



# Put a Ora Food Security Fund Provider Report For North East Valley Community Development Project Inc NATO- 23-02259

Final report: 14 May 2024

the  
**VALLEY**  
project

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# 1. How have you increased access to affordable, nutritious kai in your community?

At the end of 2023 we pivoted all our Puta Ora funds into the Ōtepoti Community Fruit Harvest (ŌCFH) in order to make the most impact. We had trialed one other project (Backyard Buddy Gardening) and investigated a Dry Goods Co-operative, but both projects were more challenging than initially thought.

During the 2023 season the volunteer team of Ōtepoti Fruit Harvest picked 1250kg of fruit, and this year we aimed for 2000kg to be picked and redistributed.

With the Puta Ora funding investment we were able to purchase ladders and picking aprons, giving safer access to more fruit, and pay 1.5 FTE co-ordinator time giving more time/brain power to both picking/coordinating volunteers/redistribution as well as some trials towards making the ŌCFH financially sustainable.

With a team of over 124 volunteers and 297 volunteer hours, we were able to pick and distribute over 4235kgs of fresh fruit in the 2024 season. This fruit was donated by property owners, and given away for free to the community, through Kiwi Harvest, Super Grans, Marae, and local pātaka kai. It provided over 12,071 meals, according to Kiwi Harvest's online meal calculator tool. In addition to this we trialed: some ticketed, and non ticketed preserving workshops to allow access to preserving knowledge and preserved take home items; a weekly neighbourhood surplus stall during February and March to allow people to share backyard produce and increase easy access to low cost kai; a juice pressing day with 170L pressed for community members; funded an apricot picking day in Cromwell - increasing access to this summer fruit through to North East Valley Community at a very low purchase price.





## 2. What progress has been made towards achieving your vision for a Food Secure Community?

The vision is to have a flourishing local food production system that can support our community nutritionally and economically. The Valley Project as a whole has a vision of a connected, thriving, resilient community.

This project shows great progress towards connecting the community to local food and redistributing nutritious fresh fruit to others in the community. We picked fruit from over 59 different properties around Ōtepoti. Many properties had owners that were unable to pick the fruit themselves, or they had more than they could use, and they wanted to share it with others. This sharing supports a more resilient connected community as well as reducing food waste and food related costs.

Harvested fruit was made accessible to others (free or at very low cost) through our weekly surplus stall, through distribution points, and at preserving workshops and the Harvest Festival. The fruit was given back directly to the community - Roughly, each property was able to provide over 204 meals ( $12071 \text{ meals} / 59 \text{ properties} = 204 \text{ meals per property}$ ).

We trialled small economic ventures under The Valley Project banner and gained some other ideas from our mentoring session that may be trialed next season or suggested for uptake to community members as small business ventures. Our Harvest Surplus stall attracted regular customers who said they shopped with us due to low prices, locality and to support The Valley Project. The stall also had regular sellers- including a 10 year old boy who was always happy to see his rhubarb sell fast and to make some 'pocket money' for his other hobbies.

This year we were able to grow the fruit tree property database by 35 new properties, and volunteer database to 53 volunteers, and our Harvest Festival attracted 150 people, which supports a more connected community.

### 3. Did this funding support a sustainable initiative that can support the community in future?

During the 2023 season we redistributed all the fruit picked free of charge, in 2024 we trialled some initiatives to enable the ŌCFH to make some money towards next season's coordination. We hosted two ticketed preserving workshops, a weekly neighbourhood surplus stall during February and March where we sold some of the fruit harvested, including apricots (accesses through a new Cromwell contact) and provided a space for the community to sell produce to our stall; a Harvest Festival where we had a ticketed jam tasting competition and juice pressing.

We also supplied 5kg apricots to a small organic juice producer, and 180kg apples to a Distillery in a trial relationship- providing fruit for a percentage of profits.

These trials brought in \$2,000.

The Puta Ora funding also allowed for purchase of two orchard ladders, scales, four picking aprons and a picking pole tool which will be useful in future seasons.

We also used some of the funding to bring in a mentor from Village Agrarians who gave some ideas for both on and off season ways to make money for the project - such as providing a pruning service.

### 4. Did you work collaboratively with other community stakeholders? Who did you work with?

We worked with Our Food Network who funded 0.5 FTE of coordination. We also paid Village Agrarians for mentoring services, and worked with small businesses Ronia and Pippi and Dunedin Craft Distillers - providing them with fruit.

We worked with several different community organisations to coordinate the distribution of fruit: St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank, Presbyterian Support Otago Food Bank, SuperGrans, Taieri Network, Yours Cafe, Mosgiel Food Bank, The Red Cross Dunedin, Arai Te Uru Marae - Pātaka Ora, Kati Huriapa ki Puketeraki, The Bowling Club, Dunedin Parents Centre, Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School, and KiwiHarvest- who have a network of their own that includes 40+ different community organisations.

We picked pears with North East Valley Normal Primary School pupils and community members supported our Harvest Festival as musicians or volunteers on the apple pressing production line.



## Fruit Distribution Table

	Est Kgs Delivered	% of total
Sharing Sheds	656.9	15.51%
SuperGrans	153.3	3.62%
PSO	90	2.13%
SVDP	67	1.58%
kai stall	194.4	4.59%
KiwiHarvest	1133.7	26.78%
Red Cross	30	0.71%
Preserving	225	5.31%
Pataka Ora	416	9.83%
Distillery	100	2.36%
Dunedin Parents Centre	50	1.18%
The Bowling Club	243	5.74%
Yours Cafe	100	2.36%
Harvest Festival	375	8.86%
Other:	400	9.45%
	4234.3	



### 5. What were the highlights/achievements?

The biggest achievement was collecting over 4235kgs of fruit (we collected around 1000kgs in 2023 season). We really enjoyed working with Tamariki - picking at the local North East Valley Normal School with the kids, and providing a fruit bowl for the tamariki at The Dunedin Parents Centre for the weekly playgroups and antenatal classes. Our Harvest Festival (celebration of the volunteers, property owners and recipients) was also a huge success with live music, community stalls, jam making competition, workshops, seed swapping, apple pressing and kids activities. It was a wonderful community event that people really enjoyed.

It's also great to recognise that 60% of the properties that we picked from were new to our program this season. It correlates directly to the growth potential this project has.

## 6. What were the challenges you faced?

Distribution was easily the biggest challenge. Fortunately the co-ordinators had their own vans which could help transport ladders, boxes and fruit. Without this transporting the fruit would have been very logistically difficult and ultimately not as successful. Also, many organisations do not want huge quantities at a time, and our co-ordinators did not have the time allocated to distribute to multiple organisations around the city at once, therefore it was easy to distribute to KiwiHarvest who then were able, with their resources, to distribute to the greater community. Time was also a challenge, fruit harvesting is unpredictable, it's uncertain when the fruit will be ready to harvest and how much. This made logistics also a challenge regarding accurately gauging the number of volunteers needed, timing of pick, and quantity expected.

## 7. Please include or attach a report on expenditure against the Grant income.

# Profit and Loss against budget

## North East Valley Community Development Project Incorporated For the period 14 May 2023 to 14 May 2024

Funding is MSD Puta Ora.

	ACTUAL (YEAR-TO-DATE)
<b>Grants</b>	
Grants Received - Ministry of Social Development	33,903.00
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>33,903.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>33,903.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Contractor	17,537.71
Expensed Equipment	695.00
Freight & Courier & Postage	8.69
Supplies - Event/Activity	1,387.25
Supplies - General	62.44
Supplies - Volunteers	863.42
Wages & Salaries	11,785.08
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>32,339.59</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>1,563.41</b>

## 8. Optional: Do you have any anecdotes, good news stories or photos you would like to share?

- <https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/scavenging-seeds>
- <https://www.odt.co.nz/the-star/vast-fruit-harvest-saved>
- OAR radio show w Tammie?
- Page 7 of March 2024 Valley Voice (below)

### FRUIT HARVEST PROJECT EXCEEDS TARGET!

The Community Fruit Harvest project is in peak fruit picking season and with all hands on deck! If you're not familiar with our program, we are collaborating with The Valley Project and Our Food Network using funds from MSD and DCC, with the goal of building a food resilient community by picking fruit from individual gardens and distributing it back out to our neighbours. At this time (beginning of March), we have picked just over our goal of 1.5 tonnes, hitting 1.7 tonnes! And we still have so much more to go! We have picked from over 29 properties, with help from over 33 volunteers, and worked over 114 volunteer hours.

One of the best parts of this program is getting to tour some amazing gardens around Dunedin. One that stood out, in particular, was at a plum pick in Evansdale last month. Not only did we collect nearly 100kgs of plums, but we also got to hear the wonderful story from Nia around the history of the property and her connection to it.

Nia's father purchased the property in the late 60's as a bare piece of land, and he slowly added fences and planted rhododendrons, and then the orchard with multiple varieties of plum trees. He also built a double garage on the site, and dug out terraced areas behind the shed. His long-term plan was to build commercial glasshouses and start a nursery as he had extensive plant knowledge. He worked at the Dunedin Botanical Garden for all of his working career. The farmlet has stayed in Nia's family since.

Nia's father taught her from a very young age how to garden, how to make good compost, and how to propagate. He taught her and her

brother all about foraging the land and sea, and what was safe to eat in nature. As a little girl she would enjoy deadheading the rodos. Her favourite food growing up was fresh homekill of heart, kidney, and liver with a side of her dad's homemade plum sauce, of course.

Nia's fondest memory from the farmlet was, after a busy day shearing and dagging sheep, her dad taking her and her brother across the road to the Evansdale Glen Tearooms and buying a filled roll, a bag of chicken flavoured Ripple chips, and a bottle of fizzy. Then they would sit at the top of the farm and eat the goodies, take in the beautiful view, watch all the tourist buses arriving at the tearooms, and simply watch the world go by.

Nia's father's farmlet is an amazing example of a well planned, established orchard, with different plums ripening at all stages of the seasons. While Nia fondly remembers her dad's plum sauce, now others in the community will get to experience some of this goodness as we have distributed her plums around Dunedin. Thank you Nia for your generosity and for sharing your stories with us!

Dunedin is full of wonderful stories and memories around the fruit trees. Some of the trees we have picked go back several generations, and will probably continue to outlive most of us! If you're considering planting a fruit tree, imagine the number of people it may be feeding in 60 year's time!

We'd love to meet you. Get in touch and come pick some fruit with us ([harvest@ourfoodnetwork.org.nz](mailto:harvest@ourfoodnetwork.org.nz)), or share your fabulous trees with your community! -- Karena Garratt, CFH Coordinator



### ŌTEPOTI COMMUNITY PANTRIES

**N.E.V.**

262 North Rd.

**PINE HILL**

Hislop St.

**WAITATI**

Waitati Library

**MORNINGTON**

27 Benhar St.

**ROSLYN**

22 Ross St.

**MACANDREW BAY**

488 Portobello Rd.

**CENTRAL CITY**

12 Russel St.

**CENTRAL CITY**

403 High St.

**ST CLAIR**

41 Hargest Cres.

**ST KILDA**

Bathgate Park

**CAVERSHAM**

336 South Rd.

**CALTON HILL**

73 Riselaw Rd.

**OCEANVIEW**

863 Brighton Rd.

**GREEN ISLAND**

35 Koremata St.

**WALDRONVILLE**

73 Viscount St.

**FAIRFIELD**

24 Edith St.

**FAIRFIELD**

10 Sickels St.

**BRIGHTON**

1020 Brighton Rd.

**MOSGIEL**

74 Argyle St.

**MOSGIEL**

65 Murray St.

**WESTWOOD**

576 Brighton Rd.

**HARWOOD**

On main road





the  
VALLEY  
project