

SnoValley Tilth Annual Report 2016

Hello SVT members and supporters,

2016 has been a year intentional, thoughtful growth for SnoValley Tilth. The Carnation Farmers Market expanded their nutrition assistance programs and the Experience Farming Project expanded to a second location. This year we moved our operations to an office space in downtown Carnation, allowing us to create a professional environment for community meetings, staff work space, and social gatherings. SVT hired new support staff which has allowed for refinement of many systems and more time for executive tasks. And we launched a Strategic Planning process and have been gathering information and feedback from stakeholders. The process will wrap up by May of 2017, and will provide a roadmap guiding our programming and approach to serving our members and community.

2017 is already shaping up to be a productive and promising year for SnoValley Tilth. Talking to many of you in person during our stakeholder interviews was informative and rewarding - thank you to those who took time to respond to our requests for input. In 2017 I look forward to continue hearing from you and finding new ways to collaborate as we develop our programs to support more farmers on more farmland, growing more sustainable food and fiber for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MB", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Melissa Borsting
Executive Director

Mission: SnoValley Tilth supports organic and sustainable food and fiber production throughout the Snoqualmie and Snohomish watersheds. We bring together farmers and the community to build a thriving local food system.

2016 - Results and Accomplishments

Carnation Farmers Market: food access, expanded programming, and key events.

This was our first full season accepting SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and offering Fresh Bucks, a matching program for SNAP customers. Through these programs we were able to distribute over \$2,500 of currency to lower-income shoppers and continue our work towards increasing food access in the valley. Community Roots Days was initiated on the last Tuesday of each month to hold children's and arts activities, cooking demos and special events at the market. We had a great turnout for our 5th annual Harvest Market and we represented the Farmers Market and SnoValley Tilth at events including the Carnation 4th of July Parade, Timber! Music Festival, and CHOMP.



Experience Farming Project: second farm site, infrastructure upgrades, and connecting program participants to new sites.

We leased an additional 20 acres to be able to expand our program to a second site and added three new participants. We started matching our first class of program graduates with landowners interested in leasing to farmers. With the need for infrastructure upgrades at the Stuart's Landing location, we've waded through the permitting processes for two major changes and plan to take action in 2017.

Membership Services: livestock, potlucks, advocacy, value adding, and new workshops.

SnoValley Tilth's Livestock Committee hosted several meetings and are in the process of adding resources and discussion forums on our website. They supported the King County Project to establish locations for a Mobile Slaughter Unit in King County.



We hosted 8 indoor potlucks with guest speakers and 4 farm tours during 2016. Our membership information migrated to Salesforce, a much more robust database than we had been using, and improved processes for new and renewing members to get entered into our system.

We were a part of the "Ag Caucus" for the King County Fish, Farm, Flood process working to identify ways to promote healthy fish populations, sustainable farms, and minimize flood impacts in the Snoqualmie Valley.

SnoValley Tilth will have a representative on the committee appointed to oversee implementation of the agreement generated by the first phase of the process.

We coordinated a series of work sessions for farms to get their systems in place to be approved for GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification and we hired a consultant to explore the feasibility of value added produce processing.

Community Partnerships: We partnered with and supported several organizations and agencies in 2016. These included Savor Snoqualmie with Bounty Week and the March of the Vegetables, Farm King County, and Tilth Alliance and SAgE (the other two land-based farmer training programs in King County). We have also worked closely with the Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative as they explore ways for local farmers to maximize their efficiencies via collaborative marketing.

2017 - Goals

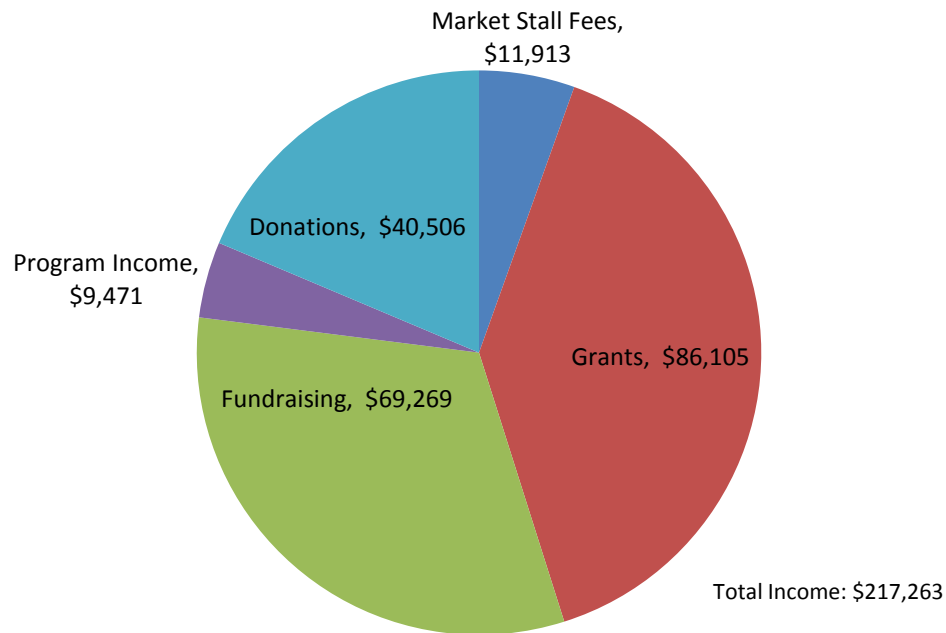
In 2017 we are looking to institutionalize many of the recommendations we heard in our stakeholder conversations and surveys. We are working to add to the list of services we provide to farmers.

Key priorities for 2017 will include:

- Wrapping up and distributing our strategic plan.
- Expand our services to farmers in the Snoqualmie and Snohomish watersheds with more involved and advanced workshops, increased resources, and actively growing relationships in Snohomish County.
- Make our communications (including newsletters, blog posts, and social media) more consistent and relevant to our farmers.
- Diversifying Carnation Farmers Market promotions with the objective of increasing number of shoppers.
- Develop a new farmer resource focused on connecting landowners with farmers seeking land to lease or buy.

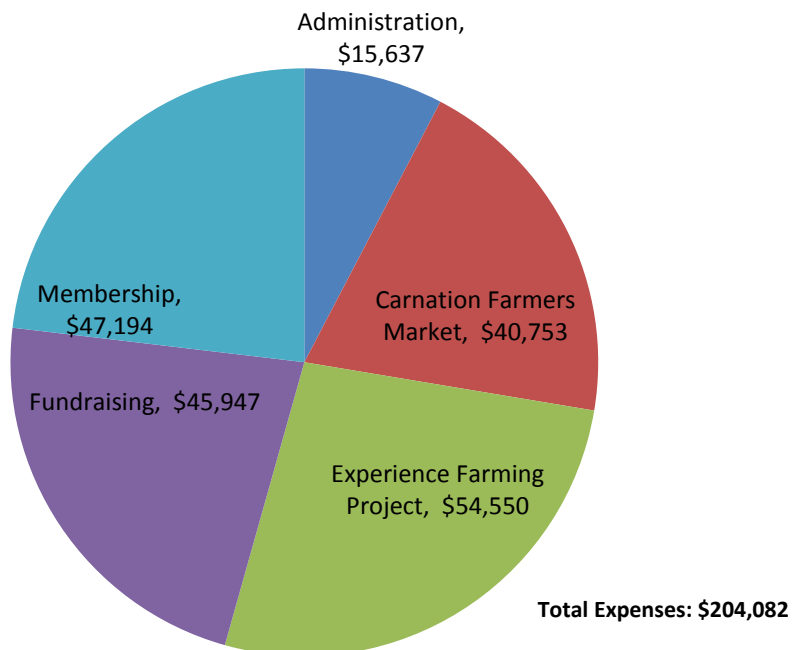


2016 Income



Note: Program Income includes membership dues and lease payments for the EFP project.

2016 Expenses



Note: Administration expenses include bookkeeping, strategic planning, and a portion of office costs.

2016 SVT Board of Directors:

Hannah Cavendish-Palmer, President

Advocacy Committee Chair

General Manager, Snoqualmie Valley
Farmers Cooperative

Doug Teakell, Vice President

Mentorship/EFP Committee Chair

Community supporter

Claire Foster, Secretary

Community supporter, Stuart's Landing
Farm, Mountain View Organic Gardening

Nancy Marshall, Treasurer

Education and Outreach Committee Chair

Community supporter, CPA Marshall
Accounting

Christeena Marzolf, Director at Large

Livestock Committee Chair

Porter's Pride, Marzolf Meats

Baj Kochar

Community supporter

Meredith Molli

Development and Events Committee Chair

Goose and Gander Farm

Neil Subhash

Carnation Farmers Market Committee

Chair

Present Tense Farm

Thank you to our 2016 funders:

King County Community Services Area

King Conservation District

The Norcliffe Foundation

The Snoqualmie Tribe

The Satterberg Foundation

The Tulalip Tribe

USDA National Institute of Food and
Agriculture

USDA Rural Development

WSDA Specialty Crop Block Grant

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