

August 27, 2020

Granny's Attic
P.O. Box 1004
Vashon, Washington 98070
grannysattic@grannysattic.org

Dear Granny's Attic,

First of all, thank you for your generous support of VIGA's Food Access Partnership over the years. Since 2016, grants from Granny's Attic have helped us increase our distribution of VIGA Farm Bucks to Vashon seniors. This has meant more Vashon grown fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy and meat on the plates of some of our most vulnerable community members.

Enclosed please find our revised grant application. This very challenging time has required us, like everyone, to ramp up our program to provide the maximum amount of service to the community. A major fundraising effort in March raised over \$21,000 in donations to supplement our grant funding. With these additional funds we were able to increase our program budget to over \$29,000. We have distributed over \$23,000 in VIGA Farm Bucks through our partners and provided almost \$5000 to the Senior Center for direct food purchases for their ramped-up lunch delivery program, and to VYFS' Latinx Outreach program for direct food delivery to families.

We are asking you for a grant of \$2,500 to support our distribution of VIGA Farm Bucks specifically to island seniors. Granny's renewed funding this year would help improve the health of Vashon and Maury's large 65 and over population by increasing our VIGA Buck and direct food distribution while supporting island farms.

Applicant Organization: Vashon Island Growers Association
P.O. Box 2894, Vashon, WA 98070
foodaccesspartnership@vigavashon.org
Title of Project: VIGA's Food Access Partnership

VIGA is a tax exempt, non-profit organization. Our EIN is [redacted] and for your generous support of our community!

. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

VIGA Food Access Partnership

VIGA's Food Access Partnership (FAP) ~ Grant Proposal

The Need

Fresh fruit and vegetables are critical to health and well-being especially for older citizens whose more limited diets necessitate higher nutritional content and increased fiber. Unfortunately, some island seniors find it difficult to get enough of these vital foods. In a recent survey of Vashon Food Bank customers who include a large percentage of seniors, 91% said they would use more fresh produce if cost were not a concern. While many island organizations are working to address the health of our seniors, they are not necessarily focused on getting more fresh, local food onto our seniors' plates. That is where VIGA's Food Access Partnership comes in.

The Food Access Partnership's History and Focus on Health

The Vashon Island Growers Association began its Food Access Partnership in 2009 to address these challenges and others limiting access to local food. Our mission has always been to make fresh, local food available to everyone in our community regardless of income, and to ensure that the farmers growing the food make a healthy living. In the 11 years of VIGA's Food Access Partnership, Fresh Bucks, VIGA Farm Bucks and Market Bucks have contributed over \$50,000 to VIGA's farmer vendors, with 2019 being the highest at \$11,692. We are well ahead of that figure in 2020.

The Food Access Partnership is an all-volunteer team of VIGA members. We raise our funds from foundations, local organizations like Granny's, community events and individual donations. Over 88% of the money we raise will be distributed through our partner organizations as either directly purchased local food or VIGA Farm Bucks. Our only non-program expenses are bookkeeping and printing.

This year, VIGA Farm Bucks are being distributed through ten community organizations who have direct contact with islanders in need of food assistance: The Senior Center, Interfaith Council to Prevent Homelessness (Rent and Utilities Subsidy), Vashon Youth and Family Services, the DoVE Project, La Comunidad Latina de Vashon, Vashon Household, the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank, Backpack Pantry, Vashon BePrepared and the Vashon Island School District. These community partners distribute the \$2 Bucks directly to islanders in need as well as to purchase food for their own meal programs. In addition, we match the WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) summer produce checks with VIGA Farm Bucks at 100%, doubling recipients' purchasing power. Our program budget has grown from \$1,500 in 2014 to almost \$30,000 in 2020.

VIGA Farm Bucks are redeemable at VIGA-member farm stands and our on-line marketplace, Vashon Fresh. The farmers are reimbursed full value by VIGA for the returned currency. The feedback from farmers, community partners and those receiving the VIGA Bucks has been overwhelmingly positive!

My family has been very much appreciative of receiving the local farm vegetables. I rely heavily on the food bank for my household food necessities, but we typically do not see

fresh, local items as often. This unique and helpful service of providing the low income people with the chance to be able to support local farms greatly benefits our community.

Our Focus on Health Supports Granny's Mission

Since March of 2020, our team has worked with our partners to respond to the significant growth in food insecurity with the advent of the pandemic. Mindful that the cancellation of this year's Farmers Market would have a devastating effect on our local farms, we looked for ways to expand the VIGA Farm Buck program to support both our farms and our island community. We are asking Granny's for a total grant of \$2,500 this year to help meet these needs by supporting our outreach specifically to island seniors through our community partnerships with the Senior Center, Vashon Household, the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank and the match for Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks. This \$2500 would fund 62.5% of our planned VIGA Farm Buck distribution to these organizations whose clients include a large percentage of island seniors.

This grant application supports the mission of Granny's Attic, "to contribute to health care for residents of Vashon Island by fostering the health-related charitable and educational needs of the community" by directly supporting the health of island seniors. With Granny's help in 2019 we distributed \$6300 to the Senior Center, Vashon Community Care, Vashon Household, the Food Bank and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program match. In 2020, we will be able to vastly increase our VIGA Farm Bucks distribution to these organizations and we will work with them to ensure that the individuals receiving the bucks have the information and support they need to use them.

Not only does the partnership help to improve the wellness of Vashon-Maury residents by increasing the amount of healthy produce they eat, it helps our community partner organizations build stronger relationships with their clients. With the advent of the COVID19 pandemic, the Senior Center delivers fresh cooked lunches to any senior on the island who asks. For many, it is a critical supplement to their diets, especially the fresh produce. As kindly noted by the Senior Center's Executive Director, Catherine Swearingen:

The Vashon Senior Center is grateful to the Food Access Partnership for supporting our meals program. VIGA Farm Bucks help us stretch our food budget, provide an economical pathway to locally grown food, and support Vashon farmers. We used our 2020 allocation primarily to purchase meat and vegetables for our congregate meals. Because of FAP, we stretched our food budget despite rising food costs. Thank you Food Access Partnership!

VIGA's Food Access Partnership, and specifically the assistance we hope will be funded by a renewed grant from Granny's Attic, is directly focused on improving the health of Vashon and Maury island residents through improved nutrition – a focus central to Granny's mission.

We understand that COVID19 has had a significant impact on Granny's as well. Figuring out how to do our work in this environment has challenged all of us. We are glad to see you up and running and we thank you for your consideration.

**Vashon Island Growers Association
Food Access Partnership
2020 Budget**

INCOME

Grants:	Hendrix Foundation (received)	\$8,000
	Wild Woods Foundation (received)	\$1,500
	Washington State Department of Health SNAP Market Match	\$2,000
	Granny's Attic (REQUESTED)	\$2,500
	 Grant Total	 \$14,000

General Donations \$ 21,535

TOTAL INCOME \$35,535.00

EXPENSES

Administration:	Bookkeeping	\$2,100
	Printing (VIGA Bucks and brochure)	\$2,500
	 Admin Total	 \$4600

Programs:	WIC and Senior FMNP Match	\$ 800
	SNAP Market Match	\$ 2,000
	VIGA Farm Bucks Total	\$ 22,250
	Direct purchase of local food for Meal Programs (Senior Center, VYVS Latinx Outreach, La Comunidad Latina de Vashon)	\$ 4,750

VIGA Farm Bucks/direct food purchase with major focus on Seniors:

- Senior Center \$2,500
- Vashon-Maury Island Food Bank \$ 500
- Vashon Household \$ 800
- Senior FMNP Match \$ 200

Program Total \$29,800

TOTAL EXPENSES \$34,400