

2024 Year End Summary of Accomplishments



This year San Diego Ag in the Classroom worked to increase its collaborations with other local nonprofits and ag supporters. We enjoyed contributing to several events, and also benefited from the expertise and energy of our program partners.

We partnered once again with the **San Diego Botanic Garden** to put on our 10th Teacher Resource Fair since 2009. The event was well attended and provided exhibitors and attendees with networking opportunities and resources to support garden and nutrition education programs. There were 33 exhibitors representing the ag community, as well as organizations supporting environmental, agricultural, and nutrition education. This year we also welcomed the **San Marcos High School FFA program**, who arranged and sold cut flower bouquets.

Our Garden Education Support Program provided awards to 10 local schools this February, ranging from \$500 to 1200. The program always receives many more qualified applications than can be funded. It is our hope that an increase in donations could help us fulfil the need from all interested schools. We helped to bring awareness and build community to support our awardees. We featured Lafayette Elementary School in San Diego as our Open House showcase school this September, and took part in the school's Mini Resource Fair, which was part of the National School Gardens Summit that was held in San Diego this Spring. At Chet Harritt Elementary in Santee, we facilitated a partnership between the school and **La Mesa Sunrise Rotary** to help install owl boxes as part of a club community service project.

*Boys & Girls Club of Oceanside
Darnell Charter, San Diego
Lafayette Elementary, San Diego
Torrey Pines Elementary, Del Mar
Valley Elementary PTA, Poway*

*Chet F Harritt STEAM School, Santee
Jefferson Elementary, San Diego
Lakeside Middle FFA
Longfellow UTK-8 Spanish Immersion, San Diego
Cadman Cooking & Gdn Ed Program, San Diego*

Board members Rob Gaebe and Denise Godfrey led a Make N Take at **California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom's** annual conference. The activity, entitled "Plant Parenthood" described propagation techniques for indoor flowering plants.

SDAITC helped to bring San Diego agriculture into the spotlight by participating in the **Farm Bureau's** annual Graze at the Fields tasting & wine event in May. It was a festive occasion that united foodies & farmers to build awareness about local ag with the general public. Finally, our last event of the year was a Protea Wreath Workshop, presented in partnership with **Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers** in Fallbrook. The event sold out within 2 weeks of opening for registration. Attendees learned how to make their own holiday protea wreath and then took a tour of the farm to learn about protea plants and growing in San Diego County.



Once again we reflect on all the good that our volunteer efforts have manifested, but also that which we could have done if we had the funding. To increase its community impact, SDAITC needs to increase its fundraising capacity and cultivate collaborations with other agencies aligned with our mission. Integrating agriculture into the fabric of all schools will certainly look different in urban vs rural settings. This can include building ag awareness through classroom presentations, direct instruction in school gardens, incorporating ag into classroom lesson plans, and promoting district policies and professional development that help build ag friendly environments. We are proud of our contributions and will work toward building more capital and partnerships to strengthen ag and garden education in our region. Our future depends on it!