



Tandi Family Farms Victory Garden Project

Proposal Submitted to The Rotary Club of San Leandro by Tandi Family Farms

Date: March 26, 2025
Name of Organization: Tandi Family Farms
Street Address: 120 Peralta Ave
City, State, Zip: San Leandro, CA 94577

Project Title: Victory Garden Project
Contact Name: Andrea Gorham
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Contact Email: andrea@tandifamilyfarms.org
Website: www.tandifamilyfarms.org
Tax-Exempt ID: 99-1736690

1. Organization's Vision, Mission, and/or Purpose (word count = 150)

Vision: Tandi Family Farms (TFF) envisions a world where cultivating food nourishes diverse ecosystems, people, and communities in an endless cycle of abundance.

Mission: To inspire and empower people to live in harmony with nature through immersive farm-to-table experiences with food that is truly good.

Population Served: Based in San Leandro, CA, TFF serves individuals of all ages and families from all walks of life with a focus on residents of, and community-based organizations serving, San Leandro.

Purpose: In 2025 TFF's Victory Garden Project will establish 40 Victory Gardens in Alameda County; 25 will be in San Leandro. This grant will fund expenses related to the San Leandro gardens. In addition to the individuals, families, and organizations that will house the gardens, our project will impact thousands more San Leandro residents and visitors who will benefit from the beauty the gardens add to our community and the produce they grow.

2. Project or New Program Service Area - outline where the majority of clients reside and/or which communities will be impacted as a result of funding
(word count = 243)

The requested funds will be used exclusively for the 25 Victory Gardens in San Leandro. These Victory Gardens will serve 20 San Leandro families and countless other San Leandrans through the Victory Gardens that will be installed on the premises of the nonprofit organizations that TFF is partnering with in 2025. These organizations include [The Boys and Girls Clubs of San Leandro](#); [Davis Street Community Center's Garfield Child Development Center](#); [James Baldwin Academy](#), and [The Leap Center](#). TFF is also raising funds to install a Victory Garden at [Building Futures' shelter](#) in San Leandro.

Each of these partner organizations will provide the produce grown in their Victory Gardens to the children, youth, and individuals and families they serve. They will share any excess produce they grow more broadly with those in the San Leandro community who experience food/nutrition insecurity. Further, community-based organizations that house Victory Gardens will provide those they serve with opportunities to learn how to grow organic produce and cook healthy meals with it.

Once the gardens are installed in 2025, they will be self-sustaining with the support of the individuals, families, and organizations where they are housed. Thus, the requested funding will be a one-time expense. TFF's staff and volunteers provide ongoing pro bono consultation to Victory Gardeners to support them in maintaining their Victory Gardens. The community of Victory Gardeners in San Leandro is continually expanding; the pool of volunteers eager to support other Victory Gardeners is continually growing.

3. Total number of people to be served by this grant in 2025: 1,000

4. Grant Request Summary (word count = 706)

Background: Origin of Tandi Family Farms

Our request is for support for Tandi Family Farms' (TFF's) Victory Gardens Project (Project). The seeds of our project were sown a century ago, in 1925 when the Tandi Family immigrated from Italy to the U.S. and settled on Bay Farm Island in Alameda. Giovanni Tandi, in whose honor TFF is named, was a generational farmer who instilled his family's ancestral vocation in his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Soon, Giovanni and his family moved to San Leandro where they became deeply rooted in the community. Andrea Gorham, Giovanni's granddaughter and TFF's Co-founder, was born and raised in San Leandro and worked in San Leandro Unified School District for nearly two decades. TFF's Co-founder, Renata Browne, also comes from a family of farmers. She is passionate about environmental stewardship and

teaches sustainable business classes part-time at San Francisco State University. Upon Giovanni's passing in 2024, Andrea and Renata co-founded TFF to continue his legacy.

Roots of the Victory Garden Project

Giovanni's love of growing his own food and nurturing his family and community through the food he cooked is the inspiration behind TFF's Victory Gardens Project. Just as the original Victory Gardens were established to bolster food production during World War II and served as a vital tool for empowering individuals and families to grow their own sustenance, TFF's Victory Gardens Project has a closely related purpose. It fosters a spirit of self-sufficiency among home gardeners and community-based organizations serving children, youth, and families including those experiencing food insecurity and who have limited access to fresh produce.

Impact

The Project began with ten (10) Victory Gardens in the spring of 2024 – including in individual apartments, family homes, community centers, and housing projects. These Gardens are now thriving. In 2025, TFF expanded its budget and reach, and welcomed an additional 40 Victory Gardeners. Among these are long-standing San Leandro-based organizations that are establishing Gardens to benefit those they serve: The Boys and Girls Clubs of San Leandro, Davis Street Community Center's Garfield Child Development Center, James Baldwin Academy, and The Leap Center. TFF has plans to partner with other San Leandro organizations, including Building Futures, to create Victory Gardens to benefit those they serve.

The Project transcends basic gardening. TFF strives to enhance access to organic produce while nurturing a sense of stewardship of the land and resilience and self-sufficiency. The Project educates San Leandro residents in how to cultivate their own food, engage with nature, and build community. TFF empowers Victory Gardeners through hands-on learning about how to grow food in partnership with nature. For example, Victory Gardeners learn about the importance of healthy soil, which is fundamental to healthy produce and ensures that the produce grown is healthy and consumable. The support Victory Gardeners receive from TFF staff gives them confidence in their ability to be successful gardeners. They are finding joy and gaining confidence in growing their own food, and are learning about farming and agriculture, how to care for the land, what is good nutrition, and so much more!

There is overwhelming evidence that these activities enhance physical, mental, and social well-being; improve the environment; and bring beauty to homes, neighborhoods, and the community as a whole.

Request

TFF is funded by grants and individual donations. The total cost of the Project in 2025 is shown in the budget below. A majority of the funds have been raised. We are requesting a grant of \$5,000 for expenses related to Victory Gardens that are located in San Leandro with a focus on our community partner organizations' gardens, as these will have the greatest impact on San Leandro residents. The requested funds will be used for phase 2 of the Project in 2025: to

provide ongoing support to the Victory Gardeners, and to support the fall harvest and fall planting.

We will recognize the Rotary Club of San Leandro's generosity with mentions in a variety of venues including:

- TFF's newsletter (300+ subscribers)
- TFF's social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn - combined following of 1,300) and website
- Flyers distributed at San Leandro community engagement events
- Mention on flyers distributed at TFF's fundraising events e.g., Pasta Feed dinners (300+ attendees/event, including San Leandro community and business leaders, individuals)

5. Amount requested and detailed budget of the proposed project or new program

Tandi Family Farms (TFF) is a small San Leandro-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves our local community including through its Victory Garden Project. Founded in 2024, TFF operates on a lean budget and raises funds through events and outreach including through its newsletter, social media, and website, and communications at San Leandro community events. TFF's budget is largely derived from individual donations, most of which are given via its GoFundMe site; and private and community foundation, as well as local government, grants. Through our Victory Garden Project, and the many community members who are touched by it, TFF is building a movement to bring our community together around our mission and vision, which is shared by so many San Leandro residents. TFF does this by teaching community members how to design, build, and sustain Victory Gardens.

The table below shows the budget for the 2025 Victory Garden Project. Much of the \$61,250 cost of the Project has been raised. As detailed below, we are requesting a grant of \$5,000 to complete the Project and particularly to support expenses related to the Victory Gardens housed at the sites of San Leandro community organizations that will impact a large number of San Leandro residents.

The grant funds will be designated for expenses associated with the San Leandro Victory Gardens Project in summer and fall/winter 2025. These include consultation with Victory Gardeners re. their gardens, support with fall harvest, support with fall planting including supplies, marketing communications, assessment/evaluation of project impact, education of Victory Gardeners and community, cooking classes for Victory Gardeners to learn how to cook the food they grow, coordination of volunteers, and related activities.

See next page for the Project Budget.

Tandi Family Farms

Project budget: Victory Gardens Project - 2025

EXPENSE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
PERSONNEL		
Project Manager (PT @ ~ 0.5 FTE)	\$52,000	Hourly rate = \$50/hour; total hours = 1,040 hours (approx. .50 FTE). Oversees planting, installation, and support of Victory Gardens throughout 2025 including spring planting, harvesting, and fall planting, and ongoing consultation and support of Victory Gardeners; as well as communications and education of Victory Gardeners and community members.
Project Administrator (PT @ 0.25 FTE)	\$11,700	Hourly rate = \$30/hour; 10 hours/week; 9 months (Apr - Dec). Supports TFF's administration and coordination of all activities related to the Victory Gardens.
Sub-total Personnel	\$63,700	
NON-PERSONNEL		
Watering systems	\$3,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden (e.g., apartment container garden, backyard garden with one bed, community garden with multiple beds)
Garden Beds	\$7,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Barrels & grow bags	\$2,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Plants, seedlings, seed packets	\$6,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Organic soil	\$8,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Sub-total Non-Personnel	\$26,000	
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES FOR PROJECT IN 2025	\$89,700	Of this, we are respectfully requesting \$5,000 from The San Leandro Rotary Club.

6. How will you know your program has been successful? How will you evaluate success? (word count = 500)

Our project focuses on the 25 Victory Gardens that will be planted in San Leandro in 2025. These include Gardens ranging from small container gardens to large community gardens. The creation of the Victory Gardens follows a precise timeframe and consists of a set of activities, timed by season, to ensure that the Gardens will grow successfully. The evaluation of the project's success will include whether the activities occurred on time and the outcomes of the activities (see below).

There are two planting seasons: spring and fall. Depending on when the funds would be received, the funding from The Rotary Club of San Leandro would be applied to activities that take place in late Spring/Summer and/or Fall/Winter 2025. This timeframe focuses the funds on ongoing support for the Victory Gardeners, support with the fall harvest, support and supplies for the fall planting season, support with evaluation and ongoing improvement, and preparation for the 2026 Victory Gardens.

Project activities include:

- Identifying Victory Gardeners, providing education and consultation
- Determining each Garden's location, design, and layout based on position, size, access (for irrigation), types of plants, etc.
- Testing and preparing the soil, providing organic soil
- Choosing the seeds
- Designing and installing irrigation systems
- Planting seeds and nurturing them in greenhouses until they successfully take root
- Transplanting the young plants (seedlings) to the Garden beds
- Maintaining the Gardens
- Harvesting the produce and assessing amount of produce grown
- Preparing for the next season's planting, including removing and composting spent plants, rotating crops to avoid soil depletion, etc.
- Conducting the fall planting

TFF's Victory Garden Project Manager performs the following tasks and is assisted by the Project Assistant; many of these tasks are repeated in both spring and fall planting seasons:

- Outreach to identify Victory Gardeners including individuals, families, and community organizations that are committed to TFF's mission and vision and that are able to house and maintain a Victory Garden.
- Bringing the cohort of Victory Gardeners together to learn how to create a Victory Garden and to support them in designing / planning, and maintaining their Gardens
- Hosting "planting parties" with the Gardeners to plant the seeds for their Gardens in greenhouses where they will be protected and nurtured to grow into small plants
- Supporting each Gardener (individuals, families, community organizations' staff/volunteers) in preparing the soil, installing irrigation, planting seedlings, etc.
- Supporting each Victory Gardener in caring for their Garden and harvesting the produce
- Hosting events to share successes and learnings, and to support fundraising efforts

The success of the project will be measured based on adherence to the workplan and associated timeline and:

- Number of gardens planted in San Leandro in 2025 = 25
- Amount of produce grown and harvested from each Garden - *tbd*; measured at the fall harvest
- Number of people reached - *tbd*; #s who receive produce from the community Victory Gardens
- Feedback from participants, collected via surveys and interviews

7. Are there opportunities for members of the Rotary Club of San Leandro to volunteer with your project and/or organization? If so, what are they, and who is the contact person? (word count = 250)

There are many volunteer opportunities. Most are related to the community-based gardens in San Leandro. Most do not require prior experience and require only minimal training. The Project Manager and Project Assistant provide training and supervision. The opportunities depend on the time of year and include:

- Helping with installation of Gardens, building raised beds, installing irrigation systems.
- Planting seeds and seedlings
- Keeping gardens free of weeds and pests, ensuring that plants grow healthy and strong
- Harvesting the produce from the gardens and distributing it to local food pantries and shelters for community members experiencing food insecurity
- Volunteering at TFF's community events such as Planting Parties and fundraising events, and at engagement and educational events.

TFF's staff is happy to provide educational presentations at The Rotary Club of San Leandro meetings on topics such as regenerative urban agriculture, how to design and plant a Victory Garden, etc.

Contact

Andrea Gorham: TFF Co-Founder & Farmer
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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal and for all that The Rotary Club of San Leandro does for our community. Should we receive a grant, there are many ways that we will publicize the Rotary Club's support including coordinating on a press release recognizing the Rotary Club of San Leandro's generosity and in our marketing materials. We would be happy to attend a Rotary Club meeting to receive the grant award and speak briefly to members about TFF's Victory Garden Project and its impact on the San Leandro community.

8. Organizational Documents - Required attachments

A. Organization's latest financial statements - Attached

Note: Tandi Family Farms (TFF), a San Leandro based 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is a relatively newly designated nonprofit. Its IRS nonprofit designation was granted in June 2024. TFF does not yet have a 990 covering a full year of operations. TFF's financial statement is its operating budget for CY2025. Please let us know if you need further information.

B. List of officers and directors of the organization and their affiliations - Attached.

Tandi Family Farms

Organizational Budget; CY2025

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EXPENSES	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
PERSONNEL		
Victory Garden Project Manager (PT @ ~ 0.5 FTE)	\$52,000	Hourly rate = \$50/hour; total hours = 1,040 hours/year (approx. .50 FTE). Oversees planting, installation, and support of Victory Gardens throughout 2025 including spring planting, harvesting, and fall planting, and ongoing consultation and support of Victory Gardeners; as well as communications and education of Victory Gardeners and community members.
Victory Garden Project Administrator (PT @ 0.25 FTE)	\$11,700	Hourly rate = \$30/hour; 10 hours/week; 9 months (Apr - Dec) Supports TFF's administration and coordination of all activities related to the Victory Gardens.
Sub-total Personnel	\$63,700	
NON-PERSONNEL - Direct Expenses for 2025 Victory Gardens		
Watering systems	\$3,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden (e.g., apartment container garden, backyard garden with one bed, community garden with multiple beds)
Garden Beds	\$7,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Barrels & grow bags	\$2,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Plants, seedlings, seed packets	\$6,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Organic soil	\$8,000	Applies to all Victory Gardens. Cost varies by size of Garden.
Sub-total Non-Personnel - Victory Garden 2025 project	\$26,000	
NON-PERSONNEL - Other operating expenses (not directly associated with Victory		
Transportation	\$3,600	
Contract Labor	\$5,000	
Legal & Professional	\$5,000	
Development	\$5,000	
Marketing	\$2,500	

Events	\$1,000	
Subscriptions & Dues	\$1,500	
Insurance	\$2,500	
Office Supplies	\$3,000	
Equipment	\$6,000	
Utilities	\$1,000	
Phone & IT	\$800	
Sub-total - Other operating expenses	\$36,900	
Sub-total - Non-Personnel Expenses	\$62,900	
Grand Total - Expenses	\$126,600	

REVENUE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Individual Donations - received to date	\$63,335	These funds are in hand
Grants - received to date	\$4,350	These funds are in hand
Proceeds from Events to date	\$3,600	These funds are in hand
Grant proposals in process (<i>invited</i>)	\$35,000	Likelihood of approval = high
Additional individual donations - projected (GoFundMe appeals, fundraising events, etc.)	\$25,000	Likelihood of securing these funds by end of CY2025 = high
Grand Total - Revenue (current and projected)	\$131,285	Revenue in hand = \$71,285. Plus \$60,000 with high likelihood of approval. Any funds over the actual expenses will be used to support additional Victory Gardens.



Our Staff

Andrea Gorham *Co-founder, Program Director*

As the granddaughter of farm-to-table chef John Tandi, Andrea's vision of creating community around delicious homegrown meals began in childhood. As she leads the Victory Garden Project and community events she draws on her 22 year career as an educator in San Leandro Unified and Oakland Unified School Districts and her deep roots in the area as a San Leandro native.

Renata Browne *Co-founder, Environmental Stewardship Director*

Renata is passionate about environmental stewardship and inspiring this same passion in others. She leads the environmental education, regenerative agriculture, and ecosystems restoration initiatives for Tandi Family Farms and teaches sustainable business classes part-time at San Francisco State University.

Our Board

Kathy Gorham

Kathy is CFO of Tandi Family Farms, Board Treasurer and Secretary, and daughter of John Tandi. She provides financial oversight.

Garry Offenberg

Garry is the retired CEO of Pacific Farms, a community leader, and a board member with Davis Street Community Center. He serves as a strategic advisor.

Teri Schlesinger

Teri is a retired project manager and an avid gardener. She provides project management expertise.