



GROWING

HOME



2



0



1



1



ANNUAL REPORT



1993

Les Brown, Director of Policy at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, applies to use Federal Surplus Land for urban farming and job training, and founds Seeds of Change.

1996

Seeds of Change transitions into Growing Home and gains nonprofit status.

1998

Growing Home establishes a 10 acre farm in LaSalle County, Illinois, which is now called the Les Brown Memorial Farm. This land was the first farm to be acquired through the McKinney-Vento Act, which is the first and only major federal legislative response to homelessness.

Dear Friends,

In 1992, Les Brown had the idea to develop an urban farming social enterprise that would serve as a vehicle to provide homeless people with hands-on job experience, with the aim to transform their lives. Though Les is no longer with us, twenty years later his vision lives on, not only through the nearly 300 people who have been trained directly by Growing Home, but also the many families and communities that have been impacted by our organization's outreach and advocacy.

Imagine it: in 2001, Les (then the Policy Director at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless) hired Harry Rhodes as Growing Home's Executive Director, the only staff member. Harry worked at a desk in the hallway of the Coalition's offices. He had no guaranteed salary: his livelihood was contingent on raising the funds needed to turn Les' concept into a reality. He needed (and wanted!) to start a program, and to start it quickly. That first year, Harry raised \$50,000. In 2002, Growing Home began its programming as we now know it—that first year, we trained nine individuals in farming who travelled daily to the site in Marseilles, IL, that is now known as the Les Brown Memorial Farm. Our programming was transformative, but we needed to grow; our programs and produce were in high demand. When we were invited into the Englewood community to start the the Wood Street Urban Farm—and most recently the Honore Street Farm—we had the resources to grow, and we know we will grow even more in years to come.

Today Growing Home has become a recognized leader in workforce development, urban agriculture, and social enterprise. Harry Rhodes remains Growing Home's Executive Director, but he stands at the helm of a hard-working staff of more than 20 individuals. Similarly, Growing Home's impact has affected more communities and lives than we could have imagined. In 2011, we trained 35 individuals with major barriers to employment in our job training program. We also served over 300 people through workshops ranging from cooking and container gardening, and gained substantial media attention because of our programming and staff. In recent years, Growing Home has expanded in order to provide extensive outreach programming to thousands of Chicago residents, with a focus on the Englewood community.

What we have accomplished these first 10 years, or 20 years, (depending on how you count!) has astonished even ourselves. We can't wait to see what we'll accomplish in the future.

Sincerely,
Harry Rhodes
Executive Director

Valerie Denney
President, Board of Directors



2002

The first year of Growing Home's job training program. Nine individuals join the program and work primarily at the Les Brown Memorial Farm.

2003

Growing Home begins a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program which provides organic produce to individuals who share in our harvest.



2003

Growing Home partners with Su Casa Catholic Worker, a shelter for battered women and their families on the South Side of Chicago, to start the Su Casa Market Garden. The produce grown at this site is now primarily donated to Su Casa's soup kitchen and other charities.



2005

Growing Home is invited into Englewood through the Englewood Quality of Life Plan, funded through LISC's New Communities Program. The land for the Wood Street Urban Farm was sold to Growing Home for \$1 by the City of Chicago, and the redevelopment agreement for the land set the precedent for other urban farms in Chicago.



2006

First 100 program interns complete training program.



2006

Growing Home begins developing the Wood Street Urban Farm.



2007

Growing Home begins production at the Wood Street Urban Farm, and the job training program finds a permanent home in Englewood.

Donors

\$50,000 and Above

Chicago Community Trust
City of Chicago Dept. of Environment
City of Chicago Dept. of Family and
Support Services
J. R. Albert Foundation
IL Department of Commerce and
Economic Opportunity

\$20,000–\$49,999

Act of Hope Foundation
Boeing Foundation
CEED@Chicago
The Field Foundation of Illinois
Polk Bros. Foundation

\$5,000–\$19,999

Anonymous
Emily and Stephen Stanley
Bank of America
Charter One
Leo S. Guthman Fund
Ronald and Mary Ann Lachman Foundation
Lush Cosmetics LLC
Walter S. Mander Foundation
Mead Witter Foundation
The Northern Trust Company
Nuveen Investments
The Seabury Foundation
Garth Taylor

\$1,000–\$4,999

All Star Trading
Judith Aronson and Marc Hilton
Kim Bartko and Matt Heavin
Big Bowl
Cleo Brown
Laura Bruzas
Valerie Denney and
Dewan Foundation
Kathy Dickhut
Driehaus Foundation
Emory University
Deborah and Cody Engle
Eric Frey
Fox & Obel
Imani Pearls Community Development
Foundation

Kluth Family Foundation
Jane and Steven Musgrave
Open Door Advisors
Richard and Judith Rhodes
Chuck and Julie Templeton
Laura Tilly and Derek Cottier

\$500–\$999

B and J Association
Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School
Julie Bleicher
Builders Bank
Bess and Candelario Celio
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Charlotte Flinn
Jeff and Julie Forgash
Carol and David Golder
Ivan Handler
Michelle Johnson
Robert Kaplan and Dara Altschuler
Joav Kohn
Ronald and Mary Ann Lachman
Ann Polson
Scared Panda
Carolyn Ulrich

\$100 - \$499

Maria and Randall Altmayer
Aramark
Helen and Michael Arkes
Janice Becker and David Shaw
Kate Bensen
Alicia and Brian Berg
Matt Berry
Katherine Bierma
Lin Brehmer
Javonna and Anthony Burton
Clare Butterfield
Kathy Caisley
Doreen Carey
Liane Casten
Donna and Ricardo Castro
Chicago Center for Urban Life & Culture
Chicago Community Loan Fund
Chicago Jobs Council
Lincoln Cohen
Jack Crane
Susan Crawford
David Currin
Jacqueline Dane

DePaul University
Art Detrich
Julianne and Mark Dieterich
Mary Dixon
Lisbeth Downes
Megan Donnelly
Julie Dorfman and Jerry Herst
Christine Esposito
John Edel
Ilene Fine
Patricia Fink
Firebelly Design
Andrew Fisher
Richard Foxman
Robert and Joan Fragen
GE Foundation
Frima Gelbard
Melvin and Patti Gerbie
Joan Gilboy
Natalie Goldfein
Melissa and Michael Graham
Green City Market
Judith Gravdal
Cynthia Gray
Ann-Louise Haak and Shelby Hatch
Megan Haak
Bryan Heidel
Joseph Hicken
Highland Garden Club
Dana Hirt
Briton Holmberg
Hyde Park Garden Fair Committee
Inspiration Corporation
Laura Jordahl
Leah Kaiser
Joanne Kalnitz and Marshall Sorkin
Daniel Ray and Lynne Kaminer
Kristina Kazemek
Pamela and Mark Kendall
Marie Kennedy and Chris Tilly
Warren King
Cathy Kinney
Neal Kleeman
Saul Klibanow
Daniel and Sarah Knight
Nina and Ronald Koziol
LISC Chicago
Karen Lehman
Diana R. Leifer
Wanda Arakaki Leopold

Wendy Littlefield
Richard and Donna Loundy
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur
Foundation
Erich and Dana Mees
JodiLee Mesirow
Mindful Metropolis
Grace Miya
Monica Monroe
David Narefsky
NeighborSpace
Tracy Noel
Vicki Nowicki
Michael O'Connor
Aurie Pennick
Jean Pogge
Elizabeth Potamites
Marjorie Pries
Nancy Quinn
George Ranney Jr.
Robin Rich
Anthony Saineghi
Saint Xavier University
Jack Schaffer
Philip Schlak
Todd Schwebel
Adam Schwerner
Connie Scott
Richard Scruggs
Ron Sherman and Mary Davis
Angela Spinazze
Christopher and Korie Campbell-Stanley
Marjorie A Szaroleta Stapleton
Elizabeth Station
Takeda
Glen Vissering
Mary Wagner and Mark Klein
Gina Wammock
Robert G. Weiss Family Foundation
Beth White
Carol and Brad White
Sean Wiedel
Wendy Williams
Barbara Wallace and Thomas Wolfe
Dean and Debbie Zemel
Gale Zemel and David Mausner

UPTO \$99

Rachel Abramson and William Dolnick
Richard and Barbara Alexander

Donors Cont.

Theodora Aronson
Nancy Backas
Marla Baker
Nancy and Phillip Bashook
Rochelle Berne
Phyllis A. Bird
Janine Biskind
Zachary Bleicher
Cara Blesch
Anne Bowhay
Tegan Brace
Cynthia Bretzlaff
Lynda S. Brodsky
Gladys and Frank Bruhns
William and Doreen Carey
Steven Casey
Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
Judith and Howard Cohen
Deborah Wolen and Steven Cohn
Rodger Cooley
Michael Dempsey
Lisa Dietlin
Andrew Dilts
Kathryn Dittmore
Jeanne Douglass
Bob and Maureen Doyle
Ladoris Duncan
Sheila Fenn
Jonathan Feakins
Betsy Fuchs
Generations Yoga Center
Janet Gerske
Gail Gillispie
Janice Gintzler
Elizabeth Gottlieb
Paul and Rosalie Greenberger
Irene Gregory
Karen Haedo
Geoffrey Hamerlinck
Fereshteh Hamidi-Toosi
David Hanson
Natalie Holden
Jeffrey Holman
Ian Hughes
IBM
iGive
Peter Jaffe-Notier
Kathryn Judd

Dan Kaplan
Irene Kogan
Edgar and Marion Krentz
Gilbert and Doris Lehman
Sheri Latash
Sue Lannin and Albert Ettinger
Daniel Lesser and Barbara Shulman
Barbara-Ann Lewis
Miriam Lichstein
Elizabeth Lobovitch
Joanne Georgulis and John Martin
Arthur and Laura Mayer
Elizabeth McCabe Postell
Mary and Jed McDonnell
Paulina McDonnell
Craig and Dianne Millard
Bruce and Sally Miller
David Moberg and Jo Patton
Bart Monroe
Michael Morowitz
Herb and Roberta Nechin
Cheryl Noel and Ravi Ricker
Kristen Oconnor
Hasha Perman
Jennifer Puchtel
Joseph Putnick
Andrew and Terry Ratoff
Deborah Render
Leonard and Deborah Rogan
Dorothy Rosier
Natalie Saltiel
Kocoa Scott-Winbush and Clarence Winbush
Beatriz Setrini
Rebecca Shanaman
Michael Slutsky and Susan Agate
Laquita Smallwood
Tonya Strong
William Sullivan
Brook Thomas
Barbara Vaughan
Nicholas Venarchik
Steve Ventura
Kathleen Wallace
P L Watt
Nathan Will
Jarrod Wolf
Elliot Zashin
Jerri Zbiral
Robert Zofkie
David Zverow and Carolen King

Donors In Kind

A Center for Oriental Medicine
Allyu Spa
August Hill Winery
Blackbird
Bright Endeavors
Brew and Grow
Mary Clare Butler
Candid Wines
Charlie Trotter's
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Diner
Chicago Honey Co-op
Alex Chitty
The Chopping Block
City Provisions
Christian and Anna Clark
Shannon Downey
Eli's Cheescake
Cody Engle
Field Museum
Janice Fleckman
Fox & Obel
Frontera Grill
The Gene Siskel Film Center
Gethsemane Garden Center
The Giving Tree Band
Goose Island
Green City Market
Angela Hartsell
Patrick Holbrook

Honey Butter Fried Chicken/Sunday Dinner
iGive
Irv & Shelley's Fresh Picks
IshootRockstars
Wanda Leopold
Light Opera Works
Daniel and Andrea London
Lula Cafe
Lush Wine and Spirits
Gail McCormick
Mindful Metropolis
Miner, Barnhil and Galland and Laura Tilly
Museum of Science and Industry
NAHA
Mike Newman
Cheryl Noel and Ravi Ricker
North Pond
Lauri Alpern and Cody Engle of Open
Door Advisors
Kristina Paabus
Mark and Dawn Parisot
Perennial Virant
Prairie Grass Cafe
Rebecca Schoenecker
The Second City
Rashmi Ramiswamy and Mike Newman of
SHED Studio
Jessica Taylor
TEDx
Treasure Island
Uncommon Ground
Barbara Wallace
93XRT



2008

The Englewood Farmers Market is established with the help of Growing Home.

2009

The Farm and Training Center building at the Wood Street Farm opens providing improved classrooms and office space for the job training program.



2010

Over 10,000 lbs produced in one year on
2/5 of acre at the Wood Street Urban Farm.

Volunteers

Cortney Ahern
Jess Audey
Diane Back
Carlo Ballerine
Kristin Barbour
Sarah Batka
Zac Bleicher
Brianna Brehm
Carolyn Broderick
Simone Bullen
Julie Burch
Mary Clare Butler
Gregor Currence
Mayra de los Reyes
Alicia Eisenbise
Stephanie Hale
Lilah Handler
Kellie Harclerode
Katerina Herder
Kristin Hettich
Ben Jaffe
Alba Jimenez
Lorna Juett
Meg Kelly
Tony Krucek
Wanda Arakaki Leopold
John Nelson
Erin Matson
Joy Moon
Chris Mueller
Jason Murray
Kim Nguyen
Shirley Noel
Allen Noel
Julia Pagnamenta
Dawn Parisot
Mark Parisot
Harmony Picciuca
Sarah Radov
Mike Reichen
Mike Richards
Elisa Revello
Avigal Rhodes
Tzippy Rhodes
Jean Robinson
Teri Rosendale
Jessica Sanchez
Hakiem Shakir
Anna Smith
Jackie Smith
Brian Steiling
Rebecca Stoner
Arden Tatum
Kim Werst
Malissa Winkowski
Lynn Vidal
Patrick Vogel
Nikki Zaleski
Emily Zielke
Justin Zucker
Rachael Zuppke
Cecilia Zvosec



2011

On July 26th, the City of Chicago and Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced the submission of an ordinance providing zoning for urban farms to City Council; Growing Home's staff and Executive Director, Harry Rhodes, were instrumental in building the cooperative process that brought this zoning ordinance into being. In October, Growing Home's Honore Street Farm is the first farm to open under the urban farming City ordinance.

Staff

Shaniece Alexander
Program Assistant

Seth Christensen
Rural Farm Technician

Fred Daniels
Urban Farm Assistant

Breanne Heath
Field Training Specialist

Seneca Kern
Community Outreach Coordinator

Tim Murakami
Urban Farms Manager

Larry O'Toole
Special Projects Manager

Rebekah Silverman
Associate Director

Polly Washburn
Development Director

Joseph Avon
Rural Farm Technician

Katy Collier
Development Associate

Beth Gunzel
Employment Training Manager

Brad Hirn
Employment Specialist

Elspeth McGarvey
Urban Farm Assistant

Tracy Noel
Rural Farms Manager

Harry Rhodes
Executive Director

Nathan Vargovcik
Rural Farm Technician

Board

Valerie Denney, **President**
Valerie Denney Communications

Garth Taylor, **Vice President**
Nonprofit Executive

Javonna Burton, **Treasurer**
Charter One

Kim Bartko
Bartko Design, Inc.

Diana Leifer
Educator and Chef

Carolyn Ulrich, **Secretary**
Chicagoland Gardening Magazine

Lauri Alpern, **Vice President**
Open Door Advisors

Barbara Wallace, **Secretary**
Writer

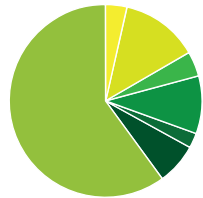
Judith Aronson
Psychotherapist

Ivan Handler
Illinois Department of Public Aid

Laura Tilly
Miner, Barnhill and Galland

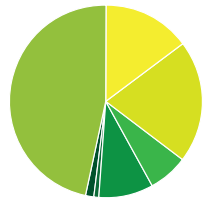
Growing Home Revenue 2008–2011

2008 \$ \$662,697



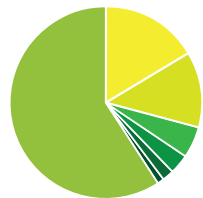
Private and corporate grants	399,268
Government grants	24,000
Farm sales	84,970
Special events	28,328
Individual and small business	63,835
Interest and other	17,070
In-Kind Donations	45,226

2009 \$ \$540,517



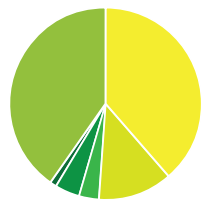
Private and corporate grants	253,110
Government grants	79,236
Farm sales	111,232
Special events	36,428
Individual and small business	49,415
Interest and other	4,383
In-Kind Donations	6,713

2010 \$ \$926,615



Private and corporate grants	550,250
Government grants	152,355
Farm sales	117,588
Special events	48,782
Individual and small business	31,804
Interest and other	15,836
In-Kind Donations	10,000

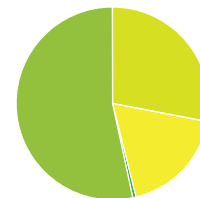
2011 \$ \$1,100,978



Private and corporate grants	445,892
Government grants	425,207
Farm sales	136,950
Special events	36,155
Individual and small business	47,296
Interest and other	9,478

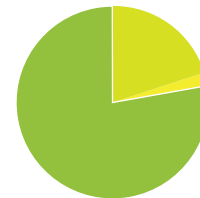
Financial Position as of December 31, 2011

Assets \$ \$1,184,967



Property and equipment	634,761
Cash and cash equivalents	330,464
Accounts receivable	215,930
Other assets	3,812

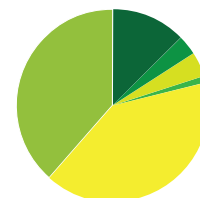
Liabilities and Equity \$ \$1,184,967



Total Equity	922,150
Long-term Liabilities	236,848
Current Liabilities	25,969

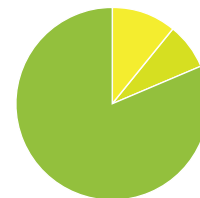
Revenue and Expenses 2011

Public Support and Revenues \$ \$1,100,978



Private and Corporate Grants	445,892
Government Grants	425,207
Farm Sales and Tours	136,950
Special Events	36,155
Individual and Small Business Donations	47,296
Interest and Other Income	9,478

Liabilities and Equity \$ \$1,027,858



Program Expenses	837,673
Management and General	111,932
Fundraising	78,253

Change in Net Assets \$73,120

Growing Home, Inc.

2732 North Clark Street
Suite 310
Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 549-1336

info@growinghomeinc.org
www.growinghomeinc.org

Growing Home's mission is to operate, promote, and demonstrate the use of organic agriculture as a vehicle for job training, employment, and community development.

Graphic design by Mary Clare Butler.
Photography by Andrew Collings Photography
and Kevin Horan