



# re:vision

INTERNATIONAL™



*Empowering local actions that  
lead to global sustainability*





LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of everyone at Revision International, it is my great honor to publish our 2009 Annual Report and proudly display the accomplishments of our first full year in operation. Joseph Teipel and I founded Revision International in 2007 upon the belief that global warming, resource depletion, and extreme poverty are symptoms that give rise to creating a new vision for society.

We chose a difficult time to start a nonprofit organization; but the urgency of our times calls for bold, courageous action. What we lacked in experience, in funding, and in resources, we made up in passion and spirit. The fact that we hung on through one of the worst financial recessions is a testament to the support of individual donors who believe that our work is vital. Even when it looked like we wouldn't survive the economy, we never doubted our mission and purpose. Instead, we learned how to be resilient. The lessons we have learned in lean times will make us a more effective organization in the long-run.

The seeds of change we could only envision in 2007 are just now beginning – quite literally – to grow. We successfully launched our first program, Re:farm Denver, in an effort to make our food system sustainable and equitable, by increasing the access and affordability to healthy, organic produce in low-income areas. We are teaching people to grow their own food in order to feed their families and strengthen their communities.

Food is a powerful social bond that shapes society. Yet the way that we produce food in this country is at war with nature, with our communities, and with our bodies. When you look at what we eat and the entire process of getting it to our plate, it's no wonder we have breakdowns in our environment, our health, our economy, and our interpersonal relationships. We, at Revision, believe that changing our relationship to food will have a domino-effect in so many of the other areas we address. And food brings us together to share a meal, to discuss issues, and to put the solution in our own hands!

Relationships – our relationships with each other and our relationships with nature – are at the core of Revision International. Collaboration drives our approach to social change, and has led us to develop several rewarding partnerships. We're proud to partner with LiveWell Westwood, a community coalition, to grow the capacity of a community that lives in a food desert - an area without healthy food - to develop their own solutions.

We live in an unprecedented time of global ecological imbalance caused by human activities. We need to rethink the values, stories, attitudes, and habits that have resulted in a disconnection from one another and from nature. We need a vision of a world that is possible when we allow the best in our humanity to come forth.

I am optimistic about our future, because our actions, no matter how small individually, build a collective momentum and power that can change the course of history. Revision International may not be the beacon on the hill, but we certainly are a light in the darkness helping to illuminate the path ahead.



*Eric Kornacki*

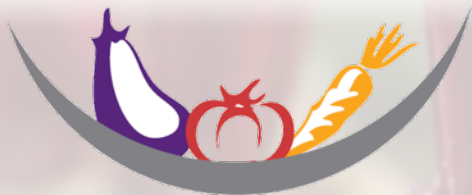
Eric Kornacki  
Executive Director, Co-Founder  
Revision International

Board of Directors

- Joseph Teipel — President**
- Angela Schreffler — Vice President**
- Kathryn Miles — Treasurer**
- Jessica George — Secretary**
- Don Leach — Board member 2007-present**
- Jon Reiling — Board member 2008 - present**
- Michele Hart — Board member 2009-present**
- Virginia Pitts — 2009 Vice President**
- Chuck Watkins — Board member 2007-2009**
- Glenn Fee — Board member 2007-2009**



Board of Directors Development Weekend, January 2010



re:farm™

D E N V E R

LOCAL FOOD REFORM



*Our personal choices about how we eat have a big impact on the environment. In light of the problems with our agricultural system and the connection to climate change, the organic and local food movement are growing around the country. However, the majority of low-income communities don't have access to this food.*

Revision International launched its first community-sustainability program in 2009, *Re:farm Denver*, to make healthy, locally grown organic produce accessible and affordable for marginalized communities.

Through our model, we help address the environmental, social, economic, and

health injustices facing low-income communities, and work with them to develop the capacity to create their own solutions. This means putting ownership and the power to make decisions into the hands of the people.

The result is that we are empowering people to produce and distribute food in their community, by the community and for the community. The outcome is improved health, reduced environmental impact, and increased self-sufficiency. This is the first step towards community food security and a sustainable and just society.

### Successes in 2009

- Partnered with LiveWell Westwood and teachers at Kepner Middle School to develop a thriving community production garden.
- Worked with 7 low-income families who learned how to start an organic garden to feed their family.
- Helped grow over 2200 pounds of organic produce within Westwood, with food reaching over 150 residents.
- Held 14 youth farmers markets, involving over 20 youth.
- Participated with Slow Food Denver and Denver Urban Gardens Youth Farmers Market Coalition, a network of 18 school markets that sold over 10,000 pounds of produce to 2300 customers.
- Mentored and employed 9 at-risk teenagers in urban agriculture internship program.
- Received support from over 100 volunteers.
- Led hands-on urban agriculture training and education for 50+ people.
- Taught over 20 Garden Club Students.



## Impact

- 100% of families are going to continue program in 2010.
- 100% of families said they saved money by having a garden and have better access to healthy food.
- 100% reported an increased ability to provide food for their families without making sacrifices in other areas.
- 80% reported that their garden provided at least 40% of the produce they consume.

## Media

### Denver Post, September 14th

*"Food injustice is maybe one of the most hidden injustices that plague these communities.... [and] keeping people trapped in a cycle of poverty and poor health,"* says Eric Kornacki, whose Denver-based nonprofit, Revision International, works on a local level toward global sustainability. *'You're going to be pulling weeds, but you're not here to pull weeds. You are here to address an injustice, learning to be change-makers for your community,'* Kornacki [tells the teens involved in the

garden club and internship program,] *'If they can grow food and feed themselves and their community, they can fight that injustice.'*"

### GreenPrint Denver August Newsletter:

"Some Denver communities are 'food deserts' – communities that do not have easy access to fresh, healthy produce. Revision International, through Re:Farm Denver, began working in low-income urban communities to create organic vegetable gardens for people to not only grow the food they were missing in their diet, but to provide education about gardening and health.... People are learning valuable lessons about sustainability, responsibility and food security.....The gardens provide a sense of pride that is seen across the smiling face of six-year-old boy exclaiming that the papas (potatoes) are getting big. They are a simple solution that utilizes all of the greatest qualities a neighborhood has to offer."

### Colorado in Company TV Interview

Revision International was featured on Colorado in Company's "Everything Green" segment.

*"Many challenges face our world. One of those issues involves our environment. Strong patterns of production and consumption are causing devastation, lack of resources, and species extinction. That's why Revision International is on the move the help change that."*

Eric spoke about the power each individual has to change the world, and how any action, even one as simple as gardening and growing your own food, can make a difference.

*"I was very impressed by your knowledge and agricultural skills, but even more so by the warmth you received at each home we visited. This is a huge compliment to you and confirmation that you are doing good, honest work."*

-- Denise Stepto, Marketing Director, Greenprint Denver







*“Colorado is ready to lead the nation in the new energy economy.... I thank Revision International and Focus the Nation for its commitment to Colorado and our nation’s clean energy economy.”*

– Senator Michael Bennet

# Programs: Education, Inspiration, Action

*One of the the theories of change behind Revision International, is the belief that education alone won’t create change; an individual needs an act of inspiration or a moment of obligation to take action and create change.*

## Sustainability Education

Revision International initiated the start of several education campaigns in 2009, focused on food and agriculture issues, consumerism, climate change, and clean energy.

On Earth Day, we encouraged people to measure their environmental footprint with a very in-depth carbon footprint calculator to quantify how many earth’s would be required for everyone on the planet to live the same lifestyle. The average was over 3.5 earths - a scary number!

We are excited to announce that in 2010, Revision International is partnering with the Northwest Earth Institute to initiate sustainability discussion groups in communities throughout Denver! These courses provide education around a variety of sustainability themes, and feature group support, dialogue, and personal reflection that make them a powerful transformative tool!

## Focus the Nation

Revision International worked with Focus the Nation, a nation-wide movement, to hold a clean energy summit in Denver. Our event “Climate Change, the New Energy Economy, and

Job Creation – What’s Happening in Denver?” drew buzz from the national movement as we pulled together a diverse group of community members, experts and elected officials. We received national press in the Huffington Post; sadly, however, our event was snowed out in a heavy April blizzard!



### Elected Officials

These elected officials signed on to support the work of Revision International and Focus the Nation:

- Denver Councilwoman Peggy Lehman
- Denver Councilman Charlie Brown
- CO State Representative Beth McCann
- CO State Representative Rollie Heath
- CO State Senator Joyce Foster
- Congressman Ed Perlmutter
- Senator Michael Bennet

### List of Speakers and Panelists

- Kelly Causey, Executive Director  
*Mile High Youth Corps*
- Thomas Clark, Chair,

*Department of Planning and Design  
College of Architecture, University of  
Colorado at Denver*

- Brian Carlin, Sustainability Project Manager,  
*International Center for Appropriate Sustainable Technology (iCAST)*
- Paul Lopez, Denver City Council
- Doug Linkhart, Denver City Council
- Senator Mike Kopp
- Senator Morgan Carrol

## Pledge to Protect the Planet

On Earth Day 2009, RI created a personal pledge to inspire and challenge people to not just celebrate the earth for one day, but to do so for an entire year by pledging to make lifestyle changes.

The most popular commitments were:

- Join a community supported agriculture program (CSA) from a local farm.
- Compost
- Decrease consumerism
- Use reusable shopping bags
- Volunteer to protect the planet

In 2010, RI is planning to get 250 personal pledges! We will be providing support for individuals who pledge, and connecting them to ways to take action in their community.





# Awards, Nominations & Events

- Making Connections, Earning Recognition

## Patagonia's Voice Your Choice Award

The clothing company Patagonia, recognized as an environmental leader in its field, holds an annual campaign to recognize the grassroots environmental organizations in the area where their stores are located.

RI was nominated along side Groundworks Denver and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, two long-standing and well recognized organizations - an honor that we were nominated along with them!



Joseph, Jessica, and Eric receiving check from Patagonia Denver employee Claire Braam

Voting was done in-store by customers and employees, with each organization having one day to campaign in-person. It was a tight race, but RI won the award for Best Environmental Grassroots Organization and received \$2,500 from Patagonia! We are honored and extremely grateful!

entrepreneurs launching new social change organizations that deliver bold, high impact solutions. Out of 1200 submissions, RI made the first cut and was one of 300 applicants to move on to the second round. Unfortunately we didn't move on to the top-10, but we were motivated by how far we did make it!

## Echoing Green

In 2009, RI applied for the prestigious Echoing Green Social Change Fellowship, which supports outstanding emerging social

## NAU Grant for Change

RI was nominated in NAU's Grant for Change, a \$10,000 award supporting those that instigate lasting, positive change in their communities. The public voted online to select their top 9 projects out of 294 nominees. On the final day of voting, RI had received hundreds of votes and was in the top-5 highest scores. In a very dramatic and tense day of final votes, we barely slipped out of the top-10 and thus didn't move on to the final round of voting.

## Green Apple Earth Day Event



Revision International and Rock the Earth organized Denver's participation in Green Apple Festival Volunteer Day - the largest nationwide volunteerism for Earth Day. We led a team of almost 75 people on a two-day community garden build at Kepner Middle School. With RI's lead, this garden has since become the community-training center and urban farm in Westwood, providing an opportunity for residents to learn how to grow their own food, volunteer and earn food share credits, and participate in various urban agriculture workshops.

## Green Festival



Denver was host in 2009 to Green Festival, the biggest sustainability fair in the country. Revision International shared a booth with the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, and we educated Festival goers about Re:farm Denver. People flocked to our booth to make newspaper seedling pots to start out seeds indoors! A great hands-on demonstration that informed people about our program and taught them a very environmentally friendly way to garden!

## Save the Planet Save Money



At the Aurora Democrats "Save the Planet Save Money" forum, Executive Director Eric Kornacki gave a passionate speech about the inspiration behind Revision International. Here is an excerpt from his speech, called The Character of Society: "We must act with fierce urgency to develop new paradigms, new philosophies and institutions, and develop a higher level of consciousness. We cannot expect to meet the challenges before us with the same level of thinking that created them in the first place."

## Colorado Proud School Lunch Day



Revision International received special recognition on Colorado Proud School Meal Day - a day proclaimed by Governor Bill Ritter to celebrate Colorado agriculture and to educate schoolchildren about healthy eating - for our work teaching youth how to grow food! The Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture, John Stulp, toured our garden at Kepner Middle School, along with local media, Colorado farmers, the Director of Denver Public Schools Health and Nutrition, and many community members. Afterwards we feasted on a locally-sourced lunch made by several professional chefs!





# Fundraiser Events

*Building Community, Growing Support*

## Last Frost Fundraiser Dinner

Our annual spring fundraiser, the Last Frost Dinner, was held in the beautiful back yard permaculture garden of Board member Chuck Watkins. He led an inspired tour of his garden while acclaimed vegetarian chef Tess Challis prepared a *vegan* menu based off of Chuck's garden. What a wonderful surprise for the 50+ attendees – no one missed the meat! Rachel Cleaves, Project Director of LiveWell Westwood, and

Marcella Saenz, a Westwood resident, talked about the impact of Revision International's work, and Executive Director Eric Kornacki followed up with a speech on food and environmental justice.

Denver. Over 80 attendees mingled while enjoying wine from Balistreri Vineyards, beer from New Belgium Brewery, and an amazing spread of food catered by

Catering Consciously – inspired from the Refarm Denver gardens! Almost 75 businesses donated goods and services for the silent auction, which raised over \$3,500!

## Second Annual Silent Auction for Sustainable Alternatives

Revision International's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction for Sustainable Alternatives was another huge success.

This year's theme *Grow Our Gardens*, developed by Gaia Creative, highlighted the tremendous impact of Re:farm



## Whole Foods Market Wristbands

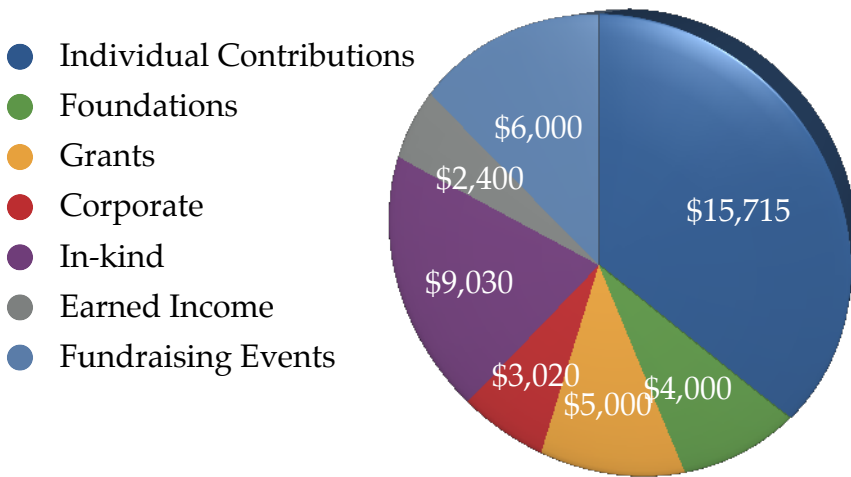
Whole Foods Market on Colfax came up with a very creative fundraiser to support Re:farm Denver - wristbands made from recycled materials branded with

"Re:farm Denver - Local Food Reform." The store donated \$1 from each wristband, raising \$500 to support our gardens!

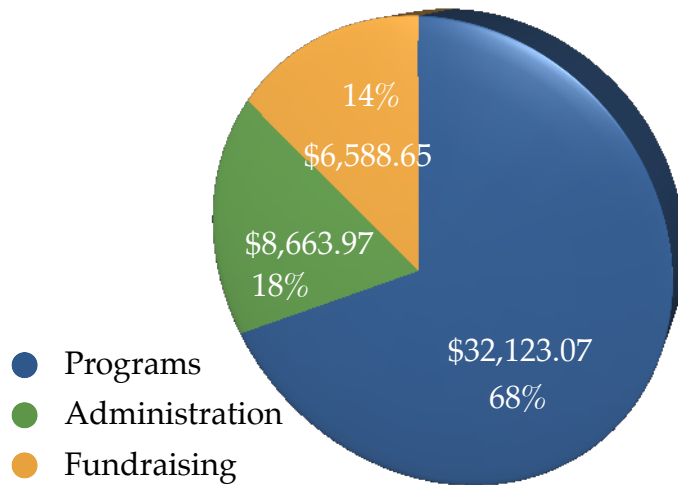


# Financial Report (prior to closing 2009 books)

2009 Income by Class



2009 Expenses by Class





# In Appreciation

The following individuals, businesses, and foundations have generously supported the mission of Revision International.

## Grants & Foundations

Aldridge Family Foundation \$3000  
 Christopher Gardner Foundation \$1000  
 LiveWell Westwood \$5000

Kathryn Miles  
 Mark & Gaye Jenkins  
 Mark & Krista Overly  
 Michele Hart & Jason Page  
 Pam & Brad Vanderpool

## Re:Steward \$100 - 249

Bill Oliver  
 Brian Rowles  
 David Wechsler  
 Ford Church  
 John Braaksma  
 Jordan Green  
 Joseph Lee  
 Kris McKee

## Businesses

Boulder Creek Events \$340  
 Patagonia Denver \$2500  
 Whole Foods Colfax \$500

Lizzy Aldridge  
 Michael George  
 Nancy Reichman  
 Paul Hairsine  
 Rick & Julie Kornfeld  
 Robert & Molly Schneider  
 Roberta Oliver  
 Ryan & Sara Brennan  
 Stan Kornacki  
 Sylvester Houston  
 Todd Fleming  
 Terry Bertin & Valerie Moore  
 Valerie Vigil

## Individual Donors

### Founder's Circle \$1000+

Charlie & Kim McDaniel  
 Chuck & Amy Watkins  
 Don Leach  
 Eric Kornacki  
 Joseph & Ashley Teipel  
 Rip & Vicki Mobus

### Re:Patron \$500 - 999

Barry Rosenberg

### Re:Sustainer \$250 - 499

Barbara Masoner  
 Beth Panek  
 Jason Oliver  
 Jessica George

## Volunteer Support

Austin Murphy  
 Carrie Murphy

Jack Ziegler  
 Kassie Tibbot  
 Kathryn Redmond  
 Lindsay Herron  
 Mark Vigil  
 Sara Hebert  
 Stan Kornacki  
 Westwood community

## Business In-kind Support

A to Z Rentals  
 Argus Fest  
 Balistreri Vineyards  
 Boulder Creek Events  
 Bovine Metropolis Theater  
 Caroline Delano Fine Art  
 Castle Marne Bed & Breakfast  
 Catering Consciously  
 Caveau Wine Bar  
 Chase Heilman Photography  
 Colorado Symphony Orchestra  
 Comedy Works  
 Common Era  
 D Bar Desserts  
 Dardano's Flowerland  
 Denver Art Gallery  
 Denver Art Museum  
 Denver Botanical Gardens  
 Denver Center for Performing Arts  
 Denver Urban Gardens  
 Denver Water  
 Denver Zoo  
 Dragonfly Eco Goods  
 EcoMetro Guide  
 Envirofriendly Printer  
 EDUN Jeans  
 Encore/Black Pearl  
 Events Gallery at 910 Arts  
 Frame de art  
 Fruition Restaurant  
 Gaia Bistro  
 Gaia Creative Design & Marketing  
 Gallop Café  
 Garfield Estates & Winery  
 Gluten Free Bake Shoppe  
 Grant Family Farms  
 Great Divide Brewing Co.  
 Great West  
 Heaven Nails and Spa  
 Independent Records  
 Jon Reiling Personal Training  
 Kaiser Permanete  
 Kaladi Brothers Coffee  
 Kuulture  
 Landmark Theatre  
 Little Raven Vineyards  
 Lloyd & Maxwell Wine & Spirit  
 Lovely Confections Bakery  
 Lucky Strike Lanes  
 Marczyk Fine Foods  
 MCA Denver

Mile High Bikram Yoga  
 Minuteman Press  
 Mona Lucero  
 New Belgium Brewing  
 Northwest Earth Institute  
 On a Lark Boutique  
 Pajama Baking Company  
 Patagonia Denver  
 Perpetual Clothing  
 Plastic Chappel  
 Potager Restaurant  
 Qi Athletic Club  
 Revolution Cleaners  
 Root Down  
 RTD  
 Savory Spice Shop  
 Snooze an A.M Eatery  
 Suzie Schnell Photography  
 Sweet Life Nail Bar and Lounge  
 Tables Restaurant  
 Talulah Jones  
 Teatulia  
 The House of Commons Tea  
 The Shoppe  
 The Squeaky Bean  
 Trattoria Stella  
 Unity Boutique  
 Vine St. Pub  
 WaterCourse Foods  
 Wen Chocolates  
 Whole Foods  
 Wines off Wynkoop

## A Vision for a New Future



Revision is poised at the threshold of an exciting year. With outstanding individual support, community buy-in, and on-the-ground reputation, Re:farm Denver has tremendous momentum.

As we begin 2010, we are excited to announce many new partnerships - such as with the North West Earth Institute - with whom we are launching a powerful new program in community-based sustainability education. We will be engaging groups who have historically been left out of the conversation on sustainable living and work with them to develop a vision for sustainability, generate capacity, and create community action plans. As we reinforce our model of Education, Inspiration, Empowerment, and Action, our vision is to develop a network of community initiatives throughout Denver.

To guide this growth, Revision's Board of Directors is intentionally evolving to better represent the communities we serve, and to enhance our internal capacity. The end of 2009 saw founding Board

Members Chuck Watkins and Glenn Fee, along with past-Vice President Virginia Pitts, close out their terms and transition into advisory roles. We warmly welcomed new members Angela Schreffler and Michele Hart, who bring amazing talent, experience, and passion to the Board. This transition has instigated a review of our practices, management and oversight, and our diversity, representation, and cultural competency. 2010 is gearing-up to be a formative year for Revision International!

Once again, thank you so much for your support. Revision would not be able to work in the under served communities of the Denver-metro area without you and we look forward to your continued support in this new year.

*Joseph Teipel*  
 Board President, Co-Founder Revision International



# Empowering local actions that lead to global sustainability



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