

ANNUAL REPORT

Needham Community Farm

2023
EDITION



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Needham Community Farm has had a successful 2023. We opened our Community Garden Beds, were the recipient of a grant from the Healy-Driscoll Administration to purchase a new electric van, and received three awards. The most notable of the awards we received was the Impact Award from the Charles River Chamber of Commerce. All of this was accomplished on top of our yearly operations, including: donating produce, hosting hundreds of volunteers of all ages, and educating our community about sustainable growing practices.

Running a small nonprofit farm is a team effort. We could not have accomplished our work without the dedication and passion from our farm staff Allie Comet and Ceilidh Peden-Spear, our Development Director; Courtney Sodano and many volunteers. Our Board of Directors continue to provide strategic guidance and hands-on involvement with projects and programs.

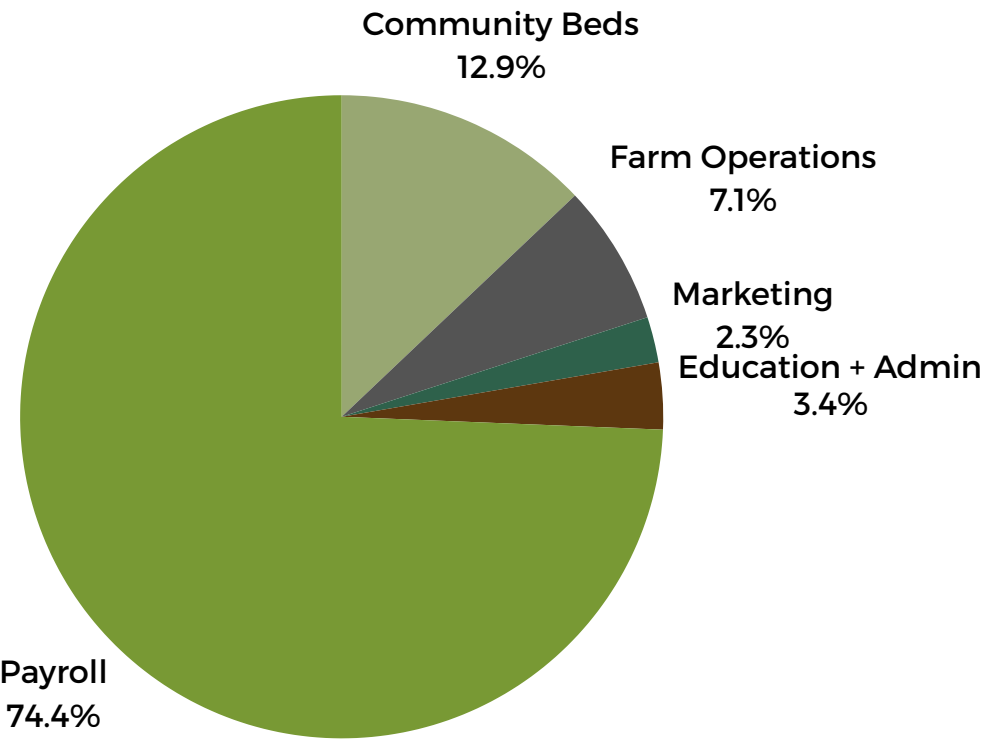
I anticipate a bright and exciting 2024 growing season. We are on-boarding new Farm employees, refreshing our crop plan, ordering supplies and preparing curriculum for educational programming. We have also started the process of developing our 3-5 year strategic plan. It's shaping up to be a bountiful 2024!

See you on the Farm,

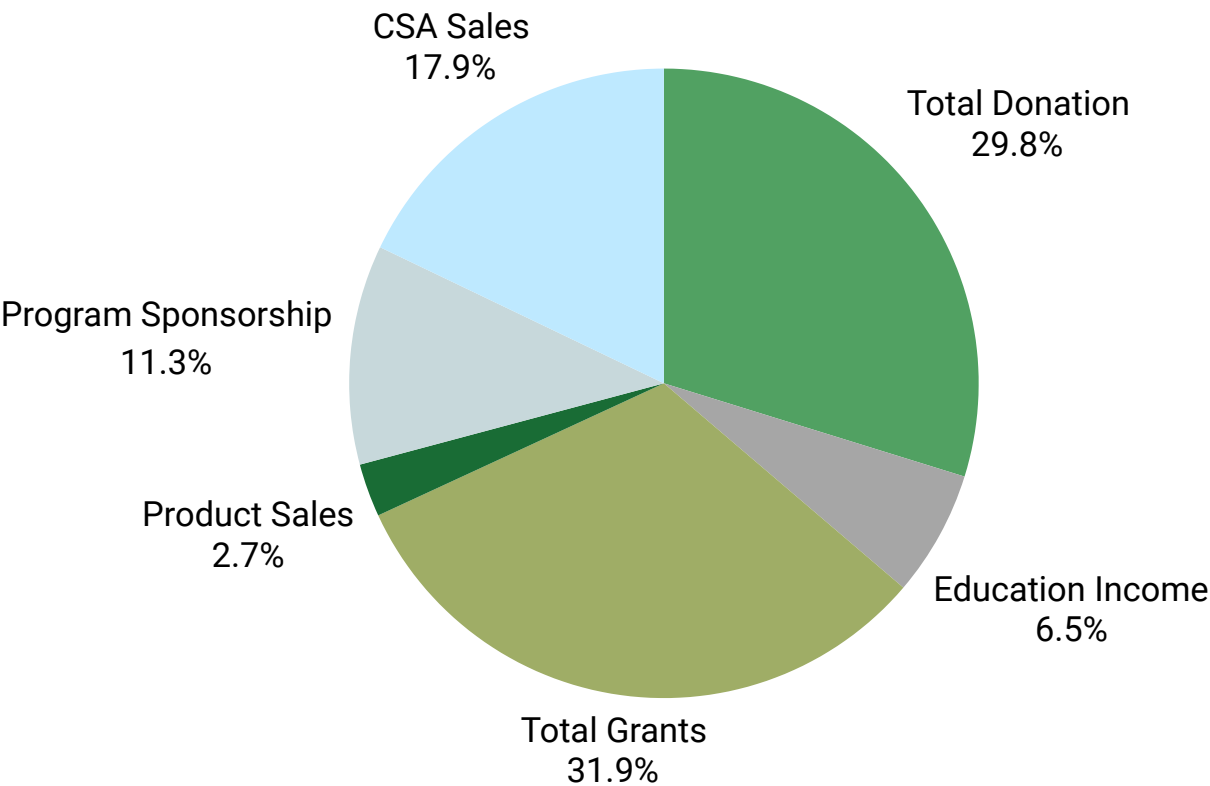


Susan Shaver,
Board President

EXPENSES



INCOME



SPONSORS

We are so grateful for our many donors this year, as well as our sponsors and grant funders. We could not do all that we do without our community of friends.



KEY IMPACTS



Donated over 4,500 lbs of vegetables



Hosted 145 volunteers on the Farm



Expanded CSA shares by 30%

HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, we officially opened our Community Garden Beds, leasing nearly **75% of the 150 beds to members** from Needham and beyond in our first year of operation!
- In June, we were awarded a grant from the Healy-Driscoll Administration **to purchase a new electric van.**
- In August, we were the recipients of three awards, most notably the **Impact Award** from the Charles River Chamber of Commerce.



COMMUNITY GARDEN BEDS

The Community Garden Beds officially opened on April 1, 2023. These beds represent a new way for our community to connect with our land and each other.



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“There is nothing like the peace of working out there in the middle of the woods, surrounded only by bird and insect sounds, with hands in the dirt, growing food and flowers.”

- Community Bed gardener, 2023

2023 BOARD

- Anna Aguilera - Board Member
- Ed Anderson, Treasurer
- Nancy Berger, Board Member & Assistant Treasurer
- Steven Clark, Board Member
- Jane Evans, Clerk
- Vanessa Gilbreth, Board Member
- Michelle Keefe, Board Member
- Joe Leghorn, Vice President and Liaison to Board of Selectmen
- Jennifer Meyerhardt, Board Member
- Susan Shaver, President
- Gayani Weeraratne, Board Member
- Lori Whyte, Board Member



2023 STAFF

- Allie Comet, Farm Manager
- Ceilidh Peden-Spear, Program Manager
- Courtney Sodano, Development Director