2018 Annual Report
Dear Friends,

Spring is around the corner in the Sonoran Desert, soils are warming up and new seeds are begging to be planted. This has been an exciting year for Native Seeds/SEARCH, bustling with vitality and momentum. Your generous support has allowed us to expand into new spaces, engage more growers, and share our knowledge with young people and farmers.

I am proud to showcase some of our 2018 successes:

- **Growing our Conservation Center gardens.** The first phase of expansion is complete, with new demonstration and seed production areas that help bring the collection to life for all of us and help us get to know the needs of each crop as they grow. This space continues to buzz with activity of staff, volunteers, tour groups, workshops, and of course our animal and insect friends!

- **Maintaining the critical needs of the seed bank collection.** In 2018 more crops were returned to growing in the places and amongst the people they were originally collected from than ever before in our history. This not only maintains critical genetic adaptations but restores the relationship among plants, people and place that is the foundation of holistic conservation.

- **Collaborating with regional partners.** We are nurturing deep connections with farmers, teachers, Tribal governments, and policymakers to foster water-wise agriculture in the Southwest. Together we are carving out more space for arid-adapted, sustainably produced, nutritious heirloom foods to be available to nourish our communities. Through field trips, on-site farmer and gardener training, teacher workshops, and community forums, together with our partners we are doing our best and most innovative work.

Your shared passion for our mission made all of this possible. Contact me to schedule a tour and learn about our garden expansion, our growing network of sustainable farmers, and our vision for the future.

In gratitude,

Joy Hought, Executive Director
Native Seeds/SEARCH seeks to find, protect, and preserve the seeds of the people of the Greater Southwest so that these arid-adapted crops may benefit all peoples and nourish a changing world.

We envision the Greater Southwest as a place where farms and gardens, kitchens and tables, stores and restaurants are brimming with the full diversity of aridlands-adapted crops; people are keeping the unique seeds and agricultural heritage alive; and the crops, in turn, are nourishing humankind.

This gorgeous, rare sunflower variety came from a family on the Fort Apache reservation in east central Arizona. Less than 2 cups of seed remained in our seed bank 2 years ago, but our successful harvest in 2018 enabled us to increase our seed stock and make this variety available through our catalog for the first time ever.
Before we move forward, we need to understand where we are at and where we came from so we can grow as an organization.”

-Raquel Aviles, Board Member
Financials for the period of October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018
Detailed financial information is available upon request

Revenue
$921,579

- Product Sales $410,669
  Seeds, food, logo items, books, etc.

- Donations $332,352
  Includes donations from foundations, individuals & corporate donors

- Membership $129,004

- Tuition & Other Revenue $39,514

- Grants $10,000

Expenses
$916,204

- Distribution $384,784
  Seed access programs, bulk seed exchange, retail sales

- Conservation $230,577
  Seed bank, garden

- Memberships & Fundraising $148,864
  Newsletters, advertising

- Administration $79,400
  Building & operational maintenance

- Education $72,579
  Workshops, outreach events, print & online resources
Our Community

Thank you to our 2018 Partner Growers!

Bees and Birds Farm  Longmont, CO
Bob Sotomayor  Tucson, AZ
Crazy Chile Farm  Mesa, AZ
Crooked Sky Farms  Glendale, AZ
Farmhouse School Lunch Program  Taos, NM
Forever Yong Farm  Arivaca, AZ
George McLaughlin  Tahlequah, OK
Jeremy King  Tuba City, AZ
Owl Peak Farm  La Madera, NM
Jon Naranjo  Santa Fe, NM
Jose Barba  Bámari, Sonora, MX
La Plazita Institute  Albuquerque, NM
Ransom Ranch  Bisbee, AZ
Rio Del Rey Beans  Valley Center, CA
Mission Garden  Tucson, AZ
Native Health  Phoenix, AZ
Ndée Bikíyaa  Canyon Day, AZ
Pinnacle Farms  Phoenix, AZ
Sand Reckoner Winery  Wilcox, AZ
Troy Honahnie  Tuba City, AZ
Tucson Village Farm  Tucson, AZ
The Thursday volunteer crew holds up a finger for each year they’ve been involved with Native Seeds/SEARCH. Some started volunteering 17 years ago and some last week! Listed at left, our partner growers represent an innovative group of farmers excited to experiment and steward these arid-adapted crops.
Conservation

Bulk Seed Exchange Highlight: The People’s Farm at White Mountain Apache

“The best part of the program is that we brought the seeds home, to the soils where they originated. This was a healing process. They brought back things that hadn’t been seen in decades, like the Apache Giant Squash. My grandmother told me that before currency, or money, produce was a sign of wealth. And if you had the Apache Giant Squash you were pretty well off! ”

-Clayton Harvey, Partner Grower, Ndée Bikíyaa (The People’s Farm) at White Mountain Apache
Soil samples from the Conservation Center garden illustrate the impact of responsible soil management. On the left, a handful of soil left bare and unplanted for years. On the right, the result of one season planted densely in sorghum.

### Conservation Center Garden Update

This year the developing garden served as a work space, party venue, laboratory, and this summer it also matured into a small farm! We used our little plot of Pima County to: thresh and winnow wheat and tepary beans at our harvest celebration, host parties for our supporters and stakeholders, experiment with sustainable growing practices like composting and lasagna beds, and reaped a significant harvest from the crops we grew this year. We will be distributing seeds from nine accessions including Mostaza Roja, Jack Beans, Pima Beige and Brown Tepary Beans, and Fort Apache Sunflowers all grown right here in Tucson!

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<th>NS/S Partner Growers, 7 of which are new in 2018!</th>
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<th>Accessions grown at the Conservation Center in Tucson</th>
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<table>
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<th>Percentage of accessions grown in their community of origin</th>
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<th>Germination tests performed to monitor the viability of the seed collection</th>
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Distribution

Rio Lucio Squash

A members-only variety released into distribution this year. These medium to large hubbard type fruits exhibit a wide variety of shapes - even some turbans! The lovely fruits have light gray-green, dark-green, or mottled light to bright orange skin with orange or yellow-orange flesh. From Rio Lucio, New Mexico at about 7500 ft. elevation.
Comments from our Customers

“So many great local gifts- perfect place for all my veggie seed needs! Love it!”

“The selection of chiles and beans is an unrivaled resource in the world. I love to support such projects...”

“My favorite thing about the retail store is local products, environmental respect..., the aroma- and of course, the staff!”

Seed bank varieties released into distribution for the first time

Varieties re-introduced that had been unavailable for 1+ years

Unique wild-harvested foods available at the store

Local & regional vendors represented at the store

Varieties of collection seed in distribution

Liz, Betsy & Laura (pictured left) make sure distribution runs smoothly. Our brick and mortar retail store is located a few miles away from the Conservation Center - the home of our seed bank and also where we fulfill and ship orders. The link between these locations is important to keeping timely distribution of seeds and other products flowing - out of the seed bank and into the hands of the people who are growing, eating and saving seed!
Seed Access

Native American Seed Request Recipient: Katrina Duran

“I started law school last year and did not really have a lot of free time, but I had a ton of stress. So I started gardening with my fiancé, and what started as a new hobby blossomed into a passion. I hope one day to be really involved in both the seed sovereignty and food sovereignty community, and to of course have a huge garden. I can say with total honesty that I would still kill every plant in front of me if it were not for NS/S...”
A look inside the greenhouse of one of our Bulk Seed Exchange partners- Ndée Bikíyaa (The People’s Farm) at White Mountain Apache. The mission of Ndée Bikíyaa is to restore personal and cultural health among the White Mountain Apache through agriculture.

Community Seed Grant Recipient: Special Olympics Arizona

"The support received from Native Seeds/SEARCH has positively impacted the community by providing access to inclusive and accepting programs and activities, engaging the Native American population of Arizona, and has helped build an inclusive and accepting school community."

- Tracey Engelhard, Special Olympics AZ

Projects awarded a Community Seed Grant: 170

Percentage of total seed distribution attributed to Community Seed Grants and Native American Seed Requests: 18%

Packets donated to school & community gardens, seed libraries, and other projects: 3,890

Packets donated via the Native American Seed Request Program: 5,368

Retail value of seeds donated: $28,700+
Looking Ahead to 2019...

We will partner with the Traditional Native American Farmers Association to offer an extended program in seed saving at the Conservation Center in Tucson for young Native growers and a workshop with Navajo Technical University in Crown Point, New Mexico.
We Hit the Road in 2018!

In 2018, we collaborated with partners in the communities where the seed collection originates to reach audiences outside of Tucson. We taught our **2-day Seed Saving Workshop** and a seed saving class for teens and young adults in the Hopi village of Kykotsmovi with Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

We also hosted a group of 10 growers, businesspeople and educators on a tour of the groundbreaking food security programs taking place in Southern Arizona. We took other opportunities to teach in the community with a monthly series at Phoenix Public Market, with Pima County Libraries, and at The Apache Harvest Festival (pictured), among others.

**25** Educational workshops hosted by NS/S

**38** Tour groups of educators, growers & tribal leaders hosted at NS/S

**598** Students attended workshops hosted by NS/S

NS/S staff members taught at the Hopi Youth Summer Permaculture Program, sponsored by Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute. We were privileged to participate in one day of this amazing 8-week program! Conservation Program Manager Nick Garber taught about plant reproduction and flower biology to help youth understand how seeds form and function. We all shared and practiced seed threshing and winnowing techniques and everyone learned some new skills - teachers included!
Thank you for playing an essential role in protecting agricultural biodiversity.

Native Seeds/SEARCH could not fulfill its mission without your ongoing support and passion. You are a critical part of the this community. Let’s keep making a difference!