

We will nurture the plants within our reach as we continue to plant the seeds for generations to come.

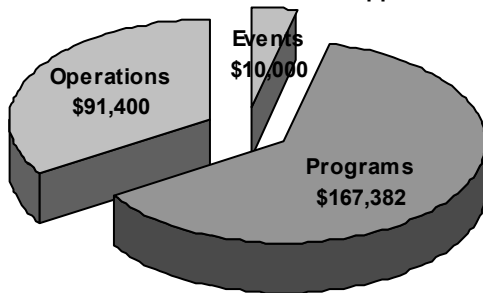
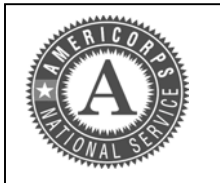
## Inspire

This year, YGP has recruited 21 AmeriCorps members who volunteer their time to coordinate and facilitate all of the programs that YGP provides to youth. As of July 5, our AmeriCorps members have recruited 249 volunteers to help with programming and community events. This is a 7% increase from this time last year, surpassing the CNCS goal of a yearly 2% inc. "volunteering really connects you to the community and allows you to give back to a place that has given so much to you, hopefully I can inspire others to volunteer." Grace Tyler, AmeriCorps Garden Apprentice 2007



Volunteers are rewarded with a fresh organic meal after a hard day of weeding.

## Distribution of Financial Support



## Educate



Lessons are the fruit of our labor. Through hands on experience, Youth learn educational concepts such as bio-diversity, geology, agriculture, ecological preservation free enterprise, cooking and nutrition. The garden also provides many opportunities for personal growth through allegories and metaphors. "Gardens quietly lead us to greater awareness." - J. Chiappella (Nibble Garden Opening w/ HS Class)

## Connect

The Youth Garden Project's impact on the community of Moab, Utah is tremendous. We offer 7 programs and countless community events that provide opportunities for community members to learn, grow, and interact together. We partner with the National Parks, WabiSabi, Grand County School District, B.E.A.C.O.N., and Four Corners Community and Behavioral Health to provide experiential programming to youth. Thanks to these partnerships and our AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are able to serve over 4,000 individuals, approximately half of the population of Moab. Just look at the numbers. Programs and events are listed with the corresponding number of participants:

Hands Up Brunch.....	670
Chocolate Lover's Fling.....	300
Canyon Country Outdoor Ed.....	1695
High School Agriculture Class.....	16
Club Red, Moab's Teen Center.....	134
Garden Classrooms.....	180
Growin' & Eatin' in the Garden.....	68
BEACON Cooking Club.....	43
Youth Garden Summer Day Camp..	302
Outward Bound Service Crews.....	80
Pluggin' In Service Crews.....	24
S.E.R.P.....	50
Weed N Feeds.....	220
Drive Less, Walk In Movie Night....	200
Pumpkin Chuckin' Festival.....	750 (06)



Connecting the circle: youth learn the importance of composting.



## The Youth Garden Project

The Youth Garden Project cultivates personal growth, self responsibility, and community awareness in youth through organic gardening, experiential education programs, and community service.

July 2007 Growth Report

## Youth Garden Project Programs 2007

**High School Science Class:** The High School Science Class focuses on Agriculture and Natural Resource concepts. It is offered to a cross-section of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders during the spring and fall trimesters for science credit. The focus of this class is to engage students, through hands-on experience, in the gardening process and help them develop stronger connections with the land and their community. Class concepts include soil biology, germination, photosynthesis, native plants and their uses, nutrition, and organic gardening techniques.

**Garden Apprentice Program:** YGP is sponsored by AmeriCorps, a national service program. Each summer, ten youth have the opportunity to serve at the garden in our Apprentice program, where they learn every angle of operating and managing a production garden, as well as the entrepreneurial skills of marketing and creating value added products. Apprentices also assist as mentors during our other summer programs.

**Garden Classrooms:** First through sixth grade students visit the garden during the spring and fall trimesters for fieldtrips that explore basic gardening and science concepts related to what students are currently studying. This experiential opportunity builds on classroom learning to strengthen the students' understanding of science.

**Pluggin' In:** In cooperation with the 7<sup>th</sup> District Juvenile Court, the Pluggin' In Program provides Grand and San Juan County juvenile offenders who have received court-ordered community service hours an encouraging environment to repay their community. Youth work with YGP mentors on tasks around the garden and within the community on service projects. This program has proven to instill confidence in youth, build self-esteem and develop a strong work ethic. It has also reduced the amount of youth that return for a second offense, as noted by Bill Engle, former Chief Probation Officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Juvenile Court.

**Youth Garden Summer Camp:** The YGP Kids Garden Summer Camp was created in response to the communities' need for a fun and recreational summer-time program for children that included responsible, adult supervision. This is a full day, five-day a week summer garden camp that captures the fun in learning through teaching while in the beauty of the garden. Camp activities include art lessons, theatrical productions, plant ecology experiments, reading, journal writing, and team building games, with field trips to nearby National Parks for nature hikes and the Moab Swim Center for swimming lessons. The Kids' Summer Camp is provided to Grand County youth in partnership with the City of Moab, G.C.R.S.S.D, B.E.A.C.O.N, and Canyonlands Field Institute.

**After School Programs:** Instead of finding Grand County's intermediate and middle school children at home watching television and playing video games, you'll find them getting dirt under their nails, starting plants from seed in the greenhouse, transplanting tomatoes into freshly turned rows, harvesting organic produce, learning to turn vegetables into snacks and meals, and creating crafts created from garden produce.

**Community Farmers' Market:** As organizers of the Moab Farmers' Market Alliance (MFMA), the Youth Garden Project plans, markets and increases public awareness of the Moab Farmer's Market and the importance of locally grown agriculture. The market is held every Saturday May through October at Swanny City Park. Farmers' Markets; are an integral part of rural, community living across this country, and YGP is proud to be an organic vendor at the Moab Farmers' Market.

**Canyon Country Outdoor Education (CCOE):** In partnership with the National Park Service, YGP AmeriCorps members serve at CCOE, providing science-based outdoor education experiences for Grand and San Juan County first through sixth graders through field trips in the National Parks and other recreation areas surrounding Grand County. CCOE is designed to engage participating students in science through fun and entertaining means and to demonstrate the proper and responsible ways in which to enjoy our National Parks and public lands. Field trip topics include plant adaptations, simple machines, food chains and ecosystems, and local geology.

**Teen Center:** YGP AmeriCorps members serve at the teen center site to provide recreational programs for Grand County youth at an adult supervised site. The teen center also offers drop in tutoring and homework assistance.

**S.E.R.P/ Summer Education and Recreation Program:** YGP AmeriCorps members serve at Four Corners Behavioral Health by leading groups of youth ages 14-16 in service work projects around Grand County. Projects include invasive species and re-vegetation along Mill Creek, garden work at YGP, and trail building with the forest service. The program also provides educational and recreational activities to promote healthy life styles.

**WabiSabi:** A non-profit thrift store in Moab that supports our community with recycled style and grace. WabiSabi hosts Hands up Brunch at YGP which provides free meals to hundreds of people.

**Family and Community Events:** Communities need fun and inspiring events! YGP hosts a number of events so that families and community members can make connections and have FUN!

- **Weed and Feeds** from May-October: In an effort to promote community service, YGP prepares healthy organic meals in exchange for a few hours of light garden work. Held every other Wednesday.
- **Chocolate Lovers' Fling** Create a chocolate dessert and be ready to try dozens of others in February.
- **Pumpkin Chuckin' Festival** How far will your trebuchet, air-cannon, slingshot, or catapult launch a pumpkin? Find out at Moab's Second Annual Pumpkin Chuckin' Festival on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- **Harvest Celebration** Celebrate the season with us at our Fall Harvest potluck in October.
- **Movie Nights:** Bring a blanket and enjoy organic popcorn while watching a movie under the stars!