHOUSE

Starting seedlings in a controlled environment extends our growing season, giving us a jump start on early spring and summer crops. It also ensures that we have a robust fall harvest to fill our produce stands and to use in school programming. During the 2021-22 academic year, we grew 46,000 seedlings in our greenhouse at the Woodlawn High School Teaching Farm. These seedlings travel to our 7 Teaching Farms and are distributed for free to individuals and community gardens.

# BUILDING COMMUNITY



**Strategic Goal:** JVTF will position Birmingham as a national leader and model for food-based education, sustainable urban farming, youth economic mobility, and healthy food-resilient communities.

“For our children to be able to walk in this community, in Birmingham, in the heart of downtown, and for children up the block to be able to come and know that [the Center for Food Education] is their space, and that it was created with them in mind in excellence. That means a lot.”

— Ama “Ifágbàmílà” Shambulia, Owner/Operator A Beautiful Life Enterprises LLC,  
Chef & Community Partner



# Good Community Food

Launched in 2022, Good Community Food (GCF) is a citywide initiative designed to strengthen the local food system by increasing food access, providing agricultural skills-based training, and sharing resources with other urban growers and community gardens.

## FOOD RESILIENCY

To create a food-resilient community, we believe that JVTf addresses the need for direct access to food by providing the resources for people to grow their own food. Our Teaching Farms are home to more than 200 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. Each year, we harvest thousands of pounds of fresh produce from our seven sites. This bounty is utilized in our Good School Food educational programming and shared across the city to thousands of families for free through our two Farm Stands, Harvest Share program, and with the help of our community partner distribution network at no cost to residents.



## FELLOWSHIP

The Good Community Food Fellowship is a new program in partnership with the USDA and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System designed to increase the number of urban growers and growing areas in Birmingham. Over three years, annual cohorts of 30 fellows (total of 90) will attend a series of learning opportunities led by local farmers and chefs, where they gain practical farming and culinary skills and apply these skills in the management of individual community garden beds at the Center for Food Education. Fellows explore issues and develop strategies to support their vision of a resilient and equitable food system. Individuals who complete the Fellowship are eligible to apply for a grant to establish or expand existing community gardens throughout Birmingham.



## WORKSHOP SERIES

Starting in January 2022, we began hosting monthly culinary and agricultural workshops in partnership with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System at the Center for Food Education. Workshops are open to the public and cover topics ranging from soil health and tomato growing to food preservation and garden planning.

Over the years...

**34,494**lbs

Produce distributed for free since 2020

**28,082**

Seedlings distributed for free since 2020

**420**

Community Gardeners

## FARM STANDS

JVTf's two Farm Stands provide direct access points for our community to enjoy the produce grown on our Teaching Farms for free. We believe that no matter your income or circumstances, everyone deserves fresh and quality produce.



## HARVEST SHARE

Similar to community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, Harvest Share delivers free produce to the doorsteps of 30 residents at Veranda at Park Place, an independent-living community for seniors. Every week, the JVTf Farm Team packs and delivers bags of fresh vegetables, fruits, and flower bouquets along with recipes to our neighbors down the street from our Downtown Farm.

## SEEDLING SHARE

Growing and giving free seedlings to individuals and community gardeners across Jefferson County increases the number of urban growers and fosters a food-resilient community. This past year we grew and distributed over 13,700 seedlings. It's a joy to see our seedlings nourish our community!

# Center for Food Education

After years of dreaming, planning, and breaking ground during the COVID-19 pandemic, we completed construction on the Center for Food Education in late-summer 2021, and we have officially settled into our new home! The Center for Food Education represents a strategic long-term investment in our region's youth and families and will position Birmingham as a national leader for food-based education. The Center connects Good School Food resources to the larger Birmingham community and state, serving as a statewide educational resource and destination and increasing JVTF's overall reach and impact. The Center is home to:

- Field trips and Good School Food lessons for students across Alabama
- Week long camps for K-12 students during spring and summer breaks
- Community gardening, workshops, and culinary programming, that foster healthy, connected communities
- Group volunteer opportunities
- Increased employment and training opportunities for graduates of Birmingham City Schools
- Quality and free fresh produce

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Situated on a full city block in downtown Birmingham, the Center for Food Education presents a distinctive space for gatherings of all sizes. The Center offers flexible indoor and outdoor opportunities for events against the backdrop of the city. Multiple modern and spacious areas showcase inspiring views of

the two-acre working farm. Our Birmingham community has the opportunity to rent the Center to host fundraisers, weddings, parties, and corporate dinners.

In July 2022, JVTF had the honor of hosting Athletes Night during the 2022 World Games! Athletes from all over the world participated in okra sowing and harvesting activities, yard games, and cooking demos.



## VOLUNTEERS

With open volunteer hours during select weekends and groups scheduled throughout the week, volunteers play a critical role in supporting our mission.

In 2022, we launched Harvest Hands—a weekday program that trains volunteers on food safety and harvest techniques. Harvest Hands offers volunteers an opportunity to deepen their involvement with the mission of JVTF while gaining experience harvesting on a small-scale diversified farm. Through participation in the harvest and distribution of fresh produce, volunteers are directly involved in JVTF bringing our vision for a community inspired by food to life.



*In the past 20 years...*

**12,855**

Volunteer hours

**16**

Annual Twilight Suppers

# A Day At JVTF

## AS A FARMER



HARVEST AND STOCK FARM STAND



K8 TEACHING FARM MAINTENANCE



GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT



LEAD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## AS AN APPRENTICE OR HIGH SCHOOL INTERN



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



ON THE JOB TRAINING



COMMUNITY SERVICE



OPERATE WHS FARM STAND

## AS AN INSTRUCTOR



GOOD SCHOOL FOOD LESSON



LESSON PLANNING



FIELD TRIP AT CENTER FOR FOOD EDUCATION



FARM CLUB WITH K-8 STUDENTS

## '21-'22 Impact

"Jones Valley Teaching Farm is a vital partnership for Birmingham City Schools. It's inspiring to see the growth of this work that teaches and motivates our scholars and provides food for our communities. Not only has JVTF instilled in thousands of Birmingham City School scholars the importance of good food and nutrition, JVTF has shown students how to grow and cook their own food. And, JVTF is now providing professional pathways for Birmingham students. Thank you JVTF, for planting the seeds that grow food and produce opportunities."

— Dr. Mark A. Sullivan, Superintendent  
of Birmingham City Schools

# 11,445 lbs

PRODUCE GIVEN AWAY FOR FREE

# 15,988 lbs

PRODUCE HARVESTED

# 323

UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS



# 104

AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS

After school sessions including Farm & Culinary Club at our partner schools.



# 58

EVENTS

Events hosted at JVTF's Center for Food Education including: fundraisers, workshops, partner events, weddings, and the 2022 World Games Athlete Party.

"The growth of the farm now has reiterated the importance of organic food production to help empower our lives on so many levels"

— Page Allison Roper, JVTF Co-founder  
& Former Executive Director

# 3,710

STUDENTS REACHED

Students reached through Good School Food programing at partner schools, Camp Grow and field trips at the Center for Food Education.

# 46,354

SEEDLINGS GROWN

# 110

DAYS FARM STANDS WERE OPEN



# 2,200

PAID HOURS

Hours High School Interns were paid to manage the Teaching Farm at Woodlawn High School.



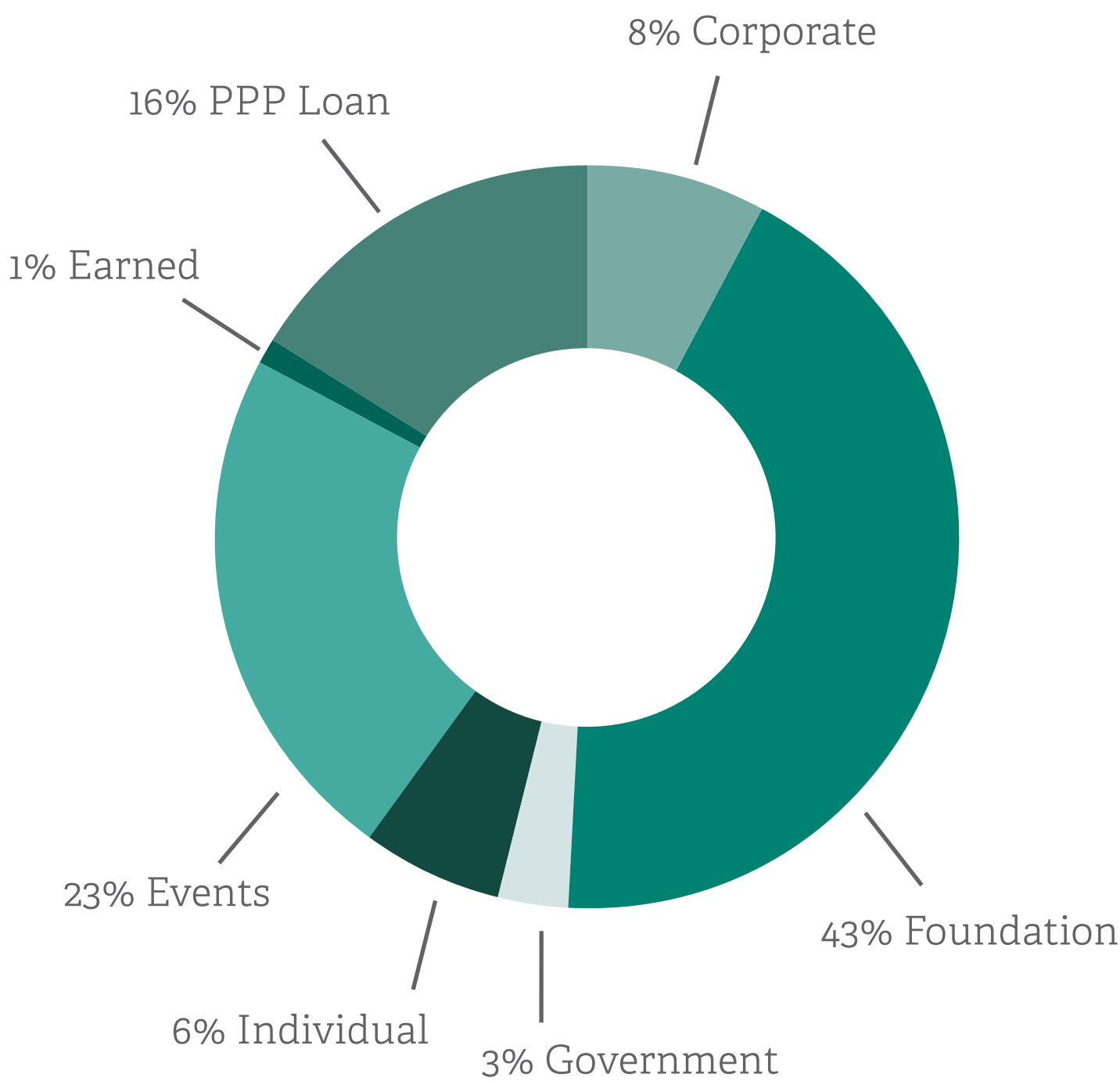
# 1,859

ENRICHMENT HOURS

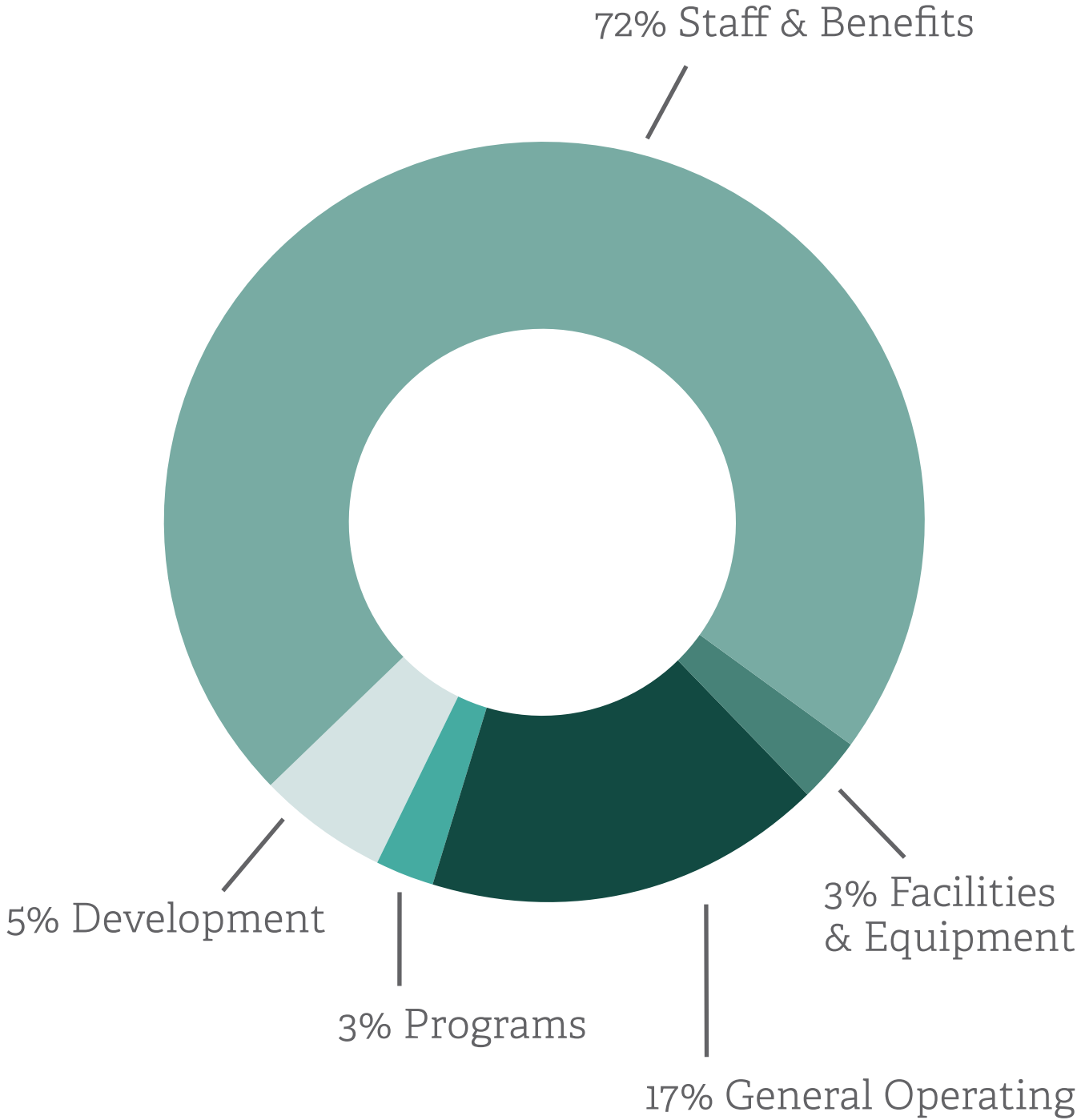
Hours of enrichment JVTF Apprentices experienced over the past year: exposure experiences, life skills sessions, workforce development, and pathway discovery.

# 2021 Finances

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



**75%**

75% of our expenses go directly to the people and resources that develop and deliver our Good School Food Education and Apprenticeship model and Good Community Food.

\*Note: These financials do not reflect the Ready to Grow Capital Campaign.



