

# THE GROWING TIMES

Official Seasonal Newsletter of  GROWING HOME



^ Cohort 3 2021 and their Teachers and Mentors!

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT GROWING HOME:

**Every Thursday 11am:**  
Growing Home Farm Stand

**Every Friday 3pm:**  
Englewood Village Market

**Every Saturday 7am:**  
Green City Market

**Saturdays & Mondays:**  
Volunteer Days

**August 19: Family Grilling &  
Cooking Class**

**September 10:**  
Cohort 3 Graduation

## APRIL-JULY: BY THE NUMBERS

**25**

Up to 25 hours  
per week of paid  
farm-work &  
classroom  
training for  
each of our PA's

**3**

cohorts of PA's  
in or graduated  
from our  
program and  
1 more to enroll!

**60K**

square feet of  
outdoor beds &  
hoop houses  
planted on our  
farm!

**2,000+**

door-to-door  
deliveries of  
organic, locally  
grown vegetables to  
local families in  
need - and still  
delivering!

**15**

Growing Home  
Kitchen cooking  
demos &  
workshops with  
free samples in  
Greater Englewood

**300+**

hours of  
volunteer work  
from our  
amazing  
volunteers





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CONRAD, CEO OF JUST ICE



**"I'm grateful for Growing Home, for what they gave to me and what they give to a lot of people. People with employment barriers – they see past that. They just see a human being and they give them an opportunity for a job."  
– Conrad Burnett, 2015 Graduate**

We've started a new video series, Growing Home Alumni spotlights! In each episode, we'll highlight a Growing Home graduate, the work they are doing and their connection to Growing Home.

First up we have Conrad Burnett, a 2015 Alumni and current CEO of Just Ice, a craft cocktail ice company in Chicago.

[Click here](#) to watch Conrad's Alumni Video Spotlight showcasing the behind the scenes of Just Ice.

And go to [growinghomeinc.org/conrad](https://growinghomeinc.org/conrad) to read more about Conrad's path to Growing Home.

## PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

During our 12-week Employment Training program, we partner with a multitude of expert organizations to expand our skill-based services.

Exciting partnerships this year have included: Amazon, Olive Harvey College, Accenture, Fifth-Third Bank, Bel Brands, Rights & Restoration Law & Depaul University, EQLP Workforce Development Taskforce and CGLA.

## CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHT

It's our 2nd year teaching the Roots of Success Curriculum – and it's quickly become a core part of our program.

Read about our partnership at: <https://rootsofsuccess.org/partner-spotlight-growing-home>



## NEW PARTNERSHIPS ON THE FARM!

We're excited to announce our work with Greater Chicago Food Depository! A unique farm-to-pantry partnership that brings local, fresh produce directly to an Englewood food pantry. Continuing throughout the year.

## GOOD FOOD & GOOD COOKING WITH GROWING HOME KITCHEN

Growing Home Kitchen, our food education programming led by Community Engagement Coordinator LaQuandra Fair, has been sharing the love of good cooking! Every Thursday at Farm Stand LaQuandra showcases a different recipe with our farm-fresh produce. And, we just finished up Part 1 of our Summer Cooking Series baking Garden Foccacia with Primo Center & Englewood Community Kitchen!

Don't miss the recipes and online cooking demos. Go to [growinghomeinc.org/recipe](https://growinghomeinc.org/recipe).



## FARM SPOTLIGHT: VEGGIE RX & FOOD AS MEDICINE



**“The doctors or health professional can write a plan and prescribe not pills, but beets, or greens or carrots.**

**A prescription for vegetables.”**

Hippocrates’ famous quote, “let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food,” has been used for hundreds of years to acknowledge the role food can have on your health and wellbeing. Growing Home’s new Veggie RX program, in partnership with UI Health, hopes to apply that saying literally.

"Getting fresh vegetables right into people’s hands is important. It helps people realize that vegetables aren't just a piece of their diet or an addition – but a focus of it ” said Ezra Lee, Growing Home's Farm & Program Coordinator. UI Health also believed in the food as medicine approach, and the partnership started there.

To read the rest of the blog post and learn more about our Veggie RX partnership, visit:

[growinghomeinc.org/blog-veggierx/](https://growinghomeinc.org/blog-veggierx/)

Blog post written by Growing Home Volunteer Hannah Tate



## WE ARE RESILIENT: OUR 19TH ANNUAL BENEFIT



**“Growing Home offers a space to come down here and actually connect – to stand on the same ground, to pull sustenance from the same ground, and to grow together.”**

**– Stew Weiss, Board President**

There’s something called “collective effervescence.” It’s the fancy name for that glowy, joyful excitement you feel when you’re gathered with others for a common cause. Our brains need regular doses of this togetherness, but during the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s been tough to come by.

That feeling was everywhere at Growing Home’s 19th Annual Benefit on May 6th. A small group of sponsors, staff, and special guests gathered for a farm-to-table dinner at the Wood Street Urban Farm, while virtual viewers tuned in from coast-to-coast, from Boston to Utah. In all, over 300 attendees joined the celebration.

To read the rest of the blog post, visit:  
[growinghomeinc.org/blog-benefit19/](https://growinghomeinc.org/blog-benefit19/)

Blog post written by Growing Home’s Hope Gundlah

## GROWING HOME AROUND TOWN

### Rebuilding Black Chicago

We were featured on WVON's Rebuilding Black Chicago in July! [Click here](#) to hear the full interview with Janelle, Zenobia and co-hosts Cleo & Bruce.

### RiseKit Webinar Series

Our Employment Training team shared key points to a successful alumni program. Read more at on RiseKit's blog by [clicking here](#).

### Farm Stands on Chicago Eater

An article on the transition of Farmer's Markets from stay-at-home orders to in-person. Read more at Chicago Eater by [clicking here](#).

### Ribbon Cutting on NPR

Natalie Moore interview our ED Janelle St. John to learn about the opening of our 3rd Farm Site. [Click here](#) for more photos, including the one below.



For over 20 years, Growing Home has been a nonprofit leader in urban agriculture, serving the Greater Englewood community in Chicago with our holistic paid employment training and local, healthy food access. We believe Everyone deserves access to a Good Job and Good Food!



### **VOLUNTEER & TOUR OUR FARMS**

Volunteers play a crucial role in our work at Growing Home! As a volunteer, you have an opportunity to help with events, lend a hand on the farm or in the employment training classroom, and assist with administrative projects. If you have a special skill, let us know! We will have a project that fits.

Scan to sign up for our Volunteer Corps! Contact [volunteer@growinghomeinc.org](mailto:volunteer@growinghomeinc.org) for ?'s.



### **PURCHASE OUR PRODUCE**

Support our employment training and community food programs...while enjoying delicious, organic, nutritious produce! Visit us at our Englewood Farm Stand Thursdays, Green City Market Saturdays or be a weekly/bi-weekly community supported agriculture member.

Scan to learn about our Farmer's Market locations or to purchase a CSA! Or go to [growinghomeinc.org/farm](http://growinghomeinc.org/farm).



### **JOIN OUR ASSOCIATE BOARD**

The Associate Board supports the overall mission and activities of Growing Home. Acting as ambassadors of the organization, Associate Board members engage the community through volunteering, fundraising, networking, & advocacy. Join a passionate group working toward a greater mission.

Scan to apply now! Or contact Marlene, Director of Development, at [mceja@growinghomeinc.org](mailto:mceja@growinghomeinc.org) to learn more about joining our Associate Board.



### **BE A MONTHLY DONOR**

Monthly donors, for every amount, are essential to supporting the sustainability of our operations at Growing Home and the opportunities we provide our community. As a monthly donor, you are part of a special club with fun benefits and invitations throughout the year!

Donate now to Growing Home. Scan the code or go to [growinghomeinc.org/donate](http://growinghomeinc.org/donate)



### **SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL UPDATES**

There are always amazing events, spotlights and news going on at Growing Home! Sign up to receive monthly updates and this seasonal newsletter so you can follow all things Growing Home.

Scan to sign up now for our newsletter or go to [growinghomeinc.org/newsletter](http://growinghomeinc.org/newsletter)