

# Towne's Harvest Garden

& Community Supported Agriculture Program

## *Annual Report*

2014



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**For more information about Towne's Harvest, please visit:**

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## Executive Summary

**Towne's Harvest Garden (THG)** is a project that was initiated by the MSU Friends of Local Foods Student Organization. Friends of Local Foods was formed in the fall of 2006 to bring a diverse group of students and faculty together to raise awareness about local foods and to encourage sustainable lifestyles on campus and in the community. Since that first year of production, Towne's Harvest has become a cornerstone of the Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems Bachelor's Degree Program. Additionally, Towne's Harvest operates as a Community Supported Farm, distributing produce to CSA members, patrons of the MSU campus farm stand, MSU students, and residents of nearby rural communities via the Community Food Truck. The mission of Towne's Harvest is to be a source of locally, sustainably, and educationally grown food for the campus and members of the surrounding community.

Towne's Harvest Garden completed its 8<sup>th</sup> production season in 2014. Many characteristics remained the same, but several notable changes also occurred. This year two roles were replaced, the practicum instructor and the marketing manager. These roles were filled by Mac Burgess and Kara Landolfi, respectively.

Additionally, several market alterations were made. We offered a Student Summer CSA Share at a discounted price, provided a CSA Convenience Option delivered to the MSU campus, lengthened the time for our Student Produce Deal, added a new location for the Community Food Truck (MSU Family and Graduate Housing), and increased the number of Garden Starter Packages sold to the community. This year we also opted to discontinue our enrolled participation in SNAP. We developed a plan to honor SNAP benefits, without charging the SNAP participant's EBT card. In the past the service costs were not offset by SNAP usage. Even with our plan in place, no customers requested to use SNAP benefits.

Direct costs this year added up to **\$11,356.08** (excluding salaries) and our total income was **\$29,134.43**.

