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## Executive Director Update

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a very happy, and hopefully prosperous, New Year!

I think most of us are breathing a sigh of relief with the passing of 2009. It certainly was a year that tested our resolve, but as I said last month – I think it paved the way for tremendously positive changes to come!!!

I recently sent out our year-end letter, if you didn't receive a copy and would like one – please email me at: [rebecca@scgardens.org](mailto:rebecca@scgardens.org). The letter included highlights from 2009 and just some of our "grand plans" for 2010.

### 2009 Highlights:

- Planted 62 new trees in our historic orchard, now totaling 152 trees
- 4 crop fields now in full production, using seasonal rotation and cover crops
- Full Circle Farmstand opened to the public 3 days per week (Wednesday, Friday, Sunday)
- Year-round CSA program supported by 55 community members quarterly
- Santa Clara Unified School District now receiving deliveries of seasonal, farm-fresh produce

- Education program now serving 380 sixth grade students from Peterson Middle School
- Welcomed 6 fulltime AmeriCorps Members who will be providing valuable service to FCF the coming year
- Installed new packing and tool sheds
- Built (with rave reviews) chicken coop, now housing the “most-loved” flock in all of Santa Clara County!
- Delivered 150 boxes of farm-fresh produce to local shelters and food banks through our 1st annual
- “Thanksgiving in October” campaign
- Charles Street Gardens (our community garden in downtown Sunnyvale) is now at full capacity with 92 plots and a productive “food forest”
- FCF & CSG donated over 30,000 lbs. of farm-fresh produce to local families in need!
- Kicked off many exciting annual events, hosting 1,000s of community members: Earth Day Celebration, Halloween Hoedown, Harvest Gala, Thanksgiving in October

**“Grand Plans” for 2010:**

- Plant the second and final phase of our fruit orchard, bringing the total to over 300 trees on 3 acres (info on our “Adopt A Tree” program will be coming soon)
- Expand our crop fields from 3½ to 6 acres
- Double our education garden from ½ to 1 full acre
- Build an educational kitchen in garden
- Increase our CSA membership from 55 to 100
- Install a Cultural Diversity Education Garden
- Provide local shelters with 300 boxes of produce through our “Thanksgiving in October” campaign
- Most importantly, see ALL of you here at the farm!!!

To make a donation to help us achieve these amazing goals, please go to:

[http://www.fullcirclesunnyvale.org/?page\\_id=21](http://www.fullcirclesunnyvale.org/?page_id=21)

Regards, Rebecca

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## Board Buzz

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you share our optimism for 2010. As Board Chair for 2009 I would like to extend my sincere THANK YOU for your support and confidence. It has truly been my pleasure to serve the organization and community.

The past year inspired a re-focusing on things that are important and lasting, like Full Circle Farm. While it proved a very challenging year for many, Full Circle Farm made significant progress. In 2009 the board was focused on several key accomplishments to establish a strong foundation from which the organization can grow sustainably:

1. Completing a three year strategic plan
2. Hiring a permanent executive director, Rebecca Jepsen
3. Hosting our first official fundraiser, Shine on Harvest Moon Dinner
4. Establishing a Sales & Marketing committee
5. Establishing a board development process and increasing the size of the board from

three to seven members

I am so pleased with how far we've come in just a few short years and am inspired by the opportunities that continue to emerge and the positive impact we make on all those we engage.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to my fellow board members, and in particular acknowledge my officers, JoAnn Davis who served as secretary and William Moeller who served as Treasurer. I am also very pleased to announce our newly elected board officers for 2010 and look forward to continuing to work with them in the coming years:

- William Moeller, Chairperson
- Jennifer Williams, Secretary
- Victoria Armigo, Treasurer



Left to right: William, Jenny and Victoria

We maintain a great partnership with SCUSD, strong community engagement, incredible volunteers, and a small but very dedicated and hard working staff and board—all these will continue to be the keys to our success.

Once again, best wishes for a very Happy and Peaceful New Year!

Best regards,  
Lubab Sheet

*A note from William:* Special thanks to Lubab for her leadership in steering our non-profit through a critical year—she has set a great example for us all. I am excited by our prospects in the coming year, and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead as we work to realize the fabulous vision set forth by our founders.

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## Farmstand Farm Bucks

Give the gift of fresh produce!



Treat your family, friends and neighbors to Full Circle Farm's just-picked goodness by purchasing Farmstand Bucks for them. It's a great way to say "Thanks", "Thinking about You", or "I Care".

Just ask your farmstand volunteer for more details.

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### Volunteer Spotlight

We would love to showcase YOU in an upcoming newsletter!

We currently need help with volunteers to help man (or woman)our Farmstand. Winter hours are Wednesdays & Fridays 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. and Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We could also use support on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. for our CSA program.

Please email Meghan at [meghan@fullcirclesunnyvale.org](mailto:meghan@fullcirclesunnyvale.org) if you can lend-a-hand.

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### Welcome our New AmeriCorps Members!

Many of you who frequent the farm, have probably noticed the new farmers (Dart, Jonathan & Sean) who grace the fields with their enthusiasm and passion for growing food. In the last couple of months, the Full Circle Farm family has grown, now having five farmers in its ranks! The reinforcements have arrived, thanks to a grant from Americorps. During their term of service, Dart, Jonathan and Sean will help to support, as well as expand farm production here at Full Circle, while learning the ropes of being a farmer. I am grateful to have such a fantastic crew and look forward to working with them during the 2010-growing season! You can learn more about the fresh faces at Full Circle by reading their bios below, but I also encourage you to stop by the farm to meet them!

Jonathan Silverman's first farming experiences were on a 5-acre farm in Maui. Recently, Jonathan has been actively developing land based communities to offer educational community garden programs with San Francisco Bay Area Schools. He has been involved with some incredible garden projects using ground breaking permaculture design concepts and has had his hands on creating the Alcatraz Historic Gardens and Pe'ah Garden, an Organic Food Project for San Francisco Food Bank. Jonathan is excited to be working here at Full Circle Farm as a Farm Crew member.

Dartanian Kaufman became intrigued with plants and growing food through an interest in science and community activism. She worked as assistant farm manager at a youth run farm in 2000, Berkeley Youth Alternatives and was inspired to continue learning. Earning a BA in Environmental Studies from Mills College, she went on to pursue further knowledge in organic and sustainable farming through completing the Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems in Santa Cruz, CA. She is looking forward to an exiting and challenging season at Full Circle Farm.

Sean Autio is a Bay Area native and couldn't imagine living anywhere else. He is completing a Marketing and Journalism degree at San Jose State University and has been a TA at De Anza for the last four years in the psychology department. Sean is an avid backyard gardener, excelling in producing his own food. He has successfully completed classes in composting, organic growing techniques, growing tomatoes, and seed saving. As a man on many talents, Sean also has experience as an educator, teaching in various school environments for the last 10 years, including tournament level chess to youngsters on Tuesdays. He has also worked with and aided children and young adults with autism in organizing stimulating activities that help with their therapy and growth. Sean is a true asset to the farm as a farm crew member and educator.

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### The Report Card

With so many new classes and programs in the works, we welcome our Silicon Valley Health Corps educators! They join us through the Americorps service program and we are proud to introduce them to you! The Education Department welcomes two full time educators, a half

time educator, and two quarter time educators. We're not quite a complete team, so please look for updates soon! These blossoming leaders are currently engaged in building curriculum for students at Peterson Middle School, teaching 6th grade, 7th grade, and Special Day Class garden education, helping manage the student plots in our garden, develop and teach weekend classes, and provide outreach to the community. We are thrilled to have them aboard and invite all of you to stop by sometime to say hello!

Kiyoe "Kiki" Conger joins our Education Department as a full time Silicon Valley Health Corps educator. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from San Jose State University, and 10 years of teaching experience both in and out of the classroom. She has developed and managed a wide variety of curriculum for pre-school through adult levels. While she was born and raised in the Silicon Valley, she recently returned from Japan where she taught English and cultural studies for three years. She is thrilled to expand her teaching skills in a hands-on garden setting, in addition to learning more about the world of urban farming. This year, she will focus on the 6th grade curriculum and working with our Special Day classes. After her year of service at Full Circle Farm, Kiyoe will attend graduate school in Sustainable International Development.

Anna Vinitsky recently moved to Sunnyvale after spending a season as a school garden educator intern in Fairbanks, Alaska. She grew up in Port Townsend, Washington and found her way to sunny California for College. She graduated from Pitzer College in 2008 with a self-designed degree in "Connecting Communities with the Environment." Anna joins us as our second full time Silicon Valley Health Corps educator. With a background in urban gardening and education, she will work closely with our garden managers over the next year. Anna takes the lead in garden planning and management for the 6th grade, 7th grade and Special Day Class garden beds and is the lead educator in the 7th grade pilot curriculum.

David Mills joined Full Circle Farm over the summer of 2008 as a Green Thumb Corpsmen through NOVA. Since completing that professional development program, he joined our crew as a quarter time educator, focusing on teaching Special Day Classes and working with our garden crew in building raised beds for students, garden bed maintenance, and planting. As a father of two, he enjoys working with children and has been an essential part of our ongoing educational efforts with field trips, tours, weekend workshops, and our classes at Peterson. David wants to pursue a teaching credential after his year of service.

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## Upcoming Classes and Events

### **Healing Hand Salves**

January 17, 2010 @ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join us for a unique opportunity. Learn to create your very own homemade, healing salves using farm fresh ingredients!

We will visit our bees, crop rows, and garden exploring the ingredients used to make hand salves from beeswax, plant derivatives and herbs. We will discuss the healing properties of many different flowers, herbs, and plants grown right here at Full Circle Farm. Come willing to experiment, and take home some of your very own creations!

Class is recommended for those 16 years and older. For more information, or to sign up, email: [sarah@fullcirclesunnyvale.org](mailto:sarah@fullcirclesunnyvale.org)  
Class fee is \$55, (\$45 for seniors/students), space is limited so register soon!

### **Backyard Chicken Care**

February 20, 2010 @ 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Come learn everything you always wanted to know about how to care for your very own backyard chickens. Learn where to get and how to care for chicks; what you need to know to build a coop; what hens really need to be happy; and that hens don't need a rooster to lay eggs. Attend our two hour class just in time for you to plan to bring chickens to your home in spring.

Our very own "Mother Hen" Melissa Patel will be teaching the class and will be offering hand raised chicks for purchase. She will care for them until they are ready to go home to a coop.

For more information on the class or to sign up, email Melissa at:

[melissa@fullcirclesunnyvale.org](mailto:melissa@fullcirclesunnyvale.org)

Class fee is \$35; we only have room for twenty people so register now!

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### Garden Update

The Full Circle Farm Educational Garden has completed its transition from fall to winter. Our favas are emerging all over the garden and winter crops which were started last fall are just now producing. We are in the midst of transplanting lettuces, kales, collards, broccoli, and cauliflower from the greenhouse into the garden.

This is also compost building season as can be seen from the largest open compost pile we have ever had out by the garden greenhouse. But we need to build more. So please bring by winter tree prunings that you might have. We take all cuttings which are less than 2 inches in diameter. You can drop them off by the garden's west gate located at 955 Dunford Way in Sunnyvale. We will move them to the compost area. Note that black plastic bags are located by the west gate for your use.

We will be planting a berry row as the first step of our garden expansion this spring. So we will be glad to take any blackberry, raspberry, or black raspberry root clusters that you might have. Those of you who grow these berries know that they like to expand by developing new clusters and these have to constantly be dug out to keep the berries from taking over the whole growing area. If you have these, please contact us by emailing Dan Hafeman, [danh@fullcirclesunnyvale.org](mailto:danh@fullcirclesunnyvale.org). We will arrange to get the clusters from you.

Thank you for your interest in FCF Sunnyvale and happy new year.

Dan

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### Crop and Field Report

A new year brings with it fresh ideas and goals for the upcoming growing season. The crop planning process is underway, as decisions are made about what crops to grow, how much to grow and where in the fields each crop will live. Meanwhile, a lush green carpet of cover crop has spread throughout the farm fields, which will serve as food for the soil...the foundation upon which our work rests. As the cool temperatures of winter come and go, the farm crew remains busy with harvests for the CSA and Farm Stand. The little rain that has fallen from the sky in recent weeks has given life to an abundance of weeds that we must clear out of the field as quickly as we can. Other days are spent in the greenhouse, caring for tender seedlings that will be set out in the field in a few weeks, which will mark the beginning of a more rapid pace that won't slow until late fall.

Meghan Cole

Farm Manager

[meghan@fullcirclesunnyvale.org](mailto:meghan@fullcirclesunnyvale.org)

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## Fresh Picks: January

Here's what we have at the farm this month:

Broccoli  
Cabbage – Green arrowhead & ballhead types  
Cauliflower  
Chinese cabbage  
Collards  
Eggs (on Fridays)  
Honey  
Kale – Dinosaur & Red Russian  
Kohlrabi  
Lettuce – Red and green butterhead  
Mustard  
Parsley  
Spinach  
Turnips

Looking for a new way to eat cauliflower? Try this recipe for some new flavors and a different way to cook up this delicious and healthy vegetable.



### [Coconut Curry Cauliflower](#)

Serves 3

1 head cauliflower cut into florets  
1 Tbsp coconut oil  
1 Tbsp curry powder  
Pinch salt

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Toss florets in coconut oil, curry powder, and salt. Add more as needed to coat.

Place on baking sheet and roast for 15 minutes until edges start to brown and florets are softened.

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## Green Tip of the Month

Have you checked your tire pressure lately? Properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by more 3%. Every gallon saved reduces 20 pounds of carbon dioxide.

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## Stay In The Loop

[Sign Up as a Volunteer](#)

To sign up for this newsletter and receive other occasional updates, [click here](#).

**Be our Fan on [Facebook!](#)**

Full Circle Farm is located at:  
1055 Dunford Ave  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

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