



LAND'S SAKE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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Dear Friends:

As I reflect on 2018, I am amazed at the diversity of work that was accomplished in a twelve-month period. In January of 2018 we received word that after 38 years of operating under a 3-year lease with the town, Land's Sake had officially received a long term lease on 40-acre field (where the farmstand is located). This has allowed us to start the year thinking about long-term plans to improve how we operate and what we can offer the town. Thank you to all who helped make this a reality, from the hard working staff, to the board, to all of our constituents who wrote letters of support.

This was just a start to a great year for Land's Sake. In fact, you might say it was the biggest! While staying true to our mission we were able to increase the number of kids we connected to the land, grow and donate more food, and expand the way we connect community members to Land's Sake and each other.

None of this would be possible without you, the Land's Sake community. You are so generous with your time, skills, and financial support. Simply put, the farm is a hub where people come together to laugh, play, eat and give back. It's a place where hard work is the standard, and the reward is both a legacy of service and a community that has grown together for many decades. Thank you to our staff, members, volunteers and board for all of your hard work.

I feel honored to work with such an amazing staff and board and to serve such a generous and engaged community. Here are some numbers that continue to amaze me and wouldn't be possible without you!

520 members (individual and families)
280 families in our CSA
Over 35,000 pounds of food donated
5,300 people engaged in our education programs
250+ volunteers
16 board members
Equivalent of 13 full time staff

Thank you again for your support. Here's to an even bigger 2019!

Sincerely,



Pam Hess
Executive Director

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Farm Highlights

Under the leadership of Farm & Forestry Manager Erik Baum and Assistant Farm Managers Hannah Degner and Emma Chinitz the farm had another successful season. By the numbers, in 2018:

- **110,100 pounds** of vegetables were grown for the CSA, Farmstand, and Hunger Relief program.
- **35,806 pounds** of this produce went to Hunger Relief agencies in Weston and its surrounding communities.
- **280 families** joined us at the CSA tent.

After many years of dedicated farming at Land's Sake, much our crew from the last four or five years moved on, ending their service on a high note: 2018 was one of our most successful seasons yet. The combination of favorable weather and an experienced crew yielded high quality harvests.

Weed management, however, remains a huge challenge. The seed bank left by previous farmers, as well as by us, has rendered certain fields very challenging to productively grow in. Through crop planning, and capital improvements, some fields are finally responding to our management. However, further capital investments will be necessary in order to be able to farm efficiently and profitably.

Our 2018 Farm and Farmstand crew members were a big part of the year's success. Thanks to Anthony Defelice, Nick Defelice, Josh Raser, Hannah Brodsky, Anna Dawley, Liam Donahue, Lucy Harper, Inanna Hill, Julianne Jacobs, Heather Hilton, Margaret Wiss, Sam Arthur, Tessa Awalt-Conley, Eliza Brady, Tanner Creelman, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Connor Fleming, Emma Lambrecht, Judith Merel, Brad Nelson, Joel Pugh, and Gratia Sullivan.

Many thanks, especially, to our long-time year round farmers who left or transitioned to working part-time recently: Anthony & Nick Defelice, Josh Raser, Emma Chinitz, and Hannah Degner. Our new crew for 2019 brings incredible passion, ability, and a fabulous vibe to the farm. We're looking forward to our next year with JT, Julia, Kenneth, Kevin, Liam, and RC.

From Our CSA Shareholders

"The experience of visiting a farm every week in the summer is a soul soothing one for me. Even if I am only there for 15 minutes, the experience is one I really enjoy."

"We truly loved the CSA and the farm. It was the highlight of our daughter's week going to the CSA tent, visiting the animals, picking cherry tomatoes, etc. keep up the good work!"

"This was a great year! The quantities and varieties of food were excellent. All of your staff were wonderful and HAPPY! And I love it when the staff chats with all of us. Thank you for such great season!"

"I have been more healthy and feel better with a CSA share. Thank you!"



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Education Highlights

In August, Land's Sake said goodbye Education Manger Anna Cohen, and Education Coordinator Katie Metzger stepped into her new role as Manager. Both Anna and Katie focused on delivering the highest quality programs possible, and expanding awareness of all that Land's Sake has to offer children and families.

By the numbers:

- More than 5,300 kids engaged with Land's Sake Farm, sugar house, or outreach locations for after-school programs, summer programs, community events, and more.
- 156 field trip visits to the farm from 36 different schools and organizations.
- 250 volunteers helped give back to Land's Sake.
- 11 birthday parties were held on the farm.
- 48 presentations were given in libraries, schools, community centers, and senior living communities.
- We added an additional day of our free Open Farmyard program, allowing children with young families to have twice as many opportunities to attend this popular program. The Open Farmyard program offered local families a way to become a part of our farm community through learning and play that was accessible to all.

From our Education Program Participants:

We asked parents which activities their children liked best at Land's Sake, and here is a sampling of what they told us:

"Animal time and magical tree"

"Caring for animals, journaling, picking flowers and herbs, tree climbing, general free play on the farm, time with her counselors"

"He loved being with the animals and working in the fields. He made zucchini bread at home and spent time weaving in the car on a road trip inspired by activities at Land's Sake."

"Picking berries, visiting the magic tree, spending time with the animals"

"She loved being outside in the winter and spending time in the woods."

"Playing with the bunnies, climbing trees, catching the chickens"

"Working with animals. Exploring the farm."



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Events Highlights

Each year, the Land's Sake community comes together for a variety of events that celebrate connecting people to the land, and to each other. 2018 was filled with fun events, both old favorites and new additions. Here are just a few of the many events we hosted:

- **Sugaring Off Festival:** A community favorite, this year's Sugaring Off did not disappoint! Students in our After School Maple program gave educational tours of the Bill McElwain Sugar House and we served pancake breakfasts.
- **Farmstand Opening:** Our community joined us to celebrate the beginning of a new season, enjoyed our first fresh greens, and, as usual, people of all ages enjoyed playing with our bunnies!
- **Summer Solstice Dinner:** It was a beautiful summer evening for an al fresco meal, prepared by Chef Joshua Smith with Land's Sake produce and honey. Thanks to the generosity of our dinner guests and other donors, we raised over \$10,000 to fund our Hunger Relief programs!
- **Family Farm Nights:** A brand new event in 2018, families enjoyed live music, picnics, and food trucks on the farm. Throughout the summer, our community gathered to make connections, enjoy the outdoors, and share food and fun.
- **Harvest Dinner:** We held our most successful Harvest Dinner yet on a beautiful evening in September. Harvest Dinner is our main annual fundraising dinner and it helped us raise money for all our programs, from hunger relief to education.
- **Harvest Hustle:** Another new event this year, we hosted our first 5K race! Adults and kids experienced a unique course around the farm and the woods of Weston, and gathered afterwards to enjoy food and live music.
- **Pre-Thanksgiving Sale:** We had a great turnout for our last Farmstand event of the season. Members of the community gathered to stock up on fall vegetables and local treats for the holiday season.
- **Cut-Your-Own Christmas Tree Sale:** An annual tradition, Families enjoyed walking through the woods to our Christmas tree fields to pick and cut their very own locally grown tree.



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Forestry Highlights

With great yields of syrup and firewood, 2018 continued a strong tradition of immersing both youth and volunteers in sustainable forestry. We kicked the sugaring season off with a successful Tapping Out event, involving 40 volunteers, and ended the season with another fruitful Sugaring Off Festival. This would not have been possible without Farm & Forestry Manager Erik Baum, Assistant Farm Managers Hannah Degner and Emma Chinitz, Farm & Forestry Coordinator Anthony Defelice, and Nick Defelice. By the numbers:

- **42 gallons** of maple syrup were produced by both our forestry team members and our After-School Maple students.
- **15 cords** of firewood were produced, all harvested from the woods of Weston and using sustainable forestry methods.
- **90 hours of volunteering** in the woods to help with sap collecting, splitting, stacking, and more.
- **375 taps** on maple trees throughout Weston's forests



2018 Donors & Members

Land's Sake would not exist without the community support of members, donors, and volunteers. In addition to our 520 Members who supported our work with their Membership dues, we had over 250 volunteers assist us with a variety of programs, and many donors who made financial contributions to keep all our programs running. The most heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who lent a hand or contributed to sustain the Land's Sake community. We wish to offer special thank yous to out-going Board Vice President Jonathan White, Board Members Michelle Hipwood, Alix Mackey, Jordan McCarron, and Caitlin Salyer, and to the members and donors listed below.

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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