A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting the work of Rooted this year! Whether you prayed for us, volunteered at one of our camps, helped plant trees, weed a garden bed, brought food from your own gardens to the free farmer's market, or donated money to our Mother's Day planting, your time, effort, and prayer was indispensable to the work we did this year!

Matthew 25:40 says "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." And with food security as our primary outpouring, you literally fed hundreds of mouths through your support of the Rooted Centre. This year we worked with over 285 kids, demonstrating how to grow food sustainably, and feeding kids straight from the Earth. I saw dozens of kids who "didn't like vegetables," eat heirloom tomatoes straight off the vine and munch kale to their heart's content—because fresh food does not taste like what you get at the grocery store!

One of the highlights this year was our "granny week" at camp, where we partnered older folks with young kids (many of whom do not have grandparents in Canada). This week, we had George teach kids how to make pasta sauce, Deb teach a crochet lesson, and Janet, Joan, and Sandra helping kids in the garden. It was a beautiful intergenerational outpouring of Christ's love in action.

In the year to come, we hope to continue many of these opportunities while providing scholarships for up to 30% of our kids. We will also start some new initiatives including planting Rooted gardens with 7 churches, expanding our school gardens, and increasing the number of weeks we offer camp.



As the year draws to a close, we would really appreciate you taking the time to consider a one-time donation to Rooted so that we can continue offering programming to every child who wants to join in learning about creation and experiencing the love of Jesus. A gift of $25 covers the cost of a new bush/vine. A gift of $250 covers the cost of sending a kid to our summer camp. A gift of $2500 covers the cost of a new garden bed to feed more kids. Whatever the gift, we do our best to steward it wisely and source products ethically. Thank you for all the ways you support Rooted!

Peace, Konnie

2026 Rooted Centre Impact Report

2026 was the first full year of operations for the Rooted Centre, and we had a wonderful first season growing! The mission "to build resilience for people and planet through theologically rooted and eco-justice focused environmental education" was lived out through partnerships with three local schools, nine churches (from Cambridge to Montreal), and through the Guelph Agrihood at Kortright Presbyterian Church, which is on track to be feeding a whole neighbourhood in the next four years.

As all of the food we produce is free, and all of the programming we offer has scholarships available, we were able to meet the need where we saw it most. We partnered with Compass Refugee Centre and Family Services of Waterloo-Wellington to offer scholarships to any kid who wanted to attend camp and offered free programming to schools that want to increase their knowledge and nurture of creation. Thanks to the dedication and work of over 75 volunteers this season, this work was possible. A few of the highlights for our first year are below:







1. Reached over 285 kids and youth with our camps, field trips, and school partnerships
2. Planted a garden at Guelph Community Christian School
3. Began the Church Cohort helping 7 congregrations plant gardens in 2027
4. Hosted 6 weeks of nature camp
5. Started a free monthly farmer's market in the Agrihood
6. Established a co-op position with U of G for agriculture students
7. Planted 100 fruit and nut trees in the orchard and 7 new gardens
8. Provided scholarships to about ⅓ of program participants