

THE GROWING TIMES

FOR 30 YEARS, GROWING HOME'S INNOVATIVE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HAS USED URBAN FARMING TO TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT & FOOD INSECURITY IN CHICAGO



Farm Educator, Rojas Oliva, and Cohort 2 Production Assistants harvesting fresh greens for an upcoming market in June

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2023 Chicago Urban Ag Crawl
Sunday, Sept. 10 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Englewood Farm Stand
Thursdays 11am-5pm thru Oct.
1844 W. 59th Street

***2023 Farm Stand Celebrations*:**
August 17: Yoga on the Farm
September 21: Steppin' into Sept
October 19: HarvestFest

Green City Market:
Saturdays 7am-1pm thru Oct.
1790 N. Clark Street

61st Street Market:
Saturdays 9am-2pm thru Oct.
6100 S. Blackstone Street

GROWING HOME: BY THE #'S

75

Trainees enrolled in Cohorts 1, 2 and 3 of our Farm & IT Employment Training so far

89%

of 2023 Production Assistants have attended job fairs and/or interviews

53

Signups for our 2023 Free Englewood CSA Program

**12,426 lbs,
and counting!**

Fresh vegetables harvested in the 2023 season!

25

Types of produce harvested so far:

arugula, bok choy, beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, celery, chard, collard, cucumber, fennel, kale, lettuce heads, salad mix, mustard greens, napa cabbage, summer squash, radish, scallions, spinach, tokyo bekana, turnips, cherry tomatoes, green tomatoes, slicer tomatoes



GROWING HOME ALUM FURTHERS EDUCATION, INSPIRES CHANGE



Everyone at Growing Home has a story. Our team has the pleasure of helping kickstart individuals' career paths and witnessing countless graduates who finish the program take great leaps to become agents of change in their lives and the world around them. Broderick Hollins graduated from our Workforce Development Training Program at the start of 2022. After much hard work and dedication,

Broderick Hollins earned his Associate's Degree in General Studies from Oakton Community College in 2022.

Broderick has taken significant strides to further his educational career and was recently featured on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news radio. The news clip shared Broderick's triumphant journey from starting school while incarcerated to becoming a re-entering citizen with a mission to further his education at the notable Northwestern University. Broderick is six classes away from receiving his Bachelor's degree in Social Science and is currently a public speaker on restorative justice. The Chicago native came to Growing Home with many ambitions to broaden his career scope and life path—and he's doing just that. "My voice is heard a lot. I talk about the (prison) system and its effect, and I want people to learn from all the things I share and, if needed, help turn around their own life," said Broderick Hollins. Broderick hopes to use his degree to help empower others through education.

Congratulations!



COMPTIA A+ IT TRAINING

Our Workforce Development Program has expanded in the realm of technology and just introduced certified training from Comptia to our 11 students in the Cohort 3 IT course. They are on their way to being tech-industry certified! "Growing Home is right here in the community and can help people get ready for success," says Mary Devo, Growing Home's IT Specialist and Educator for Growing Home's Computer and Job Resource Center.

GROWING HOME ALUM CONTINUED

Want to listen in on Broderick Hollin's British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) News Radio clip?

Check it out at: www.growinghomeinc.org/reports-media/



ROOFTOP GARDEN PARTNERSHIPS

We built a rooftop garden - and it's on wheels! As part of our ongoing partnership with Vital Proteins, the corporate Chicago HQ hired Growing Home to build its first rooftop garden at the downtown Fulton Market offices in celebration of Earth Day. It was a great opportunity for our Production Assistants to have practice working with a real-time business client and a fun way for our staff to show off their creativity and skills.



TOMATOES ARE IN!

These delicious, sweet summer staples are such a treat especially when they first start to show signs of abundance. Finally, they are no longer a scattered few just beginning to ripen. Almost all of the 800 bed feet we've committed (a whole hoop house) have begun to ripen.



FARM-TO-PANTRY: CONTINUED SUCCESS



“It’s a good avenue for us to be able to provide without making people seek out a different place.” - Farm and Program Manager, Ezra Lee

Growing Home is proud to announce our new farm-to-pantry partnership with Koinonia Ministry. Our team has been working diligently to create new opportunities for fresh food access in our local community.

Since 2021, we have been establishing relationships with food access points like the Greater Chicago Food Depository to engage pre-existing food channels for people looking for healthier food through local pantries. In 2022, we broadened our farm-to-pantry scope. We partnered with All Things Through Christ at the Hopewell Church on 6600 S Hermitage, where we utilized the same model of directly delivering freshly harvested produce to a known entity. This Summer, after much success and enthusiastic feedback from our community residents, we added a third site at Koinonia Ministry, a food distribution center located at 7600 and Halsted. This center will receive weekly helpings of 100 items from our farm--- now increasing our total to 350 lbs of produce per week going directly to our community.



INCREDIBLE FARM STAND CELEBRATIONS MAKING WAY



"I use vegetables that culturally I grew up eating and cooking, but now I have several healthier ways to prepare them."

- LaQuandra Fair, Community Engagement Coordinator, Growing Home

Summertime barbecues are a staple for Chicago residents after spending much time inside because of the chillier winter months. This year, Growing Home has put a new, exciting spin on our Farm Stand tradition: Themed Third Thursday Farm Stands- And they've been incredible. The most recent, Grill and Chill was hosted on July 20, and we celebrated the beauty of summer and healthy eating. These farm stands are led by Growing Home Community Engagement Coordinator LaQuandra Fair, and this farm stand, in particular, included a grilling workshop with a catch: not a single piece of meat was in sight.

These events uplift farm-to-table produce and healthy cooking with Englewood and Chicago neighbors. The biggest Farmstand of the year so far was our Juneteenth event which hosted over 120 people at our 59 and Honor market. These celebrations will continue till October and feature local vendors selling products like flowers, fresh juices, jewelry designs, and much more.

LaQuandra's food demos bring our farm-to-table concept to life. She shares, "I use vegetables that culturally I grew up eating and cooking, but now I have several healthier ways to prepare them. I love giving samples of meatless meals and having our customers buy the ingredients and prepare the same meal."

BIG THANKS TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

Things have officially started heating up on the farm and our fantastic volunteer groups have been great company during the sunniest time of year! Check out who's been helping out on the farm!

Thank you to:

Chicago Cares

Green Thumb Industries

Bel Brands USA

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints

Annie's Home Farm

Project Management Advisors, Inc.

Amalgamated Bank of Chicago

Darst Center

Howard Brown Health

And so many more!





THE 2023 SUPPORTERS OF GROWING HOME

Our work is not possible without the support of our corporate and foundation partners. A special thank you to the organizations below who've committed \$5K-\$600K this year to our work!

- Justice Advisory Council (JAC)
- City of Chicago - DFSS
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- The Builders Initiative
- Michael Jordan and Jordan Brand
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
- National Able Network
- BMO
- Bank of America
- Conagra Brands Foundation
- The Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation
- Manaaki Foundation
- Patagonia
- Accenture
- Fifth Third Bank
- U.S. Bank
- PNC Bank
- Elrod Friedman LLP
- Guggenheim Securities
- Sterling Bay Companies, LLC
- The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation
- William Blair and Company

GROWING HOME IN THE NEWS



Englewood Chef Launches Farm-To-Table Catering Business, With 'Love In Every Bite'

Block Club Chicago, August 1, 2023:

ENGLEWOOD — LaQuandra Fair is almost always thinking about food.

Fair plucks, chops, cooks and plates vegetable-centric meals as the community engagement coordinator at Growing Home, a farm-based training program and organic farm in Englewood. A key component of her job is to give neighbors examples of healthy dishes they can prepare at home, Fair said.

Food “brings people together and strengthens relationships,” Fair said. Now, she hopes to bring more of her food to Chicago neighbors.

--- To read the rest of the article and view recent media coverage of Growing Home, go to: growinghomeinc.org/reports-media

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