



# Food Sovereignty

Mending Within Reach

IMPACT REPORT 2022



*Cultivating a healthy and just food system from seed to table*

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.

—Clarissa Pinkola Estes



Dear friends and family of Pie Ranch,

2022 was a time of mending the land, buildings, and relationships, a time of honoring the past while working toward a future where the concept of food sovereignty is understood and present for all.

In the spring of 2022, we hosted a gathering of about 100 people at our Cascade Regenerator site in collaboration with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMTB/AMLT), and EcoFarm, where we discussed how to weave together Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Land Rematriation, and Regenerative Agriculture. We honored the original stewards of these lands, the Quiroste peoples, through a second signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and Land Trust which outlines our work together of bringing back traditional ecological knowledge, increasing the native seed bank, and sharing the land for gathering, ceremony, and workshops. There are no known living descendants of the Quiroste and so the AMTB/AMLT invite all indigenous peoples and allies to join them in this work.

2022 saw progress on the rebuild of the historic farmhouse destroyed by the 2020 CZU fire. Homegrown oatstraw became our new carbon neutral insulation. Resident clay, saved from the foundation, was combined with sand, straw, and water, mixed into a slurry and rollicking laughter echoed while staff and volunteers slapped the mud onto walls and floor.

The past year was a time of finally bringing back school groups and others for regular on farm programming again. We served over 900 students, engaging folks in farm tasks, meal preparation, pie bakes, and workshops on food justice. It was invigorating to welcome folks back to the farm en masse!

And it was a dynamic time for moving forward the vision of food sovereignty for the Bay Area! According to the Declaration of Nyéléni, the first global forum on food sovereignty in Mali, 2007: *Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally-appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute*

*and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.*

Through the People's Food and Farm Project (PFFP)—an effort intended for a 2024 political campaign, with a vision of greater food sovereignty in the Bay Area, the aim is to establish a public funding mechanism and regional governance entity for food and agriculture, that is accountable to Bay Area residents. 2022 saw some great strides forward and the Vision Ratification Event at City Slicker Farms was a great success!

From seed to harvest to policy change we are actively working toward food sovereignty through mending our relationships to each other, ourselves, and the land while working collaboratively for a future where all people have access to nutritious foods, land, and resources. Thank you for being a critical part of supporting this important work, each one of you is needed to actualize this vibrant vision!

In community,



Nancy Vail  
Pie Ranch Co-Founder and  
Executive Director



# OUR VISION



Pie Ranch is a working organic farm, an education center and an organization building partnerships for a healthy and just food system. We envision a world in which:

- All people have access to healthy food, and know and value where their food comes from;
- Multiracial farmers, ranchers, and land stewards have access to knowledge, land and capital to build regenerative farms directly linked to local residents, businesses and schools;
- Lands are preserved and enhanced for generations to come.

# OUR FOCUS

## Youth Education

Over 900 students from around the Bay Area came to the farm in 2022 for educational programs that centered on healing from the disconnection and trauma felt by all as a consequence of the pandemic. Students gathered around the firepit for music and storytelling on overnights, bonded over pie baking in our outdoor kitchen with our Pie Ranch-grown wheat and produce and learned about food sovereignty concepts while tending to plants on the farm. Scars from years of screen time and isolation were everywhere in evidence but we've always believed that one of the ways we can heal ourselves is through helping to heal the land. Our YouthCorp, a program started in 2021 with local youth, was originally envisioned as a way for young people to get outside and away from Zoom school while assisting Pie Ranch in recovering from the effects of the CZU fire. Through a sense of purpose in giving back to the land as a unit, we





hoped that they would build self-esteem and grow connections to “all the little live things” that make up the food ecosystem. We’re thrilled to announce that one of our YouthCorp alum from 2022 will be joining us as full time farm staff in 2023, having been inspired by her YouthCorp experience.



## Farmer Pathways

The ongoing effort of fostering the next generation of organic, climate-friendly farmers continues on at the 418-acre Cascade Regenerator Farm just to the north of Pie Ranch or “HomePie”. This program seeks to partially address the injustices suffered by Indigenous, womxn, Black and other People of Color by providing access to land. The Cascade Regenerator Farm is envisioned as a place for farmers, ranchers, land stewards and farm-adjacent businesses to grow markets through support from Pie Ranch’s existing contacts, shared resources and knowledge enabling the regenerator farms to further the mission of a more just and healthy food system.



The Regenerator Farm at Cascade encompasses the Amah Mutsun Native Plant Nursery, Brisa Ranch, specializing in vegetables, and Lunaria Flower Farm, growing medicinal herbs and flowers. In 2022, Pie Ranch started the process of onboarding a new farm specializing in dry farming that will commence planting in 2023.

The completion of the Carbon Farm Plan in 2022 currently helps guide overall management practices at the farm businesses and native plant nursery, supporting efforts to sequester carbon to meet Cascade goals of zero carbon-dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) greenhouse gas emissions. The Amah Mutsun's Native Plant Nursery at the Regenerator Farm nurtured and planted 125,000 plants in the region over the course of 2021/2022 for use in restoration projects in the area. These efforts along with water budgets adhered to by all regenerator program participants create a brighter, more resilient future for the coastal corridor.

## Food Hub

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pie Ranch transitioned from providing educational programs to working to secure organic produce for families and folks experiencing food insecurity around the Bay Area. While serving communities who might not otherwise have access to fresh, organic produce, Food Hub sources directly from small, organic farms, prioritizing BIPOC-owned businesses thus weaving together a localized and healthier food system for all. We see the Food Hub as a critical piece of our food sovereignty efforts; connecting the farmers who grow nutritious food using methods that not only protect but enhance the soil and land, with local eaters who deserve quality, organic and culturally relevant produce. In 2022, Food Hub delivered 5,743 boxes of produce. We're excited to grow this program in 2023, adding more small local farmers like Brisa Ranch to our producers list while providing food for additional communities across the Bay Area.





## People's Food and Farm Project

Through the People's Food and Farm Project, Pie Ranch and other project partners are working towards a regional governance entity for food and agriculture that is accountable to Bay Area residents. Following a robust community-engagement phase that was designed to center the voices of workers and BIPOC communities, the team completed and ratified a community-informed Vision for the future of our regional food system. In early 2023 the team will embark on Phase III of the Project which will include public education, polling, continued coalition-building, and advocacy toward the creation of this more just and healthy localized Bay Area food system. Please follow our progress or get involved at any point by going to the new website:

<https://www.peoplesfoodandfarmproject.org/>



# Words from our Community



**Amina Burrelle**, Founder, Eco (Wonder) School and Pie Ranch Board Chair

Pie Ranch is a prime example of what regenerative agriculture looks like when Indigenous ancestral knowledge is embraced, honored and cultivated. By supporting Pie Ranch, I feel intentional in my efforts to cultivate food & farm education for youth, create a socially just food system, and promote an anti-racist organization that is committed to multiracial farmers, land stewards and the preservation of land for generations to come.

**Tiffani Patton**, Co-Director, Real Food Media

As a California-based advocate for sustainable and equitable food systems, I've known about Pie Ranch and the work they do for years. Working with Jered, and having the support of the whole Pie Ranch team, on the People's Food and Farm Project these past few years has far surpassed my expectations. Their dedication, humility, passion, and generosity are memorable and ensure that we'll be partners in the movement for food sovereignty for a lifetime.



**Cinthia Vasquez**, YouthCorp member

YouthCorp allowed me to connect with friends and meet new individuals during the pandemic. Being able to work with friends helped me feel comfortable and enthusiastic about working and learning new topics and helped me feel connected to others, especially after being isolated during Covid. I was fortunate to participate in the program as I was able to gain a better understanding and further experience working with animals, agriculture and environmental issues. I also gained crucial job skills through YouthCorp like collaboration, creative problem-solving and a strong work ethic.

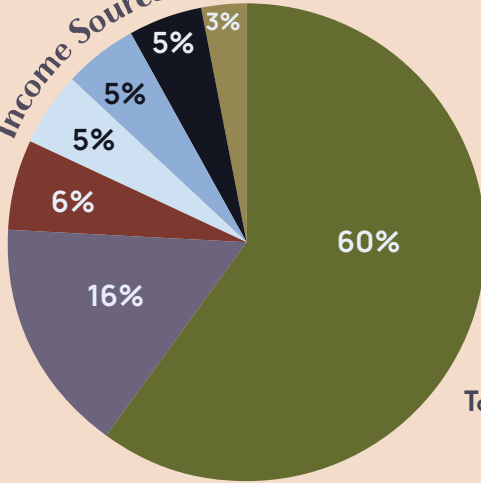




Interested in supporting the work we do at Pie Ranch?  
Visit [pieranch.org/take-action](https://www.pieranch.org/take-action) to learn more about  
how you can help us further our mission of cultivating a  
healthy and just food system from seed to table!

# OUR 2022 FINANCES

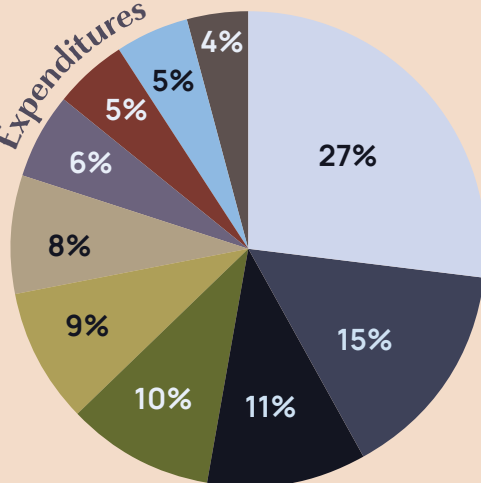
## Income Sources



- Donations and Grants (Unrestricted)
- Wildfire Reserves (prior years)
- Wildfire Refund
- Food Hub Subcontracting
- Education Programs
- Farm Sales (Net)
- Rental and Miscellaneous Income

**Total Income: \$3,654,917.77**

## Expenditures



- Wildfire Recovery & Capital Improvements
- Cascade Reg. Program
- Food Education Programs
- Admin & Facilities
- Regional Partnerships
- Fundraising
- Farmstand
- Farming
- Food Hub Program
- Capital Campaign Expenses

**Total Expenditures: \$3,654,917.77**



5,743

boxes of healthy food nourished people in need throughout the region from January to December



22,606

pies and baked goods sold



14

Youth Corp interns



46,537

visitors at the Farmstand

# OUR 2022 RESULTS



400+

donors supporting our programs and restoration efforts



900+

youth served in our programs



TOO MANY  
TO COUNT!

eucalyptus trees removed



125,000

native plants in the ground at the Amah Mutsun Land Trust Native Seed Increase Project



# Our Supporters

Thank you for your commitment to Pie Ranch!

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11th Hour Project, The Schmidt Family Foundation  
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## Contact Us

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## Questions or Donations?

[nancy@pieranch.org](mailto:nancy@pieranch.org)  
[www.pieranch.org](http://www.pieranch.org)

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