



December, 2021

Dear friend:

We hope this letter finds you healthy and happy this holiday season! Last month, we planted fruit trees on four continents to symbolize our commitment to planting tens of thousands more at those project locations during the coming season. All with the goal of helping create a world full of abundance, in which food forests fill public parks, community gardens, schools, hospitals, and backyards to ensure everyone has access to organic, sustainable, perennial nutrition right at their fingertips. A place where families enjoy picnics under the shade of thriving fruit trees, breathe the clean air they generate, watch birds and wildlife foraging amongst the canopy, and are asked only to bring an appetite for the fruits growing overhead. [A world in which we come together in collective selfless action to plant trees now so that future generations can benefit from the beauty and bounty they provide.](#)

Our team saw such selfless action in the Peruvian Amazon just a few weeks ago, where we worked in six communities to plant 6,000 fruit trees. In the lovely river community of Timicurillo, we met one special family which had been eagerly waiting for three years to participate in our program. As a result, their neighbors decided to hold the planting event at their homestead rather than a public space in order to make their dream of a fruitful orchard come true. It was so inspiring to work together with the entire community to improve the livelihood of one family. This is the magic of fruit trees and the kindness they create. [All for one, and fruit trees for all!](#)

As an organization, our greatest joy is to see others benefit from the fruits of our collective labor. We were fortunate to experience this during last summer's project in El Salvador. On an unusually hot afternoon in the village of San Francisco Amatepe, we gathered with local families to present a tree planting and care workshop. Soon after, we retreated to a nearby shade of mango trees to escape the midday sun. The group was thirsty, so some coconuts were gathered that were growing just above us. As we sat there appreciating the trees for all they provide us, we learned that both the mangos and coconuts were planted as part our program several years ago. [We also learned that all 24 participating communities in the region are reporting economic profits from the initiative, providing essential livelihood for families in need.](#) That moment was a powerful reminder of why we are all committed to doing this important work together, which would not be possible without your support.



Along the way to this season's planting totals, we were excited to receive updates from previous planting partners as well as formal recognition from local governments such as Los Angeles County and Mococa (Brazil), where trees from our programs are now providing thousands of pounds of fruit for communities. Every year, we share a couple of these stories so you can see exactly how you are making a difference each and every time you support our work (many more examples can be found on our social media sites throughout the year).



Orchard update – "A food forest is the only way to describe our campus ... an oasis in an urban desert. A place where butterflies, bees, birds, and all manner of wildlife frolic and dance among the seasonally changing colors. A place where one feels at peace, where the rich smell of ripe figs, guavas, loquats, and apples perfume the air. Every school deserves to be a food forest." –Eddie Cortes, Horticulture Specialist at Environmental Charter School in Los Angeles, which received an orchard donation in 2008 as part of our Fruit Tree 101 program



Orchard update – "We recently had an elder pass by and mention he hasn't seen fruit trees like ours in years, we picked a ripe apple and gave it to him, grateful that our urban orchard can inspire and delight."
–Heather Fenney, Co-Executive Director of the Paul Robeson Community Wellness Center in Los Angeles, where each tree is producing about 20-25 pounds of fruit

We are excited to report that in 2021, we planted and distributed 43,825 fruit trees in six countries (United States, Uganda, El Salvador, Guatemala, Brazil, and Peru). We often remind community volunteers that once we plant trees together, we are friends for life—and we are so grateful to have made so many friends this year. We know this is true for those who support our programs in other ways as well, including our donors, who make all this work possible in the first place. We are so very grateful to have you as a friend for life and hope you'll consider contributing to our upcoming projects so we can create a beautiful "fruiture" together.

Please donate today knowing that for the eleventh year in a row, more than 90 cents of every dollar contributed was used in our life-sustaining tree planting programs.

For a greener, cleaner, healthier planet,



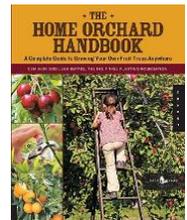
Cem Akin, TreeEO & Co-creator





Donation Options

- ✓ Mail check to: FTFP, PO Box 81881, Pittsburgh, PA 15217
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- ✓ Enclosed: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$1000 Other \$ _____
- Optional: For donations of \$50 or more, receive FTFP's *Home Orchard Handbook* at the following address:



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