



S P I C E

— **FIELD KITCHEN** —

Annual Report

2022-23 Fiscal Year

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Letter from the COO



Dear SFK Stakeholders,

We are proud to present this years' annual report for the public to review. Our 2022-23 fiscal year presented some amazing opportunities for growth and expansion as we continue to follow our mission to **change how people connect with food**. We adjusted our staff priorities which allowed us to grow our team by hiring a Garden Manager, Garden Intern and a new Chief Administrative Officer, while expanding our operations to educate over 5000 new program participants thanks to generous grant opportunities and donations from dedicated individuals just like you. Looking forward

to the upcoming year, we plan to add 1600 new program participants while maintaining our existing student base as we continuing to forge new strategic partnerships with area schools and community organizations to continue impactful growth through 2023 and beyond.

Our ability to meet students and families where they are, either in the field, in the classroom, or remotely, continues to make us unique in our educational offerings. We know the 2023-2024 fiscal year will present us with numerous new challenges as we continue to grow and expand our operations, but we see these challenges as opportunities and we will face them with the confidence that we not only have the tools to overcome whatever is thrown our way, but also the community support from you that will help us continue to deliver **Revolutionary Food Engagement™**.

Warmly,

Steven Baker
Chief Operating Officer
Spice Field Kitchen, Inc.

About the Team

SFK Staff

Steven Baker - Chief Operating Officer

Mandy Johnson - Chief Administrative Officer

Maranda Fockler - Garden Manager

Liam Feeney - Garden Intern

Board Members

Anne Juster - *Board President*

Ben Bebenroth - *Founder & Board Chair*

Lisa Matuszny

Morgan Connor

Christine Hockman

Ellen Kubitz

Sue Moore

Mike Malley

New Staff Spotlight: Mandy Johnson - Chief Administrative Officer

Mandy Johnson is a fierce believer in the power of a dinner party, a proud wife and mother of a one-year-old son, and a wanderer who surely isn't lost, but loves the outdoors. She joins us with a background in strategic business development, entrepreneurship, and education. With a passion for science from an early age, Mandy graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering and worked for Ingersoll Rand through a progression of roles in technical sales and marketing before transitioning into a role where she was responsible for managing sales strategy and distributor development. Her career path ultimately led her back to school where she pursued her MBA in Marketing & Entrepreneurship with an emphasis in Leadership Development at Arizona State University.

After grad school, Mandy launched a company called Bake Me A Leader® which was dedicated to helping individuals build leadership competencies through project-based baking and cooking classes. When the pandemic hit, she paused business operations and joined the teaching staff at one of her partner schools to help them develop their Science curriculum for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. During that time, Mandy came to work with Spice Field Kitchen and knew immediately that the organization was special. Over the course of three years, Mandy partnered with Steve and the math teacher at her school to challenge the students to develop cost-effective ways to grow food at home. This project became a school-wide favorite and the students always craved more opportunities to learn about growing and preparing food. When Steven approached Mandy about an opportunity to join the team and help SFK grow, it was a dream come true for her. We are thrilled to welcome her to the team.

2022-23 Grant Opportunities

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation (MHJF)

MHJF has generously renewed our grant for the 2023-24 school year in support of our 5th consecutive year of programming for our partnership with Pleasant Valley Elementary School. This support has helped us grow our impact and reach in the Parma City School District. Our program, Understanding Our Community Food System, includes school garden development, six in-class lessons and field trips to our 13-acre farm, Spice Acres, located in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This year is particularly special because the grant this year enables us to expand our programming into STEM grade 5, which will allow us to follow our original class of students as they rise to Greenbriar Middle School.

Shaker Lakes Garden Club

Shaker Lakes Garden Club generously supported our Native Perennial Plant installation at Spice Acres. This grant-funded project allowed us to prepare almost 200 sq ft of garden bed space for 250 native perennial plant varieties provided by My Home Park, a local company that specializes in designing and providing native Ohio plants for your garden and home. Next time you visit Spice Acres, look for our installation in front of our green house!

Garden Club of Cleveland

This grant opportunity provided by The Garden Club of Cleveland allowed us to support the Rustbelt Fibershed by growing 200 sq ft of flax to help showcase the viability of growing flax in this region as a local, alternative source of fiber for linen. Through this success of this project, participants helped the Rustbelt Fibershed highlight the need for currently non-existent processing infrastructure for local natural fiber here in Northeast Ohio.

Sears-Swetland Family Foundation

This Cleveland-based foundation provided funding to send 10 middle school students from the Welsh Academy at Saint Ignatius High School and Urban Community School to our Veggie Adventure Camp this summer. This funding covered the full cost of tuition for each student. Big thanks to Urban Community School for providing the transportation for all of these students to and from camp all week!!

Connor Foundation

Funds from this foundation helped us provide community organizations with limited funding, like Save Our Children Elyria, Girls Scouts of America, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain county, access to our amazing programming in their classrooms and on our farm in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

2022-23 Programming Highlights

Annual “Funraiser”

In October of 2022, we were able to have another successful “Funraiser” that included a raffle, pumpkin picking, crafts, and STEM activities and introduced Boom’s Pizza to our supporters. We had incredible participation from our program partners and our community and were thrilled to have a group of high school students from Gilmour Academy volunteer at the event. We look forward to seeing you at one of our future friend-raising events.

St. Martin De Porres High School

We continued to build our partnership with SMDP by working with students in the school garden and bringing our mobile kitchen in to their classrooms to make the connection between agriculture and culinary applications. We look forward to continuing our partnership into 2023-24 and beyond.

Pleasant Valley Elementary School / Parma City School District

We continued to expand our Understanding our Community Food System program into Grade 4. Our very first group of students have now completed 4 years of programming with us program and we are excited to follow them as they start their 5th grade year in a new school, Greenbriar Middle School. How exciting is that?! We also made it to the other Parma City Elementary Schools with the nutrition services team with our Harvest of the Month tastings that were wildly successful in getting student to try new seasonal veggies!

The Welsh Academy at Saint Ignatius High School

This year we continued with our third year of programming with The Welsh Academy students. This included a field trip for the 6th grade boys as a part of their first Project Based Learning Unit which implores them to design the most cost effective way to grow healthy food at home. This is an amazing opportunity for SFK to help Welsh students participate in our food system and gain culinary and agricultural experience that they will be able to share with their families. We look forward to expanding our partnership with them next year as we get back to affinity programming as a part of their extracurricular options for the students.

Urban Community School

This past year, Turtle Back farm, a garden space adjoining the sprawling UCS campus, came online and we were proud to help Ellie Reagan and her students grow and learn in that space. We look forward to continuing the partnership with UCS.

USC-Squash Health

We continued to grow with students at Urban Squash Cleveland by providing engaging cooking demos that focus on teaching the culinary skills and nutritional knowledge required for these athletes to fuel themselves in healthy ways as they grow and achieve their goals.

Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC)

This project focused on rehabilitating and planting the garden and Hoop House at the CVEEC. Currently, we are looking forward to expanding this partnership while continuing to provide fresh produce for Conservancy for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the National Park Service programming. This may serve as a gateway to expand our programming south of Cuyahoga County in a more sustainable manner.

Donor List by Donation Level

\$0-\$49

Gianna Baker
Matthew Beshara
Nikki Bratt
Kimberly Chrisman
Melissa Cusick
Maria Diorio
Brian Edmonds
Marie Edmonds
Laura Foglyano
Nicholas Gingo
Jamie Hartley
Anne Hartnett
The Johnsons
Carol Kemenyes
Annette Kramer
R. Landoll
Dorothy Lanza
Maryann Lipaj
Robert Meklemburg
Lori Pilat
Nada Popovic
Kelly Putka
Emily Richardson
Ryan
Brian Schaar
Melissa Schroeder
Michael Synk
Murat Tasci
Joshua Woo

\$50-\$99

Linda Alexander
Jessica Allen
Steven Baker
Katie Bornstein
Konstantina Boyer
Pamela Goetsch
Mary Hanley
Paul Jones
Monica Lacks
Kara Skorepa
Zach Wigmore
Debbie Woodworth

\$100-\$249

Elizabeth Andjeski
Benjamin Bebenroth
Fran Belkin
Zach Clarke
Justin Conway
David Edelman
Jess Edmonds
Louis Elsesser
John Feighan
James Forquer
Suzanne Gaul
Doc Harrill
Christine Hockman
Joseph Iocono
Ann Klotz
Dale Mokaren
Mama T Passarelli
Susan Paul
Kevin Pease
Holly Preece
Benjamin Tegel
Laurel Weinberg

\$250-\$499

Kathy Biskup
The Keller Family
Ellen Kubit
Jonida Morelli
Scott Peters
Pamela Thielo
Allison VanNostran
Brenda Yost

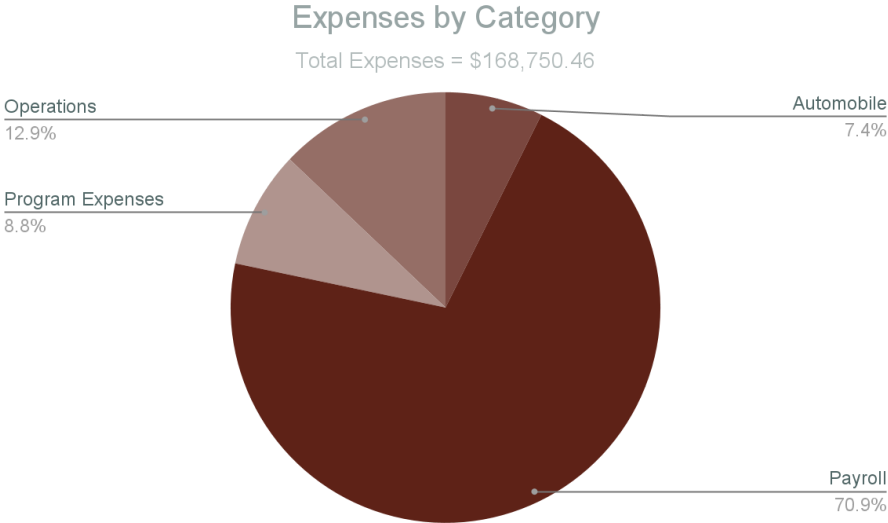
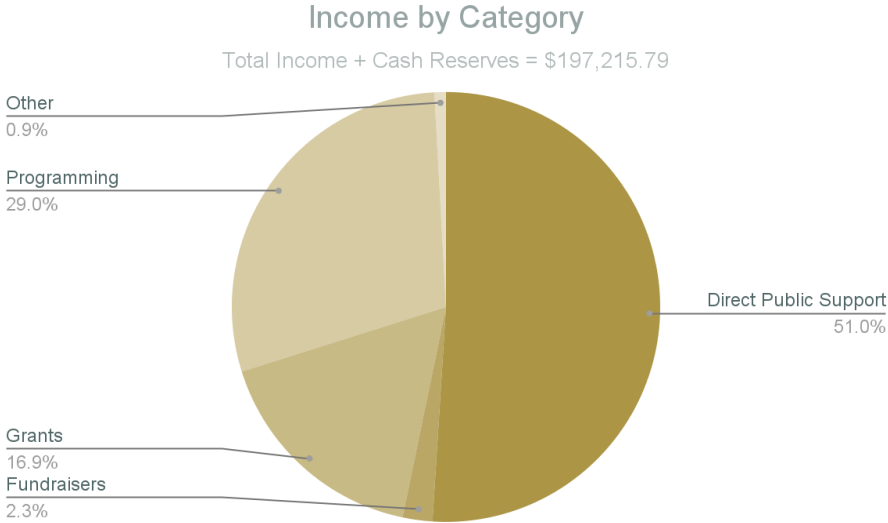
\$500-\$999

Kristine Bryan
Ken Counihan

\$1,000+

Buckeye Fresh
A. Senich & C. Bjerre
Morgan Connor
The Connor Foundation
William Conway
Virginia Emershaw
Garden Club of Cleveland
Alex Intihar
Anne & Joe Juster
Lou
Mike & Angela Malley
Lisa Matuszny
Margaret Mehicic
Sue & Bob Moore
Sears-Swetland Family
Foundation
Shaker Lakes Garden
Club

Financials At A Glance



Demographic Info



Program Expense Per Student

A decrease of \$2 per student per program



Total Students Impacted



Number of Schools & Organizations

Up 5 From Last Year



% of Population Served That is Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch