

**SERVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH
LOCAL HEALTHY FOOD & JOB TRAINING**



**GROWING
HOME**

...

**Urban Farm & Workforce Development
2021 Annual Report**

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ABOUT GROWING HOME

We believe everyone deserves access to a good job and good food.

We are a non-profit urban farm & workforce development center serving Greater Englewood through our life-changing paid workforce development programs & local, fresh affordable food and education programs.

Englewood & many communities of color in Chicago need investment. The effects of structural racism, historic segregation and systemic disinvestment continue to challenge our communities and neighborhoods today. As a means of restorative justice, we are committed to providing significant re-investment in Englewood and serve as a resource through our Food Access and Workforce Development programs.



AT-A-GLANCE

WE'RE THE FIRST AND ONLY HIGH-PRODUCTION USDA-CERTIFIED ORGANIC URBAN FARM IN CHICAGO! WE MAKE ORGANIC PRODUCE ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. WE PAY! ONLY A HANDFUL OF JOB PROGRAMS PAY THEIR PARTICIPANTS. WE HELP PEOPLE STAY OUT OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. WE ARE A BLACK- AND WOMEN-LED NON-PROFIT WITH MANY STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE ALUMNI OF OUR PROGRAM, ENSURING OUR WORK TRULY REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.





ANTONIO'S STORY



"Psychologists define resilience as the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant sources of stress. A part of me truly believes that I define resilience."

Prior to Growing Home, I traveled down a complicated road: I experienced two frame-ups, two wrongful convictions, and a host of systemic and social rejections which ultimately led to interpersonal rejections as well as familial estrangements. On July 23rd 1997, I was framed for the second time, being sentenced to 103 years in prison. All because of a rogue Detective named Reynaldo Guevara who has been accused of falsely framing over 50 people for murder.

I did make it out of the Mountains (prison). However, I lacked the experiences you would get during your 20s and 30s. Anything I could've accomplished and learned at that time had all vanished into that empty space between time. I was getting every door closed in my face until I came to Growing Home. The staff took immediate action to help me get acclimated.

Growing Home is not just about growing vegetables, it's also about helping build character. With manual labor, I was taught to apply myself diligently. Growing Home teaches you how to do the basics: clock-in, build a strong resume, conduct interviews, etc. They also teach you the information you'll need to bring the best out of yourself. If you want to grow and you want to be productive, then you should be healthy. You should put the right things in your body, so you can give yourself the best chance at being able to rise above your current position, to succeed on your future mission. We all have the potential to reach Success with Growing Home.

In March 2020, Antonio was released from prison due to an emergency clemency petition from the Exoneration Project of University of Chicago, finding his way to Growing Home. To read Antonio's full story and learn about his current and future journey as a graduate, visit growinghomeinc.org/antonio.

We are proud of Antonio and his classmates for the resilience they've cultivated throughout this program and their lives. We thank you for making their stop at Growing Home possible.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Growing Home's Employment Training Program supports those with the highest barriers to employment as we work to increase employment access equity in Chicago.

Our Programs

- A 12-week paid transitional employment and job readiness program for adults with barriers to employment (includes robust Classroom Curriculum, On-The-Job Training & Wrap-Around Services)
- 34+ Employer Partner Program
- Lifetime Alumni Resources & Network
- *NEW*: Apprenticeship Program with Olive Harvey College
- *NEW*: Free Neighborhood Computer & Job Resource Center



Our Participants in 2021

- 64% live in Englewood
- Range in age from 18 to 62, a median age of 32
- 90% are African American or Black
- 45% are female, and 55% are male
- 50% have minor children
- 87% have been justice-involved
- 100% of our participants are low-income



OUR IMPACT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

76

Production Assistants Enrolled in 2021
(38% increase from previous years)

500+

Alumni served through our on-going post graduation support

71%

Percentage that our Employment Training Program reduces recidivism compared to Illinois state average

78%

of Graduates report decrease in health & mental health barriers

"I was getting every door closed in my face until I came to Growing Home. Growing Home teaches you the information you'll need to bring the best out of yourself."

- ANTONIO, 2021 GRADUATE -



FRESH FOOD ACCESS & EDUCATION

Growing Home's Food Access program works on many levels to support the Englewood economy and create a healthier food system that addresses the effects and persistence of food insecurity.

Our Programs

Fresh Food

- Local Produce Stands with Double Value for Public Assistance & Senior Coupons
- CSA Program of Bi-Weekly Food Boxes
- Weekly Deliveries to local Food Pantry
- Veggie RX Partnerships
- Covid-19 Emergency Food Relief Initiative
- Pop-ups, Donation Events

Education

- In-Person & Online Cooking Demos & Recipes
- Adult & Youth Workshops
- Volunteering & Tours
- Community Events: Open Houses and seasonal festivals, i.e. HarvestFest, WinterFest
- Experimental Community Garden

Our Customers & Participants

- Residents + Seniors in & around Englewood
- Female headed single family homes
- Shelters & Soup Kitchens
- Food Depository patrons
- Youth & Adult Groups



OUR IMPACT FOOD ACCESS

30,186+

lbs grown of fresh,
organic vegetables

61%

of our distribution in
Greater Englewood
(185% increase from 2019)

48,648

individual servings
administered through our
food & education programs

"Thank you very much for promoting good health. Thank you for all you have done and all you are going to do. God Bless."

- 2021 LOCAL CSA CUSTOMER -

OUR PARTNERS OUR FUTURE WORK

Our essential work is only possibly because of our tremendous support from our Growing Home family, friends, donors and partners.

Our Employer Partners

To see our full list of employer partners, please visit our website: growinghomeinc.org/our-impact



Our Community Partners

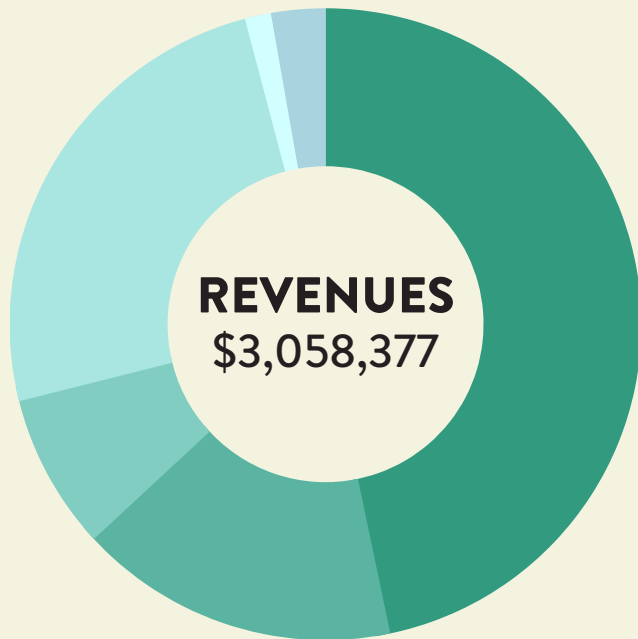


Our Future Projects

- Full-Time Resource Center
- Employer Partner Growth
- Farm Expansion
- Growing Home Food Buggy

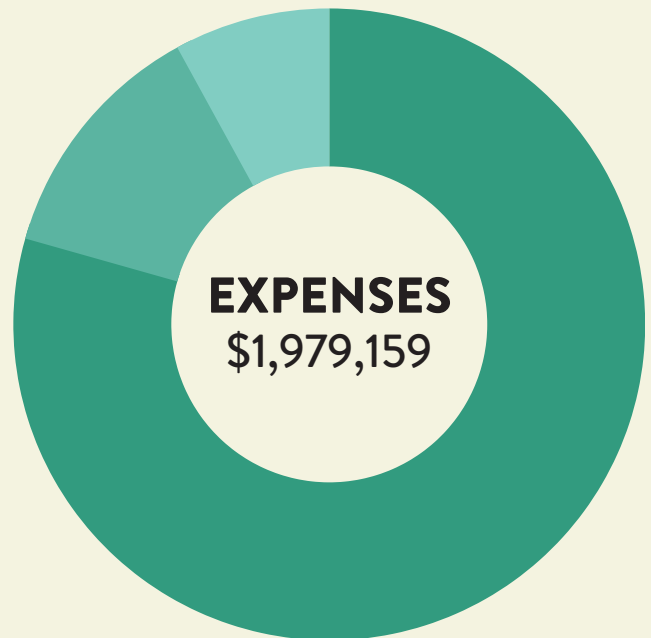


GROWING HOME FINANCES



- 47% GRANTS - \$1,427,907
- 16% CONTRIBUTIONS - \$500,805
- 8% SPECIAL EVENTS - \$243,971
- 25% GOVERNMENT - \$758,216
- 1.5% FARM & PROGRAM - \$40,918
- 2.5% IN-KIND DONATIONS - \$84,783

- 79% PROGRAM - \$1,571,090
- 13% FUNDRAISING - \$249,906
- 8% MANAGEMENT - \$158,163



**GROWING HOME BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE
DESERVES A GOOD JOB AND GOOD FOOD.**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR **CIRCLE OF IMPACT** DONORS!

LES BROWN FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

\$50,000 and above

Steve and Emmy Stanley

SUSTAINERS

\$25,000-\$49,999

Jana French and Peter Gotsch

Marny and Matthew Zimmer

H. Michael and Sheila Kurzman

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

\$12,500-24,999

Thomas and Pascale Kichler

HARVESTERS

\$5,000-\$12,499

Daniel and Rebecca Kaplan

Diana Leifer

Doug and Jessie MacDonald

Janet Winter

John Salvino

Judith Aronson and Marc Hilton

Laura Tilly and Derek Cottier

Lynn Sheck

Scott Leff

Seth and Dorothy Hemming

William and Irene Beck

CULTIVATORS

\$1,000-\$4,999

Alexander Starace

Alita Carbone and Deborah Mead

Anne Lazar

Betsy Gates-Alford and Peter Alford

Carley Pulford

Carolyn Ulrich

Connie Scott

Cooper Foszcz

Cynthia Wolfson

Daniel Smith

Debbie Roseen

Foster Dale and Janet Silverberg

Freddi Greenberg and Daniel Pinkert

Harold Rees and Emily Culbertson
Heather Aeschleman

Helen and Michael Arkes

Jacob Rassner

Jeffrey Yurkanin

Jeffrey Zaluda

Jenna Swisher

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Joseph Appelt

Karen and Bob Lewis

Karl and Meg Eifrig

Kevin Swan and Venous Shabahang

Lauren Rosenthal and Howard Learner

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Mark Bourdenko and Madeline Wolfe

Matt Cafaro

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Norman Jeddelloh and Mario Lopez

Peter Landon

Sara and Russell Foszcz

Sarah Gourevitch

Scott and Sue Anderson

Steve and Sara Gates

Steve Koch

Susan Berman

Susan Morrison

Taeyun Kim

Tamara and Peter Notier

Toni Thompson

William Gee and Sue Crothers

Willie Lyles

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR **CIRCLE OF CHANGE** DONORS!

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

The Chicago Community Trust
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Builders Initiative
The Boeing Company
Reinhardt H & Shirley R Jahn Foundation Trust
The Justice Advisory Council
Curaleaf IL

\$50,000-\$99,999

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
BMO Harris Bank
WhyHunger
J.R. Albert Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

ACT of Hope Foundation
Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Bank of America
The Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
Bess Charitable Fund
Anonymous
Anonymous

\$15,000-\$24,999

The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Rosenthal Family Foundation
University of Illinois Chicago, Veggie RX Program
Flowers for Dreams
Conagra Brands Foundation
Full Circle Foundation
Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation
Bel Brands USA

\$5,000-\$14,999

Trio Foundation of St. Louis
Fifth Third Bank
US Bank
William Blair & Company
Helen Brach Foundation
The Community Foundation of
Bloomington & Monroe County
Accenture
The Siragusa Family Foundation
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
Deloitte
PNC Bank
Elrod Friedman LLP
American Online Giving Foundation
All Star Trading
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
The Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Associated Bank
Garvy Brady Charitable Fund (Schwab)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR **GARDEN CLUB** DONORS!

CULTIVATORS

\$100 per month

Anonymous

Cooper Foszcz

CHAMPIONS

\$50 per month

Anonymous

Brandy Canady

Henry White

Howard Stanley

Lynn Kohlhaas

Tameka Haywood

GROWERS

\$25 per month

Andrew Hertzberg

Anne McKibbin

Christopher Weber

Jennifer Hall

Sarah Rulseh

SEEDERS

\$5 per month

Alexis Macias

Ava Berry

Bill Galusha

Brenna O'Dea

Carley Pulford

Charlotte Klein

Dylan McNamee

Erica Myles

Julie Rand & Matt

Greenberger

Kyla Jarka

Maxine Freedman

Natalie Toth

Nancy Burke

Peter Dirks






GROWING HOME

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