



Activity report 2023

Introduction

Stichting De Groentedeler was notarized on March 22, 2023. The formation of this foundation marked a turning point in the project that was started in 2020 by the sustainability working group of Ekklesia Leiden. The aim of this project is to supply freshly harvested vegetables to clients of Voedselbank Leiden, to promote organic farming at the community supported agriculture garden Bij Mei that grows these vegetables and to strengthen the bond between rural and urban areas or residents.

In 2021, our first year, members of Ekklesia Leiden provided the finances to harvest vegetables for 20 subscriptions. Every week, Ekklesia volunteers harvested 5 x 20 vegetables* for the clients of Voedselbank Leiden. During the evaluation of this project, the board of Voedselbank Leiden requested an expansion to harvest vegetables for 45 subscriptions in 2022. In order to realize this request, a larger team of volunteers and the necessary finances were found by contacting a broader circle of religious institutions within Leiden.

By the end of 2022, Voedselbank Leiden expressed the desire to distribute the vegetables for 55 subscriptions in 2023. Their number of clients is growing, along with the number of vegetables needed. Due to the financial consequences, which exceeded the responsibility of the working group, a foundation was created.

**Per subscription, 5 different vegetables are harvested every week.*

Initial activities of Stichting De Groentedeler.

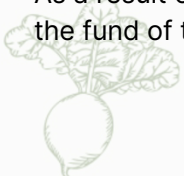
In addition to our registration with the Chamber of Commerce, a private bank account was required by the Triodos bank. Donations and payments are no longer made through the treasurer of Ekklesia Leiden, but through the **bank account**: NL65 TRIO 0320 6457 54 of Stichting De Groentedeler. The application to obtain the ANBI-status has now been processed by the Tax Authorities.


Our **volunteers**, who have faithfully promised their cooperation in 2023, come to the garden on Tuesday mornings according to a specially made schedule. Some come to work almost weekly, others appear at a lower frequency.

Every week, the bus of Voedselbank Leiden collects the 55 x 5 freshly harvested vegetables. At the end of November, all board members of our foundation met at Bij Mei, where representatives of the volunteers were also invited, as well as the board of Voedselbank Leiden. We thanked the volunteers for their efforts with a suitable gift. All but two of them indicated that they wanted to recommit themselves for the following year.

Contacts between our board and the **Leiden Diaconal centre 'de Bakkerij'** have led to the campaign 'Leidse Kerken gaan voor de Groentedeler'. In April, May and June, collections were held for Stichting De Groentedeler in all Protestant and Roman Catholic churches affiliated with 'De Bakkerij'. In addition, they organized several special activities. We are thrilled with this project! Apart from providing finances, it raised the brand awareness for Stichting De Groentedeler we so desperately need.

As a result of a targeted deed, a subsidy has been awarded by the **Municipality of Leiden** and the fund of the **Konferentie Nederlandse Religieuzen**.





Last but not least, we supported the realization of **theater performance** 'Verse Blik' by the Benefietvogels (<https://benefietvogels.nl>) in Leiden, which raised a significant amount on behalf of our foundation.

The founding board, consisting of three members of the former Sustainability working group, has sought to **expand the board**. Three new members are now involved, namely Hester Markus, Hannie Korthof and Hans Nuiver.

The **website** is in preparation and **digital accounting** is being set up.

The board regularly consults each other and keeps in touch with Mariska Verhulst, the owner of Bij Mei, the community supported agricultural garden in Zoeterwoude, where we purchase the subscriptions to harvest. Mariska regularly has visitors in the garden. For example, Mrs van Sandick, the councilor of the Municipality of Zoeterwoude, visited Bij Mei in 2023. She showed her interest in the possibility to involve the residents of Zoeterwoude into this project of organic horticulture. Mariska also regularly hosts meetings of our board with, among others, the representatives of the Roman Catholic diaconate. This helps them to understand what we do while harvesting the vegetables, supported by their contribution.

Since founding Stichting De Groentedeler, the board has met 5 times. The treasurer and the secretary attended a meeting of the Board of Deacons in 'De Bakkerij' twice. They also attended a 'sober meal' by De Verbinding on March 27, on the occasion of which they received the profits from this project worth €1,250.

Most of our conversations are held through e-mail correspondence and WhatsApp. We have also distributed a newsletter about all the new developments in June. In November we decided to have a website created by Interpulse in Leiden. Robine Hillen is willing to provide the content.

Marga Bakker, December 2023

