

The logo for 'thrive' is positioned at the top center of the page. It features the word 'thrive' in a lowercase, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized white leaf icon with a central vein and two smaller veins extending outwards.

Growing Lasting Change

Communities cultivating health, food security, and self-reliance.

2025 IMPACT REPORT



**What began
as a garden
became food for
my family,
income for my
future, and hope
for my
community.**

**Mubembe Shemigani Adolphe
Democratic Republic of Congo**



A Letter of Reflection

Dear friends and partners,

2025 was a year that both stretched and strengthened Thrive for Good. We entered the year with significant momentum, driven by partnerships, growth, and our financial position for expansion. By the end of 2025, more than 376,000 people were eating nutrient-dense food grown from their own gardens. Reading countless testimonies has taught me that it is so much more than a number. Every person impacted has a story of transformation. Each number represents a person or family that now has more stable meals, improved health, and renewed dignity. It's truly incredible.

At the same time, this year invited honest reflection. In 2019, we set a goal to reach one million people by 2025. We did not reach that milestone in the timeframe we had hoped. But what has become clear is that the model is working. Across diverse countries and contexts, communities are growing food, sharing knowledge, and sustaining change beyond our direct involvement.

This year also tested us in new ways. After a strong start, we faced significant financial pressure and entered the final quarter with a meaningful funding gap. It was a moment of uncertainty. Yet in those final months, our community responded with generosity and conviction. Together, you not only closed the gap, but you also strengthened the foundation for what comes next.

Through it all, one trend continues to stand out: increasing efficiency. Through partnerships, local leadership, and experience, each dollar is reaching more people and producing greater long-term impact.

But the most meaningful outcomes are not captured in numbers.

They are seen in households teaching neighbours. In seeds being shared. In knowledge passed from one generation to the next. This is where lasting change takes root. As we look ahead, we do so with humility and confidence. The past five years have shaped a stronger, more grounded organization. We are committed to growing this work with care, integrity, and long-term vision. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are growing lasting change.



“
Every person impacted
has a story of
transformation.”



James Woller
International Executive Director

“This is where
lasting change
takes root.”

2025 Impact at a Glance

Behind every number is a household with greater food security, improved health, and renewed dignity, outcomes built through years of investment in training, mentorship, and local leadership.



376,758
people eating nutritious food

2,842 Life Garden projects



\$20+
million USD

worth of food grown annually



130 

active program partnerships



65%+

of projects sustainable - no longer requiring funding



23 countries

1. Sri Lanka	13. Zambia
2. India	14. DR Congo
3. Cambodia	15. Burundi
4. South Africa	16. Burkina Faso
5. Kenya	17. Sierra Leone
6. Uganda	18. Ghana
7. Liberia	19. Cameroon
8. Ethiopia	20. Nigeria
9. South Sudan	21. Dominican Republic
10. Malawi	22. Angola
11. Tanzania	23. Eswatini



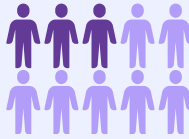
“Since I was introduced to Thrive’s farming methodology, my life has been completely transformed. For the first time, I had surplus produce to share, and even sell, to support my family.”

Member from Compassion
Pilot Project, Kenya

Growing Impact, Increasing Efficiency

Thrive for Good is reaching a level of growth where every dollar donated goes significantly further than it did just a few years ago. While funding has grown at an average annual rate of 20%, the value of food produced by communities is rising much faster.

In 2021, for every \$1 donated, our projects produced \$12 worth of food. In 2025, that number reached \$21, more than doubling impact per donation dollar in just five years. Over the same period, each project increased from supporting an average of 92 people to 125.



35%
increase in people
per project

This reflects a steady refinement of our work.

Through partnerships and economies of scale, we are reaching more people while strengthening outcomes in food, health, and income generation. We remain committed to this path, ensuring that donor support is translated into the greatest possible benefit for those who need it most.



**Impact per
donor dollar
nearly doubled**



Community Projects. A “community” may be a village, school, prison, etc. A “project” is a garden, the most common size being 1/4 acre.

Total Stakeholders. A “stakeholder” is a person who gets food daily from the garden. On average, a project has 100 stakeholders.

Donations. This is Thrive’s revenue from donations, sponsors, and grants.

Value of Food Grown. An estimate of the USD value of food grown when compared to purchasing locally.

*Adjusted to 2026 USD

Growing Food Where People Live

Since 2008, Thrive for Good has trained and equipped communities facing hidden hunger to grow Life Gardens—organic, biointensive gardens filled with nutrient-dense vegetables, herbs, and medicinal plants.

In many rural communities, these gardens are established on larger plots of land, where groups of farmers learn how to grow nutritious food, improve soil health, and generate income from surplus harvests.

These community gardens remain a powerful part of Thrive’s model.

But as the organization expanded into new regions and contexts, one reality became increasingly clear: many families facing hunger do not have access to land.

Across growing cities, informal settlements, and dense peri-urban communities, families often live on very small plots or rented land where traditional gardens are not possible. Space may be limited to a narrow pathway, a small courtyard, or a patch of soil beside the home. At the same time, these families are among the most vulnerable to rising food prices, poor nutrition, and preventable illness.



Sack Garden

Types of Gardens



Straw Bale Garden



Keyhole Garden



Container Garden

“

“Urban gardening is not simply an adaptation; it is a critical strategy for reaching families where food insecurity is increasingly concentrated.”





Rather than seeing these limitations as a barrier, Thrive began developing training specifically for small-space and household gardening.

Urban gardens apply the same Life Garden principles—biointensive growing, nutrient-dense crops, and natural soil health—but in ways that work in crowded environments. Families learn how to grow food using vertical gardens, container gardens, keyhole systems, and other compact methods that require minimal land and can function even in low-water conditions.

These gardens allow families to grow food directly beside their homes, turning unused spaces into productive sources of nourishment.

By growing food close to the kitchen, families gain more reliable access to fresh vegetables, reduce household food costs, and strengthen daily nutrition.

Urban gardens do not replace traditional Life Gardens. They expand the model so it can function across both rural and urban environments. Through field experience, Thrive has come to see that urban gardening is not simply an adaptation; it is a critical strategy for reaching families where food insecurity is increasingly concentrated.



A Garden in the Middle of Kibera

When Jimmy Nkundabatware first arrived in Kibera, Kenya, he saw what many people see when entering one of the largest urban slums in the world: crowded homes, narrow pathways, and almost no open space.



At first glance, it did not seem like a place where food could be grown.

Jimmy had previously trained with Thrive for Good in Kitale, where he spent two years learning biointensive agriculture, natural medicine, nutrition, and income generation. The training convinced him that growing nutritious food could transform communities.

But Kibera presented a different challenge.

“ Still, Jimmy believed the principles he had learned could work even here. ”



He began by partnering with a local church where a small piece of land was available. With a group of church members, he helped establish an urban garden using Thrive’s methods. What started as a small experiment soon produced enough vegetables to help feed around one hundred people.

Encouraged by this success, Jimmy began working with local schools. At Olympic Primary School, students helped establish a garden growing vegetables such as spinach, kale, beetroot, and onions.

The harvest began contributing to school meals, and many students brought vegetables home to share with their families.

Across several projects in Kibera, gardens were eventually established in churches, schools, homes, and small community spaces. Hundreds of people became involved, and many more benefited from the fresh vegetables being grown in an environment where food insecurity had long been a daily reality.

With the right training and support, even the smallest spaces can become productive sources of nourishment, resilience, and hope.



Partnerships That Multiply Impact

Thrive's growth does not depend on building parallel systems. It grows through partnership.

The most effective way to expand the Life Garden model is to work alongside organizations already trusted in their communities. These partners bring local leadership, relationships, and long-term presence. Thrive brings training, tools, and a proven model for growing nutritious food and improving health.

What began as an emerging strategy has now become one of the clearest drivers of Thrive's growth. In just five years, Thrive's number of program partners grew from 11 in 2021 to 130 active organizational partners by the end of 2025.

These partnerships do more than expand reach. They strengthen local ownership.

Rather than creating dependence on outside systems, Thrive equips partners to lead the work within their own communities. Over time, implementation increasingly sits with local trainers and partner organizations themselves. That transition is not a step back. It is a sign that the model is taking root.

Through program partnerships, Life Gardens are reaching more communities, more efficiently, and with greater long-term sustainability. This is how impact multiplies — not by working alone, but by strengthening the work that others are already doing.

Program partners grew from **11 in 2021 to 130 in 2025.**

Featured Program Partners:



Reaching Families Often Overlooked

Some families carry a burden the world rarely sees.

When a parent is incarcerated, the sentence often extends far beyond prison walls. It reaches the grandmother raising children alone, the older sibling holding the household together, and the caregiver choosing between food, school costs, and survival.

Meals become less certain. Income becomes more fragile. Dignity is strained under constant pressure.

It is into this reality that Home Harvest was born.

In 2025, Thrive deepened its partnership with Hoffnungsträger to equip families caring for children impacted by incarceration. Through this program, vulnerable households are learning how to grow nutritious food in very small spaces using sack gardens, vertical gardens, and simple organic methods.

This is more than a gardening project. It is a way of restoring stability where life has been disrupted.

Caregivers receive practical training, mentoring, and ongoing support over a two-year journey. As skills and confidence grow, some go on to mentor others.



“The project has greatly improved our household, empowered us with lasting skills, and given us hope for a healthier future.”



Hoffnungsträger provides local relationships and long-term presence. Thrive provides the methodology, training, and technical support.

Together, the partnership combines compassion with practical action.

And sometimes, rebuilding begins with something small—a garden outside the home, fresh food within reach, and a caregiver discovering they can provide for their family again.

West Africa: Establishing a New Foundation

In 2025, Thrive for Good made a deliberate expansion into West Africa, marking a shift from early relationships to a more intentional strategy focused on long-term, locally led growth.

The first entry point came through a partner in Liberia, where an early pilot demonstrated something important. Communities quickly adopted the Life Garden model, local leaders stepped forward, and the results were clear, improved food production, better nutrition, and strong engagement. These outcomes confirmed the model could have meaningful impact across the region.

With that confidence, Thrive expanded into Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Ghana, focusing not on rapid scale but on depth by identifying committed partners, strengthening capacity, and beginning to develop local trainers.

When Thrive Master Trainer Jacob travelled across the region, the journey was not easy. Long travel days and limited infrastructure were constant realities. Yet what stood out was the readiness of the people.

Partners arrived eager to learn, often preparing compost, mobilizing participants, and setting aside land before training began. They did not have everything they needed, but they were ready to begin.

Across West Africa, families are navigating rising food costs, unpredictable rainfall, and declining soil health. Many rely on vegetables grown with unsafe water sources, contributing to recurring illness. Through training, communities learned how to restore soil, grow nutrient-dense crops, and improve family nutrition while also working together.

In Sierra Leone, one women's group now harvests enough to feed their families and sell surplus produce. Another participant shared that her children, once frequently sick, are now stronger and healthier with vegetables as a daily part of their diet. These early results are modest, but deeply meaningful.

As the work progressed, one insight became clear. Long-term impact will depend on local leaders. Thrive has begun identifying and mentoring emerging trainers to carry the work forward.

Today, Thrive's work in West Africa is reaching approximately 2,000 people, a modest number, but a strong foundation. Gardens are growing, health is improving, and communities are taking ownership of their food systems.



They did not have everything they needed, but they were ready to begin.



From Survival to Opportunity in Northeast India



When the COVID-19 pandemic forced many people to return home, Mr. Thanglun Bolsom returned to his village of Ichaigojang in northeast India. Before that, he had been serving as a missionary. Back home, he turned again to farming to support his family.

Like many farmers in the region, Mr. Lun relied on traditional methods passed down through generations. He worked hard, but his farm produced only enough to feed his family. There was rarely anything left to sell, and without additional income, he could not invest in better seeds, tools, or techniques.

Each season looked much the same as the one before it.

”
Income increased from \$400 to \$2,200



That changed when he attended a Thrive for Good training delivered in partnership with InSIDE NE.

There, he learned practical techniques for composting, improving soil health, conserving water, rotating crops, and controlling pests naturally.

“It marked a significant U-turn in the way I approached farming.”

Applying these methods transformed his farm.

By dividing his land into smaller beds, planting a diversity of crops, and enriching the soil with organic compost, his harvest increased dramatically. Thrive also provided high-quality seeds and basic tools that helped accelerate his progress.

Before adopting these methods, Mr. Lun typically earned ₹20,000–₹30,000 [\$300–\$450] from a farming season. In his most recent harvest, he earned ₹143,000 [about \$2,200].



Today, his farm produces more vegetables than ever before, including eggplant and okra that continue to generate steady income.

Even more meaningful to him is the pride of producing chemical-free food that people increasingly seek out.

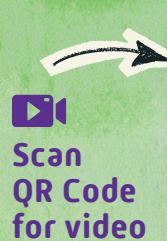
“When people know our vegetables are fully organic, it really draws them in.”

Encouraged by his success, Mr. Lun has begun sharing seeds and knowledge with other farmers by starting a small seed bank.

What began as one farmer learning new techniques is now strengthening an entire community.

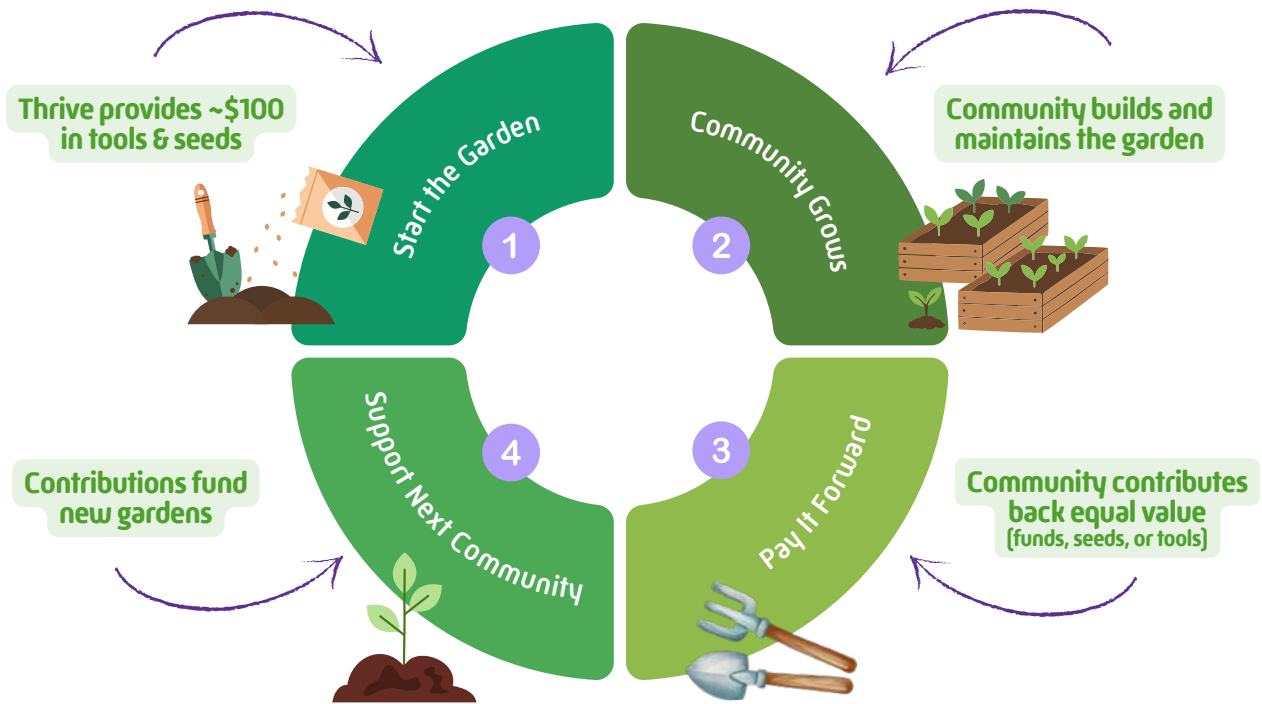
“Organic farming isn’t just a method—it’s a commitment to a better future.”

Watch Mr. Lun’s Story



Strengthening Sustainability

The Pay It Forward Pilot



In 2024, Thrive introduced the Pay It Forward model to explore more sustainable ways of growing community gardens. Instead of relying solely on donor funding, communities receive initial support in tools and seeds and, over time, contribute back an equivalent value helping fund new gardens in other communities. Alongside this, a Cost Sharing model was also piloted.

Tested throughout 2025, the pilot launched 55 projects, with 17 communities already supporting new ones. While early results are encouraging, the pilot highlighted key challenges, including the need for clearer communication, better tracking of contributions, and reducing confusion between models.

Results

1

55 Projects Started

2

17 Already Paid Forward

“Communities are not only recipients of support, but active participants in extending it.”



When Plans Change: Lessons from Eswatini

Not everything goes according to plan. In 2025, Thrive entered the year exploring a promising opportunity in Eswatini. Early conversations suggested the potential for integration into a national network, creating a pathway for large-scale impact. While there was strong initial alignment and verbal support, these discussions did not progress into a formal partnership.

At the same time, two existing partners paused expansion plans, and another stepped away entirely. Within weeks, the path forward had shifted. This became a test of one of Thrive's core values: we adapt, we learn, and we move forward. Rather than waiting for large-scale opportunities, the team made a decisive shift.

They focused on strengthening local relationships and activating networks already within reach.

One key insight emerged: alignment is important, but sustainable progress requires clear commitments and the capacity to execute.



The response was to simplify and decentralize. Trainers were equipped with a clear framework for launching Life Garden projects and encouraged to engage directly with community leaders, churches, and local groups.

The response was immediate. Across the country, trainers began initiating partnerships and launching projects within their own communities. With a grant from the Taiwan Africa Vegetable Initiative, 25 Life Garden projects were established during the remainder of 2025, ensuring continued momentum.

What began as uncertainty became a moment of clarity.

Today, Thrive's work in Eswatini is more locally driven, more adaptable, and less dependent on any single pathway.

We adapt, we learn, and we move forward.

Key lessons from **ESWATINI**

1 Government adoption often progresses more slowly than anticipated

2 Effective partnerships require patience, trust, and ongoing alignment

3 Rapid expansion can undermine long-term sustainability

4 External funding volatility demands adaptable program design



My children
are healthier.



Stewardship and Governance

In October, our Board gathered in person for the first time.

Until then, every meeting had taken place virtually. While those meetings were productive, they lacked the depth of connection that comes from being together. This retreat created the space to change that.

Over several days, more than strategic alignment emerged. There was a noticeable strengthening of clarity, trust, and shared responsibility for the future of Thrive for Good.

We worked through key priorities, tested new ideas, and refined our path forward. Important decisions were made and critical questions explored with both rigor and openness. Just as meaningful, however, were the moments outside of formal discussions.

It was striking how quickly a group meeting in person for the first time could feel so aligned in purpose. Conversations extended beyond agendas. There was laughter, late evening discussions, a few games of ping pong, and even time spent watching the World Series together. These moments helped build something foundational. They strengthened relationships and created a level of unity that is difficult to achieve in a virtual setting.

An experienced external facilitator joined for part of the retreat and observed that it is rare to see a board and leadership team so aligned, engaged, and thoughtful in their stewardship. That perspective affirmed what many of us were already sensing.



Strong governance is shaped not only by good decisions, but by trust, shared commitment, and time spent together.

We left with renewed confidence, not only in the direction of the organization, but in how we will move forward together.

As Thrive continues to grow in both reach and responsibility, this retreat marked an important milestone. It served as a reminder that strong governance is shaped not only by good decisions, but by trust, shared commitment, and time spent together.

The impact of these days will continue to shape our work in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Bolton".

Dale Bolton
Board Chair



The Strength of Our Community

At the beginning of 2025, Thrive entered the year with strong momentum. The previous year had closed ahead of target, partnerships were expanding, and there was a clear path for continued growth. As the months progressed, however, the broader funding environment began to shift. Across the sector, organizations faced increasing pressure as commitments were delayed, reduced, or placed on hold. This was driven in part by wider structural changes in global development funding, including significant disruption within USAID and other major institutions. The resulting uncertainty created ripple effects across international NGOs and the donor community supporting them.

Within this context, Thrive began to feel the impact. By mid year, the gap between funding and planned growth had widened. By Q4, the organization faced the largest funding gap in its history and needed to raise over 55% of its annual target in the final months of the year.

By year end, Thrive not only met its targets but surpassed them.



Private home dinner event

Rather than scaling back, Thrive remained anchored in its 2025 theme of Courageous Faith, continuing forward with conviction in both the need and the mission, even without full financial clarity. What followed was not the result of a single campaign or initiative, but the collective response of a committed community. Donors, partners, and supporters stepped forward in meaningful ways. Some increased their giving. Others introduced new relationships. Many chose to continue supporting the work despite uncertainty in their own environments.

By year end, Thrive not only met its targets but surpassed them.

This outcome reinforced a defining truth. The strength of Thrive for Good does not rest in any single funding source, individual, or strategy, but in a community of people who believe deeply in the mission and respond when it matters most.

In many ways, Thrive's financial journey in 2025 reflects both resilience and trust. The outcomes achieved were not guaranteed, but they were made possible by a community that continues to stand behind the work, especially when the need is greatest.



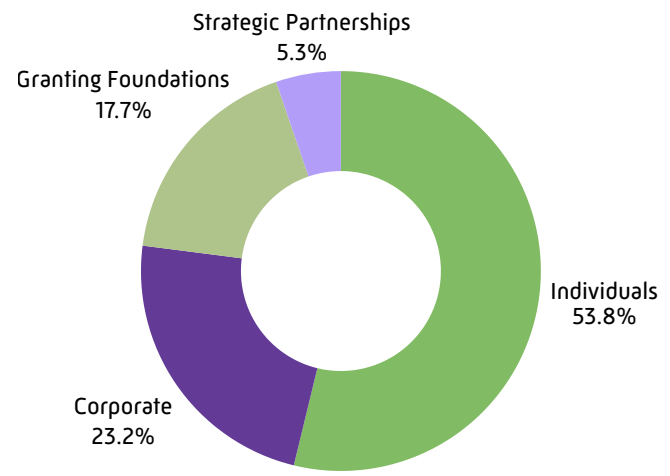
Vancouver Stories of Hope event empowering 15,000 women, children, and men

2025 Financials

Sources of Funds:

Individuals	\$770,661
Corporate	\$333,013
Granting Foundations	\$253,858
Strategic Partnerships	\$75,261

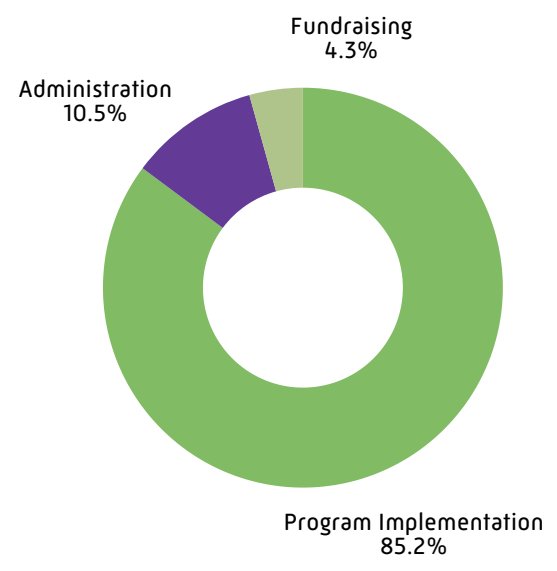
Total Revenue: \$1,432,793



Allocation of Funds:

Program Implementation	\$1,146,624
Administration	\$141,201
Fundraising	\$58,123

Total Expenditures: \$1,345,948




Cash Position:

January 1, 2025	\$388,413
December 31, 2025	\$512,766

To be carried into the next fiscal year for organizational and program expansion.

All numbers on this page are CAD





To read our full 2025 financial audit, please scan the QR Code or visit: <https://thriveforgood.org/financials/>

With Deep Gratitude

To every donor, partner, trainer, and community member, thank you.
Your trust has allowed Thrive to grow carefully, responsibly, and with integrity.
Together, we are growing lasting change.



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