

THE GROWING TIMES

Official Seasonal Newsletter of  GROWING HOME



^ PA's, Customers & Staff at our final Farm Stand of the season!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GROWING HOME:

December 18, 12pm-4pm:
"Share the Love" WinterFest
with Growing Home & We Grow
partners at 6402 S Honore St

Until December 31:
Support Growing Home's
programs in their end of year
campaign "Seeds of Resilience"
growinghomeinc.org/2021seeds

Through January 31st:
Winter Volunteer Extravaganza!
growinghomeinc.org/volunteer

GROWING HOME: BY THE #'S

73

production
assistants enrolled
throughout the
2021 year

18

individuals
graduated from
our final cohort
of the season on
November 19th

28,000

lbs of produce
harvested from
our farms this
year - and still
counting!

41,000+

individual servings
of fresh, organic
produce shared in
2021 through our
multiple fresh food
initiatives

602

attendees for our
Growing Home
Kitchen workshops
& cooking demos in
Greater Englewood

400

attendees to our
HarvestFest and
Open House
Chicago
weekend events
in October

GRADUATION SPOTLIGHT: COHORT 4 2021



"Thank all of you. You all took everything that we said we wanted to do and ya'll pushed us and made it happen. Ya'll didn't tell us that we couldn't do it. You pushed us out there and told us to go for it. And I thank you all for that."

- Louie, Cohort 4 Graduate

What an incredible end to this year's employment training program! Not only did we celebrate 18 amazing graduates, we got to do it in person at Kusanaya Cafe. This group exemplified teamwork, resilience, a willingness to learn and commitment. They are now out in the world, starting new jobs and school - congratulations again!

Scan to the right to see our recorded livestream of graduation or go to "Growing Home, Inc" on YouTube.



ROOTS OF SUCCESS X OLIVE HARVEY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Growing Home has teamed up with Roots of Success to offer an Urban Agriculture pre-apprenticeship program at Olive Harvey College! Students receive classroom instruction in Roots of Success, a leading environmental literacy program and then experience a field apprenticeship at Growing Home, Inc, a USDA Organic High Production farm in Chicago. We look forward to growing this program!

NEW COMPUTER RESOURCE CENTER

With its new resource center, Growing Home, Inc. can now provide residents with access to a popular, state-of-the-art Computer Resources Center that is strategically located, easy to reach - and free! Open Mondays & Wednesdays for 2021 and expanding next year.



THINGS ARE HEATING UP!

Our experiments with heating our hoop house have begun! With a new propane tank installed in our hoop houses, they will be warm enough to grow through the winter. Radishes and greens are currently growing - much more to come!



GARDENING & COOKING CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Growing Home Kitchen led by LaQuandra not only had weekly cooking demos at our local Farm Stand - but has also teamed up with The Salvation Army local chapter for gardening and cooking workshops. More to come in 2022!



SPOTLIGHT: 2021 FARM STANDS & MARKET



““Knowing that I put a smile on somebody’s face when they eat this food – that’s what makes me happy.”

Cold weather has arrived in Chicago, which means another successful Growing Home market season has officially come to a close. Throughout this year’s May 1 – October 30 season at the Thursday Englewood Farm Stand, Friday Englewood Village Market, and Saturday Green City Market, we were able to see the return of the farm stand in person and in a new location after a year hiatus.

Reconnecting in-person with returning customers helped make this season one to remember. “It was like witnessing old friends getting together after not seeing each other for years,” said Shani Settles, Director of Operations at Growing Home.

To read the rest of the blog post and learn more about our Veggie RX partnership, visit: <https://www.growinghomeinc.org/blog-2021-markets/>
Written by Growing Home Volunteer Hannah Tate



SPOTLIGHT: HARVESTFEST & OHC21



“I'd like to share how impressed I was with the organization and what they do for the community.”
- Growing Home Vendor & Neighbor

On Saturday, October 16th, Growing Home rang in the fall season with their 2nd Annual HarvestFest event! Over 330 attendees gathered at the corner of 59th and Wood Streets for food and free family fun.

The lot next to Growing Home’s Urban Farm transformed into an open-air market featuring 22 talented Englewood entrepreneurs. By 3 PM, most vendors had sold everything they had brought! One such vendor reached out to Growing Home after the event “to say how impressed I was with the organization and what they do for the community.” Hundreds of shoppers browsed handmade crafts, accessories, clothing, jewelry, skincare products, herbal remedies, spices, teas, cocktails, candies, baked goods, and preserves. Throughout the afternoon, a fleet of food trucks churned out everything from barbecue to jerk to tacos.



To read the rest of the blog post, visit:
growinghomeinc.org/blog-harvestfest/
<or scan with your phone to the left.

GROWING HOME AROUND TOWN

The WE GROW Collaborative
As of October 1, 2021, Growing Home is part of WE GROW, of a new collaborative fueled by community-based organizations indigenous to the West Englewood community that also includes Imagine Englewood If, Grow Greater Englewood, Teamwork Englewood, and Metropolitan Family Services. Learn more [here](#) or scan>



WGN TV
Growing Home was featured on TV alongside The Salvation Army Englewood & The Greater Chicago Food Depository. Tune in [here](#) or scan right to learn more.



Eater Chicago
An article highlighting the different food access initiatives we have at Growing Home to increase food security and equity in our communities. Read more [here](#) or scan right.



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

Click below to get involved with Growing Home in multiple ways:

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[TOUR OUR FARMS](#)

[BE AN EMPLOYER PARTNER](#)

[PURCHASE OUR PRODUCE](#)

[JOIN OUR ASSOCIATE BOARD](#)

[JOIN OUR TEAM](#)

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