



# 2014 IMPACT REPORT



## Inspiring Change in Vermont and Beyond



Rob Downey and Travis Marcotte

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for another amazing summer in the Intervale, we are excited to share with you our 2014 Impact Report. It has been a pleasure working with you to ensure that our farms are stronger, water and land are cleaner and more resilient, and that all Vermonters have access to delicious, healthy local food.

Thanks to you, 2014 was a banner year for the Intervale Center. Your generous support is helping us build the community food revolution, in Vermont and beyond – and we wouldn't be here without your generosity, loyalty, and friendship.

Last year, Travis had the incredible honor of keynoting the United States Agricultural Information Network's 14th Biannual Conference. Attendees were leaders from the nation's top university libraries, real experts on sustainable food and agriculture. They wanted to hear the story of the Intervale Center, a place where a vibrant community food system isn't just thriving, it's modeling bold change for cities and towns across North America. Travis was able to share our story of profound transformation, in which land on the "wrong side of the tracks" becomes a beautiful, peaceful, and productive community asset. He was able to demonstrate the power of good food to change the world.

When we close our eyes and picture our community food system in 25 years, we envision abundance. Strong farms, healthy land and clean water, and good food for all. It's not just a theory in a textbook. It is real. It is powerful. And it's right here for all of us to see, touch, hear, taste, feel and love.

As loyal friends of the Intervale Center, we invite you to share with us your hopes and dreams for the Intervale Center in 25 years. What will we have accomplished together? What is your Intervale story to share? Send us an e-mail, give us a call, join us for a walk in the Intervale –or for a beer or cider at Summervale this season (you'll find the full season lineup on the back page). We'd love to hear from you!

In gratitude,

Travis Marcotte  
Executive Director  
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(802) 660-0440 x107

Rob Downey  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Owner, American Flatbread Burlington  
Hearth and Zero Gravity Craft Brewery  
rob@flatbreadhearth.com

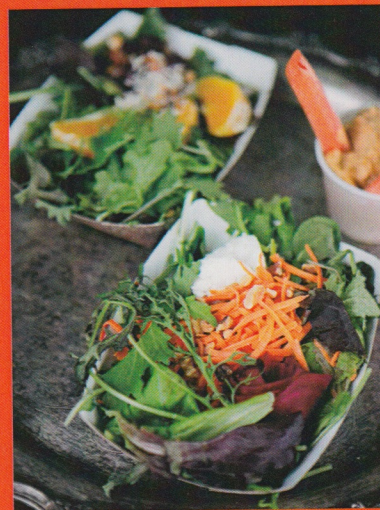
## Nourishing a Local Food Culture, Thanks to YOU!

At the Intervale Center, we believe that good food can change the world. Because of you, we are creating a food system that supports local economies, farmers, our precious land and water, and all of us who love to eat. Most importantly, because of you, we are modeling a better world in the heart of Burlington, Vermont. Thank you!

We couldn't lead the community food revolution without being rooted in our very special place – the one and only Intervale. We began restoring these 350 acres of floodplain for agriculture, recreation and conservation in 1987, and we haven't looked back. Our programs reach across and beyond Vermont, but the magic all starts in the Intervale. This year, we invested in our homestead gardens and our Community Barn, improved the parking area at the Calkins Trailhead, and installed new signage. Enjoy!



"If one community could serve as poster child for the core values we write about in *Mother*



*Earth News*, Burlington would be it ... Its vibrant local food system is central to the city, and at the heart of the food system is the Intervale Center."

*Mother Earth News*  
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014

# Thank you for helping Vermont farms thrive.

In 2014, the Intervale Center worked with over 100 Vermont farms and food producers, helping new farms get started and supporting established farm businesses.

**Take Bear Roots Farm in Barre, Vermont.** We worked with owners Karin Bellemare and Jon Wagner-Herbert to build their CSA and wholesale markets and develop long-term business goals. Karin and Jon told us, *“Working with the Intervale Center has given us the tools to make our farm a success right from the start. We are implementing new systems, connecting with our community, and maintaining our overall farm goals. It has been immensely helpful in managing our overall livelihood.”*



Jon and Karin, Bear Roots Farm



Mercy Corps Northwest Incubator Farm, Oregon

**Inspiring Others:** As a nationally recognized food systems innovator, we have welcomed visitors from North Carolina to Hawaii, Ontario and New York seeking to bring the “Intervale magic” to their own communities. In September 2014, Maggie, our Beginning Farmer Specialist, attended a week-long intensive in Portland, Oregon, as part of the National Incubator Farm Training Initiative (NIFTI). Here’s an excerpt from her letter home:

*“As I sit on the train heading north from Portland to Seattle, I realize I am really far from home. But the feeling hadn’t hit me until this moment. Although I’ve been 2,000 miles from the Intervale, where 26 years ago Will Raap envisioned a new form of agriculture that could be collaborative and restorative, I felt close to home and surrounded by friends. Having the opportunity to see projects all over the country that are modeled after the Intervale Center is deeply inspiring. Literally hundreds of organizations are replicating our work!”*



Maple Wind Farm is one of the Intervale Food Hub’s 45 farm partners.

**Growing the Market for Local Food:** We continue to break down barriers for Vermont farmers and food producers bringing their products to market, and we are working hard to ensure that fresh, delicious, healthy local food is available to anyone who wants it.

In 2014, the Intervale Food Hub delivered food to 1,200 customers in Chittenden County. In addition, our unique partnership with food-service provider Sodexo will create a new market for the Food Hub’s 45 farm partners and make it easier for college students to cook and eat farm-fresh food.

Finally, we led a major research project with the Farm to Plate Network, University of Vermont’s Center for Rural Studies, and Vermont Retail and Grocers Association investigating the opportunities for getting more local food into Vermont’s independent grocery stores – a \$750 million market.

# Thank you for protecting Vermont's water and land for future generations.

## Modeling Farming in the Face of Climate Change

In 2014, we began work on long-term planning to support our own resilience in the face of climate change, as we model successful floodplain farming to other communities and share our findings nationally and locally. Last summer, we assessed flood risk on 41 tillable parcels of land and surveyed Intervale farmers and other land users. Intervale farmers reported that farming is challenging everywhere in Vermont and that the Intervale has many positive attributes – great soil, a location right in Vermont's largest city, and a supportive community of like-minded growers – that are hard to find elsewhere.

**They overwhelmingly agreed that the benefits of farming in the Intervale continue to outweigh the risk of flooding.**

Over the next several years, we'll be implementing integrated land management strategies to ensure a healthy ecosystem, a vibrant environment for farming, and a safe and fun place for community members to eat, work and play.



PHOTO: VERMONT WORKS FOR WOMEN

In 2014, our **Intervale Conservation Nursery** contributed over 20,000 trees and shrubs to riparian reforestation projects across Vermont. That's over 100 acres of riparian buffers restored in watersheds from Williston to Randolph. These buffers filter pollutants from our waterways, provide native habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife, and sequester carbon to help mitigate climate change. In addition, we removed 24,500 plastic tree tubes (used to protect young trees) from Addison and neighboring counties – that's two tons of plastic removed from our working landscape!

**One incredible partnership that grew this year was with Vermont Works for Women's Transitional Jobs program.** Over two sessions, a total of 12 women worked for eight weeks at the Nursery, providing daily support for diverse tasks. One participant said of her experience, *"I loved working outside. Every day I learned something new. Always looked forward to what we were going to do next. I think it was an awesome life-changing experience. I now appreciate nature in a whole new light."*



## Thank you for helping us lead the growing community food revolution.

Through participation in local, regional and national networks, such as Vermont Farm to Plate and the New England Food Summit, we are sharing our expertise and leveraging our unique approach for positive change on a broader scale. In September, we hosted USDA Deputy Secretary, Krysta Harden, where she announced RBEG and RBOG grants, and, in partnership with Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, members of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, with whom we shared the Intervale as a model of community-based agriculture. Travis was proud to be the keynote speaker at the Vermont Land Trust's Annual Meeting at Health Hero Farm in South Hero and at the U.S. Agricultural Information Network's annual conference.

# Thank you for ensuring that all Vermonters have a place at the table.



Renowned agricultural activist, Vandana Shiva, visited Intervale farms and Intervale Center staff in November 2014.

Thanks to your support, our **Intervale Gleaning and Food Rescue program doubled in size**, providing free food shares to 125 households and 12 organizations and distributing 29,000 pounds of fresh food to people in need. Currently, about 13% of Vermonters don't have enough to eat; at the Intervale Center, we ensure that our hungry neighbors can participate in the local food movement. We partnered with farms based in the Intervale and further afield in Chittenden County, as well as eight farms at the Saturday Burlington Farmers' Market, to bring participants a wide assortment of fresh produce each week. As Nancy, a Free Food Share recipient, said, *"I cannot tell you what a difference this program makes for me. I have learned how to prepare new foods. I can better budget my weekly food allowance, and I am able to eat a healthier diet. Thank you so much. I look forward to this every week."*



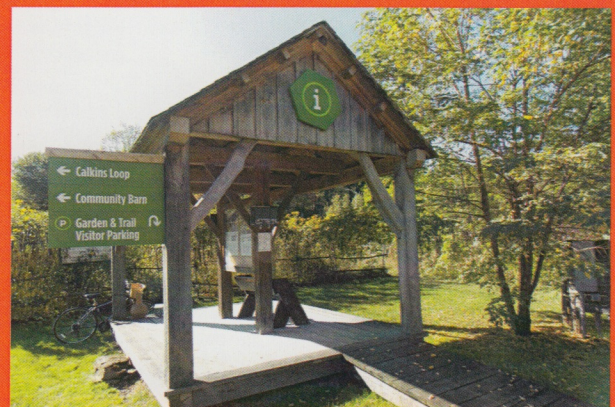
JESSICA SIPE

We hosted restaurateur and school food advocate, Alice Waters, for lunch in our Dairy Barn in April 2014. Alice said, *"I love the way the Intervale Center brings people together around good food. It is a remarkable model for the rest of the country."*



According to the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, more than 75% of the fruit and vegetable varieties humans once ate are now extinct. **Our Abenaki Heritage Garden protects our common seed heritage** by growing native, heirloom fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants. In

the face of corporate controlled agriculture and a changing climate, the genetic diversity and community ownership that native seeds represent will be critical to our survival.



## WE WELCOME YOU

to come join us for a FREE public tour the last Friday of the month from May to October!

For more information and to RSVP, go to

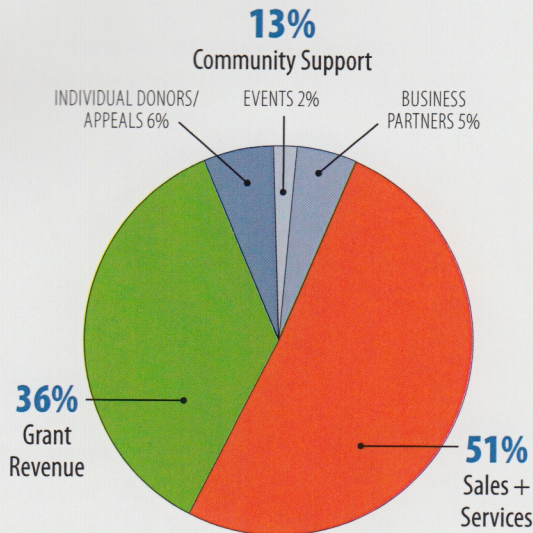
[www.intervale.org/visit](http://www.intervale.org/visit)

# Intervale Center 2014

## FINANCIAL REPORT

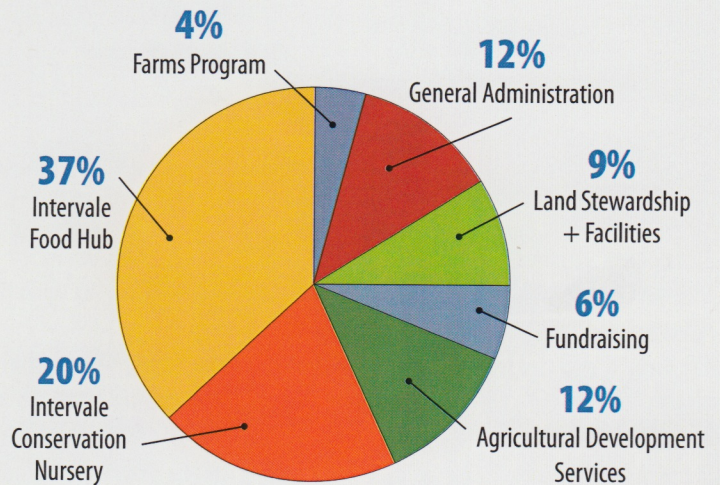
### 2014 Revenue Sources\*

**\$1,800,934**



### 2014 Expenses\*

**\$1,743,866**



\* Please note that the above revenue and expenses charts include depreciation on assets and other non-cash expenses and exclude income and expenses from capital projects.



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### Our Staff

**Sarah Alexander**, Intervale Gleaning & Food Rescue Coordinator  
**Stacy Burnstein**, Land Access Specialist  
**Thomas Case**, Intervale Food Hub Packing & Distribution  
**Joyce Cellars**, Community Relations Manager  
**Sona Desai**, Intervale Food Hub Manager  
**Meagan Day**, Bookkeeper  
**Maggie Donin**, Beginning Farmer Specialist  
**Mandy Fischer**, Development Manager  
**Chelsea Frisbee**, Development Coordinator  
**Kendall Frost**, Intervale Food Hub Marketing & Outreach Coordinator  
**Seth Gillim**, Intervale Conservation Nursery Assistant Manager  
**Jonathan Guy**, Finance Manager  
**Linus Hanratty**, Intervale Conservation Nursery Field Technician  
**Rob Hunt**, Land Manager  
**Mike Ingalls**, Intervale Conservation Nursery Manager  
**Travis Marcotte**, Executive Director  
**Nick Rucci**, Intervale Food Hub Packing & Distribution  
**Jessica Sanford**, Intervale Gleaning & Food Rescue Manager  
**Alis Sevakian**, Administrative Assistant  
**Leah Szafranski**, Riparian Restoration and Monitoring Specialist  
**Sam Smith**, Farm Business Specialist  
**Adam Wheeler**, Land Stewardship Assistant  
**Bobby Young**, Intervale Food Hub Operations Coordinator

### Our Board of Directors

**Will Raap**, founder – *Honorary Founding Member*  
**Rob Downey**, Owner, American Flatbread Burlington Hearth – *Chair*  
**The Honorable Thomas G. Walsh**, Judge, Environmental Division of the Superior Court of Vermont – *Vice Chair*  
**Allison Weinlagen**, Director of Community Engagement, City Market – *Treasurer*  
**Molly Stevens**, Chef and Cookbook Author – *Secretary*  
**L. Randolph Amis, Esq.**  
**Peter Asch**, President, Twincraft Skincare  
**Cynthia Belliveau**, Dean, Distance and Continuing Education, University of Vermont  
**Kathy Beyer**, Vice President for Development, Housing Vermont  
**Gary Coffey**, Director of Retail, Lake Champlain Chocolates  
**Leslie Halperin**, Of Counsel, Resilient Philanthropy  
**Minner Hobbs**, Executive Director, South Hero Land Trust  
**Katharine Montstream**, Owner, Montstream Studio  
**Maura O'Sullivan**, Chef, Penny Cluse Café and Lucky Next Door  
**Peter Owens**, Director, Community and Economic Development Office, City of Burlington  
**Michael Thompson**, Partner, Copperleaf Financial