

2023

Farm Annual

Report





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About Eliada Farms

Farming at Eliada Homes has a long and rich tradition dating back to 1907. For over half a century, children living at Eliada would contribute to the farm's operations, including growing crops, raising dairy cattle, and tending to an apple orchard.

In 2017, the campus farm program was revitalized with the building of a new geodesic greenhouse building. In the following years, the campus farm program has continued to grow and now includes the Hoophouse, a market garden, a corn field, a fruit forest, raised bed gardens, and agricultural education classes for Eliada students.



Meet Our Team



ERICA BLUMENFELD FARM MANAGER

Erica has been working as the Farm Manager at Eliada since January 2019. She graduated from Warren Wilson College with a B.A. in Sustainable Agriculture and a Masters in Agricultural and Extension Education from NC State University. Erica also holds a NC Teaching License for Agriculture grades 9-12. She has spent over 15 years working in schools and farms across the country.



ABIGAIL BOYLE 2023 SEASONAL FARM INTERN

Abbie joined our Farm Internship Program in May 2023. She graduated from UNC-Asheville with a Bachelors in Mass Communication, with an interdisciplinary in Marketing and Public Relations. She's always had a passion to own her own homestead and one day become a freelance writer for farms across the country in order to assist them in accessing resources.



Vision And Mission

Vision

To grow healthy and nutritious foods and provide agricultural education opportunities for Eliada's children and throughout Western North Carolina.

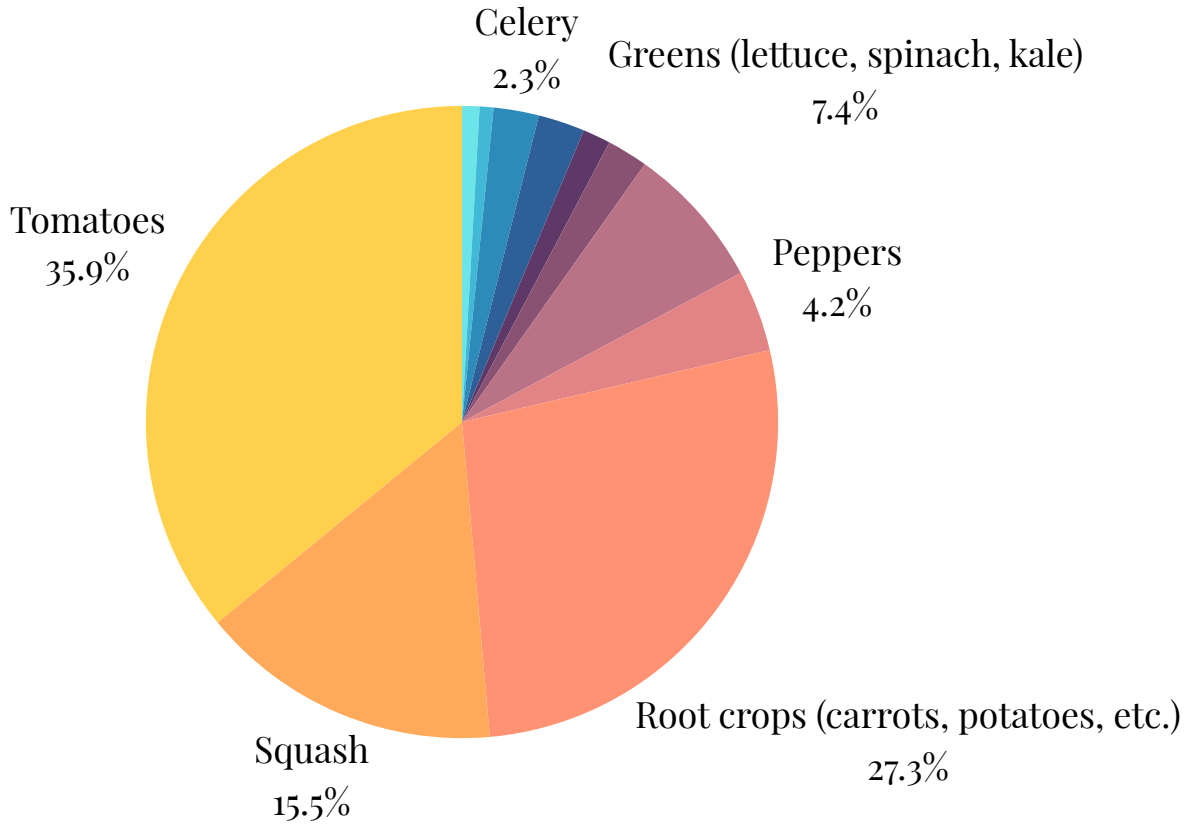


Mission

Helping Children Succeed

Eliada is a non-profit agency in Asheville that provides a cradle to career continuum of services for over 400 children and youth annually. This includes our five-Star Child Development Center, Residential mental health programs, Foster Care services, Respite Services and housing assistance. Established in 1903, we have been helping children succeed for 120 years.

Food Production



The Farm grew a total of 2800 pounds of produce in 2023



Education



Eliada Academy, our on-campus school, in conjunction with the Campus Farm Program offers year-round agricultural education opportunities and courses for children ages 11-17. Semester-long courses meet the curriculum requirements for NC Public schools and focus on hands-on, garden-based learning.

Annual Curriculum:

Spring: Biology

This course explores core concepts of biology with a strong emphasis on agricultural biology and hands-on work.

Fall: Agriscience

This course explores core concepts of environmental science, natural resources, food production, science, and agribusiness.

Summer Session

Eight-week semester of hands-on farm production work including planting, cultivating, weeding, and harvesting. The Farm partnered with Buncombe County Cooperative Extension's Nutrition Education program to host a six-week education program available to students and taught by their Nutrition Education Specialist.



Summer Camp

The farm hosted weekly summer camp garden sessions with Child Development's Summer Camp Program this year. Each Monday for eight-week's children ages 5-12 got to spend time in the greenhouse and garden helping to harvest produce and learn about growing food.

Partner Highlight: The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project did a taste-test and cooking demo with summer campers as an end of summer harvest celebration.



Agritourism

The Farm provides support to several Development events each year.

Farm to Fork 2023

This August, Eliada hosted its second annual Farm to Fork Dinner and Social. 120 guests gathered on campus to enjoy a locally crafted dinner, go on a farm tour, hear updates about our farm and other campus programs, and participate in a silent auction. All proceeds from this event went to supporting Eliada’s programs.



Fall Festival and Corn Maze

Eliada held its 15th annual Fall Festival and Corn Maze in September and October. It saw nearly 13,000 attendees over the course of the five-week event. We also hosted 12 corporate nights, booked 30 field trips, and hosted an Asheville Chamber of Commerce After Hours evening. The Fall Festival and Corn Maze is Eliada’s biggest fundraiser.



Farm Tours

The Campus Farm continued hosting seasonal farm tours open to the general public. Farm tours are free of charge, but reservations are required. Tours are approximately 1 hour long and are walking guided tours of our farm facilities and growing spaces.



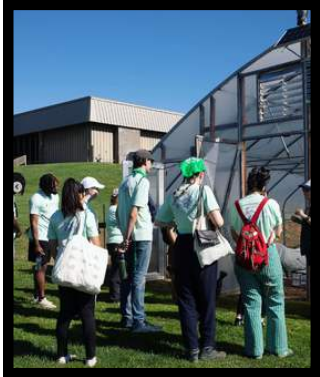
Community Partners & Volunteers

Eliada's Campus Farm is pleased to have expanded our list of Community Partnerships over the course of 2023. We are so grateful to all these local organizations who have continued to support the farm program.

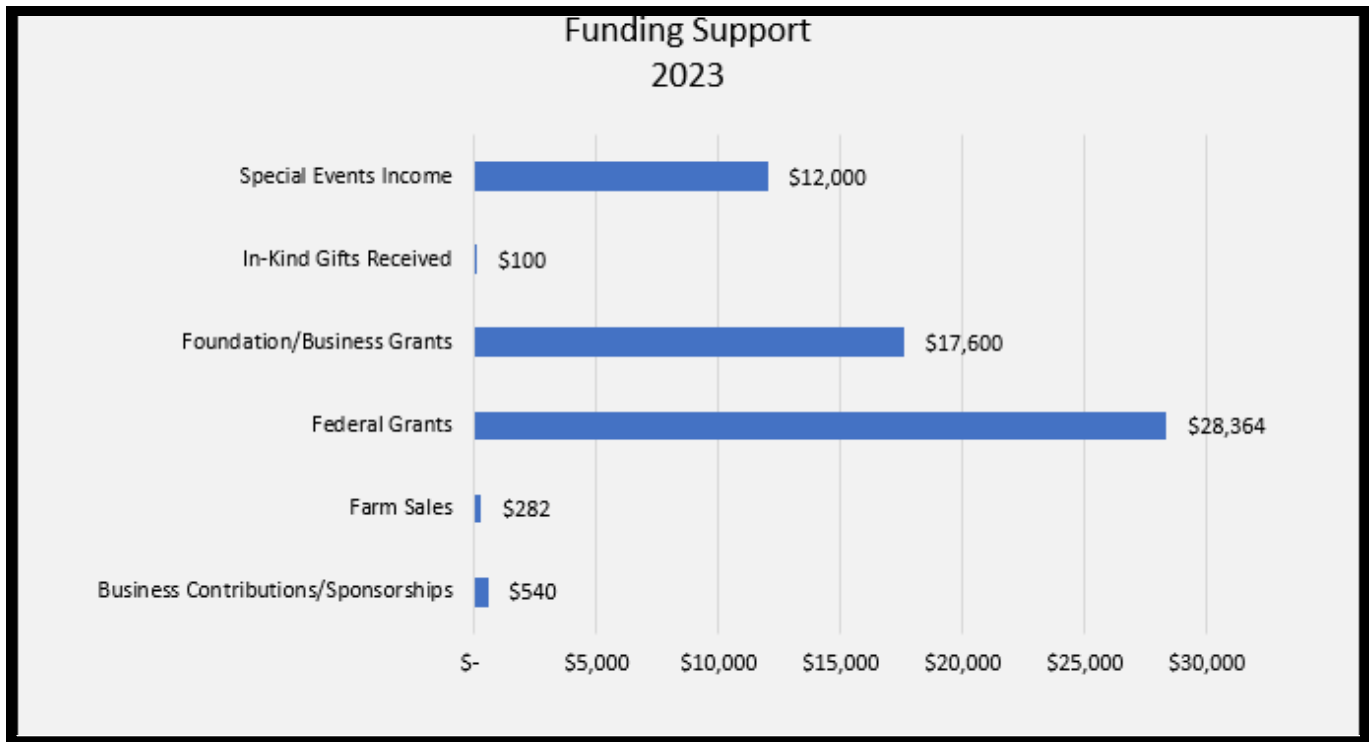


We'd like to extend a Thank You to all the generous volunteer groups this year:

- Publix
- Avery Dennison
- Warren Wilson College Service Learning Center
- Asheville Church



Grants and Donations



2023 Highlights



In the past year, we have...

- Hosted Volunteer groups from Publix, Warren Wilson College, Asheville Church, and Avery Dennison to jumpstart revamping the Learning Garden.
- Awarded a Sprouting Teachers Coaching program for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Sold excess produce to Equal Plates Project and Bounty and Soul.
- Provided 140 pounds of farm produce to community food boxes.
- Hosted a free six-week nutrition education course taught to Eliada Academy students from Buncombe County Cooperative Extension.
- Hosted a free local food and cooking demonstration activity for summer campers at Eliada from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project.
- The Farm Intern contributed 185 hours of work in 2023.
- Farm manager awarded a full scholarship to the 2024 Growing School Gardens Summit.
- Hosted eight garden-based activity blocks for summer campers, ages 5-11 years old.
- Became a paid representative with WNC Food Systems Coalition.
- Became a paid Farm Mentor through Organic Growers School.
- Partnered with five new community organizations.
- The Farm exceeded 2022's total pounds of produce grown.
- Farm Manager began speaking at Warren Wilson College on the Eliada farm program.
- Farm manager became a Qualified Mental Health Professional through the state of North Carolina.
- Farm manager will present at the 2024 Organic Growers School Spring conference in Asheville, NC.

Contact Us



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www.eliada.org/campus-farm-program

Get Involved:

- **Subscribe to the Farm Seasonal Newsletter**
- **Sign up to volunteer on the farm**
- **Attend one of our agritourism events**
- **Like and follow us on: IG: @eliadahome FB: Eliada Home, Inc.**
- **Join a monthly farm work-day**

