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Growing  
Home  
2010 Annual  
Report

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**Our broken food system can't be solved with a single smart idea.**

With two farm sites in Chicago and one in Marseilles, IL, Growing Home bridges the gap between rural and urban food production — because people need healthy, high-quality food wherever they live.



## Food is community.

A group of fifth graders visits the Wood Street Urban Farm. Program interns help a garden club build raised beds in a new community garden. A chef gives her audience a taste of something delicious—and the recipe to take home. Growing Home is bringing people together through the Greater Englewood Urban Agriculture Task Force in order to improve food access.

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Dear Friends,

Access to affordable and nutritious food is crucial, but fixing our broken food system can't be solved with a single smart idea. For Growing Home, urban agriculture not only produces good, healthy food, but it provides a setting where communities and individuals can build healthy lives.

**From job training to jobs.** When Growing Home started almost a decade ago, we primarily provided job training to needy Chicagoans. We quickly learned that was not enough, and we now have a skilled workforce development staff that helps our trained program participants find long-term employment.

**Community development.** Creating an urban farm or an agricultural enterprise has the potential to change communities and bring badly needed economic activity to the area. In 2010, Growing Home spearheaded a new endeavor – the Greater Englewood Urban Agriculture Task Force. This group, made up of over 80 individuals and organizations, has completed a strategic plan for the Englewood “urban agricultural district” that was proposed as a part Englewood’s LISC/New Communities Program Quality of Life Plan. Growing Home will continue to be involved to bring to fruition the three key strategies that will make Englewood’s food desert blossom into a food oasis: more urban farms, more farmer training opportunities and more food-related businesses.

**Community involvement.** Community institutions depend on support from community leaders to survive. Growing Home is working to engage the community in all of its work through barbecues, open houses and tours, movie nights, cooking demonstrations and workshops on topics such as food preservation and container gardening.

Growing Home can't solve the problem of access to healthy food alone. Community leaders in Englewood, government, and the broader urban agricultural network have been critical partners in our successes so far.

And we also look forward to working with you as we continue to expand our efforts to make more people not only job-ready but gainfully employed, and provide communities with good, healthy food choices.

Sincerely,

**Harry Rhodes**

Executive Director

**Valerie Denney**

President, Board of Directors

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### **\$50,000 and Above**

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Phillip and Nancy Bashook  
Lois Baum  
Julia Beckman  
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Patrick Brennan  
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Donna and Ricardo Castro  
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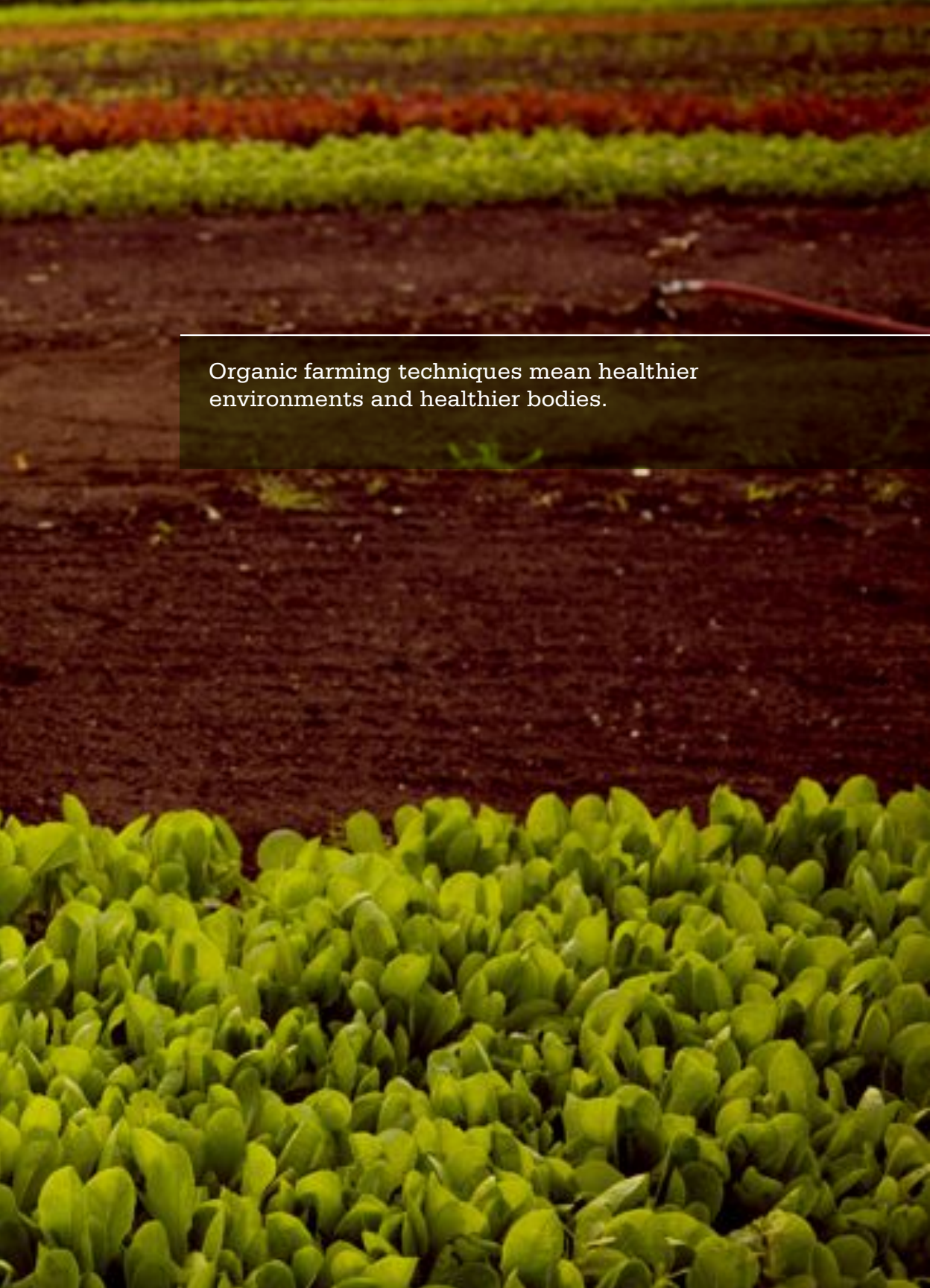
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### Growing Home's farming business creates jobs

Who tills the land? Who sows the seeds? Who hoes the rows? Who harvests the crop? Who washes the fruits? Who packs the boxes? Who sells at market? We do.

2010 intern Fred Daniels, who was hired to work as an Urban Farm Assistant at Growing Home upon his graduation, wrote "Being a farmer is something I never imagined doing, but now I have a great awareness about plants. I treat them with care, for they are what sustains life."

A photograph of an organic farming field. The foreground is filled with rows of young, vibrant green leafy plants. The middle ground shows a wide expanse of dark, rich brown soil. In the background, there are more rows of plants, some appearing as a reddish-brown color, possibly due to lighting or the type of plants. A red hose is visible on the right side of the middle ground, lying on the soil. The overall scene is well-lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Organic farming techniques mean healthier environments and healthier bodies.

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## Volunteers

Stephen Arndt  
Michele Bailey  
Nina Interlandi Bell  
Zac Bleicher  
Luke Bruckner  
Korie Campbell-Stanley  
Victoria Carr  
Cindy Chisholm  
Seth Christensen  
James Davisson  
Abhishek Dhar  
Amy Dumas  
David Edsenga  
Enesha Edwards  
Jessie Emdin  
Andrew Fisher  
Gretchen Frankenthal  
Shaleta Frye  
Joshua Gist  
Noah Goldsmith  
Carina Gonzalez  
Christina Goy  
Stephanie Hale  
Katie Halloran  
Shamari Hudgins  
Donna Junkovic  
Adrian Keirulf  
Eunsong Kim  
Nicole Kremerer  
April Kunieda  
Primo Lasana  
Jessica Levin  
Karolina Lizak  
Molly Maguire  
Anna Marshall  
Jerry Massino

Terry Massino  
Erin Matson  
Kelly McNally Koney  
Andy Meyer  
Rob Montalbano  
Joy Moon  
John Nelson  
Diana Oppenheim  
Mark Parisot  
Brad Probst  
Alisha Ranadive  
Jason Rasmussen  
Eulando Rhone  
Mike Richards  
Chelsea Richer  
Ariana Rodriguez  
Cherie Rogers  
Alisha Saville  
Daniel Schneider  
Kathy Seus  
Anna Smith  
Vanessa Smith  
Chris Stanley  
Amy Stelling  
Betsy Stelling  
Kristen Strobbe  
Mary Stoner  
Christy Sulaiman  
Elizabeth Telschow  
Johnny Walker  
Sara West  
Bobby Wengronowitz  
Kim Werst  
Lauren Williams  
Russ Woodward  
Denise Xayaroun  
Dianne Zazycki

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## Staff

Joe Avon  
Rural Farm Technician

Tegan Brace  
Operations Manager

Katy Collier  
Development Associate

Jumaani Bates  
Job Developer

Seth Christensen  
Rural Farm Technician

Fred Daniels  
Urban Farm Assistant



At Growing Home we know that access to fresh vegetables isn't the only important part of a healthy food system.

That's why we make a point to hold workshops, cooking demonstrations, and informational open houses. In 2010 we held bi-weekly open houses and barbecues at the Wood Street Urban Farm and workshops on subjects like preserving herbs, canning, jam-making, building and using coldframe green houses, and urban root-cellarling.



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## Staff Continued

Beth Gunzel  
Employment Training Manager

Seneca Kern  
Community Outreach Coordinator

Tim Murakami  
Urban Farms Manager

Larry O'Toole  
Special Projects Manager

Rebekah Silverman  
Director of Resource Development

Breanne Heath  
Field Training Specialist

Elsbeth McGarvey  
Urban Farm Assistant

Tracy Noel  
Rural Production Manager

Harry Rhodes  
Executive Director

Nathan Vargovcik  
Rural Farm Technician

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Builders Bank

Barbara Wallace  
Writer

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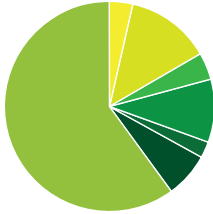
Suzanne Malec  
City of Chicago Department of  
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Tom Spaulding  
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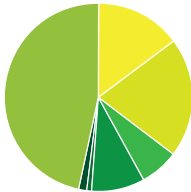
## Growing Home Revenue 2008–2010

2008



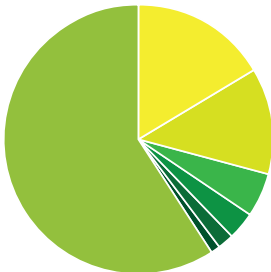
	\$	<b>\$662,697</b>
Private and corporate grants	399,268	
Government grants	24,000	
Farm sales	84,970	
Special events	28,328	
Individual and small business	63,835	
Interest and other	17,070	
In-Kind Donations	45,226	

2009



	\$	<b>\$540,517</b>
Private and corporate grants	253,110	
Government grants	79,236	
Farm sales	111,232	
Special events	36,428	
Individual and small business	49,415	
Interest and other	4,383	
In-Kind Donations	6,713	

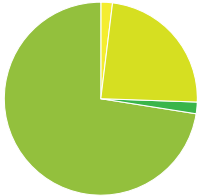
2010



	\$	<b>\$926,615</b>
Private and corporate grants	550,250	
Government grants	152,355	
Farm sales	117,588	
Special events	48,782	
Individual and small business	31,804	
Interest and other	15,836	
In-Kind Donations	10,000	

## Financial Position as of December 31, 2010

### Assets

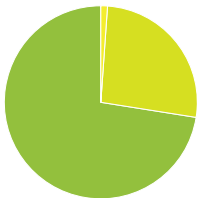


\$

**\$930,665**

Property and equipment	674,315
Cash and cash equivalents	219,999
Accounts receivable	19,733
Other assets	16,618

### Liabilities and Equity



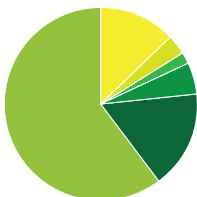
\$

**\$930,665**

Total Equity	674,290
Long-term Liabilities	245,069
Current Liabilities	11,306

## Revenue and Expenses 2010

### Public Support and Revenues

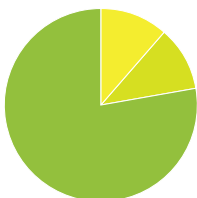


\$

**\$916,615**

Private and Corporate Grants	550,250
Government Grants	152,355
Farm Sales and Tours	117,588
Special Events	48,782
Individual and Small Business Donations	31,804
Interest and Other Income	15,836

### Liabilities and Equity



\$

**\$930,665**

Program Expenses	655,123
Management and General	96,175
Fundraising	90,976

**Change in Net Assets**

**\$74,341**

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## Growing Home, Inc.

2732 North Clark Street  
Suite 310  
Chicago, IL 60614  
(773) 549-1336

[info@growinghomeinc.org](mailto:info@growinghomeinc.org)  
[www.growinghomeinc.org](http://www.growinghomeinc.org)

**Growing Home's mission** is to operate, promote, and demonstrate the use of organic agriculture as a vehicle for job training, employment, and community development.

Graphic design by Mary Clare Butler.  
Photography by Andrew Collings Photography  
and Joseph Avon.