



5

SEASONS STRONG

ROOTED & RISING



Jones Gardens 2025 Annual Report

5

MILESTONE MOMENTS

Jones Gardens began with a simple belief that access to fresh food matters, and that neighbors working together can build something meaningful.

Over five seasons, this organization has grown through unabashed generosity: shared land, donated tools, volunteered time, grants and gifts, and countless acts of care.

What started small has grown into a network of programs and partnerships that nourish both the body and the community.

All because Jones Gardens isn't just a garden. **This is your community garden.**

1

GENEROSITY TAKES ROOT

Land access generously provided by James Welsh made our first garden possible. What began as borrowed space for a small community plot eventually became a full land donation and a permanent home.

Read more on page 6.

2

TRIPLING THE HARVEST

Seedlings growing in our founder's living room window found a new home in a school greenhouse, thanks to Staunton City Schools. Then, a temporary, rent-free partnership with Geezer Farm tripled our harvest.

Read more on page 8.



3

EXPANDING TOGETHER

Community collaboration fueled our next chapter. A partnership with Quick's Bus opened space for an expansion garden and a grant from T-Mobile provided critical resources to support exponential growth.

Read more on page 10.

4

INCREASING ACCESS

With funding from Augusta Health, we created a food storage trailer. This investment will allow us to safely store more fresh produce at our gardens, increasing access for neighbors across the community.

Read more on page 11.

5

ROOTED & RISING

The donation of the former Newtown Baking & Kitchen building marked a defining milestone. This infrastructure investment will support an expansion that cultivates a hub for education and high-quality food options.

Read more on page 12.



2025 SEASON IN REVIEW



8,700

lbs. of produce
harvested

85

approximate
households served
weekly

3,400

lbs. of free produce
distributed

Thanks to your generosity, we provided more than 8,700 pounds of produce to our community this season, **servicing an average of 85 households each week.**

On Market Days, our volunteers and composting program participants receive free access to all of our produce. We're grateful to have provided over **a third** of our customers with free fresh produce in 2025 through these programs.

"We moved here from New Jersey two years ago, where we had access to wonderful farm-fresh vegetables. We were hoping we could find something similar here in Staunton. Jones Gardens exceeded our hopes."

Beth
Composter &
Market Customer



AT THE MARKET

We remain committed to ensuring our produce is affordable for all members of the community. Market Day customers pay below-market value for high-quality, sustainably grown produce free of harmful pesticides.

24

weeks of
Market Days

OUR PROGRAMS



Sample Saturdays

10 RECIPES SHARED

Our garden vegetables become mouthwatering recipes for all to sample on Market Day as we highlight an ingredient from our garden. Browse all Sample Saturday recipes on our website.

Composting Program

10,816 LBS. RECYCLED

Neighbors receive a compost bucket to collect organic waste at home and may exchange it each Market Day for fresh vegetables. The program turns food scraps into healthy soil — and waste into currency — while promoting environmental stewardship.

Food Delivery Service

40 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

We deliver fresh vegetables to local seniors each week at no cost, extending access and providing nourishment to our most vulnerable neighbors. This year, a partnership with the 'Fresh Veggie Series' provided nearly \$12,000 in support for this program. Learn more on page 17.

Garden Labs

52 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Our Garden Labs bring experts to the garden to lead hands-on workshops focused on food, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Participants leave with practical tools and knowledge they can apply at home.

Green Thumb Program

5 PEOPLE EMPLOYED

The Green Thumb Program provides seasonal employment to community members to support garden operations and programming. We build job skills, agricultural knowledge and economic opportunity.

Pure Beats

2 CONCERTS

Pure Beats is a free mini garden concert that blends gardening, live music, and food into an afternoon of relaxation and community connection at Jones Gardens.



GENEROSITY TAKES ROOT

Our garden began with grit and goodwill.

2021 MILESTONE MOMENTS



Land access by the late Honorable James Welsh becomes permanent home of first garden



City of Staunton provides water access and kind community member installs hydrant



Retired teacher Doris Scott donates ramp for parking access



Sanaa Design, Custom Gardening Services, and JP Remodel & Design design and build infrastructure in-kind

Season One took root in 2021 with the vision, labor and sheer will of our founder, Naomi, and with garden design visionary and sister, Sarah, joined by many neighbors who shared what they had—land, water, helping hands and a belief in sustainable food systems—before there was infrastructure or certainty.

Water was hauled by hand. Seedlings were grown at home. The door that opened to launch our first garden was a rent-free plot of land at the corner of Peck St. and Montgomery Ave., by the late Honorable James Welsh. A change in ownership eventually gifted the land to us. We are so grateful for this tremendous gift that kick-started our operation.

Each new development came through grassroots collaboration and conversation. These early acts of generosity laid the foundation for everything that followed.



NEW LAND, NEWFOUND FAMILY

Angela moved from Nigeria to Staunton in 2021.



Her family of six came with her to the U.S. for a nursing job. She found herself lost in Staunton while trying to secure the required school vaccinations for her children. That's when she met Esther Jones, who helped her find an appointment and also connected her to Jones Gardens.

"We just headed to Jones community garden, and behold, a basket full of okra was given to me for no charge. I felt like someone who had gone to heaven while still on earth. I couldn't just believe it. They didn't just give me okra alone, I was given all kinds of veggies, tomatoes, green beans, carrots, potatoes, onions, just name it. I had bags of food items from the garden, at no cost."

"Jones Community Garden gave my family hope when all hopes were lost. We are forever grateful."

Nnesochi (Angela) Ojibe





TRIPLING THE HARVEST

Growth always starts small.

2022 MILESTONE MOMENTS



Geezer Farm partnership provides major boost to grow more food and expand programs, including a food delivery program for seniors



Staunton City Schools' provides free greenhouse space at Dixon Educational Center to expand growing capacity



Nourishing Strides 5K fundraiser begins, bringing together sponsors, runners, and walkers in shared purpose

What started as a few dozen plants in a windowsill has now evolved to thousands.

Grow lights from Tiny Fields Farm expanded early plant production. And later, transformational access to a rent-free greenhouse at Dixon Educational Center enabled us to cultivate enough seedlings to support our entire operation, strengthening our harvest and enabling annual plant sales so neighbors could grow food at home, too.

Additionally, while waiting to make an expansion garden of our own, a generous temporary land partnership with Geezer Farm resulted in a 76 percent yield increase, flourishing Market Days, and the successful launch of our Food Delivery Program for local seniors!



"I love anything that brings our community together, especially when it uplifts the next generation. The 5K walk is meaningful because it focuses on both."

Fontella Brown-Bundy
5K participant, donor & volunteer



NOURISHING STRIDES

5K



Register today or become a sponsor for the 2026 5K at jonesgarden.org!

The Nourishing Strides 5K brings our community together to celebrate physical wellness and increase access to fresh food. We are grateful to the 2025 participants and sponsors who made the 5K possible.

THANKS TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS:

Better'n Grandmas Donuts
Costco
CMA's Valley Dealership
Custom Gardening Services
Dupont Community Credit Union
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Staunton
Jonathan Kern

Kris McMackin CPA PC
LD&B Insurance
Magdalenas
Reunion Bakery
Tru by Hilton
McDonoughToyota
Whiskey Creek Regenerative Farming



EXPANSION GARDEN

COMMUNITY GARDEN

While the 5K became a new tradition, expansion was made possible through powerful partnerships.

Rent-free land from **Quick's Bus Co.** and critical funding from **F&M Bank, Houff Corporation, Giant,** and **T-Mobile's Hometown Grant** opened the door to grow more food, reach more families, and deepen our impact. Flip the page to learn more!



EXPANDING TOGETHER

Growing on six times more land.

New land, new equipment, and workforce development helped Jones Gardens serve more neighbors than ever before. Community investment became community opportunity.

Our growing space expanded to a half-acre lot across from the original garden, made possible by the generosity of the former property owner, Quick's Bus Co. and a \$15,000 T-Mobile Hometown Grant. The gardens produced more than 20 types of vegetables and an estimated 5,300 additional pounds of fresh food for the community!

This season also launched the Green Thumb Program, funded by the Carol T. and Jonathan K. Charitable Giving Fund, creating paid summer jobs for community members and bringing a wealth of knowledge in agriculture into the community.



2023 MILESTONE MOMENTS

 **Rent-free usage of Quick's Bus property** allows us to quadruple harvest

 **F&M Bank, Houff Corporation and Giant** contributed additional funding for expansion

 **Pickup truck donation** expands mobility

 **Green Thumb Program** launches

"I spent 2025 working with you in the garden. I have many good memories ... I learned how to grow vegetables professionally from you. I am so grateful to you.

Abdul Qadir Zarefi
Green Thumb Program Employee





BLOSSOMING

An investment in storage strengthens food access.

2024 MILESTONE MOMENTS



Augusta Health sponsors refrigerated trailer for fresh food storage



Adopt-a-Crop launches for businesses and individuals to sponsor a crop



Partnership with River City Bread Basket begins to expand fresh produce access at Waynesboro pantry



Outdoor educational signage built thanks to funding from Earth Rising Foundation and Sentara

What began years ago with vegetables stored in a donated basement refrigerator evolved into a critical infrastructure investment as harvests and demand continued to grow.

With support from Augusta Health and Foodshed Capital, a 24-foot trailer was transformed into an on-site refrigerated storage unit. Foodshed Capital provided a 0% interest loan, while Augusta Health contributed a \$10,000 grant to help make the project possible.

In 2026, the new walk-in outdoor cooler will dramatically improve food preservation and efficiency, and will include a community fridge compartment that provides 24-hour access to fresh, wholesome produce.

Season 4 strengthened more than storage. It strengthened food access, sustainability, and our commitment to a resilient, community-driven food system.



Augusta Health



Sentara

ROOTED & RISING

With a powerful investment dawns a new chapter.

As our fifth growing season came to a close, Jones Gardens received an extraordinary gift.

Laurie Berman, owner of the former Newtown Baking & Kitchen, donated the building and its contents to Jones Gardens along with a five-year grant, opening the door for expanded efforts to bring sustainably grown, wholesome food to many more families across Staunton.

This very generous contribution creates new opportunities to transform fresh produce into nourishing meals, deepen food education and strengthen community partnerships and bonds. It's a powerful investment in food access, health and the future of Jones Gardens.

Laurie shared her philosophy that eating freshly grown, plant-based food is foundational to a healthy body, mind, and spirit. She believes that growing and preparing your own food, and doing so with community, strengthens that impact even more.

We are profoundly grateful for this gift — one that ensures the work of nourishing our community will continue to flourish for seasons to come. Stay tuned for how we'll expand our programs in our new space!



"My donation of Newtown Baking & Kitchen stems from my lifelong commitment to taking responsibility for my health by growing my own food, preparing my own healthy meals and teaching others to do the same. It is with great joy and hope that this gift will enhance our community by increasing access to healthy foods, thereby fostering greater vitality for all who choose to be part of this growing network of growers, cooks and healthy eaters!"

Laurie Berman



5 SEASONS STRONG

Rooted in the community.



From Season 1 to Season 5, God enabled us to accomplish this work together! Every pound grown, harvested, enjoyed and composted represents a step toward a healthier, more connected community.

32,400

lbs. of produce harvested

3,200

volunteer hours

5 Seasons of Growth

10,031

lbs. of free produce distributed

34,392

lbs. waste diverted from landfills



OUR VOLUNTEERS

We had hundreds of helpful friends who gave their time to maintain the garden. More than 100 individuals and groups volunteered with us last season. We are deeply grateful for their support and could not have accomplished our work without them.

Aiden Clemmer
Aimee Zikiel
Ali Gallagher
Alisha Davis
Alitash Kalonji
Allison Alexander
Alyssa Byers
Amy Purdom
Andrew Pumphrey
Anna and Polly
Anna Hill
Anna Mitshiambu
Anna's House
Preschool
Anne Batson
April Castle
Audrey Glasebrook
Ben Desmond
Beth Detwiler
Bonnie Brown
Brandi Duncan
Cameron Lindley
Caroline Crilley
Carrie and Myles
McGary
Carter Lawson
Cassandra Yourist
Cat Freeman
Chloe Hellerman
Christina Carter
Corrina Hunter
Craig Melton
Deborah Kushner
Debra Anderson
Deshai Dorsey
Don Painter
Donna Perez
Dwyer Bird

Elayna Garcia
Elianna Brown
Elijah Lewis
Eliorah Kalonji
Elizabeth Williams
Ellie Hackman
Emily Harman
Emily Horne
Emily Rooker
Emma Wadovick
Evan Thomas
Eveleen Diep
Faith Contreras
Garry Walton
Grace Christian
School
Heinz Luesse
Hillary Baughman
Iva Vorga
Jackie Hackman
Jadon Kabamba
Jennifer Elmore
Jeremy Bryant
Joel Carter
John Baylies
Joseph Jones
Kacion Waddy
Kamryn McGary
Karen Miller
Kathleen Decker
Katie Campbell
Katriellaj Kalonji
Kayla Eppey
Kazia Ray
Kelly Van Lear
Killy Permadi
Kim High
L B Dawson

1,026
volunteer hours
contributed

Madison Holtzman
Malintha C
Margaret Becker
Mark & Sheila Andrus
Martha Donovan
Martin Linney
Mary Ann Calhoun
Mary Baldwin University
Mary Weber
Mason Lawson
Mia Clark
Michael DiCelle
Mickayla Kabamba
Mikaylin Mckay
Mike Deaton
Mission at Massonetta
Nancy Headifen
Nell Devito
Olivia Hathaway
Olivia Taylor
Patricia Vaughn
Pete and Bonnie
Hauschner
Project GROWS
Rabea Jesser
Rae Watson
Randy Hamblet

Ryan Converse
Sahir Robertson
Sallie Warren
Sally Sagebiel
Sara Lightner
Sarah Crittendon
Sarah Jones
Shayleana Randle
Simone McKelvey
Staunton Alliance Church
Staunton Montessori
School
Stephanie Mason
Stephani Brown
Taylor Dupree
Tedeschi Trucks Band
Timberley Tunsley
Tom Rolfe
Travis Waddell
Treyvon Taylor
Val Wehring
VWIL
Waynesboro High
School
Wendy Turley
Western State Hospital



"Jones Garden has quickly become a pillar of the community and a beacon of wholesome inspiration to all. As a local potter, I volunteered to make ceramic letters for their signs knowing that the material would endure for many years and provide the shine that would honor their noble idea. I am 100% behind the Jones Garden, and volunteering my skills was one simple way to thank them for all they do."

Valya Boutenko
Volunteer & Market Customer



"I loved volunteering at the garden as an opportunity to be part of community, learn more about gardening, and of course enjoy all the amazing produce! The garden gave me access to a level of fresh produce that I don't yet have the space or skills to grow on my own, plus I learned something new every time I came! I loved how the labs gave me ideas on how to use the produce and get creative."

Caroline Crilley
Volunteer



OUR DONORS

We are grateful for the friends who have joined us in our mission to make sustainably grown, fresh produce accessible to everyone. We express our deep gratitude to the following donors for their financial and in-kind support from January 1, 2025 to December 30, 2025.

Aaron Barmer	Brian Nixon	Covenant Presbyterian Church
Aaron Trovato	Bridget Carroll	Cristina Casado
Adolph Young Jr.	Bruce and Olimpia Dorries	Cros-B-Crest Farm
Ahmed Najmuldeen	Buildertrend	Custom Gardening Services
Albert Leichter	Caitlin Bracken	Cynthia Connors
Aldona Dye	Camille Freeman	Deborah Dulka
Alexander Moore	Candace Vandouris	Deborah Kushner
Ali Gallagher	Candy Neff	Debra Anderson
Alice Woods	Caroline Crilley	Dennis and Mary Sue Kivlighan
Amanda McGuire	Cary Conwell	Diana Black
American Online Giving Foundation	Caryn Utz	Dilan Najjar
Amy Arnold	Cassandra Daniel	Dolores Silva
Amy M. Purdom	Cassandra Yourist	Donna Perez
Amy Wise	Cat Freeman	Doris Scott
Andrea Knopp	Catherine Barnes	Dorothy Beatty
Andrea Marshall	Cathy and Carter Lively	Dupont Community Credit Union
Andrew Covington	Cathy Bartley	Earth Rising Foundation
Angel Knous	Chad Wallace	Eddy Zuber
Anna Honig	Charities Aid Foundation	Edwin and Katrina Crawford
Anna's House School	America Truist Financial Corporation	Elizabeth Williams
Preschool Outreach Project	Charlotte Schnaider	Emily Harman
Anne McGovern	Chelsea Greene	Emily Harman Coaching and Consulting, LLC
Ballerino Creamery Inc	Chicano Boy Taco	Emily Kehr
Barbara Bernstein	Chloe Bringmann	English Knowles
Ben Trella-Luedtke	Chloe Hellerman	Eric Laser
Benjamin Clough	Christina Carter	Erin Mahoney
Beth Aaron	Christina Harrison	Esther Jones
Beth Detwiler	Christine Ogden	Eva Majer
Betsy Conyers	Cindy Patton	Fairfield Inn and Suites - Staunton, VA
Betty Martinez	Cindy Roberts	First Presbyterian Church of Norfolk
BGH Small Engine Repair	Cindy Sadonis	
Blake Cross	City of Staunton	
Bonny Strassler	Clara Metzler	
Boro Futures Group	Clay Franko Nelson	
Brad Slocum	Cliff Gilcrest	
Bree Hersch	CMA's Valley Subaru	
Brenda Doyle	Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge	
Brian Kane		

Fontella Bundy
Food Lion
Frederick Blanton
Garett Smith
Garland Newell
George and Velma Mason
Gloria's Pupuseria
Greater Love Christian
Center
Hannah and Martin
Brennan
Haylee Jacobs
Hayley Osborne
Heather Bowden
Helen V. Desmond
Horizons Therapy
Howland Farm LLC
Hsini Leary
Hunter Arehart
James R. Ridenour, Jr.
James Rolfe
Jazmyne Ortiz
Jeanne Hoffman and
Robert Whitescarver
Jeff Kehl
Jenkins Security Services
Jennifer Elmore
Jenny McNea
Jerome Jones
Jessica Ray
Jill Bader
Jill Conley
Joann Rockwell
Jonathan Kern
Julian Hickman
Kali Cash
Kara Miller
Katelyn Lacey
Katherine Scanga
Kathleen Garcia
Kathleen Schneiderman
Kathryn Rodzinka
Kathy Yoder
Katrina Lanahan
Kayla Payne
Kelly Curd
Ken Grzymalski
Kenzie Cason
Khyanna Smith
Killy Permadi
Kim Noling
Kimberly Watters
Kirt Strother
Kris McMackin CPA PC
Lallon Pond
LaShawn Sollers
Laura Law

Lola Ann Majure
Matthew Olwell
Matthew Shiflett
Maya Kartseva and Matthew
Anderson
McDonough Toyota
Meghan Vancleve
Melissa Druff
Merrilee Lianez
Michael Silvey
Michele Ashworth
Mike McMackin
Milmont Greenhouses
Nancy Peacock
Nancy Stevenson
Natalie Slater
Nathan Fitzgerald
Nathan Lawrence
Nicole West
Nichole Barrows
Nick Sabin
Nina Carter
Olivia Hathaway
Olivia Taylor
Patrick Hite
Patty Vaughn
Paul Burke
Paula Lieske
Pedro Salas
Peter Taylor
Philip Crilley
Pizza Luca
Priscilla Jones
Project Grows, Inc.
Pufferbellies Toys and Books
Purpose on the Planet
Foundation
Quicks Bus Company
Rachel Eavey
Randolph Bertin
Randy Roe
Rebecca Murden
Rebeccah Miller
Robert D. Pannell
Rockydale Quarries
Roger Ramsey
Ron Ramsey
Roshi Arnold
Ruth Jones Turner
Ryan Blosser
Ryans Fruit Market
Sally Griffith
Sally Johnson
Sally Sagebiel
Samantha Larson
Samantha Woodall

Sarah Jones
Secret Garden
Serafina and Cris Swanlund
Shannon Tierney
Shay and Kim Clanton
Shenandoah Fall Foliage
Bike Festival
Shenandoah Valley Kiwanis
Club
Siera Benoit
Simone McKelvey
Sophia Davies
Staley Insurance Agency
Staples, Inc.
Staunton Alliance Church
Staunton Church of the
Brethren
Staunton City Schools
Steve Cessna
Steve Gray
Steven Londner
Susan Laser
Susan Venable
Sylvia Yamshchikova
The Garden Club of America
Thomas Culligan
Tim Hawkins
Timberlake, Smith, Thomas &
Moses
Timothy Smith
Tony Black
Trevor Piersol
Tropical Smoothie Cafe
Tru by Hilton - Staunton, VA
Vale Tolar
Virginia Bolena
Virginia Trovato
Walmart
Waynesboro Garden Club
Wendy Gray
Wendy Palmer
Wendy Turley
Wheatlands Country School
Yolanda Sollers
Yvonne Surette

Nearly \$12,000 through
the Fresh Veggie Series,
led by Vine & Fig/New
Community Project,
supported our 2025
Food Delivery Service.
Learn more here:





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of December 31, 2025

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Total Current Assets	\$43,257
Fixed Assets	
Total Fixed Assets	\$651,267
Other Assets	
Total Other Assets	\$6,200
TOTAL ASSETS	\$700,724

REVENUE

In-kind donations	\$654,431
Public support	\$16,977
Grants	\$30,000
Fundraising	\$24,513
Sales	\$18,808
Interest earned	\$75
TOTAL REVENUES	\$744,804

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	\$5,976
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$42,788
Net Revenue	\$654,662
Total Equity	\$697,450
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$703,426

EXPENDITURES

Administrative	\$21,349
Programming	\$32,491
Fundraising	\$2,781
Supplies & Materials	\$33,562
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$90,182
NET REVENUE	\$654,662



JonesGardens

GET READY

for our 1st annual

Farm-to-Table Chef Throwdown

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR TALENTED CHEFS!
Monday, September 21st @ 5:30 pm**

This lively, ticketed fundraising dinner will celebrate local food, farms, and community - and fuel the transformation of the former Newtown Baking & Kitchen into Zuka - a new, specialized program of Jones Gardens! Chefs will compete to create a robust, three-course meal using ingredients from local farms and vegetables from Jones Gardens. Guests will interact with chefs, enjoy fresh, local food, participate in silent and live auctions, and engage with other members of the community. The best chef will be voted at the end of the event!

**Learn more and
sponsor:**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Naomi C. Jones, Chairperson
Sarah H. Jones, Secretary
Priscilla Jones
Ruth Jones Turner
Erin Wright

THANK YOU

FOR GROWING WITH US!



JonesGardens

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540.255.2761

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