



**NORTHWEST VT**  
**HEALTHY**  
**ROOTS**  
**COLLABORATIVE**



**2021**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**



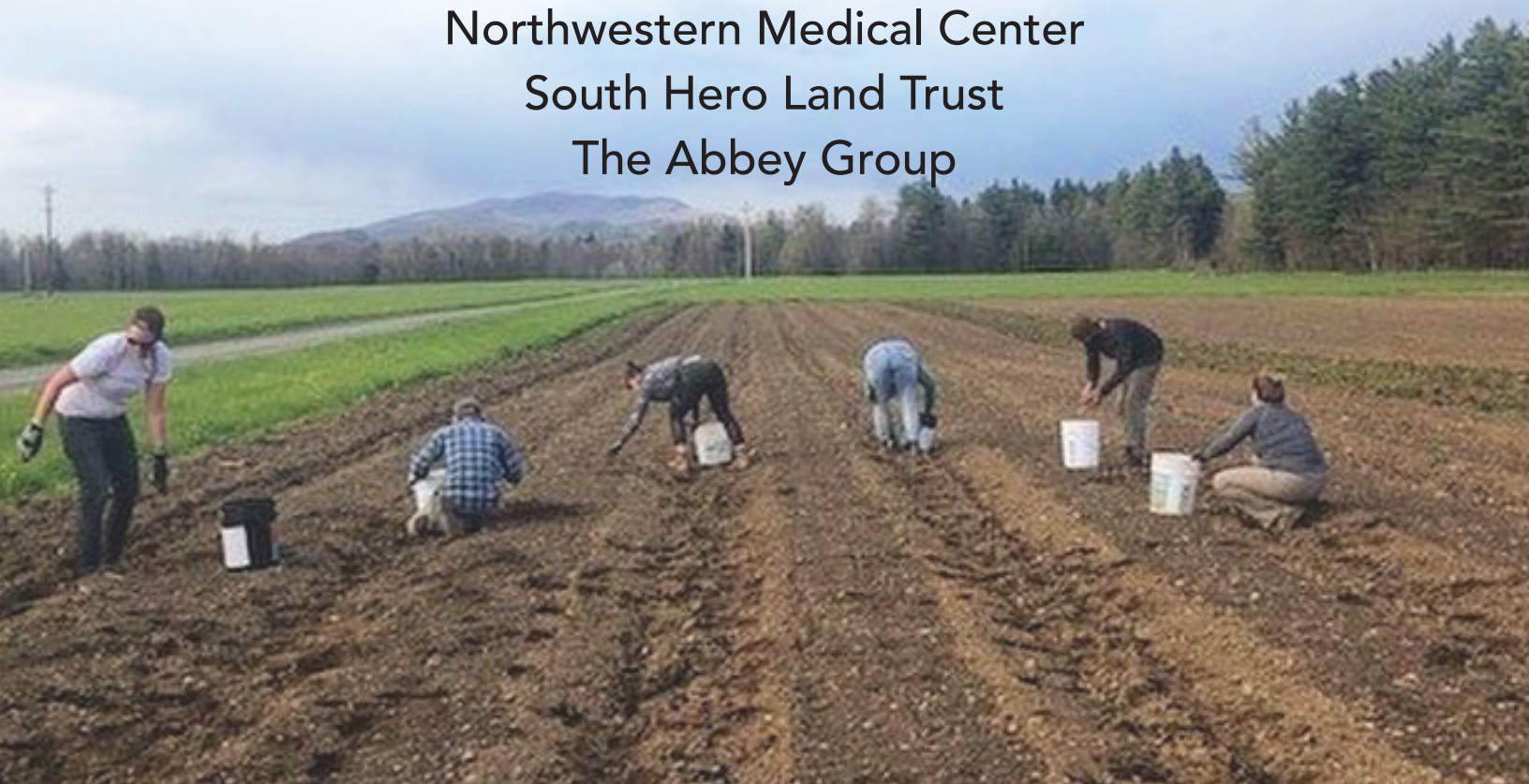


## **ABOUT HEALTHY ROOTS**

We work to improve food access, education, and develop essential infrastructure and programs that support farm viability--  
All of which directly impacts the health and wellness of our Northwest Vermont Communities.

## **OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS**

Northwest Regional Planning Commission  
Franklin County Industrial Development Corporation  
Franklin/Grand Isle Community Action  
Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District  
Northwestern Medical Center  
South Hero Land Trust  
The Abbey Group





# GLEANNING

Gleaning is the act of harvesting food post commercial harvest and donating that food to people that need it.



**45,000 lbs.**  
of local produce  
40% increase from 2020.



**125 volunteers**  
harvesting and distributing.  
290% increase from 2020.



**28 sites**  
64% served weekly.

**Healthy Roots Gleaning Program** has been active since 2016, with the goals of increasing food access and education, building volunteerism, partnering with local farms and reducing food waste.

*"Healthy Roots allows us to elevate our offerings to our community and increase the amount of truly nutritious food available to our guests."*

**-Donna Gaffney, Fairfield Community Center**

*"With the help of the gleaning program at Healthy Roots, my one acre farm was able to donate over 1,000 lbs of gleaned produce to local agencies. Without their help, that food would not have made it off the farm. I am proud to be able to participate with this program and thankful that the gleaning program makes it possible for a farm at my scale to help my community."*

**-Patrick Helman, owner of Sandy Bottom Farm**

# BUSINESS SUPPORT



Healthy Roots maintains a network of 180 growers and makers in Northwest, VT. We offer them direct service in business and infrastructure development and new market access

## 60 Growers & Makers

**engaged in business development and market access facilitation.**



## 17 Buyers

**engaged in new buying partnerships.**



## 6,750+ Eaters

**are accessing local food through Healthy Roots programming such as gleaning, emergency food and farm to school.**

*"Working with Healthy Roots on the Isle la Motte Community Kitchen Project has been a pleasure. Healthy Roots has been integral to the conception and development of this idea. Without Healthy Roots, it's unlikely that our group would have the resources to continue working on the ILMCommunity Kitchen."*

**-Patrick Helman, owner Sandy Bottom Farm**

*"I had a great time working with Healthy Roots on the DBIC (Dairy Business Innovation Center) grant. They reached out to me with the opportunity and were really responsive and helpful throughout the application process. I really appreciate the work that Healthy Roots does in the community and to support farmers and I am excited to continue working with them in the years ahead."*

**-Melanie Webb, co-owner Stony Pond Farm**



# FARM TO SCHOOL

Healthy Roots works with school teams to develop integrated farm to school programs that reach school cafeterias, classrooms, and communities.



**100 Students**  
took part in  
**Farm to School field trips.**

**6 Grants**  
applied to and received  
by local schools.



**10 EDUCATORS**  
in our region attended  
**Farm to School trainings hosted  
by VT Farm to School Network**



# EVERYONE EATS

Vermont Everyone Eats provides nutritious meals to Vermonters in need of food assistance, as well as stabilizing source of income for Vermont restaurants, farmers, and producers. Healthy Roots administered the program in Franklin/Grand Isle Counties and here are the numbers:



**33,600 Meals**  
**delivered to 19 recipient sites.**



**~35% Local food**  
**on average purchased for meals.**

**9 Local restaurants**  
**preparing fresh meals.**

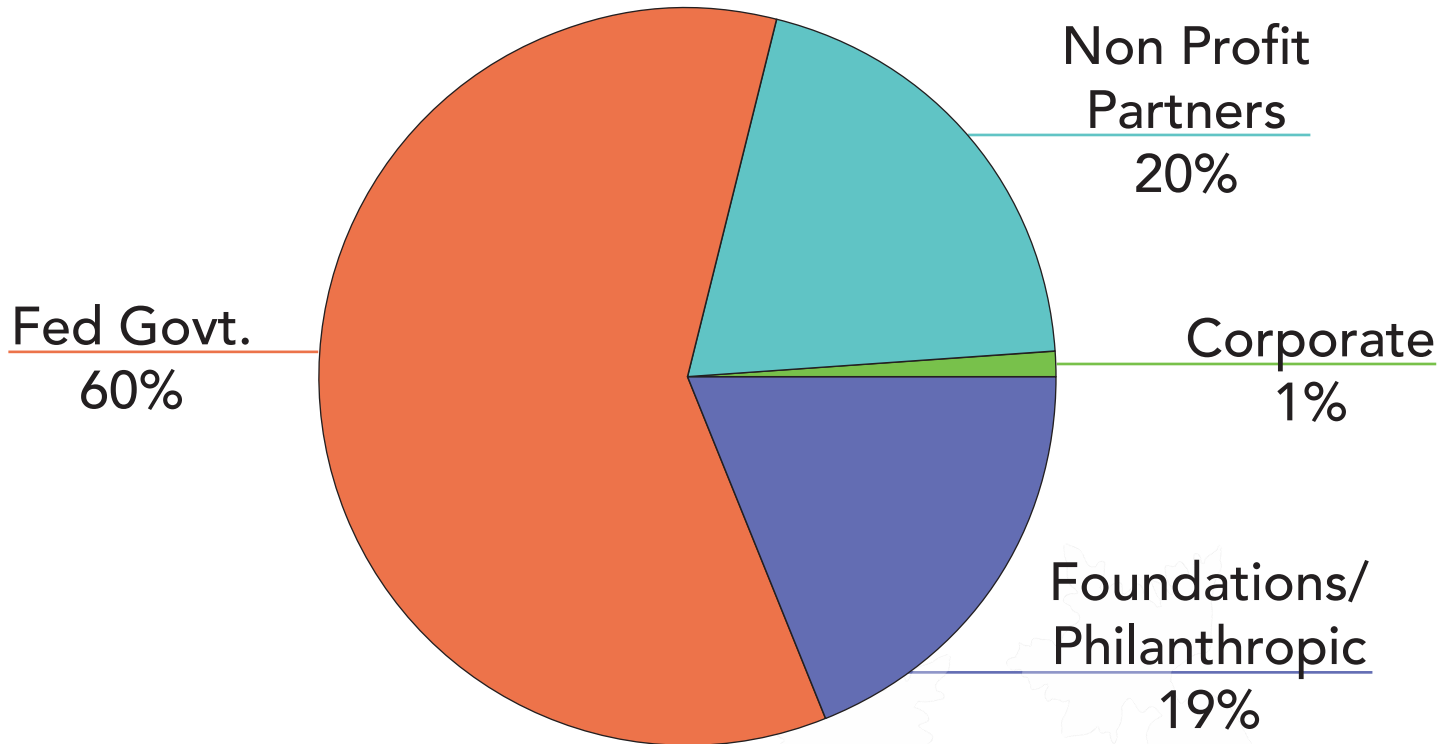


*"It is important for us to give back to the community where we live and that supports us, and working with the Everyone Eats program is a great way to do that! We're able to support local farmers as well as those facing food insecurity. This program was also a blessing to us as a start-up business in the midst of a pandemic and is something we are proud to be a part of."*

**-Kim Conner, co-owner of Rail City Nutrition**

# FUNDING

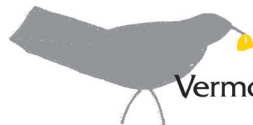
We are grateful for all the funders that made 2021 Healthy Roots' programming possible!



## THANK YOU!



Harris and Frances  
Block Foundation



High Meadows Fund

Fountain Fund

Grand Isle Health Council

Economic Development Administration