

**Executive Director Report
May 2024**

Org-wide	
Full Time Staff/Part Time Staff	70/19 as of 5/1 70/20 as of 4/1 69/20 as of 3/1 68/20 as of 2/1 67/22 as of 1/1 70/26 as of 12/1 75/27 as of 11/1 75/27 as of 10/1 66/31 as of 9/1
Personnel Update April	<p>Onboarded: Fitzroy Campbell (moved from PT to FT on May 1), Shannon Cully (moved from PT to FT)</p> <p>Offboarded: Waleska Arroyo Jimenez (PT), Hollie Brandstatter (moved from FT to PT)</p> <p>FMLA: Rachel Scharnick Intermittent FMLA; in Taylar Hill (April 29-May 29)</p> <p>Open Positions <u>Math Teacher</u> (Posted internally 4/8, externally 4/17)</p> <p><u>Health Teacher</u> (posted internally 4/8 and externally 4/17)</p> <p><u>Reading Teacher</u> (posted internally 4/8 and externally 4/17)</p> <p><u>Special Education Teacher</u> (reposted externally 4/15)</p>
Common Ground High School	
Enrollment (October 1 count of 223)	As of 11/1: 221 As of 12/1: 220 As of 1/1: 217 As of 2/1: 214 As of 3/1: 213 As of 4/1: 210 As of 5/1: 210 SY24-25 Student Recruitment Report
Chronic Absenteeism:	December 2023 47% January 2024: 43% February 2024: 49 % March 2024: 45 % April 2024: 41%
Teacher Absenteeism	January 2024: 17% Chronically Absent

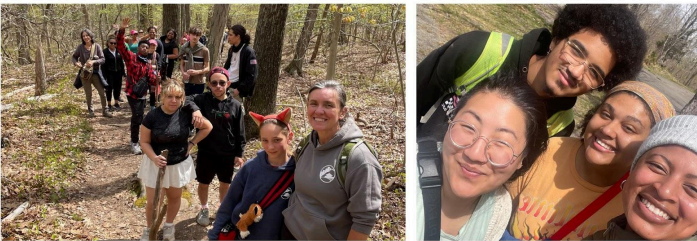
Missed 10 days or more	February 2024: 17% Chronically Absent March 2024: 26% Chronically Absent April 2024: 39% Chronically Absent May 2024: 35% Chronically Absent
New Haven Ecology Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Programs Participants served 	Data for the month of April: Field trips: 592 children, 109 adults; children's programs: 743 children; weekend programs: 811 visitors; schoolyards: students 2,111, 122 teachers. TOTAL: 4,488
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lbs of food harvested/Lbs of food waste composted 	351lbs harvested (April);1493lbs food waste composted (April)-broken tractor, reduced intake

Development Update:

We are happy to share that, through the support of SO MANY - this year we broke records with both our Rock to Rock Fundraiser AND the Great Give! Special shout out to Aurora for her leadership as our Rock to Rock captain, Amanda for her leadership as the team lead for the Great Give, *and to each and every one of our fellow staff, board members, and community supporters who stepped up to help Common Ground raise vital funds to support our work!*



For Rock to Rock we raised \$34,727 with 333 donations (THE MOST DONATIONS EVER TO CG'S R2R TEAM), 22 CG staff and students participated through biking, hiking or volunteering and 9 guidance classes fundraised (THE MOST EVER!)



For the Great Give we DOUBLED how much we raised last year raised about \$25,000 (THE MOST EVER!) and we partnered with local gem Firehouse 12 for our successful happy hour gathering featuring a special drink with rhubarb grown right on our farm!

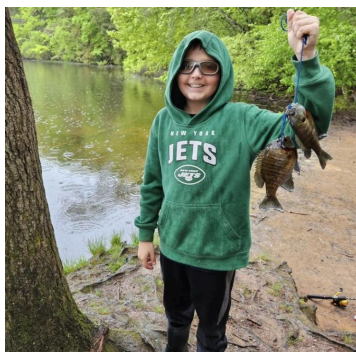
Development Progress to Internal Goals to Date:

FY 24 Development Revenue as of 5/14/24	Progress to Date 23-24	% Goal 24	Total Goal 24
Individual Gifts	\$279,664.35	70%	\$400,000.00 <i>*Note, we decreased this goal down from \$550,000</i>

Feast from the Fields + R2R	\$115,878.92	108%	\$107,630.00
Business/Corporate Contribution	\$7,236.23	56%	\$13,000.00
Foundation Grants	\$256,500.00	82%	\$314,600.00
			\$517,605.00
Government Grants	\$649,696.00	126%	<i>*Note: as we discussed last meeting, not all this \$ will be applied and used this fiscal year due to timelines out of our control</i>
Total	\$1,308,975.50		\$1,352,835.00

While Development is close to surpassing our internal goals, this does not close our fiscal gap.

Programming Updates



Scenes from a recent rainy day: Children's programs are learning and playing outside every day! On Weds, May 15, it rained ALL day. Our NatureYear students went fishing at the lake, made boats and floated them in streams, and admired the waterfall at the West Rock Nature Center. Our Seedlings Class families (toddlers with a parent) showed up in their rain gear and enjoyed the farm in the rain. Students from Lincoln Bassett and Mayo Schools came on their field trips and made pizza from scratch using ingredients from the children's garden and enjoyed some time to play in nature, and we wrapped up the day with our Kids Unplugged after school program students enthusiastically borrowing rain gear and heading out to play soccer, build fairy houses, and go on a scavenger hunt hike in the pouring rain!

Children's Programs:

- Current challenge: we started hiring for summer camp early (Jan/Feb) and were done by late March, but since then 7 new hires have resigned in favor of other opportunities. So, camp hiring is ongoing and it is now late in the season to be finding serious, well qualified candidates.
- The application period for NatureYear is open now through June 15. Our goal is to increase enrollment next year, which brings in revenue and creates desired jobs for the Env Ed Team (all of which are in the budget!). A digital flyer with all the info and link to the online application is [HERE](#).
- Open Farm Day has resumed for the season. Join us any Saturday between 10 AM - 2 PM to enjoy campus!
- Article celebrating [Schoolyards program](#) in the New Haven Independent



Farm:

- The 2024 Seedling Sale was a success! We had so many wonderful folks from the community come out and help out including board members Liz, Brian and Kye, our enthusiastic Community Programs, development team and more . We made over \$23000 for farm programs (\$5000 more than last year) and had over 400 visitors.

- Next week we are launching our Adult internship program which runs for 12 weeks. Interns learn the ins and outs of farming and food Justice along side our Green Jobs Corps students. This year our cohort includes a Yale and Harvard fellow. Charlotte is the grand daughter of our founder Bill Duesing.

Compost:

- We have had a couple ups and downs including an injury and tractor repair that reduced our intake this month, but we are excited about a new grant from the Institute of Self Reliance that will help push forward our work into the next year.

Farm Education:

- The Ancestral Farming Class went to Paugussett Reservation in Trumbull to clear Knotweed for Clan Mother Shoran. They learned about sacred herbs/vegetables and ceremonies and the students had a creative time clearing the area.



Community Engagement

Safe Streets Progress! Last Friday's celebration at the bus stop made it official: Sidewalks and a pedestrian bridge are coming to our neighborhood, connecting SCSU, Common Ground, Brennan Rogers Magnet School, and the health center, corner store, and housing up the street! The city officially accepted state funding this week, allowing us to move forward with final engineering plans, and then construction. We'll want to keep pressure on, in hopes that construction can launch this fall, rather than waiting until 25-26!

Huge shout out to the many students, alumni staff, families, and community members who raised their voices, created plans, made their own slow school zone signs, and more! Check out news stories in the [Independent Register](#), [WTNH](#), and [NBC CT](#).

CGHS

- Seniors were honored and celebrated by the full school community at the annual decision day event, where they announced their post-secondary plans. Special guest speaker and environmental educator - Zion Jones - encouraged students to remain true to themselves as they pursue their dreams. The Musician's Collective provided both ensemble and solo performances to honor their classmates.



- Seniors have been steadily and successfully completing their senior defenses, which began on May 4th and climaxed with Senior Defense Day on May 15th



- Students in the Ancestral Farming class participated in an off-site community service farm experience at Clan Mother Shoran Waupatukuay Piper of the Golden Hill Paugussett in Trumbull.
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- The final round of benchmark assessments have been administered; juniors have completed the NGSS Science exam, and Advanced Placement students have taken exams in Language Arts and Composition and Government and Politics.
- Outdoor Leadership students visited Sleeping Giant National Park for a memorable, day-long hike.



- [CGHS Culture & Climate Survey Results](#)