

# Daily Acts Annual Report 2015



*because every choice matters*

# Message from Our Executive Director and Board Chair

Thank you inspired daily actors!

Amidst the worst drought on record in California, our cup runneth over with gratitude for you. With your support, in 2015 we saved more water (2.4 million gallons) through drought-busting lawn transformations in six months than in six years of leading lawn transformations. And this is only a portion of the 115 educational programs and action campaigns we organized in 2015!

Daily Acts was founded on the belief that by reclaiming the power of our daily actions we can create richer lives and a better world. Because of you, we are doing JUST this. From empowered youth, citizens, and businesses to transformed landscapes; everything we achieve comes through community and collaboration. Community is in fact the soil in which Daily Acts propagates sustainability, and sustainability is the core issue of our time.

In 2015 Daily Acts co-led a collaboration that resulted in 30 lawn transformations in 30 days. The young people doing the transforming, some of whom had been homeless and grew up in poverty, went from a focus on surviving to feeling part of a movement. That is nothing short of a miracle. You can read more about this amazing collaboration on page 9. **Transforming a lawn can do more than save water. It can grow soil, food, medicine, and habitat. It can sow justice, sequester carbon, and strengthen the local economy; building richness and resilience in our lives, landscapes, and communities.**

In addition to record drought, our climate crisis has made the need for more sustainable, resilient households and communities urgently clear. People need inspiring and practical solutions, and to feel a part of something larger. The Community Resilience Challenge is that something larger. It amplifies our shared efforts, spreading sustainability solutions through neighborhoods, cities, and a rapidly growing movement for resilient communities.

The truth is, there has never been a time when our actions (and the ripples that they create!) have mattered more. Thank you for all that you do to reclaim the power of your daily actions and to support ours.



Trathen Heckman, Executive Director



Cate Steane, Board Chair



# Our Story

Founded in 2002, Daily Acts is an educational nonprofit that supports people and communities to live more sustainably by reclaiming the power of our daily actions.

Grounded in the core belief that **every choice you make matters**, we take a heart-centered approach to personal and community transformation.

Through educational tours, skill-building workshops, and campaigns like the Community Resilience Challenge, we inspire action to grow healthy food, conserve resources, and build community while transforming our lives, homes, gardens, and neighborhoods.

By reconnecting people to each other, to their own power, and to nature-based solutions; **together** we are creating more nourishing, connected, and resilient communities.

## Our Vision

A healthy, just, and reverent culture.

## Our Mission

To transform our communities through inspired action and education, which builds leadership and local self-reliance.



## Meet Our Rock'n Staff ...



## ... and our amazing Board of Directors

Pam cross

Michael George

Trathen Heckman

Brad Mills

Christopher Peck

Chip Romer

Sam Ruark

Jim Shelton

Naomi Starkman

Cate Steane

Miriam Volaf



“

It's amazing what can be  
accomplished by a small  
group of energetic people,  
lots of mulch, and smiles!

I feel so nourished!

*SRJC Workshop Attendee*

”



# Project Profile: Mulchstock - The Largest Peaceful Lawn Transformation on Record

In October, Daily Acts co-hosted Mulchstock, the largest community-powered sheet mulching project on record (an astonishing 64,000 square feet!). 135 volunteers transformed a massive, unused business park lawn into a drought-proof, mulched landscape which will save 1.6 million gallons of water annually (equivalent to 2.4 Olympic swimming pools). Participants enjoyed free massages, catered meals, and the musical musings of Sol Horizon, The Bad Apple String Band, and Grand Crue.

A pioneering example of collaboration between the business, municipal, and nonprofit sectors, Mulchstock organizing partners included Daily Acts, Clear Blue Commercial, Cagwin & Dorward, the City of Petaluma, and graduates of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy. The project was also supported by the Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Green Business Program, and ten business sponsors.

This landmark project was recognized with an award from 10th District Assembly Member, Marc Levine for “protecting the environment and precious water resources”.



## Project Profile: Stronger Together Collaboration for Youth At-Risk

Stronger Together was a collaboration with eight local organizations and the Petaluma Community Foundation to support young people to thrive. Through this effort, Daily Acts partnered with Mentor Me to host a delightful (and ultimately delicious!) 4-part workshop series for youth and their mentors at the Cavanagh Center. Using the on-site community food forest established by Daily Acts and the City of Petaluma in 2009 as the classroom, participants filled veggie beds, made pressed flower luminaries, picked tomatoes for home-made pizzas, and harvested veggies for pickling. The success of this series launched an ongoing collaboration between Daily Acts and Mentor Me to empower and nourish mentors, mentees, and neighbors alike.

The Cavanagh Center food forest serves as a beacon and model for ecological gardening; providing ongoing community education and engagement opportunities, food, medicine, habitat, and wonder. Many of the surrounding residential landscapes have been transformed over the years by neighbors to include edibles, pollinators, medicinal, and native species, as well as rainwater catchment, greywater systems, and inspiration galore.



# Project Profile: Community Resilience Challenge

2015 marked the 6th year of the Community Resilience Challenge, our annual action campaign that mobilizes people to save water, grow food, conserve energy, reduce waste, and build community. The Challenge amplifies individual action, helping spread sustainability solutions through neighborhoods, cities, and a rapidly growing movement for resilient communities. It inspires us with tangible evidence that many hands and hearts aligned in thoughtful action REALLY do add up to create a better world.

The 2015 Challenge was an outstanding success, with over 2,300 people participating locally in the campaign, registering a whopping 8,363 sustainability actions and projects! And that's just Sonoma County. Regional and national partners registered more than double this number.

Since the Challenge began in 2010, 22,949 actions and projects have been registered in Sonoma County and a further 59,920 have been registered through regional and national replication partners!



# Project Profile: Youth Ecology Corps

California's drought emergency created the perfect opportunity to innovate, collaborate, and grow our impact. Through a collaboration between the Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps, and Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) we piloted an ambitious program to replace 30 lawns in 30 days in the cities of Rohnert Park and Cotati.

Within days of approval, this wildly successful program launched and provided crew members with hands-on job training, valuable insight into sustainability practices, and a potential career pathway. In addition to the 30 lawns, three new inspiring model landscapes were installed at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, Sonoma Mountain Village, and Cotati City Hall resulting in a combined water savings of over 724,000 gallons per year.

Organizations and agencies rapidly responding to emergency, 30 lawns gone, lots of water saved, new model gardens, **AND the young people doing the transforming, some of whom had been homeless and grew up in poverty, went from a focus on surviving to feeling part of a movement.** That is nothing short of a miracle.



# Achievements

**8,248** People Engaged and Educated

**6** Sustainability Tours

**14** Educational Workshops

**67** Garden Installations and Workdays

**47** Talks and Presentations

**31** Community Outreach Events

**43** Permaculture Design Course Graduates

**371** Volunteers

**1,883** Volunteer Hours





## 2015 was all about WATER!

**138,000** Square Feet  
of Lawn Sheet Mulched  
by Daily Acts and Partners

**2,587,500**  
Gallons of Water Saved

**62,798** Square Feet  
of Lawn Conversions Registered  
as Part of the Community  
Resilience Challenge

**1,177,463**  
Gallons of Water Saved

**643** People Educated about Greywater and Rainwater

**80** People Taught How to Install a Greywater System



# Financial Statements

## Statement of Activities

*As of December 31, 2015*

### Revenue

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Individual Contributions      | \$191,118 |
| Business Contributions        | \$19,179  |
| Government Contracts          | \$185,886 |
| Grants*                       | \$58,825  |
| Other (Fees, Rent & Interest) | \$37,034  |

**Total Revenue** **\$492,042**

### Expenses

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Programs       | \$456,662 (76%) |
| Fundraising    | \$84,122 (14%)  |
| Administration | \$60,087 (10%)  |

**Total Expenses** **\$600,871**

## Statement of Financial Position

*As of December 31, 2015*

### Assets

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Cash         | \$211,218 |
| Fixed Assets | \$163     |

**Total Assets** **\$211,381**

### Liabilities & Equity

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance Equity  | \$98,621    |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | \$221,588   |
| Net Income              | (\$108,828) |

**Liabilities & Equity** **\$211,381**

*In 2015, Daily Acts invested reserve funding to increase capacity as part of a strategic priority to strengthen our foundation.*

*\*Daily Acts received a \$50,000 grant for FY2015 in FY2014 and due to cash-basis accounting, this amount does not show in the 2015 Statement of Activities.*



# Sponsors & Partners

## Foundation and Family Fund Partners

Appleby Foundation  
Camosse Family Foundation  
Fledgling Fund  
Flying Turtle Family Fund  
Kalliopeia Foundation  
New Belgium Brewing Company  
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment  
Semilla Fund  
Sharon Bard Fund  
Jim and Sandy Shelton Fund  
Singing Field Foundation  
Strong Foundation for Environmental Values  
Thriving Resilient Communities Funding Circle  
of Threshold Foundation  
Yavanna Family Foundation

## Municipal and Agency Partners

City of Cotati  
City of Healdsburg  
City of Petaluma  
City of Santa Rosa  
City of Sebastopol  
Town of Windsor  
Sonoma County Department of Health Services

Sonoma County Water Agency  
Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership

## Sponsors

Amy's Kitchen  
Credo High School  
Equinox Landscape  
Klemmer & Associates  
Russian River Watershed Association  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
Whole Foods Market  
Wyatt Irrigation Supply  
Xandex Inc.

## In-Kind Donors

1 Drop at a Time  
Alvarado Street Bakery  
Andy's Produce Market  
Bionic Beverages  
Cagwin & Dorward  
Cinque Insieme  
Clover Stornetta  
Cottage Gardens of Petaluma  
Devoto Orchards Cider  
Deeper Shades Design  
Donum Estate

Eric Kent Winery  
Evolution Fresh  
Farmers Exchange of Earthly Delights  
Friedman's Home Improvement  
Gourmet Mushrooms  
Green Mary  
Guayaki Sustainable Rainforest Products  
Hanson Spirits  
Instant Jungle International  
La Tortilla Factory  
Lagunitas Brewing Company  
Mass Wiggle  
McEvoy Ranch  
Occidental Arts & Ecology Center  
Petaluma Market  
Petaluma Seed Bank  
Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery  
Revive  
SBI Building Materials & Landscape Supplies  
Straus Family Creamery  
Taylor Maid Farms  
Team Ghilotti Inc.  
Thistle Meats  
Tilted Shed Ciderworks  
Traditional Medicinals  
Wild Flour Bread  
World Centric



# Stewardship Circle

Our Stewardship Circle is a community of people who have chosen to invest in the sustainability of Daily Acts by committing to donate \$1,000 or more a year, for a minimum of five years. Circle members gather throughout the year to deepen their relationship to Daily Acts and each other.

## Individual

### 2008-2022

Trathen and Mary Heckman  
Christopher Peck and  
Genevieve Taylor

### 2009-2015

Rick Theis and Carolyn Johnson

### 2009-2018

Tara Smith  
Julie and Greg Young

### 2010-2019

Rebekah and Sean Lovett - Revive

### 2011-2015

Christina Amarillas and Gil Falcone  
Erin Axelrod  
Laura Baker  
Maria Cardamone  
Clare Grinsell and Dennis Hardle  
Gordon Paul Matthews  
Barbara Moulton  
Carole and Francisco Peccorini

Cynthia and John Rathkey  
Lawrence Robinson\* and  
Cynthia Kishi  
Carl Shuller

### 2012-2016

Robert and Sharon Bonagura  
Leslie Curchack  
Grant Davis  
Howard Formby  
Michael Heaviside and  
Hillary Strickland  
Victoria and Michael Johnston  
Sarah and Doug Wright

### 2013-2017

Kacey Amrita Carmichael and  
Ernest Gundling  
Karen Lyons  
Shan Magnuson  
John Mutz and Heather  
Hillman-Mutz  
Judy Pike  
Molly Underwood

### 2014-2018

Dan Bleakney  
Bonnie Chase  
Terry Church  
Michael and Cindy George  
Nancy and Jim Hage  
Timothy Homer  
Nariman Manoochehri  
Nancy Niche  
Francesca Preston and  
Douglas Lerch  
Maggie Robinson  
Kate Schaffner  
Jim and Sandy Shelton  
Mischa Steinbruck and  
Darlene Taylor

### 2015-2019

Tom Bahning and Vicki Duggan  
Theresa Beldon and Joe Pereira  
D'Lynda Fischer  
Jan and Emily Jirout  
Natasha Juliana  
Taya Levine

Mary Munat  
Jaimie Mustacich  
Judith Newton and Ben Ford  
Marcy Taylor Pattinson  
Lou and Sue Preston  
Cate Steane

## Business

Codding Investments  
(Brad Baker)  
Shelton's Natural Foods Market  
(Marty and Bonnie Shelton)  
Clear Blue Commercial  
(Marty and Carolyn Pistone)  
Fishman Supply Company  
(Leland Fishman)

*\* former or current council members*



I think it's amazing what you are doing in this county. Because of dedicated citizens like you, we can take care of what we have and whom we have here with us, while building local self-reliance and resilient communities. That is why I support you.

*Bonnie Chase*



# Sustainers

Our Sustainers are a very special group of committed donors who have chosen to make a recurring donation to Daily Acts.

Genevieve Albers  
Sarah Alexander  
Derek Appelblatt  
Diana Badger  
Ann Baker  
Trey Banton  
Jennifer Bard  
Karin Beddow  
Ellen Bicheler  
Bridget Brewer  
Eric and Sarah Chen  
Hanna Chort  
David Christopher  
Dharma Clement  
Deanne Clough  
Cathryn Couch and  
Jeff Black  
Paul Cowley  
John Crowley  
Michelle Denham  
JoEllen DeNicola  
Jan DeSipio

Michael Doherty  
Charissa Drengsen  
Kevin Drew  
Gail Dubinsky-Spielman  
Eleanor Dwight  
James Eisenberg  
Lisa and Gilbert Eldredge  
Amira Elgan  
Stephanie Elliott  
Cindy Fenton  
Andrew Ferguson  
David Ferrera  
Elizabeth Fudemburg  
Debora Fudge\*  
Jon Gay and Misty West Gay  
Supervisor Susan Gorin and  
Joseph Gorin  
Woody Hastings and  
June Brashares  
Susan Haydon  
Regina Hirsch  
Elizabeth Hoover

Elizabeth Howland  
Mary and Drew Jackson  
Katherine Jackson  
Rani Jacobs  
Calvin Johnson  
Ryan Johnston  
Merrilyn Joyce  
Elizabeth Kaiser  
Jane Kurtz  
Gina Kuta  
Elaine Larson  
Eric and Laura Lee  
Tish Levee  
Ruth Lorain  
Katherine Lowe  
John Matheny  
Scott Mathieson  
Ellyn Mavalwalla  
Tonya McNeese  
Stacey Meinzen  
Jeffrey Mendelsohn  
Elisabeth Ross Micheli

Erin Miller  
Asher Miller  
Lisa Murgatroyd  
Elaine Newman  
Heather and Patrick Picard  
Carolyn Pistone  
Lisa Posternak  
Sandi Potter  
Del Rainer  
Tiffany Renee\* and  
Jaimey Walking Bear  
Casey Richards  
Tiffany Roberts  
Chip and Sallie Romer  
Ken Royce  
Sam Ruark  
Roberta Ryan  
Stanley Salomon  
Amea Sas  
Leslie Scatchard  
Gretchen Schubeck  
Steve Senk

Judith and Robert Seton  
Susan Bryer Shelton  
Adam Shemper  
Rebecca Shirley  
Carmen Silva  
Caitlin Sislin  
Alan Sternik  
Annie Stuart  
Julie Stufflebeam  
Steven Thorpe  
Three Twins Ice Cream  
(Neal Gottlieb)  
Jessica Vibberts  
Miriam Volat  
Catherine Walker  
Kellen Watson  
Jon Worden  
Mary Wyman  
Paul and Victoria Yarnal

*\* former or current council members*



“ I continue to feel grateful for your work, for teaching and facilitating actions and ways of being that embody resilience, resourcefulness, dynamic creativity and communal generosity.

*Adam Shemper* ”



# One-time Donors

## Tsunami (\$1,000 +)

Brad Baker  
Cottage Gardens of Petaluma  
Mary Morgan (on behalf of  
Geoffrey Strawbridge)  
Marcy Taylor Pattinson  
Steve and Jennifer Schimmel  
Whole Foods Market  
Xandex Inc.

## Tidal Wave (\$500 - \$999)

Ron Bartholomew and  
Sharon Keating  
Clough Construction  
Scott and Averi Leonard  
Jesse Rankin and  
Jennifer Okonsky  
Alan Siegle and Shelley Brown  
Solar Works  
Ana and John Stayton  
Matthew and Polly Stone  
Julie Stufflebeam  
John Wick  
World Centric

## Breakers (\$250-\$499)

Arthur Aron  
Alan Baker  
Will Bakx  
Gwen Beacham  
Kerry Brady  
Pam Chanter  
Veva Edelson

Formby Design  
John and Shari Garn  
Brooking Gatewood  
Babs Kavanaugh and Mike Witte  
David Kelley  
Eleanor Kneibler  
Donna and Bob Legge  
Matt Maguire\* and LaRee Maguire  
Medtronic  
Sylvia and Gary Melrose  
Robert Parenteau  
Mary Reamer  
Joost Revis  
Sam Salmon\* and Wendy  
Nicholson  
Thom Schaefer and Dena Malon  
Sentient Landscape Inc.  
Susan Shaw  
Samo Skerbec  
Frank Sottile and Penny Sirota  
Terry and Cathy Taylor  
Wonderful Giving (Chad Chain)  
Zynga

## Ripples (\$100 - \$249)

Theresa Joan Allan  
Richard Allen  
Mark Altman  
Doron Amiran  
Virginia and Chris Anderegge  
Greg Arthur  
Rachel Avilla  
Teresa Barrett\*  
Gina Belforte\*  
Christina Berteau  
Lee Brewster  
Bob Butler  
Jenny Callaway  
Brian Check  
Amy Chestnut  
Lisl Christie  
Suzanne Clarke  
Deanne Clough  
Benedict and Claire  
Connaughton  
Amy Critchett  
Cropmobster  
(Nick and Jess Papadopoulos)  
Pam Cross  
Lauren Daley  
Thomas Danaher  
Lauren Darges  
Christyne Davidian  
Christine Dicker  
Rodney Gagnon  
Karen Gardner  
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Gerard Guidice  
Terry and Carolyn Harrison  
Vanessa Hauswald  
Gary Helfrich  
Thea Hensel  
Bryan Huggins

Mary Huggins  
Brittany Jensen  
Sean Jezewski  
Lourdes Kestel  
David Lee  
Sasha Lee  
Little Apple Treats (Dan Lehrer  
and Joanne Krueger)  
Craig Litwin\*  
Penny Livingston-Stark and  
James Stark  
Kris Loomis  
Corrina Lozanov  
Jay Macedo  
Connie Madden  
Justin Malan  
Pamela Maldonado  
Alez Mallonee  
Tammi Matthias  
Judy Mazzeo  
Steward McBride  
Senator Mike McGuire  
Joseph McIntyre  
Ian McLaughlin  
Trish McLean  
Kelley McNeal  
Jane Meyers  
Bryce Nahas  
Gregor and Christina Nelson  
O'Connell Landscape  
(Virginia O'Connell)  
Jan Ogren  
Erik and Lauren Ohlsen  
Ned Orrett  
Gary Pace  
Betty Pagett

Susan Price  
Ryan and Samantha Ramey  
Anna Ransome  
Rosemary Rasori  
Christopher Reamer  
Jonathan Riley  
Ben Roberts  
Andy Rodgers  
Rocky Rohwedder  
Kalima Rose  
Sam Ruark  
Jane Saldana-Talley  
Bruce Schneider  
Beverly Schor and David Powers  
Beverly Schwartz  
Mitri Shami  
Betina Sichel  
Megan Slankard  
Oren Slozberg  
Elisa Stancil and Chuck Levine  
Tracy Stewart  
Grover Stock  
Sara Thyr  
Tom and Renee Tolliver  
Corlene Van Sluizer  
Carole Walsh  
Warren Watkins  
Daniel Weinzev  
Wiggle Planet (Jeffrey Ventrella)  
John Wildgust  
Oren Wool  
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey  
Supervisor Shirlee Zane  
Andrew Zarrillo  
Patricia Zimmerman



**Ripplets (\$1 - \$99)**

Marlene Abel  
 Sarah Alexander  
 CJ Alexander  
 Beverly Alexander  
 Bonnie Allen  
 Kelin Backman  
 Lisa Badenfort and  
 Kim Johannsen  
 George Beeler  
 Tim Beglin  
 James Berns  
 Suzanne Biaggi  
 Sharon Bice  
 Sylvia Binsfeld  
 Courtney Biryukov  
 Jessie Buckley  
 Maureen Bufton  
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 Linda Challoner  
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 Alicia Deguchi  
 Sharon Harston  
 Michelle Dench  
 Michelle Derviss  
 Tracy Dorrance  
 Jeannie Dulberg

Paige Dulberg  
 Hannah Eckberg  
 Andres Edwards  
 January Elfman  
 Dale Englehorn  
 Lorraine Etchell  
 Katherine Fanning  
 Heidi Faulkner  
 Amber Faur  
 Celeste Felciano  
 Mark Feldman  
 Dean Fernandez  
 Kimberly Finser  
 Lois Fisher  
 Julie Foley  
 Dominic Foppoli  
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 Teresa Gudino  
 Karen Guma  
 Arlie Haig  
 Ina Haksoy  
 Ann Hamilton  
 Beth Hampson  
 Sharon Harston  
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 Paul Heavenridge  
 Mary Heckman

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 Leah Hunt  
 Isa Jacoby  
 Katherine Jain DeSilva  
 Daniel Janosek  
 Julie Jehly  
 Brandon Jewell  
 James Johnson  
 Shirley Johnson  
 Adam Johnston  
 Jenny Juhl  
 Sean Kallaway  
 Rachel Kaplan  
 David Kaplow  
 LeeAnn Kellerman  
 Linda Kelly  
 Julie Anne Kelp  
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 Erik Matissek  
 Sara McCamant  
 Elizabeth McCarthy  
 Medley McClary  
 David McCuan  
 Donald McEnhill  
 Helen McMahon  
 Sue McQuiddy  
 Laurell Meredith  
 David Meucci  
 Donata Mikulik  
 Katya Miller  
 Scott Miller  
 Lisa Moore  
 Rosalind Morino  
 Tony Munguia  
 Leah Murphy  
 Janet Muther  
 Natalie Naber  
 Joe Nagan  
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 Wendy Nicholson  
 Damien O'Bid  
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 Denny Rosatti  
 Karmendra Rossy  
 Richard Sachen  
 Zoe Sameth  
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 Sheila Wolski  
 Ronald Wrobel  
 Mary Wyman  
 Samantha Wyman  
 Cristina Young

*\* former or current council members*



*because every choice matters*

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