



GROWING HOME

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We were founded to support those who were marginalized in this country with barriers to employment that are a direct result of race-based profiling and discrimination. We understood then that eradicating poverty was much larger than focusing on one barrier to employment, but about a deeper and often violent system of institutional racism and injustice which creates barriers that cannot be rectified in a 14-week job training program alone.

We understand all too well that eradicating poverty includes a multi-layered approach from reform of oppressive policies and investment in our neighborhoods to support systems for those who have been marginalized. Growing Home works daily to do all of these things but we cannot work in a vacuum. We are proud that so many people around the country are standing in solidarity to not only condemn the senseless death of George Floyd but to elevate the conversation by demanding equal treatment for everyone under the law.

Equal treatment is not nuanced to the elimination of police brutality against black people. Equal treatment means investment in our neighborhoods, resources for our youth, businesses in our communities, access to healthy and affordable produce, elimination of discriminatory laws and practices from housing to bank lending. This is not about one man or one murder. This is about centuries of mistreatment of black bodies and the work required to repair the harm.

So, this moment is devastating and disappointing but we remain hopeful and are incredibly proud. We are devastated because it took the senseless death of yet another black man to spark a movement. We are disappointed because the destruction of property that ensued in the aftermath of his death destroyed essential long-standing businesses that took years to get into our communities and will take years of fighting to get them to return. Our communities which were struggling and in desperate need of economic development are hanging on by a thread with even less access to essential items than before.

Yet, we are hopeful and proud because a multi-racial and multi-generational coalition of protestors have taken to the streets to demand justice for George Floyd and change the broken system that allows brutality and injustice on a daily basis.

We join this fight by continuing to run our job training program that leads community members to gainful employment, fighting for legislation that will eliminate barriers to employment, providing healthy, affordable produce to our community, supporting the leaders in Englewood as we work to rebuild, and following the lead of those who are fighting for justice in this country.

We are here for our graduates and our community (Englewood) with our ears, eyes, and hearts open, ready to serve and ready to fight!

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