

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 24th Annual Benefit on May 7, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Grill N Chill
Farm Stand Celebration**
Thursday, July 16

**Dance your Stress Away
Farm Stand Celebration**
Thursday, August 20

Annual Backyard BBQ
Sunday, September 20

Harvestfest
Saturday, October 17

growinghomeinc.org/events

CULTIVATING OPPORTUNITY. ADVANCING EQUITY. GROWING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

For more than 30 years, Growing Home has used urban agriculture as a catalyst for workforce development, food justice, and neighborhood transformation in Greater Englewood. Through paid job training, food access, and community-centered partnerships, we continue investing in healthier people, stronger families, and more equitable futures.





A NIGHT OF IMPACT: ANNUAL BENEFIT RECAP

On May 7, 2026, supporters, donors, community leaders, board members, volunteers, and mission-driven partners gathered for Growing Home's 24th Annual Benefit, celebrating the transformative power of collective investment in Englewood. This annual gathering was more than a fundraiser, it was a reflection of what is possible when philanthropy, partnership, and community work together to remove barriers and create pathways to economic stability.

Every contribution made during this event helps Growing Home continue to:

- Deliver paid transitional workforce training
- Expand IT certification and career pathway opportunities
- Increase healthy food access in food-insecure neighborhoods
- Strengthen alumni retention and post-program success
- Invest in long-term neighborhood stabilization
- Advance sustainable economic mobility for families

As we reflect on this powerful evening, we remain deeply grateful to every sponsor, donor, volunteer, and advocate who continues investing in our mission. Because of you, we are not simply growing food, we are growing futures!





CELEBRATING UNITY DAY

Our recent Unity Day / Family Day brought together families, volunteers, staff, board members, partners, and neighbors for a joyful afternoon of food, fun, and community building.

Filled with laughter, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to connect, Unity Day was a wonderful reminder of the power of coming together and celebrating all that makes our community strong.

We were especially grateful to welcome Haven Leeming of Builders Initiative & Family, Diana Leifer, Seth Hemming, Karl Riley & Family, Joe Niemiec of Guggenheim Partners & Family, Kevin Swan & Family, and Growing Home leadership, staff, Associate Board, and volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day so special. Together, these relationships continue to strengthen the community we are building across Englewood and beyond.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY IN ENGLEWOOD

Growing Home is entering a transformational phase of growth through our Campus Expansion Capital Campaign!

This campaign represents far more than physical growth. It is a investment in scalable opportunity, which positions Growing Home to deepen impact across Greater Englewood for generations to come.

EXPANSION PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Expanded workforce training infrastructure
- New classroom and learning environments
- Food systems and cold-storage improvements
- Enhanced produce distribution capacity
- Urban agriculture expansion
- Community-centered gathering spaces
- Increased training opportunities
- Stronger neighborhood food access
- Greater long-term economic mobility outcomes

Learn more at: campaign.growinghomeinc.org





FARM TO FAMILY: EXPANDING FOOD ACCESS ACROSS ENGLEWOOD

The tail end of spring and early summer gave us the beautiful spring weather that can be so elusive. Daily highs in 70s and plenty of rain have glided the farm into a plentiful market season.

You can find leafy greens, fresh root vegetables, tender lettuce, cucurbits like cucumbers and summer squash, and sunflowers are lining our tables at our Thursday Farmstand, the 61st Street Farmers Market, and Green City Market.

Our produce is also heading out the doors on a weekly basis to members of our Englewood Home Delivery Program as well as our partner pantries including The Salvation Army Red Shield Center, All Things Through Christ, and Koinonia Ministries.

Cherry tomatoes are around the corner too! We're grateful for Cohort 2 of 2026 for keeping up with jam packed schedule of spring prepping, planting, and harvesting.



Weekly Thursday Englewood Farm Stand

May – October | 59th & Honore





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN MOTION

Pathways Toward Economic Self-Sufficiency

Growing Home's workforce development model continues creating real opportunities for participants navigating barriers to employment. Through paid hands-on training, wraparound support, certifications, and career readiness pathways, participants are building stronger futures – and it is an honor to watch them grow.



SUMMER/FALL COHORTS

Information Technology Training

Preparing participants for careers in a rapidly growing digital workforce.

- July 8 – IT Cohort 3
- September 16 – IT Cohort 4

growinghomeinc.org/apply/

Employment Training Program

Building workforce readiness through agriculture, certifications, and job preparation.

- June 15 – ET Cohort 3
- August 24 – ET Cohort 4

growinghomeinc.org/center/

Together, these programs continue helping participants move toward economic stability, confidence, and long-term employment.



SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Our work is strengthened by philanthropic, corporate, and institutional partners who invest in equitable systems and lasting impact.

Their support helps sustain workforce development, food access, urban agriculture, and community resilience.

Special thanks to the City of Chicago and Brandon Johnson's continued support of Growing Home now and into the future.

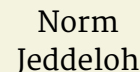
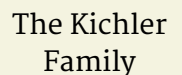
KEY 2026 SUPPORTERS

- Accenture
- Albert & Anne Mansfield Foundation
- BMO Harris Bank
- Builders Initiative
- Center for Better Aging
- Chicago Giving Circle
- City of Chicago
- Conagra Brands Foundation
- Eli Kaplan
- Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Helaine Edgar Foundation
- Helen Brach
- Illinois Dept. Of Commerce
- & Economic Development
- Illinois Dept. of Correction Parole Office
- JR Albert Foundation
- Mayor Brandon Johnson
- McCormick Foundation
- National Able Network, Inc.
- National Basketball Players Association
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
- Robert R.
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- Seattle Foundation
- Siragusa Family Foundation
- The Duchossois Family Foundation
- Tito's

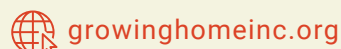
SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS...

We'd like to give a special shoutout to the incredible sponsors who supported our 24th 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.



STAY CONNECTED



growinghomeinc.org

info@growinghomeinc.org



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5814. S. Wood St, Chicago



773.549.1336