

SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY EDUCATION CENTER

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November, 2025

Dear Friends,

This winter marks thirty years since we first walked the land that birthed Seeds of Solidarity Farm and Education Center. Thousands across age, community, culture, and continents have joined us to gain skills and gather inspiration. We've stayed centered and thriving through consistent dedication, deep values and partnerships, and reverence for the beauty of nature and best of humanity.

These days we are asked if the devastating, senseless federal cuts will fragment the decades of our innovative work. The answer is no. We have intentionally remained small and stable to weather these times, upheld by you, our community of supporters. This letter is our annual ritual of gratitude to reflect on a fruitful year, with hope you are inspired to make an offering meaningful to you. With your help, we go forward with renewed dedication.

It is a pleasure to share program highlights and successes with you.



Our Women Healing Women Healing Earth series inspires unity and learning throughout the seasons. Fabulous workshop leaders diverse in cultural background offer art, nature, cooking, and healing workshops that counter isolation and stress with creativity and connection. Donations make this program free of charge to over 100 participants. This year we dowsed for water, got creative through visible mending and meditative painting, wrote fables for a new world, and built shrines to nature that resulted in a contemplative installation viewed by thousands at the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival. We expanded upon this program with inspiration from co-facilitator Connie Owens and her vision to create a space for women of color in our predominantly white region. A new initiative, C-US: Community Building Across Cultures was born- and powerful!

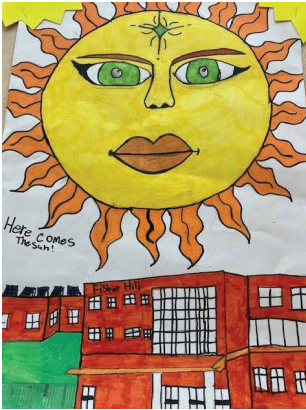


Immersive no-till agriculture workshops at Seeds of Solidarity are ever popular and attract rural and urban dwellers to learn methods that cultivate healthy soil, abundant food, and climate resilience. We provide full scholarships to beginning and farmers of color. For the fourth year and counting, our weekend building workshop engaged participants of all ages in skilling up with DIY and energy efficient construction methods. Our Waking up With the Land spring ceremony, solstice garden altar workshop, and Reconnect Retreats offer participants needed time to soothe the soul and bathe in the beauty of the farm and forest.

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Local kid-made poster for Earth Day

Decades of impact show up in poignant ways. As we were providing sunflowers and sun-gold tomatoes to children as part of a local Celebrate the Sun for Earth Day event, a huge photovoltaic system was being installed on the adjacent school rooftop. The lead solar installers on this exciting project were Phil and Dave, graduates of our SOL (Seeds of Leadership) Garden program! It's very heartening to see the many ways over 400 SOL alumni have carried their pivotal experiences of growing food, renewable energy, wellness, and skills for a positive future into their adult lives and families.

Partnerships radiate our mission and enable Seeds of Solidarity's efforts to spread authentically and widely.

Our Stocking Up Farmshare program in collaboration with Quabbin Harvest coop supports family wellbeing plus local farms through a monthly bag of fresh food and recipes for residents struggling to make ends meet, totaling thousands of servings of healthy food. This program is increasingly vital due to rising costs and federal cuts that intensify insecurity in our low-income region.

Since our early days, several colleges have utilized our site as a learning laboratory for ecological principles in action. After many years of Mt Wachusett Community College field trips here, we are pleased to now teach in their Regenerative Agriculture Certificate program.

For over a decade, we've provided classes at our county jail that combine hands-on gardening with health, environmental, and social justice topics, and offer college credit to people incarcerated. As one participant reflects, *"this class brings so much joy and a sense of peace to someone in a jail environment. It's educational and therapeutic."*



Neighbors and friends co-create the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival that energizes the livelihoods of hundreds of farmers and artists, inspires other events to go zero waste, and exemplifies the vision and joyful cooperation so needed in these times.

100 bags of compost and only 2 bags of trash!

It is an honor to be chosen by Senator Jo Comerford as one of eleven stories of positive impact across our 25-town, 175,000-resident district for her video series "Keeping Hope Alive" that features community-strengthening work amid local and national challenges. In this spirit, enjoy the enclosed resilience and re-love-ution card with practices for personal and community engagement, plus our collection of seasonal recipes for your table.

Thank you for believing in Seeds of Solidarity. We are a small and mighty, deeply experienced organization, and resolve to carry onward with a strong vision that upholds love, land, justice, and unity. Every contribution has meaning and impact.

We await your reply with open hearts,



Ricky Baruch and Deb Habib, Co-Founders

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