### Green Fields Progress Report

Green Fields is an organization of concerned parents who seek to transform the lunches served at elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the Tri-State area. The Green Fields Fresh Lunch Program is funded by a grant from the National Alliance of Organic Farmers.

Our five-year plan is designed to gradually introduce students, parents, and school district staff to the basic principles of fresh meal planning. Throughout the program, we will work with school district staff to minimize the availability of unhealthy foods in campus vending machines. We have just completed the first year of our program, which featured a weekly salad bar at each school, with students alternating responsibility for preparing and stocking the salad bar offerings.

The purpose of this progress report is to evaluate the effectiveness of our program and to present ideas for the next four years. We surveyed the parents, students, and staff at all thirty participating schools. This progress report presents the results of these surveys.

# Year One: What Went Right?

The weekly salad bars were extremely popular with students and parents. By the end of the year, participation among students reached 90% at all schools. The majority of school staff was happy with the salad bar plan, and the training program was well-received. Students and teachers seemed to enjoy their duties overseeing the salad bar, and many teachers were able to work the program into their math curriculum (estimating portion sizes, calculating ingredient cost, and so on).

# Year One: What Went Wrong?

Nearly a third of the participating schools lacked adequate preparation and cold storage areas at the beginning of the year. As a result, nearly $500 worth of fresh produce was wasted in the first month. Parent volunteers from Green Fields had to spend considerable hours in some schools to set up suitable food preparation areas. At two schools, it was necessary to purchase and install used refrigerators. Many middle school teachers complained about the restricted access to soda machines.

# Participation Rates

The following chart illustrates the rates of participation in the Green Fields Fresh Lunch program in the first year. Surprisingly, the participation rate in area high schools was nearly equal to the participation rates for elementary schools.

[Insert Excel chart]

# Expenses

The following table summarizes the actual expenses for the first year of our program.

[Insert Excel worksheet]

# Current Membership

Alison Jorgenson, Program Director for Green Fields, reports that membership in the Green Fields organization has increased from 200 members last year to 350 this year. The Board of Directors consists of the following members:

* **Chair:** Eli Judge
* **Co-Chair:** Cayla Quade
* **Secretary**: Nalani Thao
* **Treasurer:** Marti Sundra