

THE GROWING TIMES

SINCE 2002, GROWING HOME'S INNOVATIVE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HAS USED URBAN FARMING TO TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT & FOOD INSECURITY, RIGHT IN THE HEART OF ENGLEWOOD, CHICAGO.



^ All-Star Cohort 3 PAs & Interns helping us harvest rain or shine!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GROWING HOME:

November 18, 2022

Cohort 4 2022 Graduation!

Tune in at 12pm on our YouTube,
[@GrowingHomeInc](https://www.youtube.com/@GrowingHomeInc)

December 10, 2pm-6pm:

"Share the Love" WinterFest
with Growing Home & We Grow
partners at 6402 S Honore St

Donate to WinterFest:

bit.ly/WinterfestDonate

Gifts Amazon Wishlist:

bit.ly/WinterfestList

Tuesday, November 29th:

Giving Tuesday at Growing Home
growinghomeinc.org/donate

GROWING HOME: BY THE #'S

80

Production
Assistants
enrolled
throughout the
2022 year

37

Job-readiness
Workshops & Job
fairs attended by
our Production
Assistants

24,908

Pounds of organic
produce grown so far
this year - and
counting!

61

Hours of farm
& program help
from awesome
volunteers this
Fall!

1,949

adults & youth at
our Growing Home
Kitchen Fresh
Bites & cooking
demos this year

400

attendees to our
HarvestFest and
Backyard BBQ
Urban Ag Crawl
events this Fall!



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: LETTUCE ENTERTAIN YOU



"LEYE partners were extremely helpful, allowing each of our participants to practice a panel interview individually! Real pointers from real professionals – you can't beat that employer partner support!" – Ursula, Training Specialist

What started out as a tour at the farm to Lettuce Entertain You's Restaurant Manager Karen in 2021 as turned into an incredible partnership on many different levels between LEYE and Growing Home.

LEYE is a family-owned restaurant group with more than 120 restaurants and 60 brands across the country. With their robust DEI initiatives, they dove deep into supporting our local food and workforce development programs this year by having 3 of their chef teams featured at our September Urban Ag Crawl charity event, hosting three workshops for our PA's on mock interviews & code-switching – and hiring one of our Cohort 4 participants in The Ivy Room!

We are grateful to this impactful partnership and can't wait to see how it evolves!

CERTIFICATIONS, TRAININGS & MORE!

In October, PA's and Alumni attended and passed the Olive Harvey Community College forklift certification training. In addition, ServSafe Certifications continue to be a core training during our employment training programs.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

On 10/13 we celebrated the opening of our Community Computer and Job Resource Center. This center is now fully equipped and open to the public 9am–12pm as a resource for job-seekers and lifelong learners!





NEW APPRENTICES

Partnership with Growing Home, Olive Harvey College & Still I Rise

At its heart, the Still I Rise program is an example of restorative justice, and we are privileged to have been able to share growing knowledge with seven joyful and eager apprentices on our farm training site. Over a four-week period (fifteen hours a week), Still I Rise apprentices learned the foundations of vegetable growing on a high production site. The transferable skills learned will assist the apprentices in their pursuit of cannabis careers while encouraging self and communal sufficiency and support.

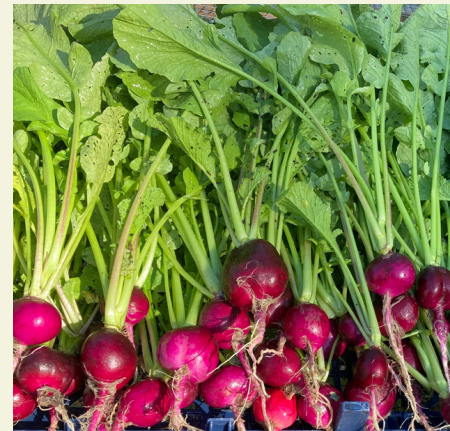


FARM FRESH DEMOS

As part of the Englewood Food Sovereignty Network (EFSN), Growing Home led two workshops at the Englewood Village Market this year. Two delicious topics: salsa-making and infused oils!



GROWING OUR ENTERPRISE



"I am so happy to have so many fresh produce options. It's a great addition to the program." - Home Delivery Program Participant

Growing Home's expansion of social enterprise programs this year proved that we can simultaneously increase revenue and support food access initiatives in our communities.

As Shani Settles, Growing Home's Director of Farm Operations explains, "For all of our new initiatives, there's a focus on the South Side. We know the north side has a strong food orientation - so being able to work on the South Side means we are part of something bigger and part of creating a stronger food network."

That network has included an expanded partnership with Greater Chicago Food Depository, selling produce to two of their Englewood food pantries this year, as well as entering the 61st Street Market in Hyde Park, selling to Plant Chicago in Back of the Yards - and a neat partnership with Beyond Hunger Chicago's Home Delivery program to 406 unique individuals who have limited access to grocery stores. Along with our Englewood CSA and Englewood Farm Market, Growing Home has achieved almost 75% of their distribution in food insecure neighborhoods, far achieving our goal of 50% distribution.



FALL, FOOD & FAMILY AT THE 2022 HARVESTFEST & URBAN AG CRAWL



"I have never partied in the RAIN, I had an absolute blast. Everything was on point, the food was truly a healthy experience." – Englewood Resident

Not one – but TWO successful Fall Events for Growing Home!

The Greater Englewood Urban Ag Crawl co-hosted in September 2022 with Grow Greater Englewood featured local chef backyard BBQ at Growing Home, trolley rides to urban agriculture sites across Englewood, and food and drinks after-party at Grow Greater Englewood's Village Plaza. Even though it was pouring rain, we had over 200 friends and residents come through to celebrate and support local urban agriculture, economic opportunity and community building!

And in October 2022, Growing Home hosted our 3rd Annual HarvestFest to celebrate the end of the busy harvest season with our neighbors and friends! Over 200 people come out for barbecuing, pumpkin patch, free food boxes, health and financial resources from Howard Brown Health & Fifth Third Bank, local alumni vendors...it was a blast!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

As a part of our We Grow Collective partnership, this season we managed the Peace Campus Community Garden at 64th & Honore. Youth groups and neighbors alike had the chance to harvest their own greens & learn gardening tips & tricks! Growing Home led a 6-week summer course with kids from Sunshine Ministries (pictured below) at the garden with gardening, smoothie-making and nutrition games!



AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

Wow. A huge thank you to our 100+ volunteers this year. Special shoutout to our groups from Curaleaf, Prime Finance, US Bank, Vital Proteins, Elrod Friedman and NBKL Law!





GROWING HOME IN THE NEWS

Food Tank

28 Organizations Transforming
Chicago's Food System

August 2022

<https://bit.ly/GHFOODTANK22>

CBS Chicago

'A hidden gem': Englewood first
'ag crawl' takes place on
Sunday, showcasing urban
produce | September 9, 2022

<https://cbsn.ws/3hxr1fy>

WBEZ Reset

Whole Foods is leaving
Englewood. So what's next?
October 25, 2022

<https://bit.ly/GHWBEZ22>



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info@growinghomeinc.org



773.549.1336



5814. S. Wood St, Chicago

WTTW CHICAGO TONIGHT: PERMANENT PUNISHMENT CONVERSATION



Companies Find Value in Employing Individuals Re-Entering Workforce After Prison | October 5, 2022

There are more than 500 employment laws, policies and sanctions that prevent people with criminal records from accessing employment in Illinois.

If businesses licenses and property rights are included, that number soars to around 900. While those barriers exist in many industries, some employers focus specifically on hiring people who are re-entering society after prison. Not only do they offer employment, but some offer needed wraparound services like assistance with childcare or transportation.

At Growing Home, an Englewood farm provides people re-entering society with job readiness training and an opportunity to work with agriculture. Participants join the 12-week program to learn everything from seeding and harvesting to marketing, said Zenobia Williams, director of employment training with Growing Home. >> Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/GHWTTW22>