



# 2021 Annual Report







# MEET OUR EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Sorrell was born in the UK and has spent half her life living in Colorado. Sorrell holds a

Bachelors Degree in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology. She brings a diverse array of professional and lived experience in environmental education and formal education to her role as Education Director.

Sorrell's passions include education and nature. After moving to Southwestern Colorado just over a year ago she stumbled upon the Kemper Elementary School garden. Eager to support the organization, last summer she began writing curriculum for MSTFP. She was overjoyed to be offered the role of Education Director as she feels her passions weave seamlessly into the organization.

After just a few months Sorrell has formed strong connections within the school districts and with the AmeriCorps service members. Sorrell believes strong relationships are central to the success of Montezuma School to Farm.

"This gives people the chance to actually appreciate nature and get out and do farming stuff."

4th Grade





2021:
A YEAR IN REVIEW

1500+ students taught monthly

Over 6,500 tastings

900+ hours of learning in the garden per month



Our food distribution partners:













# Garden Explorers

Hands-on, garden based K-5th programming offered in all elementary



Youth Pathways



6th-8th

#### STEM in the Garden

6th-8th science standards addressed through hands-on garden lessons focused on water resilience and resource conservation.





Conservation Corps, we provide paid summer opportunities for students in grades 8-10 that build on their skills and knowledge of food production, nutrition, and resource conservation.







# High School Internships

In collaboration with Southwest Conservation Corps, we provide summer high school internships allowing local high school students to expand their confidence in food production and bringing a crop to market.







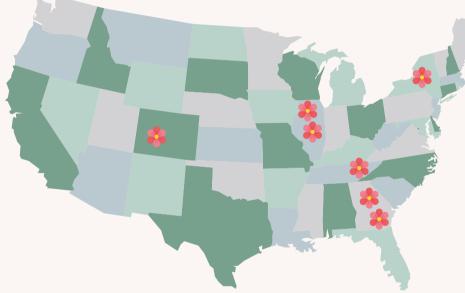








Our Ameri Corps service members have come from across the country to serve in Montezuma County!



This year we have seven service members: Refugio, Kelsey, Marylee, Kylie, Rochelle, Connor and Neah. They all bring unique and valuable experiences to MSTFP.

During their year of service, the AmeriCorps gain experience teaching garden classes in our six elementary school gardens. They also learn how to run a production garden, while learning about our unique growing conditions. They gain hands-on experience crop planning, planting and harvesting. In addition to their everyday routine, members also volunteer with community partners such as Good Samaritan Foodbank and are tasked with projects based on their interests or needs of MSTFP. The AmeriCorps are a valuable and appreciated part of our organization!



"An enthusiastic 5th-grade student had once asked if he could pick a carrot from the garden, and as he stood and ate the fresh carrot he exclaimed how 'Fruit from the grocery store tastes good, but fruit from the garden just tastes \*muah\*" as he signaled a 'chef kiss' into the air.'" -Refugio

"The class arrives and the teacher, Ms. Spencer explained there is a deaf student and that she would be translating for her. We begin with introductions, and I use American Sign Language (ASL) during mine. While the other students were surprised, nothing compared to the face of this little girl when she saw someone new communicating in her language. Beaming head to toe, she joined my group as we toured the garden." - Marylee

"Almost every time we talk about a fruit or vegetable, someone chimes in and says "My mom grows that at home!" Seeing the students eager to learn makes me reflect; when children are given the opportunity to grow and learn in a natural environment, they will flourish."

#### - Neah

"In my experience, tastings are the most valuable part of my job because I get to help students explore and start to get excited about food. The next month they came to the garden excited to tell me how they ate their beets at home and they were eager to take more produce home" - Kylie "Seeing the lasting impact that the previous year's garden teachers had on their students made it clear that garden lessons have a pervasive effect on students' lives, making it even more important that we meet and exceed this standard to make lasting impressions on the students." - Rochelle





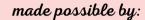


To support classrooms and families impacted by remote learning, MSTFP has developed a new and interactive kids website to bring our garden programs to the virtual space.



We will continue to add content and improve based on teacher and community feedback to make sure all MSTFP lessons are accessible.

www.mstfpkids.org





Colorado Water Plan Curriculum

Throughout 2021, MSTFP has worked to develop a regionally relevant PreK - 8th grade curriculum which we will implement throughout 2022. Aligning with the Colorado Water Plan (CWP), MSTFP will provide students with knowledge about drought, the water cycle and water as an important natural resource.

Made possible with support from:





New water

## School Garden Coordinators

Kathy Carpenter, Kiva Montessori School Chris LaRose, Kiva Montessori School Donitza Ivanovich, Kiva Montessori School Katri Rittenhouse, Manaugh Elementary School Matt Redford, Kemper Elementary School Martha Endres, Mancos High School Michelle Perez, Mancos Elementary School



# What they do....

Our seven garden coordinators have developed a total of six new lesson plans centered around nutrition in the garden and six new lessons focused on Indigenous agricultural techniques in the Four Corners region. They have already begun teaching their lessons within their schools. We meet monthly to share knowledge, feedback and create new materials for the students and teachers of Montezuma County.

#### What we have done so far...



Field trip at Mesa Verde National Park



Nutrition course from Columbia \
University



Stay tuned for MSTFP's Annual Teacher Conference in Fall of 2022!



MSTFP is looking for VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in becoming a garden volunteer please email bgoodrich@mstfp.org

"My brother really likes superheroes, but I LOVE garden class."

> - 2nd grader from Mesa Elementary





### **Board of Directors**

Clara Martinez, Board President
Jim Patton, Vice President
Greg Felson, Treasurer
Katri Rittenhouse, Secretary
Katie Russel, Board member
Kit Connelly, Board member

### Staff Members

#### Ben Goodrich Sorrell Redford

**Executive Director** 

**Education Director** 

#### 2021/2022 AmeriCorps service members:

Refugio Moreno | Kelsey Doerr | Kylie Potts | Neah Patkunas Connor Stephens | Marylee Whitlock | Rochelle Guenther

#### School Garden Coordinators

Kathy Carpenter | Martha Endres | Donitza Ivanovich | Katrissa Rittenhouse Chris Larose | Michelle Perez | Matt Redford







Every year our program success is only made possible by the many people, community partners, and organizations.

Each year, your contributions allows us to deepen our approach and expand our reach to local students around Montezuma County. We look back with gratitude and respect for all the ways that our supporters and fellow community members come through. Thank you for your support!

2021 Grant Funding provided by:























Thank you to our 2021 Local and Regional Sponsors:





























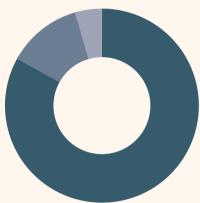






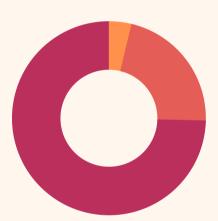






# 2021 Income

Grant Funding, 83% School District Contributions, 12.5% Individual Donations, 4.5%



# 2021 Expense

Staffing, 75%
Program Materials, 4 %
Operations, 21%



