



KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL
HEALING THE PLANET
FINAL REPORT 2021

Healing the Planet Grants

Healing the Planet 2021 was a competitive grant program in support of connecting people and families with community green spaces through park improvements, park builds, watershed restoration, recycling infrastructure and related programs, beautification and greening, community gardens, vacant lot restoration, outdoor classrooms and tree plantings. Eligible applicants and proposed projects were required to be located in The GIANT Company's operating areas within Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and to be on public land or be for public use and benefit.

The GIANT Company and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful awarded 42 Healing the Planet grants ranging from \$2,500 up to \$25,000, totaling \$532,500. Funding for the grants was provided by customers at GIANT, MARTIN'S and GIANT Heirloom Market stores who rounded up their grocery purchase to the nearest dollar from March through May.

The GIANT Company

The GIANT Company believes that no matter where or how, when meals happen, families connect, and when families connect meaningfully, good happens. Guided by its brand platform, For Today's Table®, the omni-channel retailer proudly serves millions of neighbors across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and New Jersey. A Great Place to Work™ certified company with more than 35,000 talented team members supporting more than 190 stores, 133 pharmacies, 107 fuel stations, and over 175 online pickup hubs and grocery delivery service in hundreds of zip codes, The GIANT Company is changing the customer experience and connecting families for a better future. Founded in 1923 in Carlisle, Pa., The GIANT Company family of brands includes GIANT, MARTIN'S, GIANT Heirloom Market, GIANT Direct and MARTIN'S Direct. The GIANT Company is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA. For more information, visit the GIANT or MARTIN'S websites.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has supported community improvement initiatives and has encouraged community leadership, responsibility and a respect for the environment since 1990.

The Healing the Planet Community Grants are an appropriate way to support the noble and necessary work being implemented by area nonprofits, government agencies and local government to improve communities across the state and surrounding area.

Table of Contents

1 - 6	PROJECT SUMMARIES
7	PROJECT MAP
8	PROJECT LIST
9	TOTAL IMPACT
10	BUDGET



Nurturing the Seed of Hope

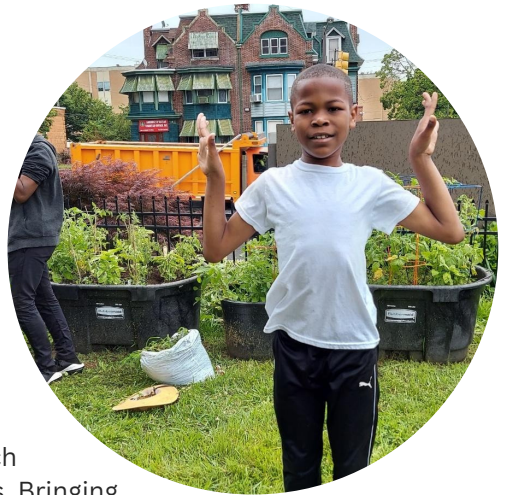
Our Lady of Hope Church, Philadelphia County, PA

A community garden on the parish grounds of Our Lady of Hope Church came to fruition through partnerships with LaSalle University Students, Bringing Everybody Together (B.E.T.) - a neighborhood youth group, Little Flower High School Students, men from the local transitional Housing Program, parishioners and neighbors. The garden project became an opportunity for those with experience to teach basic planting methods, including the value of companion plants and for the community residents to delight in the process and reap the benefits associated with getting your hands dirty and growing your own food.

In one year's time (July 2021-July 2022), the Our Lady of Hope Community Garden served fresh produce to 800 local families. Plans are in place to strengthen the community connection by enhancing the garden with additional esthetically pleasing plants and benches where workers can rest and reflect after gardening and the community can gather to enjoy conversation, entertainment and fresh air.

"Hope is a seed planted in the garden of your heart."

~ Mary Catherine Manley S.S.J.



Girl Scout Tree Promise Initiative

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, Dauphin County, PA

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania participated in the nationwide conservation effort, The Girl Scout Tree Promise, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, whose mission is to plant 30,000 trees in five years to help mitigate water pollution issues in Pennsylvania and improve the health and vitality of the Chesapeake Bay. Ninety girl scouts from 22 troops and 172 adult volunteers planted 700 native trees at the Horn Farm Center in York County and Penn College of Technology in Lycoming County.

"Our Earth Day events were major successes, bringing together Scouts and volunteers to learn about the water cycle, conservation and planting."

~ Jackie Stem, Director of Fund Development

Growing Together Community Garden

SILO Works, Chester County, PA

A vacant lot in the city of Oxford, PA, was transformed into a welcoming green oasis for residents and shifted the challenged neighborhood to a friendly and trusting place to live. Friends, families and neighbors spent countless hours sweating side-by-side to shovel soil, plant seedlings and harvest produce, bringing people of all walks of life together.

The garden provides additional opportunities for the community, including gardening classes in English and Spanish that have helped even the most seasoned gardener learn something new. Weekly garden work days draw a regular group of workers who use their volunteer time as a chance to relax and be present with nature.

The land that once collected wind-blown litter, now grows food for neighbors and friends to share and creates a sense of pride, place and belonging. The garden's bounty is made available, for free, to SILO friends and neighbors, providing a reliable source of fresh and healthy food.

"This personal and collective re-grounding energizes volunteers, staff and neighbors for the challenges of their daily lives."

~ Melissa Pacella, Director of Organization and Development



Landis Woods Education Area Barn Restoration and Teaching Station Construction

Friends of Codorus State Park, York County, PA

Visitors of all abilities will benefit from the Teaching Stations built by Friends of Codorus State Park. To enhance the environmental and educational programs, the Friends group constructed six multi-function, ADA compliant benches for programs including bird watching, learning park history, plant identification, performing stream studies and star gazing, which will help park personnel reach more individuals.

In addition, the Landis Barn Educational Center that provides shelter for programming in three seasons, received infrastructure upgrades, including fireplace and chimney maintenance and inspection and a new electrical service.



Community Gardening in Philadelphia

*The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University,
Philadelphia County, PA*

The Community Gardening in Philadelphia project introduced families and young children to the idea of creating sustainable green spaces and growing their own fruits, vegetables and flowers -- all within their own urban landscape. Through the project, the Academy partnered with four other local gardens to improve and refresh infrastructure, clear old garden plots, build raised beds and plant a variety of plants. The gardens provide safe spaces where children and families can gather to nurture a love for the outdoors, hold events, share expertise and plants and harvest their own food.

As a result of the Healing the Planet grant, the Academy of Natural Sciences met its goals for early childhood education, youth and family gardening and community engagement.



"These successes paved the way for continued engagement and exchange of resources between communities."

~ Alison Gibbons, Foundation and Corporate Relations Manager



Hope Park

The Perennial Project, Fayette County, PA

The Hope Park project has had an immediate impact on the community, even before the first official event was held. A severely blighted, vacant lot was transformed into a usable public greenspace featuring an outdoor movie screen, community art banners and supporting structure. There was a buzz around town for the inaugural event – the Steelers vs. the Browns. The community improvement project has brought enthusiasm to local residents, a sense of community pride and a space to gather for years to come.

"This space, which had been blighted since the the early 90's , is now a source of pride for our community."

~ Joseph Barantovich, President and Founder

ShipComposts Program Support

Center for Land Use and Sustainability, Cumberland County, PA

With the goal of increasing capacity for on-site composting and engaging in community educational activities pertaining to composting and reducing food waste, Center for Land Use and Sustainability launched ShipComposts, a student-led initiative at Shippensburg University. Six undergraduate students participated in hands-on work with experiential learning activities relating to sustainable agriculture, improving soil health through composting, and carbon sequestration. Graduate, undergraduate and international volunteer students, faculty and staff, shared their knowledge with the campus, local elementary and junior high students and the broader communities by participating in outreach events and creating a social media campaign.

To process pre-consumer food waste, a food pulper was purchased. The resulting compost is used to sequester carbon and improve soil health on the Campus Farm. An eco-diesel tractor was purchased for composting activities on the campus farm, increasing food production capacity to more efficiently provide healthy, local food to community members in need.

"We now have a solid foundation for our composting efforts and expect to see significant waste reduction in the coming year."

~ Interim Director and Sponsored Programs Officer



Greenbelt Communication and Education

Capital Area Greenbelt Association, Dauphin County, PA

New educational kiosks were installed at the Five Senses Garden, the Martin Luther King Memorial and the Paxtang and Cameron Parkways. These new kiosks will continue Capital Area Greenbelt Association's (CAGA) efforts to inform visitors and users of the significance of the Greenbelt, orient them on the trail, and provide education about various CAGA initiatives, including riparian buffers and using native plants.

Keep Winchester and Frederick County Beautiful – A Horticultural Project

Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association, Frederick County, VA

Nearly 800 youth learned about the natural world around them through outdoor garden classrooms. These garden classrooms became a venue to incorporate meaningful lesson plans and allowed the students to gain first-hand experience, teaching them valuable leadership and responsibility skills.

An informational video, documenting one school's journey to create a native plant, pollinator and vegetable garden, was created and shared with other schools in the region with the hope that it will inspire them to create their own school gardens. Thirty informational gardening handbooks were also purchased and distributed to schools as a permanent reference.

"So much can be accomplished with just a little help. With the generous funding received through this grant, we were able to create a template that can be used in many more schools throughout the region."

~ Elaine Specht, President



Church and Court Community Garden

York Fresh Food Farms Community Garden, York County, PA

A new community garden was nurtured into fruition by neighbors, friends and partnering organizations. An area that was once marred by a hodge podge of dilapidated buildings is now a thriving garden with new raised garden beds that increased the amount of food produced and therefore distributed in the community, a large shed with locks to protect garden tools and supplies and a metal carport to provide shade for volunteers and education participants.

In addition to providing kids, families and students access to fresh, local produce, the Church and Court Street Community Garden is a welcome refuge in an otherwise challenged economic urban environment.

Schuylkill Center Environmental Education Outdoor Classroom

*Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education,
Philadelphia County, PA*

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education serves some of the region's most at-risk children at their environmental education outdoor classroom. The sustainable design of the Sassafras outdoor classroom space was built with community and nature in mind. The new sheltered outdoor classroom serves children from Philadelphia public schools, Nature Kindergarten, Forest Immersion Preschool and other groups and allows them to gather outdoors and immerse themselves in nature learning in all seasons.



Bees are Buzzin' Education Program

*East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation,
Chester County, PA*

Smiles and wonderment — the response from local area youth when they got to experience a bee hive swarming with 100,000 bees from the safety of a beekeeping suit. Eight bee hives were installed at the Bees by the Blacksmith Shop to provide opportunities for on-site programming targeting youth at local schools and after school programs. A series of easily accessible online learning modules were also developed for adults. The goal — to foster a better understanding of the importance of bees for improving ecology and their role in agriculture.

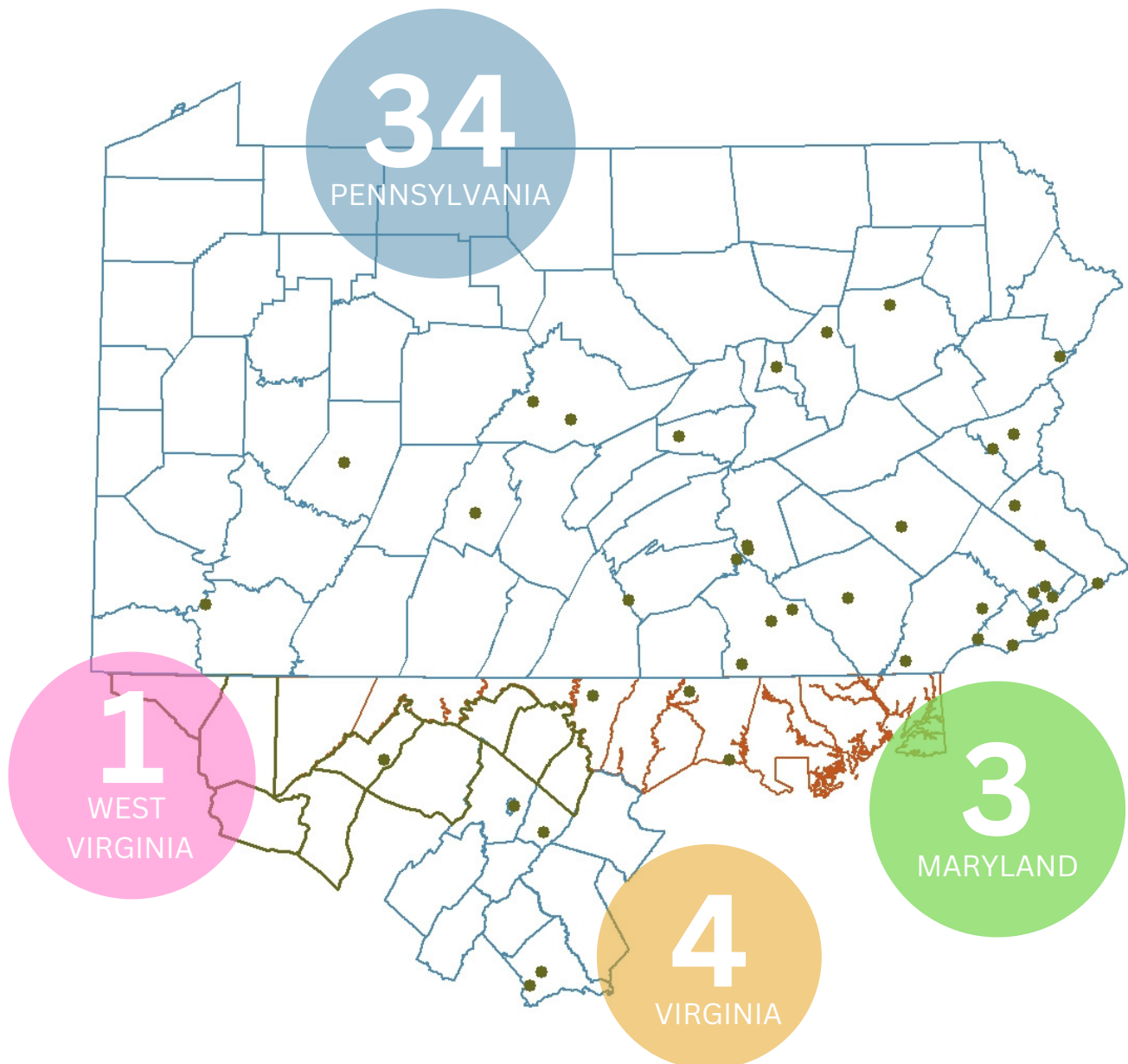
"We've seen results. Numerous residents have asked about putting hives in their own backyards."

~ Jason Lang, Director of Park and Recreation



Project Locations

Healing the Planet projects were located in The GIANT Company's operating areas within Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and were required to be on public land or be for public use and benefit.



Maryland

City of Taneytown, Taneytown
Downtown Sykesville Connection, Inc., Sykesville
Washington County Historical Society, Hagerstown

Pennsylvania

Benton Middle-Senior High School, Benton
Blair County Conservation District, Hollidaysburg
Borough of Quakertown, Quakertown
Capital Area Greenbelt Association, Harrisburg
Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association, Edgemont
City of Lancaster, Lancaster
Clean Air Council, Philadelphia
East Goshen Township Parks and Recreation, West Chester
Friends of Black Moshannon State Park, Camp Hill
Friends of Codorus State Park, Hanover
Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg
Heritage Conservancy, Doylestown
Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, York
Indiana County Conservation District, Indiana
Lehman Township, Dallas
Middle Smithfield Township, East Stroudsburg
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Philadelphia
Our Town Foundation, Hamburg
Oxford Area Foundation, Oxford
Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Camp Hill
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Philadelphia
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Shippensburg
SILO Works, Oxford
Snyder County, Middleburg
Springfield Township, Wyndmoor
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park
The Perennial Project, Brownsville
Warrington Township, Warrington
Washingtonville Borough, Turbotville
Weisenberg Township, Fogelsville
Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., Emmaus
Yeadon Borough, Yeadon
York Fresh Food Farms, York

Virginia

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, Boyce
County of Culpeper, Culpeper
Farmington Elementary School, Culpeper
Northern Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association, Winchester

West Virginia

Mineral County Parks and Recreation, Keyser



Total Community Impact



12,879

native greens or shrubs

128

family & youth education programs



123

gardens & raised beds created

18

trash & recycling bins added throughout communities



17

educational signs created & installed

10

projects that will continue to generate revenue locally



6

outdoor classrooms created

5

compost facilities created



By the Numbers

Total budget for 41 projects	\$1,793,548
HTP Funding	\$532,500
Cash Match	\$962,846
Total Volunteers	1,505
Total Volunteer Hours	8,863
Value of Volunteer Time	\$265,454
Total budget + Vol value	\$2,059,003

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$4 FOR EVERY \$1

