

Executive Director Report

May, 2023

Programming Updates

- **Children's Programs:**

- Our school year programs will be mostly complete by June 3 and then we start to transition into summer programming! We met or exceeded our school year program goals (in terms of programs offered and children served) and are fully enrolled for summer camp including an 8 day June mini camp. Planning for August mini-camp is dependent on staff availability.

- **Community Engagement.**

A group of 9th and 10th graders represented Common Ground at the Children's March this week with support from several teachers and staff. See articles featuring our students in the New Haven Independent and Register:

- [Gun violence, public safety top issues at New Haven children's march | New Haven Register](#)
- [Children's March Asks Adults To Listen | New Haven Independent](#)

This week, four of our students and four high school staff traveled to the first [Catalyze New Models Summit](#) – organized by the Barr Foundation, a long-time Common Ground funder, and focused on supporting efforts to “do high school differently.” Our team presented a workshop on our four-year environmental leadership portfolio process to teams of school leaders, teachers, and students from across New England.

- **Development**

- The Development Team is thrilled to share that through the HARD work and HEART work of so many, especially Development Manager and Rock to Rock Captain Aurora Coon, we raised more in Rock to Rock 2023 than ever before. Rock to Rock was a community-driven success - with support from students, CGHS high school families, community programs families, teachers, staff, community members, and board members. Collectively, we raised **\$35,813 made by donation from 316 people. What's so heartening, and so important to remember, is that 65% of those gifts were less than \$100!** Every gift, no matter the size, is significant to our cause. Thank you to everyone who SHOWED UP and made this achievement possible.





- The Development team is grateful for all the support of Board Member Charles Negaro who is graciously hosting a fundraising event at his home on **June 11th from 4-6 PM**. It is VITAL that Board members join us for this gathering to help Common Ground cultivate new supporters who will keep our mission going strong. All Board members are encouraged to bring guests to attend that might be interested in Common Ground's mission. Please reach out to Audrey this week with any possible additions to the guest list.

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- **Green Jobs Corps**

- Spring
 - Placements are in full swing and will come to a close mid June.
 - Our URI crew (9 students) successfully completed their 6 week placements on Saturday May 6th. They, along with students from Sound School and EmergeCT, planted a total of 193 trees.
- Summer
 - Interviews for summer placements commence next week.
 - Summer jobs are scheduled to take place July 5- August 4th.
- Partnerships
 - GJC and Pathways successfully hosted our 2nd annual decision day event. Students grades 9-12 engaged in a networking lunch with greek lettered students

and professionals followed by a celebration of our seniors and their post-secondary plans.

- GJC Site Visit to NappeSoul, Inc where students are building sustainable gardens.
 - Photo Credit: Crystal Fernandez, Director, Green Jobs



- Farm

- We just held our **Annual Seedling Sale** and it was a very sweet and successful event for CG and the Community. Staff and friends volunteered, customers bought robust seedlings, reconnected and supported CG through donations. We sold over \$20,000 worth of seedlings (and counting), up from \$18000 last season-we have a lot left and are selling all next week. Diane, Schandra, and our HS Farm Interns and Crew did an amazing job helping our community to grow their own food.



Deep Dive:

- [Presentation](#) of the [draft FY 24 Budget](#)

Board Meetings for the School Year Reminder from June Meeting

- June 26th
- Annual meeting June 27th