

Newsletter 3

Issue No. 3 | April 2022

Rebirth of the Pilgrim Terrace Urban Farm



The Pilgrim Terrace Urban Garden is undergoing renovation and renewal of its urban farming systems. We are already observing positive results that will allow for higher production output, thus creating stronger synergy between the farming systems in place. Read more to find out how we are transforming our facility!



Evelyn (left) with Pilgrim Terrace Resident Service Coordinator, Jenn Skinner (right)

Shoutout to Our Flower Fairy

The beautiful and amazing human to the right of Pilgrim Terrace Cooperative Homes Resident Director, Jenn Skinner is Ms. Evelyn. Evelyn is the angel that brings smiles and sunshine to the residents of Pilgrim Terrace.

Evelyn has been volunteering her time to pick up flowers from Trader Joe's Goleta at least once to twice a week every week without fail. Evelyn does what she does without seeking any compensation or acknowledgment from anyone. She does it to feed her soul and make those that are lonely feel supported by the community they live in. We are so grateful and thank Evelyn for her dedication and of course Trader Joe's Goleta for donating the beautiful flowers every week. The helping angel, Evelyn!

Rebirth of Our Urban Farm

Tower Gardens

With the assistance of the former owner of Gray Avenue Farms and Founder, Todd Mehl, we have completely restarted our hydroponic growing process, along with cleaning and renovating the facility.



Founder John Jeffries (left) with Todd Mehl (right)

Cleaning the Facility

We began with removing ALL of our hydroponic produce growing from the towers and used it for our compost. The towers and water bases were disinfected and bleached. We also disinfected the location surrounding the towers, including the rocks that surround the area. We also bleached the trays that the seedlings went on.

Nutrient Improvement

We fixed up the nutrient content and the acid mixture, and changed which type of acid we were using to make the nutrients so the plants become more healthy.

Crow Cages

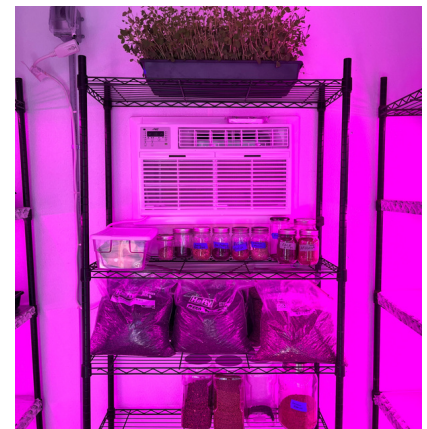
There were problems with crows stealing our seedlings and plants, so we developed crow-proof cages.

Different Growing Strategy

Our harvesting system has been modified and improved so that we follow the "1/3, 1/3, 1/3 harvest method." This means out of a specific set of towers, our farmers will harvest a third of the certain type of product, so in total it equates to a third total harvest every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This creates a constant flow of production. We grow romaine and all-star lettuce, kale, and arugula.

Microgreen Operations

We have created an effortless process where we are able to grow healthy, grown micros within **7-9 days**. There will be a production of **56 trays per week**. Click below to watch our video!



Air conditioning installed in the microgreens growbox above our seedlings



Sunflower microgreens ready to be delivered

Organic Soil Garden



The garden beds have been widened leading to more space and production

We have created an ideal environment for insects to grow, flowers to bloom, and plants and produce to thrive.

Change in Layout

The soil garden has had a beneficial layout change. We have tripled the garden capacity by connecting two narrow garden beds together to create wide beds. That will maintain nice pathways but also create greater growing area.

Usage of Compost Teas

Every week, compost teas, which are liquid versions of solid compost, are applied to the garden which allows plants to flower quicker. It's brought in more insects that take care of any disease and pest problems.

Container Garden

We have created a container garden where edible flowers, fruits, and culinary herbs are planted in wine barrels.



Basil Container Garden

Bee Towers

Our bee towers have been so successful, that they produced 3 queen bees which resulted in three beautiful swarms. They create a swarm to protect their queen because she is weak and cannot fly while drone bees search to find the perfect location to move the colony. Despite relocating the swarms, there will still be more honey produced this year than last.

Big shoutout to our amazing beekeeper, Laurie Rasmussen, for collecting these swarms and transporting them to a new home.



Beekeeper Laurie Rasmussen tending to the bee towers



Two of our bee swarms protecting their queens while searching for a new location to inhabit. Click to watch the videos!

UCSB/SBCC Internship Program

The Terrace Foundation Urban Farm Internship focuses on teaching students how to grow the most nutrient-dense, chemical-free food possible for children, seniors, veterans, and low-income individuals. Interns come away from this experience with the skills and knowledge to grow food in kitchen gardens, community gardens, and urban farms. Best of all, they can share their knowledge and teach others.

We have onboarded five diligent interns from both University of California Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara City College who have done an amazing job maintaining and learning about our farming systems.

The average age of a farmer was recorded to be 65 years old as of 2022. The goal is to teach the younger generations to become future farmers and educate their community on where and how to grow and access healthy, pesticide free produce.



One of our interns in the process of transplanting tomatoes

Vets2Farmers Founder, Carl Craven, Visits the Urban Farm

The Vets2Farmers project (V2F) was conceived as a solution to assist veterans suffering from displacement after serving in the armed forces (PTSD, homelessness, physical wounds), by giving them a “call to service”. The concept would give these displaced veterans an opportunity to become farm operators, reaping the benefits of not only providing an additional source of healthy food in the community food supply, but also the financial rewards and self-reliance that comes from entrepreneurship.



Vets2Farmers Founder Carl Craven (left) with John Jeffries (right)

As part of this project, The Terrace Foundation will manage all aspects of the V2F project, including land acquisition, development, training in farm management and business development, farm oversight, data acquisition, and financial management.



Carl Craven (left) with John Jeffries (center) and Urban Farmer, Joshue S. (right)

Donation Outlets

The Terrace Foundation Donation Page:

You can visit our website and click the 'Donate' button on the top right hand corner

Link: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=QGHDZQLTK5748

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