From the Director

Dear Donors, Members, and Friends,

Like many of you, NS/S had a difficult 2020 filled with a lot of uncertainty, and instability. We closed down our operations for several weeks and have had to temporarily close our beloved store on Campbell avenue. We moved online, eliminating face-to-face interactions with customers, community and volunteers. When we asked for your help – you helped us more than we could have imagined with generous donations and purchases. We profoundly felt your support and appreciation for our organization and Mission.

With your tremendous generosity, we were able to remain financially stable and support the growing demand for seeds. Throughout this time, we continued to fulfill our Mission of conservation and the distribution of arid-adapted seeds through Native American Seed Request and Community Seed Grant programs. With your support, 7,300 seed packets were sent through the Native American Seed Request program and an additional 1,730 seed packets were sent in assistance to Covid-Relief projects in Native Communities.

Seeds are often a symbol of life and renewal. This year has been one of transition and renewal for NS/S. We feel reaffirmed by your support of seed conservation and the programs that support seed distribution in Southwestern communities. In this next year, we will focus on increasing the footprint of the garden at the Conservation Center, expanding partnerships with farmers and work on creating stronger bonds with Native American communities of the Southwest, both through engagement and representation. We will continue to strengthen our model of conservation through distribution, and hopefully reopen our doors to you, our community, in greater capacity.

With gratitude,

Alexandra Zamecnik
Executive Director
Our Mission

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.

Your support of Native Seeds/SEARCH helps to guarantee that we all have a shared future of productive gardens and farms, strong communities, and reliable access to healthy food by all residents of the Southwest and beyond.

Above: New beds being added in 2020 at the Conservation Center in Tucson, AZ. By growing more of the collection seed on-site, we will be able to better manage and monitor the health of the seeds. This also opened the door to work with more partner farmers and help maintain the health of the seeds.

Left: Fields of Shannon Romero (Paiute/Taos Pueblo) Indigenous Gardener and partner farmer, Big Pine, CA.

Photo courtesy of Shannon Romero
Board of Directors

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Anthony Francisco

Mahina Drees  
(co-founder)

Tudor Montague

Cheryl Pailzote

Karen Reichhardt  
(co-founder)
2020 Annual Report Data

Financials for the period of October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. Detailed financial information is available upon request.

**REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales</td>
<td>$750,912</td>
<td>45.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds, food, logo items, books, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$667,828</td>
<td>40.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes donations from foundations, individuals &amp; corporate donors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>$128,402</td>
<td>7.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Other Revenue</td>
<td>$9,854</td>
<td>0.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$77,037</td>
<td>4.71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCOME BEFORE COST OF GOODS**

| Cost Of Goods | $194,757 | 11.92% |

**GROSS INCOME**

| $1,439,275 |

**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>$499,051</td>
<td>44.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed access programs, bulk seed exchange &amp; cost of goods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>$243,554</td>
<td>21.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed bank &amp; garden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$224,015</td>
<td>19.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters &amp; advertising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$118,786</td>
<td>10.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building &amp; operational maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$39,402</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops, outreach events, print &amp; online resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

| $1,124,808 |

**NET INCOME**

| $314,467 |
Partner Farmers

This past year we greatly expanded outreach with partner growers. We shared 99 varieties with partner farmers, the largest number in over a decade. Building a stronger network of growers helps ensure the health of the collection through increasing seed populations and supporting farmers to grow seeds within the communities they originate from.

- Noah Schlager, Conservation Program Manager

Damien Carlos
Sells, AZ

Crazy Chile Farm
Mesa, AZ

Double T Bar Farm
Taylor, AZ

Cara Dukepoo
Keams Canyon, AZ

Shyanne Eustace
Cochiti Pueblo, NM

Flowers and Bullets
Tucson, AZ

Green Bee Farm
Sunol, CA

Greenhouse Trolley Hobby Farm
Hereford, AZ

Connor Handley
Tucson, AZ

Matthew Harbert
Channing, TX

Mission Garden
Tucson, AZ

Tudor Montague
Winterhaven, CA

Oatman Flats
Gila Bend, AZ

Ojai Community Demonstration Garden
Ojai, CA

Kaden Orbach
Glendo, WY

Dan Pacheco
Pima County, AZ

Cheryl Pailzote
Whiteriver, AZ

Rio Del Rey Beans
Valley Center, CA

Ryan Parks
Las Cruces, NM

Agustin Rodriguez
Salinas, CA

Shannon Romero
Big Pine, CA

Paul Ross
Albuquerque, NM

Ruby Earth Gardens
Flagstaff, AZ

SeedShed / Akwesasne Seed Rematriation Garden
Hudson Valley NY

Spring Alaska Schreiner
Bend OR

Tucson Village Farm
Tucson, AZ

Terry Seward
Tucson, AZ

Bob Sotormayor
Tucson, AZ

Vangarden
Tucson, AZ

Jared Tso
Albuquerque, NM

Colby Yazzie
Ft. Defiance, AZ
In recognizing the importance of supporting sustainable farming and food security systems, the Community Food Banks’s Nuestra Tierra Garden has stepped up its focus on providing some of the most needed community resources during this crisis.

Since March the free seed program has distributed over 83,851 seed packets to the Southern Arizona region. Native Seeds/SEARCH has been a collaborator and partner for many years. During the pandemic they have provided many arid adapted seeds to share with the community.

Together we are working to find ways to keep students, families, schools, and communities connected to seeds to provide nutrition to build community.

- Victor Ceballos, Garden Education Coordinator, Community Food Bank

- Quantity of seed given to Community Food Bank: 24 lbs
Conservation Center Grow-outs

• Varieties Regenerated at the Conservation Center: 23

• Total number of accessions planted at the Conservation Center in 2020: 44

• Germination Tests Performed to monitor the health of the seed collection: 1314

• Varieties re-introduced into distribution that had been unavailable for 2+ years: 8

• Seed bank varieties released into distribution for the first time: 2

• Number of Successful Regenerated Varieties: 16

  Del Arbol de Baja Chile • Navajo Tail Squash
  Tsöqa’qawu (Hopi Black Dye Sunflower) • Vadito Quelites Grandes
  Sagui Panic Grass • Moctezuma Tepary • Caborca-Ajo Tepary
  Pinacate Pinto • Qootsa Hatiqo (Hopi White Lima)
  Hawol (Pima Orange Lima) • Ojito Peas
  White Mountain Apache Sorghum • Garbanzo del Norte
  Yori Cahui • Colorado Fava Bean • Chiapas Wild Tomato
Thank you Native Seeds/SEARCH for this amazing opportunity. I have been able to show my community through your program what hard work and dedication can do. I started with an overgrown lot and made it a garden oasis. Being connected to mother earth and being able to harvest all my hardwork has made this the most rewarding thing I have ever done for my family and I. The satisfaction and nourishment received from my garden and the types of plants I grew has drawn the admiration of many….I thank my community and the programs that have assisted me with this endeavor that I hope to continue for years to come.

- Shannon Romero (Paiute/Taos Pueblo)
  Indigenous Gardener and partner farmer
Excessive heat and low rainfall made for a difficult growing season, but our Conservation Center and Partner Farmer grow-outs were still able to increase seed stocks to meet the great increase in demand for seed during the pandemic.

• Grown at Conservation Center successfully to increase seed for distribution: 10

Magdalena Cilantro  •  Magdalena Acelgas
Mrs. Burns’ Famous Lemon Basil
Wenk’s Yellow Hots
Punche Mexicano Tobacco
I:Hug (O’odham Domesticated Devil’s Claw)
Baart Wheat  •  La Mesilla Fava
O’odham 60 Day Corn  •  I’itoi Onion
Free Seed Access

• Number of seed packets donated to Native American Seed Request: 7,300 (up 16% from previous year)

• Additional assistance to Covid-relief projects in Native Communities: 1,730 packets not included in NASR count

• Additional seed given to Native Communities to supplement community seed stocks: 45.7 lbs
Retail Shop

In March 2020 our retail store closed to the public due to Covid-19 and we had to quickly adapt. We transferred most of the store items to our website by July, which allowed us to continue selling seeds and also other merchandise not previously available online.

New selections of Native arts and crafts, as well as food products from local and regional vendors are now available to a much wider audience nationwide. Although smaller in scope, we have continued to hold seasonal plant sales for local customers with scheduled pick-up to keep staff and customers safe.
Volunteers

• Number of onsite volunteers: 68

• Hours Volunteered: 3,392

• Value of volunteer labor (according to AZ value of volunteer time): $89,040

• Seed packets filled by volunteers for distribution: 81,715

“I like learning about the diversity of the seeds, their stories, and where they came from.”

- Jan Nadeau, seed packing volunteer (pictured left)

“I started volunteering because the mission of NS/S, to grow out heirloom plants for their seeds so that they do not get lost to antiquity, appealed to me. But I also enjoy the staff and other volunteers I’ve worked with over the years.”

- Jack Petersen, garden volunteer (pictured right)
Community Seed Grants

- Total Seed Grants Awarded: 137
- Total seed packets sent: 4093

MONTESSORI DAYSCHOOL IN CHANDLER AZ

During each lesson the kids were able to be very hands-on working with the seeds. They counted seeds, measured seeds, observed how all seeds look different, felt the seeds, and planted them. Montessori Day School Chandler can’t thank Native Seeds enough for their grant. We are a public Montessori school that is low on funds to do things beyond regular lessons. This grant ensured that the parent volunteers who are passionate about gardening were able to help students discover and nurture their passion for the outdoors.

- Christy Suvehira, parent volunteer at Montessori Dayschool
ZUNI YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROJECT

Zuni Youth Enrichment Program based in Zuni, NM, received the NS/S Community Seed Grant in order to set up a community wide, Covid-safe event, to supply 120 families with an at-home garden kit consisting of soil, information about planting, a small bin to collect water, a mini garden tool kit, and NS/S seeds packets. Zuni youth and families received these kits and got to experience home gardening for the very first time. This event contributed to the organization’s mission of promoting resilience among Zuni youth, so that they will grow into strong and healthy adults who are connected with Zuni traditions.
Thank you for protecting agricultural biodiversity.

Native Seeds/SEARCH could not fulfill its mission without your ongoing support. Let’s keep making a difference.

Thank you!

nativeseeds.org