

# FOOD TO POWER

Dear Beloved Community,

I am thrilled to present to you Food to Power's 2022 Impact Report. In its pages, we've highlighted our incredible progress as a community in our journey towards food justice. I am immensely grateful for what we have accomplished over the past year and for your unwavering support throughout our six-year journey to get here.

After years of researching, organizing, fundraising, and through a global pandemic, I am delighted to share that we have successfully opened the city's first-ever neighborhood food center in Southeast Colorado Springs. On June 11th we celebrated our Grand Opening. The day was filled with farm tours, food trucks, music, dancing and a champagne toast! The Hillside Hub is a space for urban farming, compost production, educational workshops, & fresh grocery distribution. Our home has become a beacon of hope in and with community and a catalyst for change in food justice in Colorado Springs.

The work accomplished thus far would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our community, incredibly dedicated staff and board members, and our volunteers. Your contributions, whether financial, volunteer hours, or spreading awareness, or doing the work daily have been instrumental in driving our organization's mission forward. I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to food justice and our shared vision of a sustainable, and regenerative just food system for all.

As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to expanding our impact through addressing the evolving food needs of our community. We have ambitious plans to further enhance our programs, explore innovative solutions, and deepen our collaboration with local partners. With your continued support, I am confident that we will create lasting change and make a tangible difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in Colorado Springs.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and belief in our mission. Together, transformation is happening in our community through growing, composting, redistributing, changing policy and shared learning. I invite you to review our full 2022 Impact Report attached to this letter, which provides a comprehensive overview this year's impact we made together.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Patience Kabwasa  
Executive Director





**In 2022, Food to Power wrapped up the second year of our 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, “We Can Grow an Equitable Future.”**

The plan’s focus is largely around adapting our programs in the throes of COVID-19, as well as building out the Hillside Hub, and piloting programs in our first year of operation at this new site.

**We are grateful to say that we did what we set out to do.**

In June 2022, after nearly five years of planning, community input, and construction, the Hillside Hub officially opened its doors to the community. This space is both the home of Food to Power and serves as the city’s first neighborhood food center. In 2022, we not only refined and evaluated our existing programs, we also launched new programs to fill gaps in the local food system – like our team of youth researchers, community organizing, and our urban farm.



**Food to Power is proud to report the following measurable accomplishments during the 2022 fiscal year:**

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## Food Access Programs:

- 340,322 lbs of food distributed to 77,885 individuals through 7 partner No-Cost Grocery Program sites
- 14,564 individuals served through Food to Power's Hillside Hub No Cost Grocery Program site



## Food Production Programs:

- 45,340 lbs of food scraps diverted from the landfill through Food to Power Compost
- 9.97 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions avoided through Food to Power Compost
- 293 member-customer households participated in residential compost collection
- 3,000 lbs of food grown on Food to Power's Farm and distributed to neighbors via no-cost distribution
- 27+ different vegetable and fruit varieties grown hyper-locally on Food to Power's Farm



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## Food Education Programs:

- 12 youth graduated our paid summer FLY Internship (Food-systems Leadership for Youth)
- 7 youth researchers employed in the inaugural PARTY (Participatory Action Research Team for Youth)
- 32 elementary-aged kids served through FTP-led after-school programming at Hillside Community Center
  - 100% of kids reported the ability to safely use a knife by end (up from 45% reporting at beginning)
  - 45% increase in kids being willing to try a new food
  - 35% increase in kids being able to read a recipe
- 10 Community Corner mini-educational sessions hosted, engaging over 87 individuals
- 13 Community Workshops hosted (including topics like: pupusa-making, seed saving, composting, indoor mushroom growing, raised bed building)
- 154 attendees engaged through Community Workshops
- 10 field trips hosted (Colorado College & D11 students)



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## Food Advocacy Programs:

- We won our first campaign – Healthy School Meals for All – and won in El Paso Count by 755 votes!
- 60+ hours of relational meetings with 16 community partners through community organizing efforts
- 500+ voters and potential voters engaged & 257 doors knocked through Healthy School Meals for All Campaign community organizing efforts



With you, Food to Power celebrates one of the most monumental years of our organization's history. As we look to the future, we are committed to spending 2023 thoughtfully thinking through our next strategic plan, and what it looks like to scale up our operations and programs in ways that align with our values. Thank you for being a part of our continued growth - the best is yet to come!

**In solidarity,**

**Food to Power Team**