

A Hearty Thanks to One of Our Longest and Dearest Partners: PB&J

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From the first seeds of Cultivate Charlottesville, when City Schoolyard Garden was just taking root, one of our key partners was PB&J Fund, shepherded by Emily Wampler and the MLG fund. They were our first fiscal sponsor, one of our first donors, and an integral partner to building health and well-being for youth in our community. Our partnership has continued to flourish since those early days in 2010.

As a core member of the Food Justice Network Planning Team, Alex Gross, PB&J Fund Director, has been integral to the development of our Healthy School Meals five-year plan, which we launched in 2018.

When we hosted summer camps in 2015, we collaborated on a farm-to-kitchen camp where youth spent the first part of the day growing and harvesting crops, and the afternoon in the beautiful PB&J kitchen cooking up and eating their harvest. One of our first fancy fundraising dinners—which was also a collaboration with Harvest Moon Catering—was hosted in that cozy space as well.



→ This month we say a bittersweet thank you to our dear friends Emily, Alex, and the MLG team. Based on a robust strategic planning process grounded in community engagement, PB&J has decided to transition their programmatic focus to a funding entity at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (CACF).



All funding decisions will be made by a community-based review committee with the overall goal of supporting support food access in our area. While we are sad to see them go, we wholeheartedly support their transition and are excited to see what they have in store for the future.

PB&J received an outpour of positive responses from our FJN partners during our last Planning Team meeting where we spent a moment reflecting on the impact they have had on food equity in Charlottesville. Barbara Yager with Bread Roses talked about how she first came to know about PB&J while her son worked as an intern for the organization and was thrilled to partner with them in the Food Justice Network. She has always admired the passion behind the program's mission.

PB&J—Emily, Alex, and the whole team—you will be greatly missed. We are grateful for your partnering efforts to the Food Justice Network and all aspects of Cultivate Charlottesville, and we have so much faith in your future endeavors.

