

THE GROWING TIMES

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



A toast to Growing Home at the 23rd Annual Benefit on May 8, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grill N Chill Celebration
Thursday, July 17

Urban Ag Crawl & Backyard BBQ
Saturday, September 21, 2025

Harvestfest
Saturday, October 18, 2025

GROWING HOME IS IN FULL SWING!

We are in full swing at Growing Home, and there's so much to celebrate! We are deep into Cohort 2 of our Transitional Workforce Program, empowering individuals with the skills and support to achieve long-term employment. Meanwhile, Cohort 1 of our Information Technology Program is off to an exciting start, offering new opportunities in the ever-growing tech sector.

As the season peaks, our harvests are flourishing, bringing fresh, nutritious produce to the community. Our Thursday and Saturday markets are in full swing, connecting neighbors with affordable, organic food grown right here. With more programming, events, and growth ahead, we can't wait to share what's next!



URBAN FARM & FOOD ACCESS

FROM SEED TO SALE. ORGANIC, NUTRITIOUS AFFORDABLE PRODUCE.



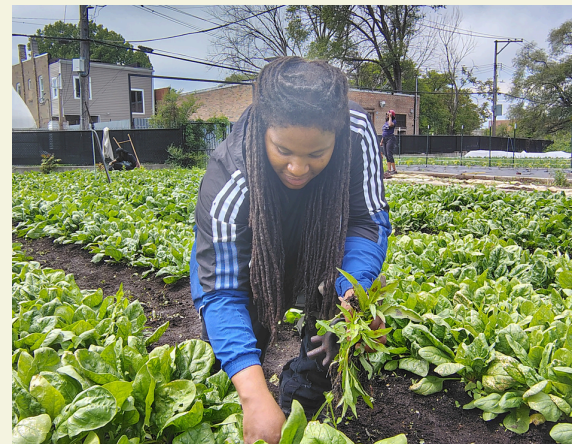
GROWING HOME'S ENGLEWOOD FARM STAND



**THURSDAYS
11AM-5PM
MAY - OCTOBER**

FARM UPDATES

Growing Home's Englewood Farm Stand is back! Come by and stock up on nutritious, locally grown food—straight from the farm to your table! Despite a cool May with some brief spikes into the high 80's, our plantings have remained on schedule. The earliest plantings of greens, salad mixes, and root vegetables have already been harvested for our farmers markets and partner pantries. With wholesale deliveries waiting and home delivery programs on the horizon in June, we've wasted no time flipping our earliest plantings for new sets of transplants and seeds which will keep the farm lush with produce in August.



DERRICK ROSE GARDEN UPDATE

Beyond just growing food, we're filling our space with some new beauty. Through our collaboration with the Derrick Rose Foundation and the Chicago Bulls, we've revitalized the front garden on Wood St. To encourage the welcoming opportunities at Growing Home, we've removed the fence surrounding the garden, added a border wall, and added soil during Englewood Unity Day. In dedication of Derrick Rose, we've planted several varieties of shrub and climbing roses along with dozens of native flower plants and grasses to support native pollinators.





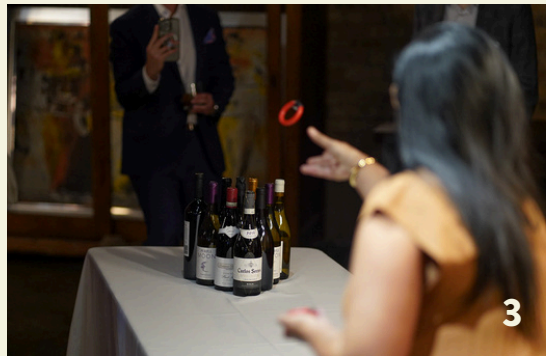
ANNUAL BENEFIT RECAP

What a night! On May 8th, we held our 23rd Annual Benefit at Salvage One. The event was a monumental success, generating over \$201,482 to support our transitional workforce development and food access programs. This tremendous support will be instrumental in transforming lives in Englewood.

A huge thank you to everyone who made Growing Home's 23rd Annual Benefit such a success. To our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees—you showed up, you gave generously, and you made a real impact for Englewood.

Because of you, we can continue providing job training, fresh food, and economic opportunities to those who need them most. Your support means more than words can say, but we'll try anyway—we're so grateful for this community.

Let's keep growing together. 🌱





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS TO SERVE OUR GREATER ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY

UNITY DAY

Growing Home had the opportunity to thank 60 Circle of Impact supporters and 51 Circle of Change supporters at Unity Day 2025. The support you provide allows us to invest in our ongoing programming and the community.



LOBBY DAY

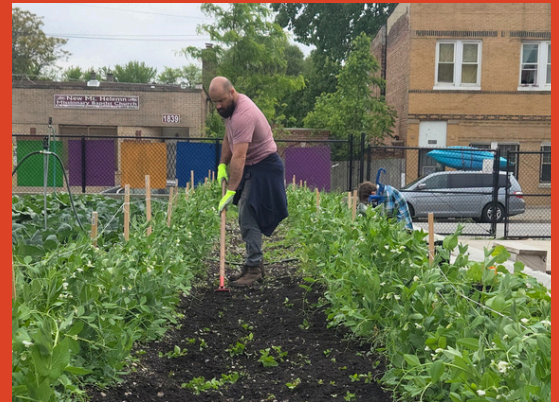
On May 14th, our staff took part in the 3rd Annual Black Farmers & Growers Lobby Day in Springfield, IL. Hundreds of farmers, growers, advocates, and community members came together to champion healthy food access and equity for all.

Our team had the invaluable opportunity to discuss key legislative issues impacting our work and the community's access to fresh, nutritious food. A special thank you to Representative Sonya Harper for leading this important initiative and providing yet another powerful platform to raise awareness of our mission.

BIG THANKS TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

On behalf of Growing Home, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to each and every volunteer. Words can't express how grateful we are for your continued support of the work we do in our community.

Special thanks to:
Whole Foods
Amazon
Bel Brands
And so many more!





COHORT 1 GRADUATION



Congrats to our first 2025 Employment Training program graduates! Growing Home started the year with a 75% graduation rate! The Information Technology Program had a 90% graduation rate for the CompTIA A+ program. 96% of participants earned ServSafe Certifications, and over 45% earned Forklift Operator certifications. Approximately 50% have already been placed in employment.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: NADIA'S STORY

COHORT 4 - 2024

Obstacles are a part of life. It's how the obstacles are handled and overcome that speaks of someone's determination. The strength, resilience, and determination Nadia Turner showed while being a Production Assistant was a beacon of light to all who crossed her path. Nadia faced many hurdles, but through it all, never gave up, held on to hope, kept pushing forward, and proved to herself—and to the world—that her circumstances did not define her.

From living in a shelter to now, stepping into this new opportunity of being gainfully employed at Rush University Medical Center as

a Patient Food Service Associate, is not just a source of income; it's a testament to her perseverance and a stepping stone toward even greater things that she is worthy and deserving of that comes her way.

We are so proud of Nadia, and have no doubt that this is just the beginning of a bright and promising future.



UPCOMING COHORTS

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Cohort 4: 08/25/25 – 11/14/25

IT TRAINING PROGRAM

Cohort 3: 07/28/25 – 10/03/25

Cohort 4: 10/20/25 – 12/26/25





THE 2025 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 \$2K-\$500K this year to our work!

Accenture

Albert and Anne Mansfield Foundation

BMO Harris Bank

Center for Better Aging

Chicago Bulls

City of Chicago - DFSS

Conagra Brands Foundation

Derrick Rose Foundation

Driehaus Foundation

Fifth Third Bank

Full Circle Foundation

Greater Horizons

Helen Brach Foundation

Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development

Illinois Dept. of Corrections - Parole Office

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago

Merrion Foundation

National Able Network, Inc.

National Basketball Players Association

Polk Bros. Foundation

Robert R. McCormick Foundation

Seattle Foundation

The Local South Foundation

The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

Whole Foods Market

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS...

CHEERS TO OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT SPONSORS!

We'd like to give a special shoutout to the incredible sponsors who supported our 2025 Annual Benefit. Their commitment to Growing Home highlighted the beauty of our neighborhood and fostered connections that strengthen our community.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors for their dedication and for helping us create such an impactful event.



The Kichler Family



STAY CONNECTED



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