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[www.mosaicclt.org](http://www.mosaicclt.org)

## **2019-2019 Annual Report**

### **For Annual Meeting June 5, 2019**

Mosaic Community Land Trust has spent the last year expanding its reach and network to further benefit its mission of improving the Pottstown community. With over 100 members, Mosaic continues to meet the organization's goals with the great assistance from board, staff and volunteers.

Aided by the continuing generous support from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation (PAHWF), the Mosaic Community Garden program found momentum after year two with garden manager Daniel Price. In the four gardens across the borough, plot rentals were the highest yet at 92%, providing even greater impact to residents. Key partners during this past year include Pottstown School District, Pottstown YMCA, TCN, Olivet Boys & Girls Club, Ken Crest, Creative Health, Women on the Move Ministries, Pottstown Training & Rehab Facilities and Art Fusion. The growth in these partnerships have benefited not just the neighborhoods immediately around the gardens, but the larger community with the gardens becoming a focal point for healthy eating and healthy living.

Through the foregoing partnerships and others educational outreach efforts, Mosaic was able to expand its summer youth education programming. Over the course of the summer more than 160 students had the opportunity to work in the gardens and to receive education on site at their respective locations. In an effort to make the learning practical and applicable for life, the Mosaic curriculum included not just growing and preparing food, but also sustainability lessons that included education on reducing and reusing materials.

Mosaic is grateful for its business partners including Achin Back Landscaping, Colonial Gardens & Wal Mart. All of them provided with us with in-kind contributions of products /items needed for the gardens, when appropriate.

With funding from Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation Mosaic was able to implement our inaugural CSA (Community-supported agriculture) Scholarship Program. This program offers healthy and organic food from two local farms to 12 families over a 24-week period. Working with Tine and Toil & Knee-High Farm, Pottstown Borough residents and Mosaic members were able to receive 5,700 lbs. of produce.

Mosaic's backbone is its incredible volunteer base, which registered 4,500 annual volunteer hours through members, residents and partner organizations. Our 2018 banner volunteer event was LOVE WEEK in conjunction with Morning Star Ministries that saw 60 volunteers over a 4-day span work on specific projects in each garden.

Mosaic's Barth Garden saw the installation of a patio and the addition of a greenhouse. These improvements along with the expansion of the butterfly garden help tie together the space in a way that is helping transform it to a true educational garden.

Mosaic continues to provide fiscal oversight and community collaboration with Pottstown Community Arts. Through board member Audra Ross and several volunteers, they continue to expand their mural projects and provide various artistic outlets at community events throughout the year.

As of March 2019, Mosaic took on the role of fiscal sponsor for the Pottstown FARM. While a large supporter in the past through Two Bites Club and other FARM events, this year saw Mosaic step into a leadership role in reassuring this market can be offered to the community. This partnership with FARM shows a commitment to the downtown as well as the healthy lifestyle choices that farmers markets provide the community.

After years of pursuit of housing funds, 2019 will mark the first house to be built and sold in Pottstown under the CLT model. With funding from PHARE, Mosaic was able to purchase 417 Chestnut, located directly next to the community garden at 423 Chestnut. While the current structure needs to be razed, Mosaic will partner with Habitat for Humanity and Genesis Housing to see that a new house is built on the site and sold to a first-time homebuyer.

On the organizational front, the Mosaic board and staff not only grew in size, but also in education. We have an extremely engaged board that is yearning for more knowledge and growth for the organization. We have participated in Lasalle's Day of Clarity, attended conferences on community gardens and housing, and have already begun the process for further education through the Lasalle offerings for 2019, facilitated and underwritten by PAHWF. It is our desire to continually improve Mosaic so that we can that can effectively pursue the organizational goals of creating permanently affordable housing and providing healthy living choices to people of modest means, and through education and participation, create a vital community with a focus on arts and culture in order to stabilize neighborhoods and improve the quality of life in Pottstown.