



October 19, 2023 | 4 Marcheshvan, 5784 | Q3: July – September

Welcome to the second year of Basadeh: GrowTorah Quarterly Field Reports, where we highlight our work at GrowTorah every three months. We use these to show you the impact your dollars have on our community and celebrate together with you. In addition, we want to hold ourselves accountable to you, our stakeholders. Please share your feedback with us!

This was our busiest summer ever! Between our college internship, summer Camp Anafim, school Anafim training, Camp GrowTorah, and Fall prep, we felt the strength of the sun and energy the past 3 months. Thanks to all of your support, our team continues to grow to support this work.



6 INCHWORMS SPEND 8 WEEKS LEARNING AND GROWING

Dedicated in memory of Rabbi Joseph Friedman Z”l, the GrowTorah Inchwormship brings together college-aged interns from across the country for 8 weeks of learning, achdut, and professional development. Under the management of our very own Inchwormship Director Spence Weitzen, these students spent time building new gardens, maintaining our current ones, volunteering at local farms, and learning Torah from GrowTorah’s board members and advisors.

“I had so much fun this summer. The people I worked with (both staff and Inchworms) were just amazing and always made everyone feel included and appreciated. GrowTorah balances having fun and being serious very well. We get a lot done, but also the staff and other Inchworms never fail to make me laugh.”

–2023 GrowTorah Inchworm

“I felt a real sense of accomplishment after a day's work, especially after the garden builds. I also felt that I made some great relationships with people.”

–2023 GrowTorah Inchworm





WELCOME SHIMON!

Shimon Steiner joined the GrowTorah team as our newest Garden Educator. Shimon has years of experience as an educator, most recently at Mesivta of Clifton and Bruriah High School. He also has a background of impressive gardening, facilities management, and as a skilled repairman. He has already begun to help us improve many of our garden spaces. We are very excited to welcome Shimon and his diverse skillset to the team.



120 CAMPERS AT 6TH SUMMER OF CAMP GROWTORAH

Camp GrowTorah celebrated its 6th summer with 120 campers over 2 weeks in August. We are so appreciative of our hosts at Cropsey Community Farm for their partnership for so many years! 40% of 2023 households used our sliding scale payment option, which is how we offer scholarships, all thanks to the generosity of the Dr. Mina Ann Gillers A”H Memorial Fund.

“I sorta wish my school could be at GrowTorah camp” –Real quote from a camper this summer.



8 CAMP ANAFIM PARTNERS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

We are proud to report that this summer saw a significant expansion to our Camp Anafim program, with thousands of children at Jewish day camps across North America enjoying hands-on environmental Torah lessons led by GrowTorah-trained Garden Educators! We are deeply grateful to our partners at Moshava Alevy in southern California; Neil Klatskin Summer Camp at the Kaplen JCC; Union Y Camp; Westchester Summer Day; and Moshav Ba'ir's Long Island, MetroWest, New Jersey, and Toronto locations for helping us bring GrowTorah to their communities.



11 SCHOOL ANAFIM SCHOOL PARTNERS ACROSS 7 STATES

In July, Farmers Sara and Shoshi led the 3rd annual training seminar for 4 new school partners joining the Anafim program: Hebrew Academy Miami (RASG), Beren Hebrew Academy in Houston, Ohr Chadash Academy in Baltimore, and Kohelet Yeshiva in Philadelphia.



17 SHORASHIM SCHOOL GARDEN PARTNERS IN THE NYC METRO REGION

Early September is technically still summer and our school partners got back in session with Grow Torah’s garden educators teaching weekly lessons. Over the summer we visited each site weekly to maintain the gardens, and harvest for tzedakah, and now that our students came back for the school year, we work with them weekly as well. We welcome our newest partners: Manhattan Day School, The Ramaz School, Riverdale Temple Nursery School, and The SAM School.





105 GUESTS CELEBRATE HARVEST FEAST IN THE FIELDS

The skies cleared just before old and new friends joined us at the beautiful Cropsey Community Farm for a farm tour, field games, herbal honey infusions, and a delicious farm-to-table banquet in celebration and support of another year of GrowTorah programming across the country.

We heard inspiring remarks by 2023 Inchworm—and gifted orator—Rivka Krause, who shared how GrowTorah's summer program has enriched her college experience and helped ground her passion for environmental stewardship in Torah learning. We also heard from our talented chef and mixologist, Itta Werdiger, and enjoyed the rare privilege of dining with many of the farmers who grew the produce for our feast.



GROWTORAH WELCOMED TO COHORT 5 OF PROJECT ACCELERATE

GrowTorah has been selected as one of 15 Jewish organizations to participate in Project Accelerate. Project Accelerate is a two-year, cohort-based program that builds the capacity of high-performing, innovative, small, and mid-sized organizations in the Jewish community that are poised to enter a new stage of growth and development. GrowTorah is grateful for being chosen to participate in Project Accelerate and looks forward to sharing with you how this program has positively influenced our organization.