



End Of Year Report

(FISCAL YEAR 2023)

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THANK YOU



The INTRODUCTION

Our mission is to develop the capacity of young people to instill respect for life, the earth and each other through growing, cooking and sharing food. Together we are grounded firmly in our values of

★ Equity ★ Community ★ Experiential Learning ★
Environmental Stewardship ★ Teamwork ★ Responsibility ★

A message from the **OPERATIONS MANAGER**

What a bountiful year it's been at SEEDS! This summer and fall we gained new staff members to support operations on site at the garden. Through community partnerships with Grow Your World and Wall Street Juniors, we were able to open our doors to Durham youth again for the 2023 summer camp program. Our DIG students grew edible and nonedible plants to harvest and sell at the Durham Farmers Market. We also contributed large quantities of the produce grown in our garden to the local community fridges in the area.

The fruitful relationships we've established and maintained over the years have allowed us to continue to show up for our city in the best ways that we know how; through growing, cooking, and sharing food. After personally growing with SEEDS as a community member and volunteer throughout my childhood, I am so grateful that I was hired to work with such a deeply-rooted organization. I'm very eager for all the wonders in store for 2024. On behalf of the SEEDS family, thank you immensely to every volunteer, donor, and community partner helping to keep us thriving.

Tauwarea Parker-Rushdai

Operations Manager

OUR STAFF



Natasha Graham

INTERN, *Johnson Service Corps.*

Hometown: Durham, NC

Hobbies: Painting & reading.

Favorite place on the SEEDS campus: The front entrance foyer because it has the best view.

Tamarea Rushdan

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Hometown: Durham, NC

Hobbies: Writing & cooking.

Favorite place on the SEEDS campus: I love the kitchen because that's where all the hard work pays off!

Camryn Jefferson

GARDEN COORDINATOR

Hometown: Wilmington, NC

Hobbies: Birdwatching & cooking.

Favorite place on the SEEDS campus: The pond, of course! That's where all the birds love to hang out.

Volunteers
and service
hours in the
garden

The **VOLUNTEERS** 324 volunteers over 150 hours

Microsoft

**SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEER GROUPS THIS
YEAR INCLUDED**

3C Institute

Durham Academy

LEAD For NC

Oracle

Durham Public Schools

StudentU

Brightleaf Tech

Service Trade

The Humility Project

Brightview Tech

Duke

Eleven11

NCCU School of Law

ProjectBuild

SALUD

Medline Group

SO MUCH

Epworth UMC

Blexit

CISCO

MetLife

Slice325

BetterUp

MerckPSL

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

WORK

GOT DONE



This year, our community
partnerships kept us

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**



Slice 325
Farm Church
Grow Your World
Wall Street Juniors
Center for Nuevo South
Johnson Service Corps
Changed Paths
Family Bizness
UCAN



D.I.G. a little Deeper...

D.I.G. (Durham Inner-city Gardeners) is a youth empowerment and leadership development program at SEEDS Community Garden.

Logan, pictured to the right, is strategizing ways to temporarily repair our wooden archway to the trellis garden after it was knocked over during a storm in September 2023.

Reflections from
2nd year DIG Student,
Logan Nelson-Guzman



“During my time at SEEDS, I have learned many things. I have not only learned gardening but also sustainable agriculture, woodworking, and communication skills. The biggest takeaway has been that, like life, gardening is a constant battle with the past. It consists of grappling with obstacles caused by decisions prior gardeners made, battling an invasive plant introduced by a naïve gardener now suffocating the native plant population, or being saddled with the responsibility of nursing a dying Earth back to health, caused by mistakes of past generations. It is at SEEDS that I and many other youth are equipped with the proper knowledge and tools to fix the problems of the past and to try to create a better future.”



THANK YOU

to our generous donors who keep us thriving!

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Amanda De Hoedt
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Vaguely Reminiscent

GRANT FUNDING

County of Durham
Ann Gordon - Schwab Charitable
The Kenan Family Foundation

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Thank you to our dedicated
staff and board of directors
who made this a successful
year at SEEDS!

SEEDS STAFF

Tamarea Parker Rushdan
Operations Manager

Kristen Sommerfield
Interim DIG Coordinator

Camryn Jefferson
Garden and Volunteer Coordinator

Tasha Graham
Intern

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