



KILLEEN CREATORS

WE GROW COMMUNITY



ANNUAL
REPORT
2022



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ABOUT KILLEEN CREATORS

Mission

To combat food insecurity, PTSD, and disenfranchisement.

Vision

We envision a thriving and diverse greater Killeen community where everyone is healthy, valued, & empowered to contribute to their fullest potential.

Values

Killeen Creators are united by our commitment to a set of values—namely individual, social, racial, economic, and environmental autonomy and justice.

Killeen Creators know from experience that identifying as a creator and producer can be a powerful step toward self-efficacy for an individual as well as a community. Core to our vision and operating philosophy is that all individuals in a community and all neighborhoods within a larger community are interconnected and interdependent. When one person faces food insecurity or a neighborhood experiences blight or a food desert, it impacts everyone in neighboring communities. Working together to lift all individuals and neighborhoods in Killeen benefits all individuals and neighborhoods of and around Killeen.

Killeen Creators will practice radical inclusivity and forgiveness for the well-being of the greater community.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Kristin Wright

It's been nearly 3 years since our founding board members - Kelly Flading, Brian Flading, myself, James McWilliams, Clayton Tucker, Ken Wilkerson, Louis Minor, and Aya Eneli - planted the first seeds for Killeen Creators in response to the closing of both grocery stores and North Killeen becoming a food desert.

Tragically, we lost Kelly, our founder, to cancer. But our community continues to come together to make sure the seeds she planted are nurtured into the full-grown Vision she shared.

In 2022 we continued to plant seeds and grow our gardens and our community. With your help, we established gardens 4 & 5 AND launched the ART of Recovery Studio on 10th Street to help neighbors with PTSD grow from survivors to thrivers! Thank you to all who have and continue to nurture Kelly's Dream.

We all need NURTURING for growth. Seedlings need sun and water. Animals need food and rest. Our minds need hope and inspiration. Our hearts, love and acceptance. Every day, WE have the power to NURTURE GROWTH. Pay attention and you'll see - what you nurture, grows, and, you CAN make a difference. You matter.

Like every seedling planted and every human served, we've weathered storms and basked in some sunlight, but most importantly, we've nurtured ourselves, each other, our creations, and our community.



Nurturing
Growth





Our Work

Community Gardens

We have 5 communal community gardens in North Killeen - no fences no fees. Members work together to plant, nurture, teach, learn, and share the harvests!

701 N 10th St

1410 Bundrant Dr

408 N 18th St

503 W Ave J

Brookhaven Elementary School



ART of Recovery

Our ART of Recovery program offers wellness coaching, peer support groups, and an Open Studio space for people in recovery from trauma, mental health and/or substance use challenges to safely explore creative expression as part of healing growth. We believe nurturing our power to create - from tomatoes to paintings - heals hearts & minds.



Civic Engagement

From our **Little Lending Libraries** at every garden to our **Community Art Initiative** and our **Full Circle Restorative Justice Program**, our civic engagement programs focus on cultivating a safe and healthy community through education, engagement, advocacy, and service.



Our Workers



In 2022 our workforce grew to over 250 volunteer members and 8 AmeriCorp service members!



OUR BOARD

Through 2022, Kristin Wright, Board Chair, James McWilliams, Vice Chair, Ken Wilkerson, Treasurer, Liz Turner, Secretary, Clayton Tucker, Sandra Blankenship, and Billy Sneed lead the third year of organizational development, solidifying new partners & resources to support our mission.



OUR AMERICORPS

In September we onboarded 5 AmeriCorps service members who each serve 30 hours in our community gardens and Art of Recovery Studio, organizing our volunteers and assisting members and visitors in accessing our and other community resources. In January we onboarded 3 more!



OUR MEMBERS

Our Members are the backbone of Killeen Creators. We ended 2022 with 50 **Sustaining Members**, people who contribute monthly to help cover operational expenses, and 171 **Cultivator Members**, who contribute "Labors of Love" to cultivate our organization, our members, and our community. Some help in the garden, others teach a class, and some donate supplies and materials

OUR 10TH STREET ART OF RECOVERY STUDIO

Grand Opening!





Our Impact

When the military didn't workout for me, it was a very hard time for me. I had an interest in gardening, so I acted on it. I started volunteering at the gardens to learn and realized I was happier and less stressed. Now I have a dream to own an onion farm and mentor young kids in farming.

**LENNY WEST - AMERICORPS
YOUTH MENTOR**



I've been in recovery for several years now and it's hard work. Every day. But serving at Killeen Creators makes it easier. Every day I'm surrounded by people who support my recovery AND value my skills and commitment to help others in recovery. I want everyone to know there IS hope. We CAN recover.

**KESHIA WARD - AMERICORPS
PEER SPECIALIST**

Over 300 families served!



It's been great, going to the 10th Street Studio to work on arts & crafts or lend a hand on some admin tasks. Without a car and all the medical appointments I have, regular work hasn't worked, but this is perfect. I'm not bored and I feel useful. It feels good to be supported - and support others.

**MARCI COOK - MEMBER
CRAFT TEACHER**

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUE ~ \$28,069

Sustaining
Membership

\$4,751

Donations

\$6,918

Grants

\$16,400

In-Kind
Goods & Svcs

\$99,343

**\$Salaries & Bens
(In-Kinded)**

\$95,000

EXPENSES ~ \$23,679

Overhead &
Outreach

\$3,138

Community
Gardens

\$4,038

Civic
Engagement

\$3,265

ART of
Recovery

\$303



Our Donors

Scan Here!



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Kristin Wright
James McWilliams
Brian Flading
Clayton Tucker
Ken Wilkerson
Rickey Williams
Sandra Blankenship
Jeffrey Bus
Ann Hendrix
Randy Broussard
Louie Minor
Ramon Alvarez
Billy Sneed
Ann Hendrix
Nayda Ramos
Riakos Adams
Megan Murrow-Welsh
Denise Ripley
Alicia Bekham

Fletcher Lenz
John McPherson
Courtney Williams
Kim Bok
Catherine Colby
Jason Newton
Dean & Katrina Raein
Nina Cobb
Lynda Nash
Amelia Rabroker
Irene Andrews
Joan Hinshaw
Jonathan Hildner
Amy Hallbardier
Elizabeth Miller
April Martinez
Isabella Chavez
Loralie Triske

Rhonda Brown
Peter Childs
Laura Allen
Cecelia Hawkins
Jennifer Hetzel
Jutta Mack
Elena Reynolds
Lois Mauk
Michael & Solange Hommel
MJ Gregory
Gretchen Sweeney
Tay Deas
Isaac Keiff
Jackie Hewitt
Cene Cleaton
Josh Imonmum
Mya Zuriga
Daivone Durr

CORPORATE SPONSORS & GRANTS

Home Depot
City of Killeen
Omicron Pi Foundation
Philips 66
Benevity Community Impact Fund
St. Christophers Episcopal Church
Sam's Club
Rock Rose Foundation
Native Plant Society of Texas
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Network for Good



Super Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

JOHN MCPHERSON



Killeen Creators THANKS you!

John McPherson has been our most dedicated Super Volunteer! From cleaning up new garden lots, to laying mulch, building our green house and serving on our Finance & Fundraising committee, John has gone above and beyond in dedication and hours, always bringing his Good Energy.

Without his generous support - his expertise, labor, and donations via Philips 66, we would not have made it this far.

THANK YOU JOHN!