



2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from Board Chair, Executive Director & Operations Director

We are pleased to share Farmshare Austin's 2016-2017 Annual Report. Founded in 2012, our mission is to grow a healthy local food community through food access, teaching new farmers and farmland preservation. Farmshare's work is motivated by our vision for a future of resilient local food economies that provide farmers with livable incomes, value the resources needed to farm and ensure organic food access for all who desire it. Fulfilling this mission and vision requires farmers who have the knowledge and skills to grow that food and the land and resources on which to farm. Just as food, farmer and farm are uniquely connected, so, too, are Farmshare's food access, education and farm programs.

As Farmshare shifts our fiscal year from a calendar year to one that better reflects our program cycles, we share with you the highlights of the past 19 months where we launched the Fresh for Less Mobile Markets, graduated the third class of Farmer Starter, made significant improvements to the farm and continued to build partnerships in Central Texas that improve regional food security.

Farmshare is a 501(c)(3) growing a healthy local food community through increasing food access, teaching new farmers and farmland preservation. We envision a future of resilient local food economies that provide farmers with livable incomes, value the resources needed to farm, and ensure organic food access.

Michael Klug
Board Chair

Andrea Abel
Executive Director

Taylor Cook
Operations Director



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- Steve Hake, secretary
- Lisa Lee, treasurer (January 2016-April 2017)
- Danielle McBurnett, treasurer (May 2017-present)
- Lorig Hawkins
- Kerri Ranney
- Errol Schweizer

Staff

- Andrea Abel, executive director
- Taylor Cook, operations director
- Ben Swisher, farm manager
- Michelle Akindiya, education manager (August 2017-present)
- E. Ray Gard, education manager (until June 2017)
- Carolina Mueller, food access manager
- Tara Kirmse, mobile market coordinator

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
	January 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017 (not reviewed)	January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 (reviewed)
Revenues		
Contributions	\$ 8,220	\$ 7,272
Government grants and contracts	52,612	56,798
Program revenues	23,076	36,553
Other revenues	95	48
Total Revenues	54,703	70,971
Expenses		
Program services	16,432	106,559
General and administrative	9,728	6,741
Fundraising	5,078	2,000
Total Expenses	32,238	15,300
Increase in net assets (Note 1)	22,465	55,671
Net assets at beginning of the period	106,959	51,288
Net assets at end of period	\$ 29,424	\$ 106,959
<p>Note 1: The fiscal year end was changed from the year ending December 31 to the year ending July 31, effective August 1, 2017. The seven month period from January 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017, represents the most accurate information available to date, but these numbers have not been subject to review. For comparability purposes, please note that the period ended July 31, 2017, covers seven months, while the reviewed numbers ending December 31, 2016, cover full twelve months.</p>		



Farm

With three acres in row crop production, Farmshare continues to grow delicious vegetables and fruit, employing land stewardship practices which protect our precious soil, water and animal resources. We maintained our organic certification through Nature's International Certification Services and harvested the bounty of the fields to supply our food access programs and deliver bi-weekly CSA (community supported agriculture) shares to employees of Austin City Hall and M.D. Anderson in Bastrop. The most significant improvement on the farm is a new well and irrigation system! This was a huge project, but not our only capital improvement. A permanent cooler for produce storage is now tucked under the roof of the wash and pack shed keeping our just-harvested and cleaned veggies super fresh and ready for markets.



Food Access

As part of the City of Austin's strategic priority to increase food security, Farmshare began a partnership with the City of Austin Fresh for Less program to develop and operate Mobile Farmer's Markets in food insecure neighborhoods in Austin and Travis County. Farmshare hired a Food Access Manager to run the program in September 2016. Between September and December 2016, Farmshare piloted three weekly Mobile Markets. At the markets, we sell at reduced prices produce from our farm, other local farms and high-quality groceries such as canned beans, pasta and peanut butter sourced from Wheatsville Co-op. During the January – July 2017 spring season, we expanded to six weekly markets and hired a Mobile Market Coordinator to handle the increased markets.

Additional food access projects continued, including providing produce to Farmstands at Blackshear Elementary, UT Elementary and the summer lunch program at Central Health Southeast Health & Wellness Center during the 2016 and 2017 summers. Deepening our commitment to share the farm's bounty with those experiencing food insecurity, we donated Farmshare produce monthly to residents in SafePlace supportive housing and made monthly donations of after-market produce to the Haynie Chapel Food Pantry in Del Valle.

Education

The third Farmer Starter class graduated in February 2017 after spending 20 weeks immersed in a blend of hands-on in-field training, classroom curriculum, field trips to farms and ranches, and direct-to-consumer experience at the Mobile Markets and CSA delivery sites. Equipped with the essential skills and training needed to manage a sustainable farming business, five students left Farmshare for agricultural pursuits, including launching an egg/goat operation, an intensive six-month farm apprentice program, planning and crowdsourcing for a diverse organic produce farm/event space, and acceptance into a bachelor in agricultural education program at Texas State University. In addition, we collaborated with Texas Keeper Cider, Two Hives Honey and Jester King to offer community classes in fruit tree grafting, pollinators and beekeeping, and planting a brewer's garden.



Farmland

Farmshare Austin is committed to preserving agricultural land for the next generation of farmers as a key component of a healthy local food community. To this end, we actively connect new farmers with potential farmland, participate in the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board and its Farmland Preservation committee, and are monitoring preliminary activities in preparation for a federal 2018 Farm Bill.



The Year Ahead

In Central Texas we pride ourselves on a vibrant local food movement, nearly year-round growing season, and a cadre of dedicated, hardworking farmers, food artisans, restauranteurs and food advocates. Even so, less than one percent of food consumed in Travis County is sourced locally, and 25 percent of Austin residents are considered food insecure. If we strive for a healthy local food community with access to affordable, nutritious, locally-grown food, we must have knowledgeable farmers who receive just compensation for their work and farmland on which to grow.

To fulfill our mission, Farmshare is growing our programs and moving ahead:

- Seven Fresh for Less Mobile Markets located in Austin and Del Valle for Fall 2017 & Spring 2018 seasons
- New education manager Michelle Akindiya joins the Farmshare team
- A full fall 2017 Farmer Starter class
- Piloting a contract farming project to supply Fresh for Less Mobile Markets in collaboration with Urban Roots
- Community classes & continuing education classes for working farmers
- **Save the Date:** You-Pick Community Veggie Harvest at the farm, December 17, 2017
- **Save the Date:** Farmraiser, Love Is In The Share, Saengerrunde Halle, February 11, 2018



Contact

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Two Hives Honey

Support Farmshare Austin

It takes considerable support and collaboration to make Farmshare's programs successful. Join us in our work to grow a healthy local food community.

<https://farmshareaustin.org/gather-grow-sow/>