

A photograph of a person's hands holding a bunch of fresh green leafy vegetables, likely chard, in a garden setting. The background shows rows of similar plants in a field. The text "Mission of Mary" is written in a white, elegant script font, and "COOPERATIVE" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font below it.

Mission of Mary
COOPERATIVE

2021 Annual Report

Director's Note—Mike Schulz

Dear Community,

Mission of Mary Cooperative is excited to continue being a rooted asset in our community moving into our 2nd decade! We are going from being a young and emerging nonprofit to one that is starting to blossom and grow.


I'm humbled to continue my labor of love in leading Mission of Mary Cooperative's rooted commitment to the Twin Towers neighborhood and the Dayton community. This past year was one of celebration of our first decade and also one of transition, whereby we went through an abundant pregnancy and birthed 4 new staff. Mission of Mary's exciting growth and development builds our capacity to improve the quality of our programs and make significant impacts on the needs of the people and land that we serve.

MMC yielded an abundance of fruit from our long standing commitment to the people and environment in Dayton. With a growing staff, strong partnerships and dedicated volunteers, a few of the fruits of our labor are as follows: doubled the number of families that receive food access assistance, supported over 70 families and children in growing their own food, grew and distributed over 35 tons of produce, and planted 1,000 native trees, plants, and seeds.

In our second decade, Mission of Mary's team will continue to be servant leaders to meet the growing needs. In our community in our second decade. Individuals like you ensure we can continue being a catalyst and partner for sustainable urban development through food access, education, and restoration.

Please join us in our rooted commitment.

Thanks a million!



2021 In Review—Continuing our Mission



Cultivating Healthy Food

- Grew and distributed 67,000 lbs. of fresh produce—up 7,000 lbs. from 60K last year—the most food we have ever grown
- 361,800 servings—up from 340k last year
- Over 123 diverse families participated in our CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) Veggie Membership Program
- Doubled the number of families that receive food access assistance



Educating Our Community

- Grew Backyard Garden Program with 6 total installations at Wright Brothers DPS School
- Welcomed many individuals, groups and school groups for on-line and in-person farm educational tours
- Engaged 6 University of Dayton classes in experiential learning
- Trained and educated 12 individuals through our internship program
- Over 4,800 volunteer hours donated



Caring For The Land

- Planted over 1,000 native plants, trees, and seeds to enhance our ecosystem
- Propagated over 2,500 veggie/flower seedlings for spring plant fundraiser and community giveaways
- Educated 3 interns on native land restoration initiatives
- First Net-Zero Farm in the state of OH



Moving Into Our 2nd Decade

Our New Team Members



(Left to Right) Dan Lombardo, Mike Schulz, Lorka Muñoz-Daugherty, Katie Beck, and Nicholas Walters

Our mission is to be a catalyst and partner for sustainable urban development in Dayton, OH by way of food access, education, and restoration. As Mission of Mary Cooperative moves into its second decade we are excited to have grown our team from 2 to 5 team members enabling us to lead the way for us to continue to be an asset to the community.



Moving Into Our 2nd Decade

Our New Team Members



Dan, Education and Outreach Coordinator—Dan believes feeding and uplifting our community is one small step towards a culture of sustainability, resilience, and compassion. In his education and outreach coordinator role, Dan uses his ability to find common ground with almost anyone to build connections and foster understanding with and between groups of adults and children alike. The best part of his day is sharing ecological success stories with his students and collaborators, and inspiring them to continue the environmental fight.



Lorca, Development Assistant—Lorca was born and raised in New York City's East Harlem and set roots in Dayton as a student at Antioch College. She started her professional career with the Grow with Your Neighbors community gardening program, an initiative of Marianist Brother Ed Zamerowski and UD. Lorca works in service to the entire MMC organization and works on projects that assist with ensuring its continued success and daily operations. These range from fundraising to the development of new partnerships and everything in between.



Moving Into Our 2nd Decade

Our New Team Members



Katie, Farmer—Katie is a Dayton transplant from Cincinnati who studied at the University of Dayton. Katie first worked with MMC as an intern in 2017 and in 2019 she sold produce for MMC at 2nd Street Market. She worked for 4 years in the non-profit sector before joining the team. Katie was raised in the Marianist family and has valued the impact it has had on her life. It has made her passionate about the dignity of each person and the need to protect mother earth.



Nicholas, Farm Manager—Nicholas is a native of Piqua and has been in the kitchen or in the garden his entire life. With a degree in botany, he has spent time in the horticulture industry, on other farms, and growing specialty crops for top chefs around the country. He is excited to be back in the Miami Valley and growing food for the Mission of Mary community.



Moving into our 2nd Decade

Current Challenges and Future Vision

A couple of challenges our community faces as we move into our second decade as a nonprofit rooted in the Twin Towers neighborhood of Dayton, OH.

- **79.1% of children 5 and under live in poverty**
- **A median household income of about \$18,000 in the Twin Towers neighborhood**
- **Food access needs have over doubled in Dayton during the COVID-19 era**
- **The demand to grow your own food in Dayton has more than doubled during the COVID-19 era, which is great in and of itself, but challenging if you can't drive to nurseries in the area or afford to get compost and gardening materials**
- **Just under 30 % of the neighborhood is vacant**
- **Lack of access to internet**

Mission of Mary Cooperative will continue to be a servant leader and asset to the communities needs by the following programs and services:

- **Expand our outreach and communication to connect neighbors with our programs and offerings**
- **Improve the communities health profile by expanding our produce production and distribution and diversity of produce offerings that are culturally appropriate and nutrient dense**
- **Grow our backyard garden and community programs to help more neighbors grow their own food by supplying gardening materials, educational opportunities, as well as community building events that will improve their health and help them become more self-sufficient**
- **Continue to maintain and turn previous vacant lots into productive and beautiful vegetable gardens and welcoming greenspaces**
- **Educate Pre-K to adults on sustainable gardening and lifestyles through hands on learning**



Moving into our 2nd Decade

Neighborhood Partnerships

We are excited to grow our partnership with East End Community Services, Miami Valley Childhood Development Centers (MVCDC), and University of Dayton to offer gardening and nutrition education to children in the coming growing seasons. The Lincoln Hills Gardens Partnership is excited to welcome MVCDC (Head Start) as a fourth partner. Together, the partnership will leverage the outdoor eco-lab at Lincoln Hill Gardens campus to educate and nurture the 250 6 weeks-5 year olds that will attend the 5-star preschool center once it is complete in 2023. The community gardens, nature play-scape, and orchard will be a part of hands-on activities in and out of the classroom.

The Glen at St. Joseph and Mission of Mary Cooperative will work cooperatively on gardening and natural science education for 3-5 year old children at their early learning center in the Twin Towers neighborhood.

Ruskin Elementary, a Dayton Public School and Miracle Makers afterschool program will continue to bring kids for educational field trips to Mission of Mary. The school's greenhouse, tea garden and cafeteria salad bar provide opportunities to continue to work collaboratively with volunteers and our partners East End Community Services and UD Dietetics.

Our neighbor, Good Shepherd Ministries offers addiction recovery and re-entry through the provision of workforce development opportunities. GSM will continue to maintain the beautiful landscape of our gardens and green-spaces while providing meaningful service to the community.



Produce Prescriptions

- Formed a new partnership with Dayton Children's Hospital—15 Produce Prescriptions for patients in their Healthy Me Clinic each week
- Continued Produce Perks Midwest partnership with Produce Prescriptions at Centerpoint Health—low income pregnant moms
- 12 low-income pregnant moms and their families received our veggies during 2021
- Provided a CSA share to patients and their families for about half the year



Achievements Towards Our Mission Goals

Cultivating Healthy Food

We aim to grow and distribute as much food as we can to our neighbors and the surrounding Dayton community. We distributed produce all 12 months of the year and in total grew 67,000 lbs. of food.

2X

the number of families that received food access assistance as compared to last year

“

I joined Mission of Mary's CSA and was very satisfied. The vegetables and herbs are always fresh and I'm pleased with the quality of each box. Some weeks I would get something I have never tried, plus great recipe ideas. I will continue to be a member of Mission of Mary.

—Leslie Mayhan

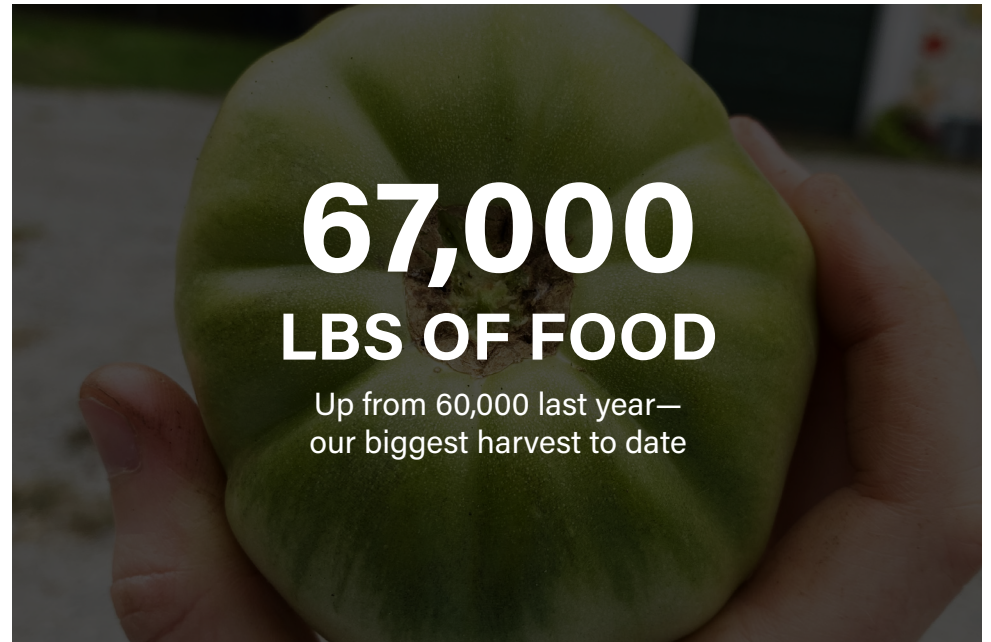
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Achievements Towards Our Mission Goals

Cultivating Healthy Food

- 361,800 servings of vegetables—up from 340k last year
- Continued our donation programs—weekly donations since COVID-19 began to the following partners:
 - Ruskin School Families
 - Access to Excess, a new partner agency that set up free farmers market stands in low opportunity neighborhoods
 - Donated banquet boxes to St. Vincent de Paul



Educating Our Community

- 10 workshops/info sessions online/in-person
- Several educational videos on social media
- 12 young adults were formed and educated through our internship program
- Gave several tours to the local community and schools
- Engaged 6 UD classes in experiential learning
- 4,800 volunteer hours

“

“Volunteering at Mission of Mary through ETHOS at UD was one of the most memorable experiences of my college career. I learned so much about how produce is grown/harvested, and the importance of buying local and fresh fruits and vegetables. It was very exciting to be able to contribute to the irrigation system in place at the farm to further improve the health of the soil and the veggies.”

—Hope Wirsing

”



Educating Our Community

Backyard Garden Program

The most rewarding part of the work that we do is awakening others to the joys of being outside and connecting to their food. We strive to educate the whole person about creation, about their food, about their health, and about their community. Creating a more just and equitable world starts with enlivening the passions of our neighbors and visitors.



6 NEW GARDENS INSTALLED AT WRIGHT BROTHERS DPS SCHOOL

ALL 22 COMMUNITY GARDEN BEDS RENTED



“
The backyard garden means more than just a garden space to me. I move to a different part of the city and Mission of Mary continued to help me with resources to grown my own food. I love being able to grow from seed and feed what I grow to my family and neighbors and the community garden program allows me to plan and execute effortlessly.
—Kyeshlea Law
”



“

My internship with Mission of Mary Cooperative provided me with the opportunities to excel and learn about land restoration, urban farming, and community outreach. My time with Mission of Mary was enriching as well as fulfilling. Not only did Mission of Mary support me in accomplishing my goals to achieve of point of entry into native land restoration as a career path, they also provided me with the tools I needed in order to continue my path after my internship.

—Autumn Berry

”

Caring for the Land

Our overall vision for the land we steward in our neighborhood is to create beautiful green spaces out of formerly vacant and neglected land. This involves cleaning up dumping, removing invasive plant species and working closely with property owners. We are blessed to now manage over 4.5 acres of land on five separate parcels on which we have organic vegetable production, natural areas repopulated with native vegetation, hoop houses, a community building with a barn and green energy creation, a fruit orchard, and welcoming greenspaces.

We are increasing biodiversity by planting native plants, trees, and seeds for the purposes of increasing biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and to enhance ecosystem services.



Caring for the Land

Accomplishments Around the Neighborhood

- Planted over 1000 native plants, trees, and seeds for the purposes of increasing biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and to enhance ecosystem services
- Set Carbon neutral organization goal
- Educated 3 interns on native land restoration initiatives
- Enhanced tree inventory on MMC properties
- Started Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory



1st net zero farm in Ohio

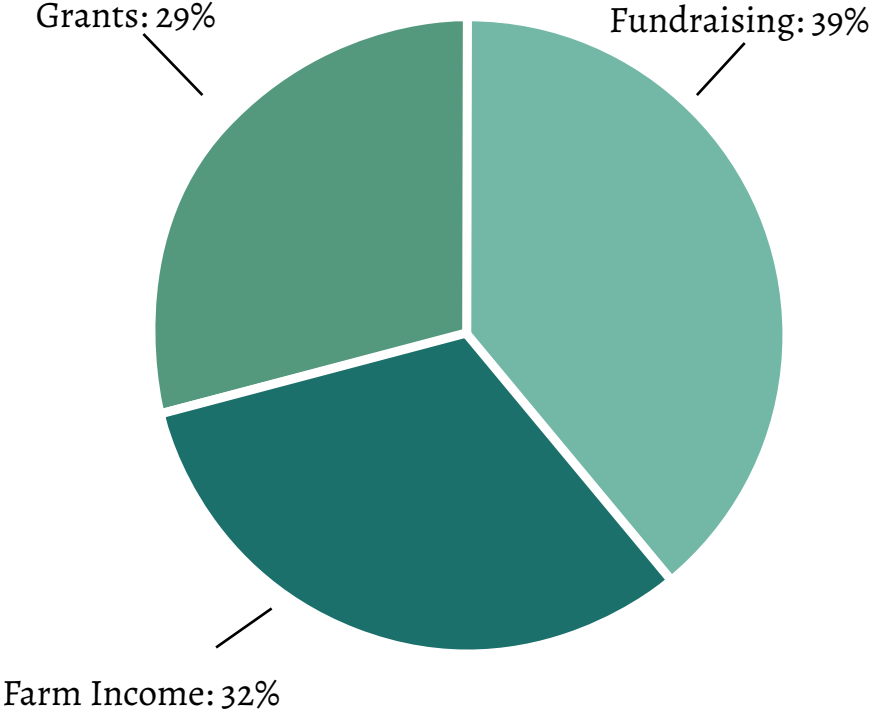
Over 2,500 veggie and flower seedlings propagated

Installed 100% LED lighting on property

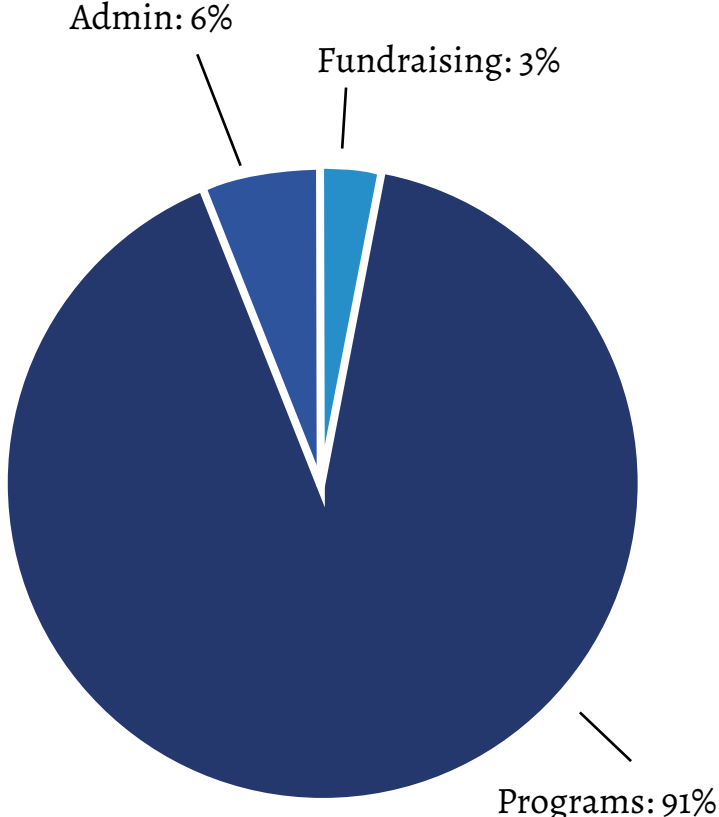
Our total renewable energy creation on-site offset 60,000lbs of CO2



2021 Financials



Revenues
\$278,665



Expenses
\$275,778



Thank You for Your Continued Support!

The opportunity to work towards our mission, Mary's mission, comes directly from our supporters. We have been blessed with amazing volunteers, donors, customers, neighbors, area foundation partners, community partners, friends, and families over the years. We are incredibly grateful to each of you because in some way, big or small, you have made a difference. In a special way we want to recognize and thank our board members and our community partners:



MMC Board Members Community Partners

Br. Raymond Fitz S.M.
Andy Badinghaus—Treasurer
Robert Brodrick—Chair
Mike Schulz—Executive Director
Br. Tom Pieper S.M.
Beth Schulz
Libby Freeze
Br. Ron Overman S.M.
Ann Westendorf Hirt—Secretary

East End Community Services
Ruskin School & Miracle Makers
University of Dayton—Hanley Institute
UD ETHOS Center
New Hope Community Church
University of Dayton Campus Ministry
Marianist PULSE Volunteer Program
UD Business School—Flyer Consulting
Montgomery County Public Health
Society of Mary and FMI (Marianists)
City of Dayton—Planning, Neighborhoods & Development
Five Rivers MetroParks
UD Fitz Center & River Stewards
Marianist Environmental Education Center

Dayton Marianist Family Council
Marianist Lay Community of North America
Partners for the Environment
Dayton Urban Grown
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Premier Health
CareSource
Montgomery County Health & Human Services
United Way of Greater Dayton
The Dayton Foundation
Produce Perks Midwest
5 Rivers Health Centers
UD Dietetics Department
Miami Valley Child Development Centers
Good Shepherd Ministries



Donor Recognition

Mission of Mary believes that building trust and inspiring the community is at the heart of ensuring donor support. As the community has embraced our mission as either a volunteer, CSA member, financial or in-kind donor, Mission of Mary's ability to meet the growing needs of the community has been matched with the community's generosity. A sincere thank you to the following who believed and supported us in 2021.

Individual Donors

- 188 Individual Donors contributed over \$108,679.35
- Gifts ranged from \$5 to \$20,000

These donations were from:

- Farm to Fork
- Silent Auction
- End of Year Appeal
- Matching Gifts
- General Donations

Corporations, Foundations, Government, and other Community Organizations

- Uhl Family Foundation
- Hanley Sustainability Institute at the University of Dayton
- Montgomery County
- Dayton Foundation
- Iddings Family Foundation
- Hull Hunger Initiative
- Incarnation Social Outreach Committee
- City of Dayton—Water Grants
- Lay Marianist Visitation State Community
- Lynch Family Foundation
- Catholic Relief Services

Volunteers

As we re-instituted our volunteer program in 2021 (shuttered in 2020 due to COVID), individuals, school and service groups donated over 4,800 volunteer hours in 2021 with a value of \$136,992. Volunteers play a significant part of our operations and make our work possible. They can be found supporting us with administrative, programming, land restoration, and farm operations.

In-Kind Donations of Goods or Services

- Allied Fence—New Gate at our Headquarters
- Enterprise Roofing—Gutters
- Tom McCrate—Civil Engineer
- Flyer Consulting

Silent Auction In-Kind Donors

- Reza's Coffee Roasterie | Family Cafe | Reza's
- Coco's Bistro
- John Daugherty
- Bergamo Center
- Miami Valley Home Inspections
- David Nolin
- Bill Evans
- Dayton Dragons
- Katie Brossart
- Sophia Daugherty
- Paul Woodie
- Preservation Dayton
- Square One Salon & Spa
- Smales Pretzels
- Kevin Kepler
- John Gower
- Wagner Subaru
- Compost Dayton
- Green Table Gardens
- Tina Nieport
- Five Rivers MetroParks
- Oakwood Therapeutic Massage
- Patricia Habegger
- Brother Brian Zampier, S.M.
- Lorca Munoz-Daugherty
- Mike O'Rourke
- Marianist Environmental Education Center
- Marianist Sisters of Sawmill Community
- Wellness Quest Coaching
- Marianist Pulse
- Dayton's Original Pizza Factory



The Year/s Ahead

In 2022 we will focus on continuing to provide quality programming for youth and adults in our neighborhood who are seeking to become more active and more involved with their food system and their community.

- Improve health of the soil, nutritional value of food, and communities health
- Install 30 more Backyard Gardens
- Engage more neighbors in gardening and community building programs
- Team building/formation for our growing team
- The collaborative development of the Lincoln Hill Gardens site
- Make capital improvements to help meet growing food access needs
- Increase food access by local residents through expanded and appropriate marketing outreach
- Develop collective impact partnerships and create programs that give the children in our neighborhood gardening and nutrition education opportunities



Help Us Grow

- Attend upcoming events
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Purchase](#) our produce
- Take a tour
- [Donate](#) online
- Follow us on [social media](#)

Connect With Us

www.missionofmary.org

team@missionofmary.org

Instagram: [@MissionofMary](https://www.instagram.com/MissionofMary)

LinkedIn: [Mission of Mary Cooperative](#)





