



# PLANET BOSTON

Place of Learning with Autism individuals in a Natural Environment

## 2020 Annual Report







# Contents

Dear Friends

Mission and Vision

Pilot Program in Sudbury, MA

2020 Highlight

Looking ahead to 2021

Thanks and Acknowledgement

# Dear Friends,

It is our great pleasure to share the PLANET Boston's first report with you.

In 2020, I was able to take a big step towards my long-time dream of launching PLANET Boston. It was an exciting challenge to develop and grow the farmland. Thank you to our generous volunteers and advisers as we ended the year with an enormous amount of harvest. We were able to share most of the harvest with our friends and supporters. I felt delighted and encouraged every time I received messages, feedback, and photos of delicious food using our vegetables.

Our goal is to create a **care farm** working with individuals with ASD. We will invite them to the farming activities such as seeding, watering, harvesting and even eating the vegetables. We will continue to expand our program that offers meaningful, comfortable and fun opportunities.

Noriko Ochiai  
President, PLANET Boston



## Mission

PLANET Boston creates a community where individuals with Autism Spectrum Difference (ASD) reach their full potential through productive and meaningful activities in a natural environment, contribute to the society, and fully enjoy their lives.



## Vision

At PLANET Boston, we advance new values to rediscover, acknowledge, and respect unique and extraordinary talents of individuals with Autism Spectrum Difference (ASD), rather than focusing on their challenged abilities. We envision a diverse and sustainable society where everyone respects each other.



## 2020 Pilot Program in Sudbury, MA

Our pilot program was a big success! This was our very first step to achieve our mission. Thanks to the generosity of the Verrill Farm as we were able to start our farming practice as a pilot program using a part of their farmland this year.

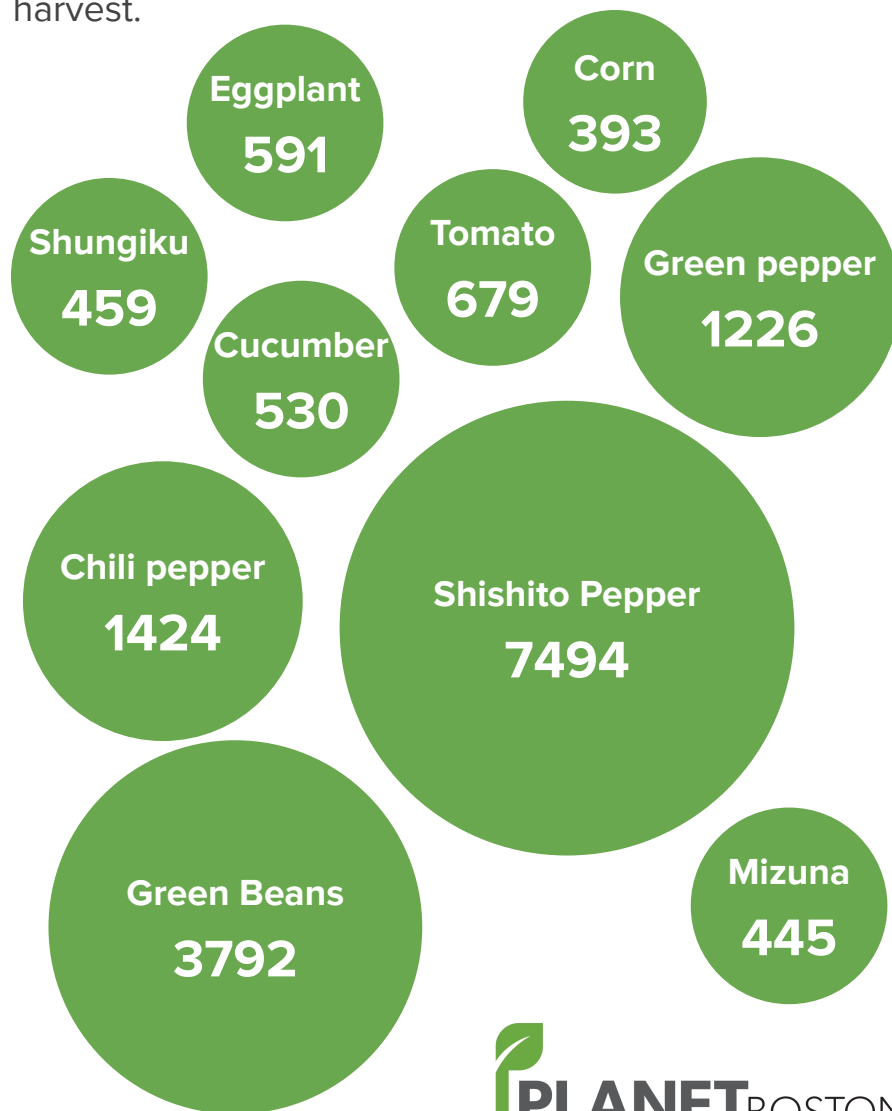
Under advice and training of the Sunbow 5 foundation, we followed the no-input style of sustainable farming (Nature Cultivation). We started cultivating the land in March, then planted and harvested through October. Our focus was Japanese vegetables such as Daikon, shishito pepper, and Napa cabbage.

The rich soil of the farmland grew our vegetables and flowers more than we expected.

We learned a lot about farming practices from this pilot program. Farming activities for 2020 has closed and are now planning for 2021 programs.

## Our Harvest in 2020...

We grew 30+ different vegetables, fruits and flowers. Followings are some of our biggest harvest.





# 2020 Highlight

## 9 Families with ASD

We worked with 5 individuals with ASD and their families. They **enjoyed farming and leisure activities**. We had **in-depth conversations** on future programs with the families.



## 150+ Visitors

We welcomed 150+ visitors to the farm and **raised awareness of ASD**.



## 70+Vegetable Delivery

We delivered the crops to our friends and supporters. It **brought joy during the COVID-19 pandemic**.

## Looking ahead to 2021 farming season

PLANET Boston was registered as nonprofit organization in MA on January 22nd 2021. Based on our 2020 experience, we will expand the farming practice and continue to explore ways to make it more efficient.

We will also move to the second phase of our pilot program in 2021. In order to take steps to create a community with individuals with ASD, we will invite people with ASD to the farm and study their interests and needs. Through this pilot program, we will explore what we can offer and how we can operate the future programs.

As a nonprofit organization, we will start fundraising efforts in 2021. We will continue to seek supporters and donors for future expansion.

## Thanks and Acknowledgement

Our pilot program in 2020 was made possible by our many supporters. We are grateful to our donors, volunteers, and visitors to our farm.

### **Special Thanks** (in Alphabetical order)

Assawaga Farm

Sunbow 5 Foundation

Verrill Farm

