



Connecting our farming heritage with our growing future

OUR VISION

Imagine a world where we all know the source of our food and value the farmers and ranchers that grow it for us. Where we are all familiar with innovate water and soil conservation methods that grow our crops and protect our natural resources. Drip systems, mulching, composting, drought tolerant plant and tree varieties, watershed knowledge and best agricultural practices become like knowing your last name—obvious and easily conveyed. And where every child, family, and community member has access to fresh, affordable, local food. Welcome to Montezuma School to Farm Project’s vision for the future of our region.

OUR MISSION

The Montezuma School to Farm Project unites our rural heritage with our growing future by engaging students at the crossroads of sustainable agriculture, resource conservation, health, and economics through educational experiences in outdoor garden classes, on field trips, and in summer programming.



32,000+
Education Hours
2,800+
Students Reached

3rd Grade Restaurant

**Summer Garden
Programming**

**Education in the
Garden Training**

**Calf Program
Coordination**

**Montezuma Inspire
Coalition**



HOW WE STARTED

Since 2009, the Montezuma School to Farm Project (MSTFP), a program of the Mancos Conservation District in southwestern Colorado, has focused on providing integrated, hands-on, school garden classes in Montezuma County. It began with a farm field trip for 40 Mancos students initiated by AmeriCorps member in 2009. In the nine years since those barn doors first opened to local kids, the program has expanded: farm field trips, summer programming, a 2 acre School Production Area (perfect for high school Farm Corps) and a cutting edge curriculum for more than 2,800 students on a weekly basis.



WHAT WE DO

The school garden classrooms provide accessible living laboratories where diet/nutrition, active lifestyle, water and soil conservation and core curriculum lessons intersect. Whether it's writing a poem about a plant's life cycle, actively learning the science behind seed germination, studying the history of drought in the Southwest, cooking with fresh vegetables, or translating seed packet instructions into Spanish or Navajo. The garden is easily woven into every subject. Classes are an integral part of the school day so that learning in the school garden coincides with important science and math core lessons. Students integrate their learning in a meaningful way because they are an active participant in their learning experience.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN IN



Montezuma Inspire Coalition: Place Enhancements

MSTFP installed our first place enhancement at Cortez Middle School!!! We built an outdoor classroom pavilion to provide a learning space for the school to farm programming and for all teachers to use. The pavilion is outfitted with benches, white boards, water & electric hook ups and cooking stations.

Garden Explorers: Summer Garden Programming

We piloted our first summer programming for students in Montezuma County which was led by our AmeriCorps garden coordinators. The program offered students a one week session of hands on activities from planting and harvesting to cooking and games. We served over 40 students and provided 18 full scholarships.



3rd Grade Restaurant

MSTFP AmeriCorps members helped manage three 3rd Grade Restaurants in Dolores, CO. Each of the three Dolores third-grade classes created their own menus derived from ingredients and flavors available from the school garden, learning the economic lessons of running a restaurant in the process. Classrooms are applying more project-based learning, a teaching style that involves a dynamic classroom approach in which students solve real-world challenges and problems.



WHERE WE ARE HEADING IN 2019

Continued Partnership with the Montezuma Inspire Coalition

Montezuma School to Farm Project's partnership will continue to include leading and organizing the School-based Outdoor Learning Labs (SOLL). The goals of the SOLL Hub will be to increase the diversity, amount, and quality of time Pre K – 8th grade students spend outside in standards aligned Colorado curricula experiences, after school programming and field trips. Youth will participate in a diverse range of classes, after school programs and fieldtrips. Some of these opportunities are in the following areas: equine education, cooking classes, cultural/Native American studies, fly fishing, mosaics/art projects, school garden classes, storytelling, wild lands studies, snowshoeing, and outdoor fitness classes. The school garden outdoor classrooms will be either enhanced or newly developed to include shade structures, benches, whiteboards, utility access (water/electric), relevant learning stations, storage facilities and teaching materials. We are looking forward to engaging our students in experiential educational opportunities through these expanded partnerships .



High School Farm Corps Program

MSTFP seeks to shift an entire generation's understanding of our food system and best practices for conserving the resources needed to sustain our local food production. By influencing students at a critical age at the middle school level and providing hands-on lessons, students gain exposure and learn practical skills through their own experiences thus creating powerful and lasting change in their personal views of agriculture and increased participation in advanced high school ag opportunities.

Lewis-Arriola School Garden Build Out

We are planning to build a garden space at Lewis Arriola Elementary School! The build out will include a variety of raised beds, infrastructure to bring students and community partners outside, accessible pathways, enhancing the current apple orchard and much more!

We want to grow flowers to help give oxygen to the world

- Student Quote



MSTFP Staff

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 Erin Kuhlman, *Assistant Executive Director*
 Laura Hughes, *SOLL Hub Coordinator*
 Ben Goodrich, *Production Manager*
 Jessica Hanback, *AmeriCorps VISTA*

MSTFP Serve Colorado AmeriCorps Members

Mercy Ramirez *Manauagh School Garden Coordinator*
 Sammy Blair *Dolores School Garden Coordinator*
 Amber Cardwell *Mancos School Garden Coordinator*
 Mia Becker *Mesa School Garden Coordinator*
 Elizabeth Maker *CMS Garden Coordinator*

Mancos Conservation District

-Governing Board -

Robert Becker, *President*
 Michael Nolan, *Vice President, MSTFP Liaison*
 Ben Wolcott, *Board Secretary/ Treasurer*
 Brian Kimmel, *Board Member*
 Fred Brooks, *Board Member*

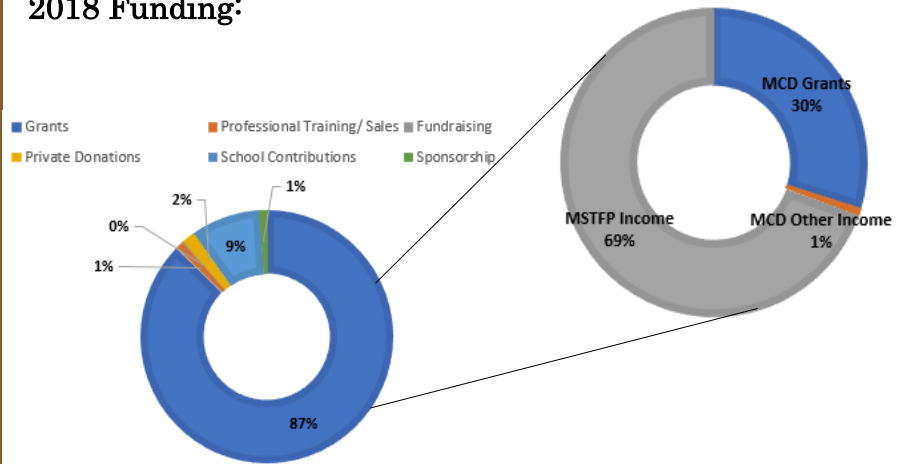
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Thank you to the following local support:

- ◇ Mancos, Dolores, & Cortez School Districts
- ◇ City of Cortez and Town of Mancos
- ◇ Mancos Conservation Districts
- ◇ Mancos Valley Resource
- ◇ Cliffrose Garden Center and Gifts
- ◇ Kiwanies Club of Mesa Verde
- ◇ Dolores Rotary Club
- ◇ Ricky King State Farm
- ◇ Carrie Summers Home and Ranch Realty
- ◇ Absolute Bakery
- ◇ Fenceline Cidery
- ◇ Johnny's Seed Company

2018 Funding:



The Colorado Health Foundation



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