
Goudsouzian  **Associates**

STEVEN N. GOUDSOUZIAN
STEVEN@SNG-LAW.COM

STEVEN N. GOUDSOUZIAN*
ROBERT EYER
CHAD M. DiFELICE†
BRIAN J. PANELLA †
NICOLE M. THOMAS†
STEPHANIE J. STEWARD
MATTHEW C. POTTS, OF COUNSEL

April 28, 2021

**Pennsylvania Department of State
Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations
PO Box 8722
Harrisburg, PA 17015-8722**

**RE: Groovy Greens, LLC
Our File No. 2020-115**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed for filing, please find the Form 15-8898 – Annual Benefit Report of Groovy Greens, LLC, together with an addendum setting forth responses that could not be accommodated by the form. Also, please find a check in the amount of Seventy Dollars (\$70.00) for the cost of filing. A copy of the filed document may be returned to my office via email. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

GOUDSOUZIAN & ASSOCIATES



Steven N. Goudsouzian


SNG:sjs

cc: Lorna Yearwood by email at lgyearwood@live.com
David Becker by email at paintedearth2000@hotmail.com

Enclosures: as noted

X:\Transfer\clients\server\08\2020\Hecker, David & Yearwood, Lorna (Groovy Greens LLC)\15\DeptofStateEnclForm8898.docx

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF CORPORATIONS AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

<input type="checkbox"/> Return document by mail to: <hr/> Name <hr/> Address <hr/> City State Zip Code <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return document by email to: <u>steven@sng-law.com</u>	Annual Benefit Report Benefit Limited Liability Company DSCB:15-8898 (2/2017)  8898
--	--

Read all instructions prior to completing.

Fee: \$70

In compliance with the requirements of 15 Pa.C.S. § 8898 (relating to annual benefit report), the undersigned benefit company hereby states that:

1. The name of the limited liability company is:

Groovy Greens, LLC

2. Complete part (a) or (b) – not both:

(a) The address of this limited liability company’s current registered office in this Commonwealth is

<u>3235 Route 212</u>	<u>Springtown</u>	<u>PA</u>	<u>18081</u>	<u>Bucks</u>
Number and Street	City	State	Zip	County

(b) The name of this limited liability company’s commercial registered office provider and the county of venue is:

c/o: _____
Name of Commercial Registered Office Provider County

3. A narrative description of:

(i) the ways in which the benefit company pursued general public benefit during the year and the extent to which general public benefit was created;

1) food donations to low-income persons; 2) environmental preservation; 3) promoting good health; see addendum for more

(ii) the ways in which the benefit company pursued any specific public benefit that the certificate of organization states is the purpose of the benefit company to create and the extent to which that specific public benefit was created;

Groovy Greens, LLC did not state any specific public benefit in its Certificate of Incorporation.

(iii) any circumstances that have hindered the creation by the benefit company of general or specific public benefit; and

The Covid-19 pandemic precluded the company from providing educational and community-building events in 2020.

(iv) the process and rationale for selecting or changing the third-party standard used to prepare the benefit report.

Groovy Greens, LLC follows the Food Alliance standards, chosen for their applicability to the company's activities.

4. An assessment of the overall social and environmental performance of the benefit company against a third-party standard applied consistently with any application of that standard in prior benefit reports or accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for any inconsistent application.

Aggregate score of 85% on Food Alliance Whole Farm & Nursery/Greenhouse/Production Tools, goals for improvement.

5. A statement of any connection between the organization that established the third-party standard, or its directors, officers or any holder of 5% or more of the governance interests in the organization, and the benefit company or its members, managers or officers or any holder of 5% or more of the outstanding interests in the benefit company, including any financial or governance relationship which might materially affect the credibility of the use of the third-party standard.

None.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned benefit limited liability company has caused this Annual Benefit Report to be signed by a duly authorized officer this 20 day of April, 2021.

GROOVY GREENS, LLC

Name of Company

A Yearwood

Signature

Co-Owner / Managing member

Title

Groovy Greens, LLC

2020 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

Since form 15-8898 itself has limited space for text we have chosen to expand on the information included on the form in this document. The ***headings in bold and italic reflect form 15-8898***. The *underlined and italic headings reflect the statute which defines specific public benefits*.

3. (i) A narrative description of the ways in which the benefit company pursued general public benefit during the year and the extent to which general public benefit was created.

During 2020, Groovy Greens, LLC created public benefit in the following ways:

(1) providing low-income or underserved individuals or communities with beneficial products or services:

- In conjunction with a number of community volunteers, Groovy Greens formed “The Springtown Community Farm Stand” on the same property as Groovy Greens in the center of the village of Springtown. The purpose of the Farm Stand is to provide fresh produce to low income and needy families either directly through donations of produce from patrons gardens or indirectly via donations paid for produce at the stand. Through these efforts, during 2020, Groovy Greens donated a total of \$636 and 69lbs of fresh produce to local Food Banks, specifically Quakertown Food Bank and the Lord’s Pantry in Ottsville.
- Groovy Greens donated a total of 30 lbs of excess fresh produce to local Food Banks worth \$280.

(2) promoting economic opportunity for individuals or communities beyond the creation of jobs in the normal course of business:

- Groovy Greens did not promote economic opportunities for individuals or communities beyond the creation of jobs in the normal course of business in 2020.

(3) preserving the environment:

- Adaptive re-use of buildings & materials
 - Groovy Greens operations are carried out in buildings and greenhouses previously used as a garden center. By re-using existing infrastructure we are reducing the impact on the environment.
 - Raised beds were made from old fencing and garden soil from a landscaping customer.
 - Tables used at the previous garden center were modified for growing greens.

Groovy Greens, LLC

2020 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

- Minimizing non-renewable resource use
 - We selected to use coconut fiber and rice hulls, both waste products in our growing media in place of peat and vermiculite, both essentially non-renewable resources. We compost and re-use all our growing media with the goal of reducing off-farm inputs over time.
 - We provide returnable packaging to the majority of our customers in the form of organic cotton bags and recyclable plastic containers.
- Minimizing waste
 - All organic materials including greens and growing tray wastes are recycled via on-site composting and vermicomposting.
- Minimizing chemical use
 - Groovy Greens employs organic growing methods, although not certified organic, we use natural fertilizers and soil amendments. We are working on reducing the quantity of these used by improving the biology in the growing media and soil.

(4) improving human health:

- Groovy Greens provides fresh local produce to the community; which due to its freshness, variety and organic growing methods, is more healthy than typical store-bought salad greens.
- Our focus is on increasing the nutrient density of the food we grow and are constantly working on improving our greens taste and quality.

(5) promoting the arts, sciences or advancement of knowledge:

- We had planned to provide gardening classes for home gardeners to improve their knowledge and self-reliance in 2020, however we were not able to do that due to COVID pandemic.

(6) promoting economic development through support of initiatives that increase access to capital for emerging and growing technology enterprises, facilitate the transfer and commercial adoption of new technologies, provide technical and business support to emerging and growing technology enterprises or form support partnerships that support those objectives:

- Not applicable

(7) increasing the flow of capital to entities with a public benefit purpose:

- Not applicable

(8) the accomplishment of any other particular benefit for society or the environment:

- One of our stated goals is to “foster community spirit”, we feel we have benefited our customers by staying open during the pandemic and providing some safe social interaction when very little else was possible.
- COVID pandemic curtailed plans to hold social events.

Groovy Greens, LLC

2020 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

3. (ii) the ways in which the benefit company pursued any specific public benefit that the certificate of organization states is the purpose of the benefit company to create and the extent to which that specific public benefit was created:

There is no specific public benefit stated on the certification of organization for Groovy Greens, LLC, however, on our website we state the following:

“In addition to growing and selling our food in an environmentally conscious manner, our stated public benefits are as follows:

- To provide healthy, delicious and nutrient dense food for local people, including those in need
- To provide educational opportunities for local people to learn about growing food, composting and improving soil health
- To foster community spirit”

We have accomplished these purposes by the activities set forth at 3(i), above.

(iii) any circumstances that have hindered the creation by the benefit company of general or specific public benefit:

- As referenced at 3(i), the COVID-19 pandemic precluded our plans to foster community spirit through on-site in person events such as community events and gardening classes.

Groovy Greens, LLC

2020 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

3. (iv) the process and rationale for selecting or changing the third-party standard used to prepare the benefit report:

Groovy Greens is an urban-style farm growing salad greens on tables in a small greenhouse and in ground beds at two locations. In selecting our third-party standard, we reviewed a number of standards, including B-Corp and Rodale's Regenerative Agriculture standards. The Food Alliance standards were chosen since they were found they are the most suitable for our operation.

The Food Alliance certifies agricultural operations, food processors and distributors that ensure:

- Safe and fair working conditions.
- The health and humane treatment of farm animals.
- Reduced risk from pesticides and other toxic or hazardous materials.
- Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.
- Conservation of soil, water, and energy, and reduction and recycling of waste.
- Transparent and traceable supply chains.
- Food product integrity, with no genetically engineered or artificial ingredients.
- Continual improvement of management practices.

Food Alliance is a non-profit organization, it's certification body has clear, publicly available standards and is a credible and effective way for producers and food companies to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable management practices.

The Food Alliance has several different sustainability standards one of which, the Whole Farm Evaluation Tool is for crop producers which covers all fruit, vegetable, nut, cereal, pulse and other crops. This is the main standard against which Groovy Greens operations are assessed. The Operational Efficiencies section from the Food Alliance's Nursery Greenhouse's Evaluation Tool was also utilized in order to capture some important environmental measures such as energy and resource use not included in the Whole Farm Evaluation Tool.

It is important to note that whilst Groovy Greens operations were assessed against these Food Alliance standards, it was a self-evaluation and has not been audited or certified by a third-party standards provider. (This is allowable by law as set out in Chapter 15 section § 8898). However, also as required by the law, the Benefits Director making the Annual Compliance Statement is independent of operations at Groovy Greens.

Groovy Greens, LLC

2020 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

4. An assessment of the overall social and environmental performance of the benefit company against a third-party standard applied consistently with any application of that standard in prior benefit reports or accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for any inconsistent application.

Overall Evaluation Score: 85% (including fixed criteria)

The Table below shows a summary of scores (self-evaluated by Benefits Officer and checked by the Benefits Director).

Section Heading	Food Alliance Evaluation Tool	
	Whole Farm Evaluation Tool	Nursery Greenhouse Production Evaluation Tool
Integrated Pest, Disease and Weed Management, and Pesticide Risk Reduction	83%	
Soil and Water Conservation	89%	
Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation	66%	
Safe and Fair Working Conditions (for Employees)	N/A	
Operational Efficiencies		88%
Fixed Criteria (no GMOs and no Prohibited Pesticides)	100%	
OVERALL EVALUATION SCORE 85%		

Key areas for Improvement identified using the Food Alliance Evaluation Tools for 2021 include:

- Reducing towns water use
- Reducing energy use
- Writing and implementing a Biodiversity & Wildlife Plan
- Increasing biological activity in soils and growing media
- Reduction in use of off-farm sources of growing media, nutrients and amendments

Other Areas for improvement include:

- Monitoring use of local suppliers and materials
- Increasing Community Farm Stand use and Food Bank donations
- Increasing public education benefit

Groovy Greens, LLC

2020 Annual Benefit Report - Addendum to Form 15-8898

Benefit Director Statement

Although not required of Benefit Companies, Groovy Greens, LLC has opted to elect a Benefit Director, whose annual statement appears below:

STATEMENT OF BENEFIT DIRECTOR

By providing healthy, delicious, and nutrient-dense food to local food banks and families, using organic growing methods, repurposing materials, and reducing waste, Groovy Greens, LLC is having a positive impact on both society and the environment.

Sincerely,



Lynn Prior
Benefit Director