

20

24

**GROW2ZERO
FARMS**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



grow2zero

In 2024,

Grow2Zero grew beyond our role of feeding West Long Beach to become a leader in Southern California urban agriculture training and education.

Our growing purpose

Our organization launched in 2021 with the mission of supplying healthy food to our neighbors in the face of increasing food insecurity during the pandemic.

But our team's background and passion is in education, so we are proud and grateful to have received significant federal grant funding that enables us to educate the Long Beach community and beyond in urban agriculture in order to increase self sufficiency and neighborhood resilience.





Weekly Food Distribution



Weekly grocery giveaway for neighborhood food security

We began our work in January 2021 with the launch of our weekly food distribution serving Long Beach's Upper Westside.

Over the last four years, we haven't skipped a week of feeding our community, growing the total number of people served:

In 2021,

50 per week

In 2024,

150 per week

including deliveries to homebound individuals and families.



**Long
Beach
Food
Fairs**

Rotating educational events to feed the community

In January of 2024, we partnered with Feel Good Kitchen to offer healthy prepared foods and weekly live cooking demos through our **Long Beach Food Fairs** program, which supplies an additional **50 prepared take-home meals every week.**

Both our weekly food distribution and Food Fairs programs source produce both from our local quarter-acre farm and through food rescue agency partners, dramatically reducing food waste while at the same time feeding and educating Long Beach residents.

In 2024,

**120,000+
lbs**

Food rescued

**15,000+
bags**

**Groceries & meals
distributed to our
community
members**



Free educational programming for urban growers

To realize our goal of not only feeding but educating the community, we successfully sought USDA funding to develop and launch the **Future Urban Farmers Academy**.

Starting in January 2024, we began offering no-cost urban farming training to Long Beach and Los Angeles residents.

Our introductory Future Urban Farmers Academy ran for two four-month sessions in 2024, **graduating over 100 urban agriculture enthusiasts and professionals!**

We even hired eight outstanding students to work directly with our organization, more than doubling the size of our team.



**Future
Urban
Farmers
Academy**

Advanced training and job placement for urban farmers

Given the success of our introductory training program, we were excited to launch our **advanced training program** in December 2024 with a class of 30 young adults. The advanced Future Urban Farmers Academy trains an urban farming workforce in regenerative growing techniques, floriculture and flower arranging, edible food recovery and distribution, and healthy food preparation, thereby preparing them for a variety of potential food and farming careers.

Between the two programs, we will train over **300 urban farmers by summer 2026**, we will provide **jobs to more than 20 graduates**, and we will also provide job placement and additional training assistance to all students who need it.

Through these opportunities, our graduates will help to sustain and grow the food security efforts that Grow2Zero and our organizational partners have already established in Long Beach's highest-need neighborhoods.

By 2026,

300

New urban farmers trained

20+

Local jobs created



Our growing team

Grow2Zero's in-house team grew to include over a dozen paid employees and interns in 2024.

We are grateful for their passionate and dedicated efforts:

Judi Gregory, Co-Founder

Leif Kemp, Co-Founder

Erin Harris, Program Director

Kirsten Kelley, Food Distribution Manager

Jessica Medrano, Program Manager

June Sidwell, Food Distribution Assistant

Nathan Aragon, Farm Assistant

Monica Nguyen, Zero Waste Associate

Reema Maroof, Farm Intern

Maya Perez-Johnson, Farm Intern

Adam Aragon, Farm Intern

Lizzy Boardman, Farm Intern

Paul Sarni, Delivery Driver



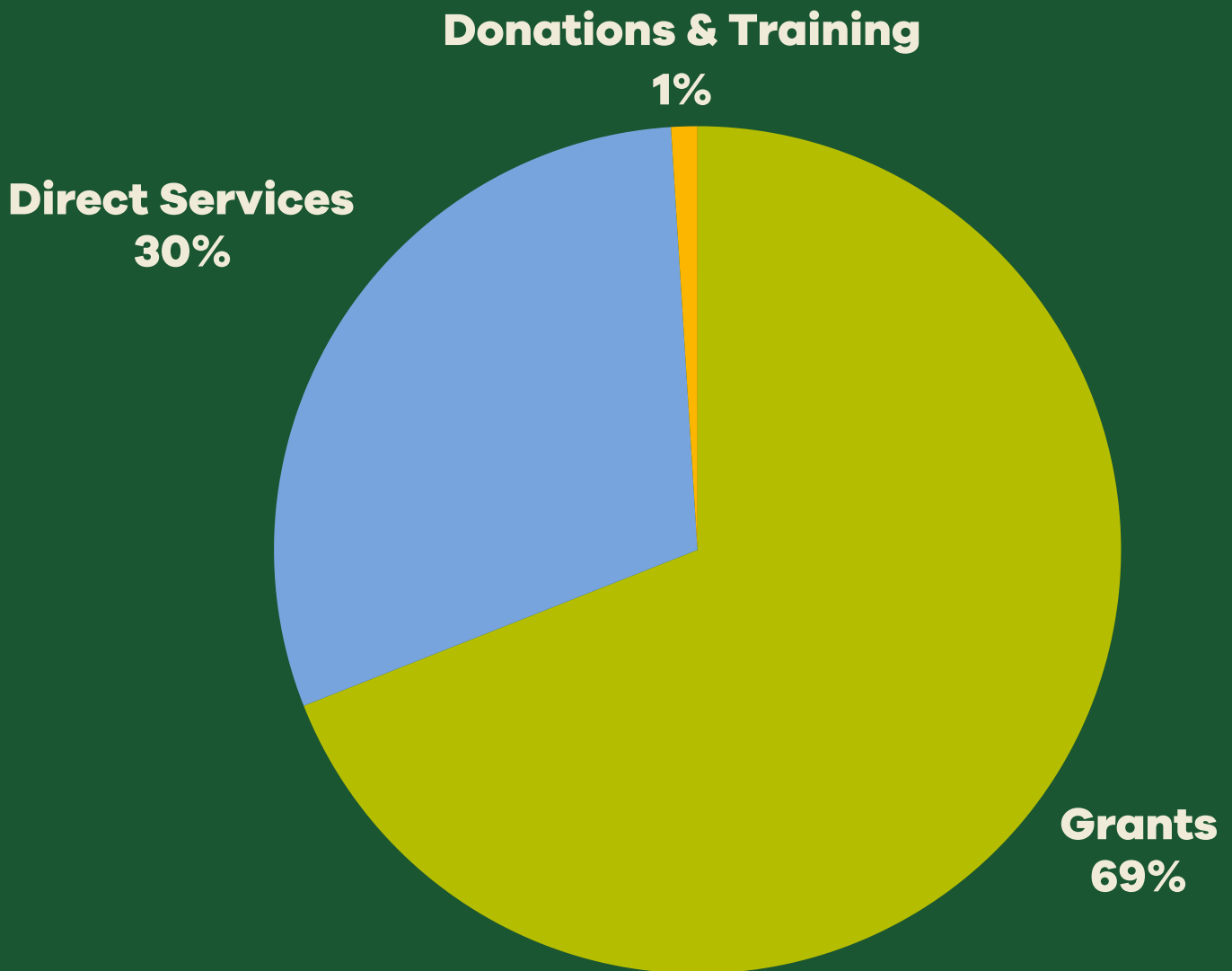
The Numbers: Income Totals

Income

\$876,897

Expenses

\$866,118



The Numbers: Hour Totals

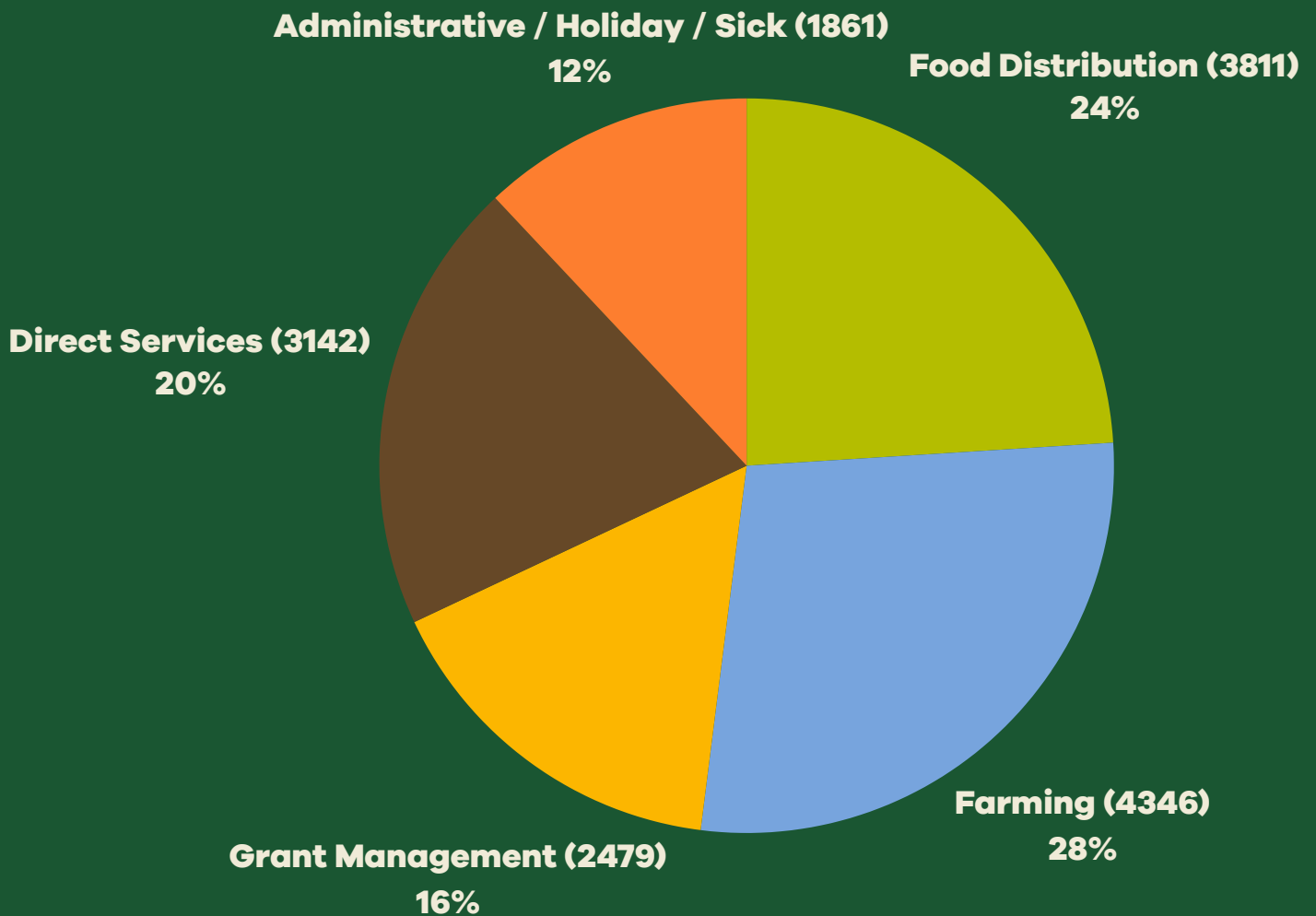
15,639

Hours by paid staff & interns
equivalent to 8 full-time staff.

4,848

Hours by interns
31% of all paid hours.

Hourly Distribution By Project



The Numbers: Expenses

Payroll (Including Interns)	\$514,976	59%
Payroll Taxes	\$45,003	5%
Payroll Benefits (Medical & Retirement)	\$37,492	4%
Property & Org Insurance	\$42,362	5%
Rent	\$27,000	3%
Utilities	\$8,525	1%
Guest Speakers & Instructors	\$113,193	13%
Program / Grant-related Expenses	\$50,379	6%
Office Supplies (Including Grant-related)	\$13,319	1.5%
Farm Supplies & Seeds	\$13,869	1.5%
Other		1%



Looking ahead

While awarded grant funding has been integral in developing Grow2Zero's community food relief and education efforts, we are always in need of additional funding to build our organizational capacity and to keep our farm staffed and productive for many growing seasons to come.

If you would like to donate to our organization or request additional information about how you can support our programming and our growth, we welcome you to be in touch directly with a member of our leadership team:

Judi Gregory, Co-Founder & Executive Director
judi@go2zero.net

Leif Kemp, Co-Founder & Farm Manager
leif@grow2zero.org

Erin Harris, Program Director
erin@grow2zero.org

Thank you to our partners

We are grateful to our incredible team of farming and teaching partners.

Lindsay Smith, **Sowing Seeds of Change**
Dina Feldman, **Feel Good Kitchen**
Sasha Kanno, **Farm Lot 59**
Kenneth Sparks, **The Farmer Ken**
Mireya Arizmendi, **Native Plants Expert**
Michael Sherman, **Landscaping Expert**

Thank you to our supporters

We couldn't have accomplished all of our goals in 2024 without grant funding through the following programs:



We also thank our food donors

Food Forward
Food Finders
Vallarta Supermarkets

Rockenwagner Bakery
Long Beach Unified School District



GROW2ZERO FARMS

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