

Davis Farm to School Connection

A Project of the Davis Farmers Market Foundation

Annual Report - July 2007-July 2008

To all our friends and supporters, old and new,

Thank you for all your support this past year. It has been a year full of dreams fulfilled, with a promise of more to come. Your support is essential in helping the Davis Farm to School Connection in the seminal work it is doing in cooperation with the school district. As we approach becoming an "eco school district", we continue to create a program model for other school districts in the United States.

Two major events occurred in 2007 that have had an exciting yet challenging impact on the role of the Davis Farm to School Connection and on the future of our schools.

The Board of Trustees of the Davis Joint Unified School District (DJUSD) asked the community to support, as part of the parcel tax renewal, funds for farm fresh produce to improve the school lunch (Measure Q). On November 6, 2007, the community voted yes, making it the first in the nation to do so.

In November 2007, the DJUSD and the Davis Farm to School Connection signed a Memorandum of Understanding, outlining the ways that we and the district will work together to implement four major goals for a farm to school program within the district. These goals are:

Goal #1 - *Increase farm fresh foods in school food offerings.*

Goal #2 - *Reduce solid waste through a comprehensive district policy.*

Goal #3 - *Provide education opportunities to promote a healthy lifestyle and develop the whole child.*

Goal #4 - *Research and evaluate programs and provide information to the community.*

To read the full text of the memorandum, visit davisfarmtoschool.org

In addition to these two major events, the Davis Farm to School Connection has maintained ongoing programs, developing and implementing ways and means of supporting the DJUSD.

- Led Farm Field Trips with hundreds of second graders and supported school garden coordinators. This was accomplished through grants, donations, partnerships, and volunteer work.
- Worked with Raphaelita Curva, Director of Nutrition Services for DJUSD, and the DJUSD Nutrition Advisory Committee to develop a Vision and a Framework for the implementation of the new school lunch program opportunities funded by Measure Q. 'RC' Curva's input and long-term vision was instrumental to this work. To read the Vision and the Framework, go to davisfarmtoschool.org.
- Raised \$22,000.00 at the 3rd Annual Village Feast, co-sponsored with Slow Food Yolo, and supported by dozens of sponsors, large and small. Kaiser Permanente and the Davis Food Co-op were two of the top sponsors.
- Acquired the full support of Dr. J. Quezon Hammond, Superintendent and the school board for Davis Farm to School Connection's work linking school lunch to garden based learning and nutrition education.
- Completed relevant portions of a USDA grant of \$47,000.00 that was awarded to the Davis Farmers Market Foundation. Within the scope of the grant and through partners, we provided culinary training to the DJUSD Nutrition Services staff in the form of cooking classes conducted by award-winning cookbook author and instructor, Georgeanne Brennan. To see a Powerpoint presentation of the final report made to the USDA, visit davisfarmtoschool.org.
- Provided the district with a draft comprehensive waste reduction policy for their consideration, which was passed by the board on May 16, 2008.
- Worked with the DJUSD and the central kitchen on initiating a zero waste policy at the district's central kitchen. The siting of an "earth digester" outside the central kitchen and next to the City of Davis Community Gardens is a key development. The digester, valued near \$10,000.00 to \$10,000.00, was donated by the Davis Food Co-op under the auspices of the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
- Increased our professional staffing by hiring Joyce Hardi, our book keeper, and a consulting firm, Evans & Brennan, LLC, and redesigned our web site and developed a new logo.
- Initiated a development plan of action, headed by Development Director, Jamie Buffington, to raise the larger funds needed for the Davis Farm to School Connection to sustain its programs and meet its partnership obligations with the School District.

We are grateful to Dorothy Peterson, Chair, Davis Farmers Market Foundation board and Chair, Steering Committee of the Davis Farm to School Connection. For a complete list of Board Members, and for information on how to make a donation, visit our website at davisfarmtoschoolconnection.org