



CARROT CACHE ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Highlights and Achievements





Carrot Cache is a non-profit organization that supports small projects in Ontario working toward a sustainable and just regional food system

Chairperson's Message

After society's tumultuous 2024, what's in store for Ontario's social food sector in 2025? Carrot Cache, which supports local and sustainable food systems through grants, is discerning this question as we reflect back on the year.

Many relationships were strengthened with the farming community, and it is encouraging to see young courageous farmers of diverse ethnic backgrounds commit to growing and processing food. Internally, Carrot Cache strengthened its relationship with our largest donors, The Big Carrot and Carrot Common, with whom we are partners in a Joint Venture which contributes to our revenue stream. While two Board members resigned in 2024, to whom we are grateful, a couple of new members joined. Both Carrot Cache's Grants Coordinator and the Carrot Green Roof Coordinator have moved on, and their enthusiastic and community-oriented replacements have been contracted.

Carrot Cache's major financial initiative in 2024 was to purchase a 10% equity in the Carrot Common Joint Venture, increasing its ownership to 18%. The articles and bylaws of Carrot Cache were amended to comply with recent changes to the Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).

The above strengths and growth signify that Carrot Cache is in a healthy state and well positioned to continue supporting those initiatives that promote organic agriculture, local food economies, food sovereignty and worker cooperatives, all elemental components of a sustainable regional food system.

Ontario's social food sector is vital to our future, more so than ever today. These farmers and food processors need to be supported. In this vein I'd like to make David Walsh's recent remarks our own when he said that *"Carrot Common, Carrot Cache, the Carrot Green Roof and The Big Carrot can be models for community economic development, and we are open to ideas on how we can share our vision with the wider public – in order to encourage other businesses to contribute to the social needs of our city and province"*.

In gratitude to staff, the volunteer-led Board and to those who support Carrot Cache.

Thomas Walsh, Chair.





Thank you to our Board of Directors

2024 Board Members

Tom Walsh, Chair
Sarah Dobec, Vice Chair
Stan Leveau-Vallier, Treasurer
Tamas Dombi
Marsha Kirzner
Peter Mitchell
Kela Ali



Key Achievements of 2024

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Highlights of 2024

2024 Carrot Cache Grants Awarded

Carrot Cache granted \$100,000 in 2024 to 24 grantees. Over the past 23 years this brings the fund to over \$2.7 million. This year, grants were distributed to local farmers and growers, food processors, stewards, students, and community projects.

Carrot Cache continues to focus on funding projects and people that are under resourced, under represented, and yet have the potential and know-how to positively impact our food system in Ontario.





Jessey Njau, Zawadi Farm along with Arnest Sebbumba of Sarn Farms, and Judith Prince of Ubuntu Farms. Both farms are proudly represented at the Downsview location

2024 Grant Recipients

Zawadi Farm

A Black-led urban farm collective in Toronto growing culturally relevant crops using regenerative methods.

Leading Cloud Gardens (Apitipi Anicinapek Nation)

A remote Indigenous garden initiative in northern Ontario supporting food security and intergenerational learning.

SARN Farms Inc.

A Black-led farm operating on leased land in Toronto and Caledon, focused on regenerative agriculture. In 2025, SARN Farms will expand operations with a walk-behind tractor, improving production and mentorship capacity.

Amani-Innovation

A sole proprietorship producing African heritage vegetables on 5 acres in Scotland, Ontario. Funding will go toward equipment and infrastructure to scale operations and improve food access for underserved ethnic communities.

2024 Grant Recipients



Meaford Community Gardens

A Black-led urban farm collective in Toronto growing culturally relevant crops using regenerative methods.

just a lil guy

A queer- and disability-led micro-farm in Guelph. 2025 funds will support building a squash tunnel for growing winter produce to donate to local food-insecure communities, while deepening inclusive and accessible farm practices.

Nice Things Farm

A woman-led, no-till organic start-up market garden in Williamsford, Ontario. In its first year, the farm will use funding to build a walk-in fridge and caterpillar tunnel to extend the growing season and support local food resilience.

2024 Grant Recipients



Alyssa from Bhumiyinda Farm

Stone Fruit and Bear Berries

A queer- and trans-led orchard in Neustadt, Ontario. 2025 funds will support orchard expansion, biodiversity enhancements, and public programming to engage marginalized communities in food sovereignty.

FnS Farm

An Indigenous family-run microgreens farm in Tiny, Ontario. In 2025, they'll launch "Rooted Resilience," a pilot project combining online and in-person workshops to empower families to grow nutrient-dense microgreens at home.

Kenhtè Skén:nen Food Project

A grassroots, Indigenous-led food justice project in Tweed, Ontario. 2025 funds will support infrastructure like composting toilets, fencing, fruit trees, and water storage to launch a permaculture garden and free u-pick space for racialized families.

Bhūmiyinda Farm

A South Asian woman-led farm in Milton, Ontario growing culturally relevant vegetables using ecological methods. In 2025, funding will support the purchase of a root washing station to improve post-harvest efficiency and allow CSA expansion to 50+ households.

2024 Grant Recipients



Fianna and Ekow from Giving Farm

New Roots Collective

A youth-led grassroots collective farming ½ acre in Wanup, Ontario. In 2025, funds will support tools, infrastructure, and workshops to grow food for donation and host pay-what-you-can markets and food skills programs in underserved rural communities.

It's Giving Farm

An ecologically focused farm growing with gratitude on 7 acres in Altona, Ontario. In 2025, It's Giving Farm will continue serving the GTA with fresh produce, seeds, and flowers through farmers' markets and local food partners while protecting ecosystems and community health.

Many Hands Urban Farm Collective

A new non-profit formed by six urban farm organizations in Toronto to secure land tenure at Downsview Park. In 2025, funds will support fencing infrastructure to prevent theft and vandalism, ensuring food security efforts remain viable and safe for members and visitors.

Luke and Eva, Grey Wolf Gardens



Chi Garden

A certified organic ecological farm and fermentation business led by new Canadians in Ottawa. In 2025, Carrot Cache funds will help scale up production with a certified fermentation kitchen and an online store, supporting local food systems, waste reduction, and cultural preservation through traditional fermentation.

Grey Wolf Gardens

A small ecological farm in Cochrane, Ontario serving Indigenous families through partnerships with the Ininew Friendship Center and Sweetgrass Health Center. In 2025, funds will support expanding cold storage to increase CSA reach from 20 to 60 Indigenous families, improving food access and program sustainability.

Cultural Seeds

A women-led Indigenous seed and land rematriation initiative on Manitoulin Island. In 2025, Carrot Cache funds will support “She Gathers the Seeds,” a cultural knowledge-sharing gathering focused on Indigenous seed keeping, story sharing, and land stewardship.

Martina, Spiral Farm



Spiral Farm

A queer woman-led no-till market garden in Elora, Ontario using organic practices and serving a sliding-scale CSA. In 2025, funding will support a movable 16'x50' hoop house to extend the growing season and improve crop resilience amid climate challenges.

Zahra Ecological Farm

A Muslim-led ecological farm in Ottawa training youth in small-scale organic agriculture. In 2025, Carrot Cache funds will support the purchase of a tool shed and rain barrels, improving volunteer access and on-site sustainability.

Daraar Farm

A Black-led farm in Mount Hope, Ontario growing on leased land with ecological methods. In 2025, funds will support a permaculture food forest, succession cropping, and community workshops, increasing production and education for a more resilient urban food system.

The Abibiman Project



Urban Fresh Produce

A Black-owned urban farm and plant nursery in Ottawa serving CSA members, Carleton University, and Caribbean restaurants. In 2025, Carrot Cache funds will support the purchase of a rear-tine tiller and chicken coop expansion to improve food production, egg access, and community engagement.

The Abibiman Project

A queer, disabled, Black woman-owned culinary initiative in Toronto using African food traditions to build community. In 2025, Carrot Cache funds will support French-language cooking workshops for unhoused and newcomer Francophone Black youth and families, fostering inclusion, belonging, and skill-building through food and language.

Jessica Shenandoah (Akwesasne, ON)

A Mohawk herbalist and community educator is launching a medicinal herb farm. In 2025, funds will support free community workshops that integrate Mohawk language and culture to teach about plant ID, wildflowers, and seed starting.

DEVOUR CAMPUS

CONFERENCE
JUNE 18-20

We also supported
each of these
initiatives with a
\$1000 grant



Ecological Farmers
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO



Carrot Green Roof Report

In the fall of 2023, Carrot Cache board member Tinashe Kanengoni performed a thorough assessment of the gardens and soil on the Carrot Green Roof.

His review included infrastructure and operating systems in the following areas:

- Garden site mapping & measuring
- Soil health and plant diversity evaluation
- Watering, irrigation, and rain harvesting assessment
- Compost system and cold frame assessment
- Site workflow, accessibility and tool required assessment



It was decided that the Carrot Green Roof would benefit greatly from rehabilitation, particularly of the soil and growing mediums on the roof.

Beginning in the spring of 2024, Tinashe began an intensive remediation of the Carrot Green Roof gardens and infrastructure in the following areas:

Timely Perennial Garden Refurbishment: The perennial gardens were refurbished, contributing to their overall health and appearance.

Effective Use of Microbial Solution: A microbial solution was successfully implemented to support the shallow soil depth, improving soil health and plant growth.

Efficient Mulching Techniques: Cardboard and wood chip mulch proved effective in managing watering needs and reducing weed growth.

Increased Biodiversity: Over 20 native plant families were introduced, significantly enhancing plant diversity in the garden.

Collaborative Support: Carrot Common staff provided valuable assistance with watering wooden beds and carrying compost, working as a team.



This past year the focus on garden remediation led to less volunteer and community engagement in the gardens for the season, however the public spaces were still well used by individuals and community groups.

The work completed in the 2024 season was necessary to ensure the longevity of the Carrot Green Roof gardens and programming into the future.

Financial Statement

Please click on the link below to
access the 2024 Financial
Statement





Thank You!