



# GROWING HOME

...



## URBAN FARM & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT 2025 IMPACT REPORT

5814 S WOOD ST, CHICAGO, IL 60636

PHONE: (773) 549-1336 | EMAIL: [INFO@GROWINGHOMEINC.ORG](mailto:INFO@GROWINGHOMEINC.ORG)

[GROWINGHOMEINC.ORG](http://GROWINGHOMEINC.ORG)   [@GROWINGHOMEINC](https://www.facebook.com/GROWINGHOMEINC)  [@GROWINGHOME](https://www.instagram.com/GROWINGHOME)

# ABOUT GROWING HOME

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

Growing Home is the only organization in Chicago that combines a certified organic farm with a Department of Labor aligned workforce development program and a digital literacy/IT training pathway. Our programs directly support government priorities related to economic recovery, digital equity, nutrition security, re-entry, workforce participation, and community resilience.

Englewood, like many communities of color in Chicago, deserves meaningful investment. The effects of structural racism, historic segregation, and systemic disinvestment continue to shape our neighborhoods today. As an act of restorative justice, we are committed to reinvesting in Englewood and serving as a trusted 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.**





# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Growing Home Friends and Family,

I've been thinking about what real change looks like here in Englewood. It's not one big moment; it's built job by job, meal by meal, and person by person.

At Growing Home, we've seen how opportunity, nourishment, and community can transform lives. In 2025, those transformations were everywhere you looked.

## One Job.

Growing Home welcomed 137 trainees into our paid Transitional Jobs and Certified IT programs, empowering individuals to rebuild confidence and reclaim purpose. With the support of employer partners such as the Chicago Transit Authority, UPS, Gary Comer Youth Center, and Chicago Lights Farm, our graduates are successfully transitioning into the workforce and shaping brighter futures.

## One Meal.

On our 1.75-acre organic farm in the heart of Englewood, we cultivated and distributed more than 30,500 pounds of produce, enough for 140,000 servings of fresh, healthy meals across Chicago, including 102,000 servings shared right here in the Greater Englewood community. Every bunch of collard greens and every head of lettuce carried the same message: good food and good health belong to everyone.

## One Community Changed.

In a year marked by uncertainty, political shifts, and challenges across Chicago, we have remained rooted. Thanks to the generosity of individuals, government partners, and philanthropic supporters, we continued to create meaningful change in our community. Support from the City of Chicago and philanthropic partners has also moved us closer than ever to breaking ground on our new 30,850 square-foot, state of the art facility, including 26,150 square feet of outdoor growing space scheduled for 2026 ([www.growinghomeinc.org/grow](http://www.growinghomeinc.org/grow)).

As we look ahead, I invite you to stay connected with Growing Home at: [info@growinghomeinc.org](mailto:info@growinghomeinc.org)) or by calling 773-549-1336.

With deep gratitude and determination,

Janelle St. John



# FRESH FOOD ACCESS & EDUCATION

## Our Programs

### Fresh Food

- 3 Southside High Quality + High Discount Produce Markets with Double Value for SNAP & Senior Coupons
- No-Cost Englewood Weekly Produce Deliveries to 50 homes
- Weekly Deliveries to 3 Pantry Partners in Englewood
- 85 Food as Medicine produce boxes distributed through our Englewood partner, Teamwork Englewood
- Wholesale local stores, Pop-ups, and Donation Events



### Education & Community Engagement

- In-Person Cooking Demos & Recipes
- Volunteering & Tours
- Community Event

## Our Customers & Participants

- Residents + Seniors in & around Englewood
- Shelters
- Food Pantries
- Youth & Adult Groups



## OUR IMPACT FOOD ACCESS

10

Of our ongoing distribution channels are in Greater Englewood & food insecure communities

142,976

Individual servings of produce shared directly from our farms. (FDA: 1 serving of vegetables = ≈ 3.5 oz lbs)

26,290

People served through all our food access programs

"I can't thank you all enough for all of your hard work and dedication to the community. I pray that your year is filled with blessings and bounty. I can't thank you all enough for making my 98 year old mom's day at your weekly farmstand!"

- Ms. Louise, 2015



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Growing Home’s Employment Training Program supports individuals facing the highest barriers to employment, advancing equitable access to job opportunities across Chicago.

## Our Programs

- A year long workforce development experience which begins with a 12 week paid transitional employment and job readiness program (includes robust classroom curriculum, on-the-job training and wrap-around services) followed by a 9-month extended job search, job placement, and job retention services.
- Certified Information Technology Training Program which begins with a 10-week stipend training that includes IT Essentials, A+, Network+, and Security +. Followed by a 9-month extended job search, job placement, job retention, and wrap-around services.
- 40 + Employer Partner Program
- Lifetime Alumni Resources & Network
- Free Community Job Resource Center
- Case management support



## Our Participants in 2025

- 17.1% live in Englewood
- Ranged in age from 18 to 60
  - a median age of 35
- 90.2% are African American / Black
- 32.9% are female, and 65.8% are male
- 21.9% have minor children
- 50% have been justice-involved
- 100% are low-income

## OUR IMPACT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- 148** Individuals enrolled in our Transitional Job Program (82) and our Certified IT Training Program (66).
- 217** Industry Recognized Certificates earned to include ServSafe, CompTia Computer (A+, Network+, Security +), Roots of Success Environmental Specialist, CNA, Solar, CDL, and Forklift
- 61** Justice involved participants either completed parole/probation or set to be discharged from parole/probation by 2028
- 60%** Graduates actively seeking employment were placed in employment. 77% of placed graduates retained job for 30 days

"Personal power becomes people power when each individual first recognizes their own agency."  
 - 2025 Alumni Graduate

# STORIES FROM GROWING HOME



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Angela's Story: Information Technology Perseverance



Angela's story is a truly inspiring one. When she joined our A+ IT training program, she brought incredible heart and determination. As both a grandmother and a job seeker, she balanced early morning scaring for her grandchild with late nights applying for jobs, making the most of every spare moment to focus on her studies. Now, with her CompTIA A+ certification in hand, Angela is diving into IT support and has just landed a role with United Airlines. Her journey is a powerful reminder that it's never too late to chase new dreams.

**"Yes, I put in the work and then some; however, I did not do this alone. I want to thank Mary Devo and Troy Thompson of Growing Home Inc. for their guidance and support." - Angela**

### Luis' Story: Workforce Transformation



Focus is the best word to describe Luis' journey at Growing Home. He came to us facing housing insecurity, with a passion for open spaces and a desire to learn how to grow food, and a clear goal: gaining the hands-on training needed to build a career in urban farming and a more stable income.

From day one, Luis was one of our most consistent and committed participants, arriving early, staying late, filling pages with notes, and approaching every field task, classroom lesson, and volunteer opportunity with genuine curiosity and determination.


**Luis is now a Farm Assistant at Growing Home Inc.**

# 2025 MEDIA COVERAGE

**CHICAGO**  
CHOOSE CHICAGO

**An urban farm for the community**

**Growing Home:** Growing Home Inc. in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood is a USDA-certified organic urban farm and workforce development program. Providing paid job training and affordable produce, Growing Home empowers individuals and strengthens community ties. You can get involved and support its mission by shopping its produce at local Chicago farmers' markets or volunteering on the farm.




chicagocrusader.com

**Chicago Bulls Report Highlights Deep Community Investment**


May 8, 2025 By Crusader Staff

**DONATE**



The Chicago Bulls organization continues to be a major force for positive change in the city, according to its recently released 2024-2025 Community Impact Report. The report details a wide range of initiatives aimed at addressing critical needs, fostering community connections, and celebrating Chicago's rich cultural tapestry. The Bulls' dedication to Chicago extends to environmental initiatives as well. "The Rose Garden," a partnership with Derrick Rose, supports Growing Home, an urban farm in Englewood, by creating a pollinator garden to enhance food production and community green space.

Through these diverse and impactful programs, the Chicago Bulls organization demonstrates a deep commitment to using its platform to create lasting positive change throughout the city.



**CITIZEN** WEEKLY

**Nourishing Hope and Growing Home Partner to Expand Access to Healthy Food and Job Readiness Resources in Englewood**

**Nourishing Hope and Growing Home Partner to Expand Access to Healthy Food and Job Readiness Resources in Englewood**

CHICAGO, Ill. — Nourishing Hope, one of Chicago's leading hunger relief and social service organizations, is announcing a new partnership with Growing Home — a USDA-Certified Organic urban farm, workforce development center, and nonprofit social enterprise located in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. Through paid, innovative job training and access to affordable, locally grown produce, Growing Home empowers individuals and strengthens neighborhoods. The partnership will bring Nourishing Hope's Online Market to Growing Home's South Side location.

wttw


CHICAGO BY 11

**Englewood**

Previous Stop: Edgewater Next Stop: Evanston

**The Story of Englewood**

The Englewood community and its residents are often at the center of a city-wide conversation about how to support communities that have suffered from disinvestment. Englewood, according to Encyclopedia of Chicago, was *once home* to Irish and German immigrants. It is now officially *two separate community areas*: Englewood and West Englewood.

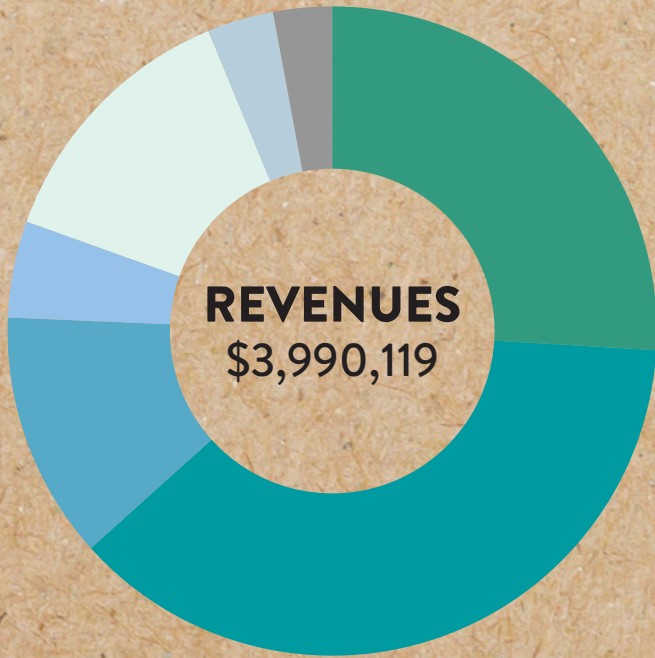


But many people in the community are working to improve Englewood. Small businesses, job programs, and nonprofit outreach are infusing the neighborhood with more optimism. The Englewood Jazz Festival brings music to Hamilton Park every year. Churches such as Antioch Missionary Baptist Church have continued to serve as spiritual centers for the community and provide other services such as affordable housing. And Kennedy-King College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, opened a 40-acre campus at 63rd and Halsted streets in 2007. It's home to the Washburne Culinary Institute and WKRC radio. A new Whole Foods opened in 2016, providing some relief for a community with food deserts — something nonprofit Growing Home is also working to solve with its urban farm (read more below).

- 1/3/25-BLOCK CLUB CHICAGO - JAN. 4 DECLARED DERRICK ROSE DAY IN CHICAGO AS BULLS LEGEND DEDICATES SOUTH SIDE GARDEN
- 1/29/25-CITIZEN-GROWING HOME LOOKS TOWARD THE FUTURE WITH NEW PROJECTS
- 8/25/25- CRAINS COMMENTARY: INVESTING IN THESE 6 COMPONENTS CAN ACHIEVE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
- 9/5/2025-CIVIL EATS-THE ORGANIC URBAN FARM GROWING HEALTHY FOOD FOR ONE OF CHICAGO'S MOST UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS
- 10/31/2025-NATURAL AWAKENINGS CHICAGO-MEET THESE ADVOCATES FOR A BETTER FOOD SYSTEM
- 12/23/2025-CITIZEN-NOURISHING HOPE AND GROWING HOME PARTNER TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD AND JOB READINESS RESOURCES IN ENGLEWOOD

READ ALL THE ARTICLES AT [GROWINGHOMEINC.ORG/REPORTS-MEDIA](https://growinghomeinc.org/reports-media)

# GROWING HOME FINANCIALS\*



- 42% GRANTS - \$1,492,293
- 17% CAPITAL CAMPAIGN-WOOD STREET CAMPUS EXPANSION- \$1,035,041
- 14% CONTRIBUTIONS - \$491,716
- 5% SPECIAL EVENTS - \$191,987
- 15% GOVERNMENT - \$530,516
- 4% FARM & PROGRAM -\$131,955
- 3% INTEREST & MISC. - \$116,627



- 72% PROGRAM - \$2,032,320.47
- 13.49% FUNDRAISING - \$380,758.77
- 14.48% ADMINISTRATION - \$408,693.01

\*Please note: These financials are unaudited until July 2026





# OUR FUTURE WORK



## LET'S GROW STRONGER, TOGETHER

### Growing Home's 2023 - 2028 Capital Campaign

At Growing Home, our ability to provide a transformative environment for the community is deeply intertwined with our farm space, and the physical building and mobile trailers where positive change happens. As Growing Home embarks on a growth journey, investing in our infrastructure becomes a vital priority to effectively support our farm operations and training programs.

Join us in building a stronger, healthier Englewood by supporting Growing Home Inc.'s Capital Campaign, an investment in our community's future, creating lasting opportunities for growth, stability, and success.

[Click here for more great news about our endeavor.](#)





# OUR PARTNERS

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

## Our Employer Recruitment Partners include

Top industries that trainees were placed in include: Manufacturing & Logistics, Healthcare, Transportation. To see our full list of employer partners, please visit our website: [growinghomeinc.org/our-impact](http://growinghomeinc.org/our-impact)



## Our Food Access & Community Partners include








# GROWING HOME

...

Farm and Training Center  
5814 S. Wood St.  
Chicago, IL 60636  
(773) 434-7144

Administrative Office  
6429 S. Honore St.  
Chicago, IL 60636  
(773) 549-1336

[growinghomeinc.org](http://growinghomeinc.org)  [@growinghomeinc](https://www.facebook.com/growinghomeinc)   [@growinghome](https://www.instagram.com/growinghome)