



I volunteer at LEAF for two reasons. I love being a part of a community of like-minded and service-driven people, and I feel that the work we do fulfills my life's purpose—to promote positive environmentalism to help mitigate climate change. LEAF is where people like me can turn their dreams of changing our world into a reality. Despite the many speed bumps that the world threw at us in 2021, we were able to accomplish a great deal together. And I'm excited to share these proud moments with you.

Staying true to our commitment to provide fresh produce to our local food banks, the volume of our donations increased by 20% over last year, exceeding our goal of donating 6000 pounds of produce. Part of that success was piloting our Fruit Tree

Gleaning program in the last quarter of the year. Your willingness to pitch in brought us over 600 pounds of persimmons, apples, pomegranates, lemons, pears, and kumquats. Thanks to your participation, LEAF will continue this unique venture throughout 2022. There was also record participation in our Spring Plant Sale event. In addition to selling more than 3,500 seedlings, we donated over 600 plants to a non-profit farm whose members grow food for their community.

Our biggest surprise of the year was in education. As the pandemic persisted, our vision for our educational programs was unclear. And yet we pressed on by restructuring our marketing program, which brought us a brand new website, a blog, a beautiful new newsletter format, and our Growing for Good campaign. We then focused on online content with our Talkin' Dirt webinar, informational videos on YouTube, and a LEAF Wiki resource to support our local gardeners.

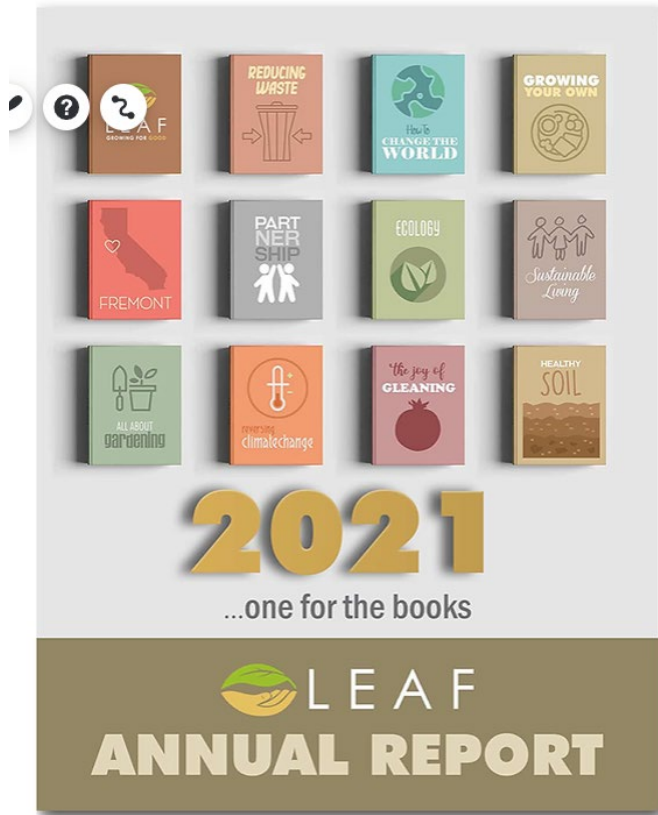
As the threat of COVID weakened, we were finally able to focus our efforts toward making our hands-on learning opportunities available. Along with courses on beekeeping, honey harvesting and candle making, we developed Students for LEAF, a semi-structured summer program designed to engage school-age to college-age students in regenerative agricultural practices. We also sponsored ten student projects with the Girl and Boy Scouts of America. They took on amazing projects, including murals, a hugelkultur mound, solar wax melters, a bulletin board, and even a pergola. If you stop by the LEAF C.R. Stone Garden, you can see all the wonderful work our young people have accomplished.

We also kicked off another project that is near and dear to our hearts—recycling. In partnership with Eeviee, we called upon you, our LEAF friends, to bring in your brown paper bags, CDs/DVDs, bras, socks, crayons, writing utensils, medals, and Brita products. And you did! We received 3,325 items plus 140 pounds of goods, each item repurposed, reused, recycled, redistributed, reworked, recaptured or resold instead of going to the landfill. Your effort was greatly appreciated!

This year we plan to keep moving forward with our food gardens and educational programs. Lastly, I am happy to announce that we are partnering with the City of Fremont and Washington Hospital Healthcare System for an Earth Day Celebration on April 23rd with the 2022 theme, Invest in Our Planet. I hope to see you all there! Until then, I leave you with our annual report that I hope you will find to be an enjoyable and informative reflection of our efforts to serve our community in 2021.

Smiles,

Elaine



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Make a donation that will impact an **entire community**.

