



GROWING HOME

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

Dear Friends,

As Growing Home moves into its 14th year, I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished, and am truly humbled by the support that has made it all possible. 2012 and 2013 have been pivotal years for Growing Home. In that time, we:

- Developed the Honore St. Urban Farm in Englewood, an extension of our Wood St. Urban Farm
- Achieved a record high 93% job placement rate in 2013
- Increased sales six-fold at our Wood St. Farm Stand in Englewood and started accepting LINK and WIC food assistance vouchers
- Began a partnership with Cabrini Green Legal Aid to assist our job training participants in sealing or expunging their criminal records
- Developed an Associate Board of young professionals and began assembling a Graduate Board made up of recent grads ready to give back to the community
- Earned the prestigious Chicago Neighborhood Development Award, The Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Award, and the Urban Land Institute Vision Award

The true measure of our success, however, does not lie in a list of accomplishments, statistics, and awards. The real impact is felt in the stories of our graduates. When you read or listen to what our graduates have been through and where they are going, you know that Growing Home is doing



something really important. Read the stories of Khaliah, DeAndre, and Miriah in the following pages and you'll see what I mean.

I'm also very excited to see more community partners join the mission to build a healthier community in Englewood. The City of Chicago is working with local organizations and businesses to build an urban agriculture district; Kusanya Café, the area's only healthy, sit-down café, opened in 2013; and Whole Foods announced that they will open an Englewood store by 2016. Growing Home is thrilled to be a part of this inspiring collaborative effort by our government, organizations, businesses, and residents to transform a community.

All of this could not be possible without the generous support of our donors, advocates, and volunteers. Thank you for being a vital part of the Growing Home community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry Rhodes', written over a horizontal line.

Sincerely,
Harry Rhodes
Executive Director

2002-2013 Growing Home Impact at a Glance



5

Major Chicago development awards earned



12

Years spent training and farming



26

Open Houses hosted at our farms



28

Program participants that have received legal assistance with their criminal records from Cabrini Green Legal Aid



279

People trained in our job training program



4,835

Pounds of produce distributed in Englewood



\$980,440

Earned revenue from our organic farming social enterprise

2012-2013 Job Training Program



79 individuals were enrolled

Our enrollees are motivated to build healthy lives and eager to work but face multiple barriers to employment.



73% completed the program

Our program participants learn relevant industry skills, computer skills, intra-personal skills, and receive individual support in their job search.



74% were placed in jobs

Our graduates are placed in jobs along Chicago's "food chain": with urban growing facilities, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, and other eateries.



96% kept their jobs over 90 days

Our staff works with employers and graduates to ensure that job placements are long-term and sustainable.

Khaliah, 2012 graduate

Khaliah is one of many individuals who have been held back by an isolated run-in with our criminal justice system. In 2010, under the stress of underemployment and family obligations, Khaliah made a decision that saddled her with a misdemeanor conviction and probation. She is a motivated worker with previous experience in the restaurant and retail industries, but she was unable to provide for her mother and daughter on seasonal hours and low wages.

“I was in the middle of completing my probation and I spoke to my case worker about obtaining employment for people with criminal convictions,” recalls Khaliah. “My job search at that time was very frustrating seeing as that I had a criminal record and was not being hired for a permanent job.” After a year and a half of unemployment, Khaliah applied to our employment training program.

Khaliah was accepted into our program and consistently stood out for her commitment to her daily work and to her job search. “She was persistent, confident, and knew how to talk about her

“Growing Home put me in a very positive mindset. Growing Home and Louis’ Groceries gave me a second chance at life.”



Khaliah at Louis' Groceries

conviction while also selling herself to an employer,” remembers Employment Specialist Brad Hirn.

Her hard work and determination paid off. After completing our 14-week job training curriculum she landed a job at Louis' Groceries, a non-profit grocery store in Greater Grand Crossing working to increase local access to fresh produce and other healthy food options.

She began working part-time, but quickly earned a full-time position in late April 2013. More than a year later, she is still with Louis' Groceries and has been promoted to the evening manager in charge of inventory, ordering, calling vendors, and supervising staff. She has also started her own business, Khaliah's Kupcake Kreation. The preparation she received at Growing Home and the secure employment she found at Louis' Groceries have made it possible to provide a better life for herself and her daughter.

Miriah, 2013 graduate

When Miriah joined the Harlan High School basketball team, she was trying to avoid fights by staying at school until 6 PM. “It worked for a little while,” she recalls, smiling. The south side native, even at that age, kept a precarious routine of selling drugs after school, getting into fights, and finding a sense of belonging among gang members on the block.

“Growing Home gave me a chance.”

“I grew up around 89th and Cottage Grove and joined a gang around there. My older brother was in one, too.”

Miriah, in foster care since age four, lived on the streets starting at age thirteen. She worked her way through elementary and high school and, after getting pregnant, moved to Galesburg, IL in 2008 to live with her biological mother. She had Marshaun in 2009.

“I got my first job out there: cashiering at Hy-Vee [grocery store chain],” she says. “I worked at McDonald’s, too, but had a hard time making the schedules work with taking care of my son.”

Miriah quit McDonald’s and, facing steeper bills and rent, went back to selling drugs. As she maneuvered between legal and illegal work, she got into a fight and was charged with aggravated battery – her first felony charge. It led to five months in Dwight Correctional Center and four months in Cook County Boot Camp.



Miriah, right, at Local Foods Grocer & Distributor

After Boot Camp, Miriah applied to Growing Home. During her cohort, she slept on the train and cleaned up for work at her aunt’s house. After she graduated, Miriah landed a full-time job and, soon after, her first Chicago apartment.

After a year of working at Irv & Shelly’s Fresh Picks in Niles, she is now working closer to home as a salaried member at Local Foods Grocer & Distributor. She will help open their wholesale and retail store in 2015.

When Miriah started at Growing Home, she had three goals: find a job, get her son back, and have her own apartment. Today, she has accomplished those goals and is looking ahead to school and raising her son well.

DeAndre, 2012 graduate

“Just about everyone I knew growing up was in a gang,” DeAndre recalls of growing up in the Woodlawn neighborhood. Woodlawn has a history of violent gang rivalry, largely over the local drug trade, and DeAndre was caught in the middle of it. “It was all I saw, that way to make a living. I had kids early with my girl, who I’m now married to, and I wanted to provide a nice life for them.”

After years of selling drugs and landing short stints in Cook County Jail, DeAndre hit a turning point. In 2003 he entered Cook County Boot Camp, a detention program focused on basic discipline, education, and vocational training. “Boot Camp changed me. I studied on my feet, literally. We had to stand up and study for the GED. I dropped out of high school. But in 2004, I finished Boot Camp and got my GED.”

After Boot Camp, DeAndre had a steady job for five years, but in 2010 he found himself unemployed. As hard as he tried to find a full-time job, doors were constantly

“[Growing Home] is a great place for an opportunity to do better and for job training... Most of all, you rebuild your confidence in yourself and get ready for work.”

shut in his face because of his background. The temporary contract work that he was able to land was not enough. He wanted something steady.

In 2012 DeAndre entered our employment training program and excelled. Not only did he gain job skills, but he also got part of his criminal record sealed, completed seven culinary classes at Washburne Culinary Institute, applied for a health care worker waiver, earned his ServSafe Manager certificate, and, in 2013, got a full-time job offer to work as an Urban Farm Assistant at Growing Home. Now, as a Crew Leader, he trains Production Assistants.

He has also become a role model to the community. “I talk to a lot of my guys now and tell them about Growing Home. But I can’t make them ready if they don’t want it themselves. So many guys are stuck in the streets. But I know I can deliver a powerful message. And Growing Home is part of that message.”

DeAndre, left, with his Growing Home Cohort





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Development Associate
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Urban Farm Crew Leader
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- Melissa Maciejewski
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- Tracy Noel
Rural Production Manager
- Larry O'Toole
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- Harry Rhodes
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- Yoram Shanan
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- Rebekah Silverman
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- Polly Washburn
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2012-2013 Foundation, Corporate, and Government Grants

\$150,000 +

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Bank of America Charitable Foundation
City of Chicago Department of Family
& Support Services

\$100,000- \$149,999

Anonymous
The Chicago Community Trust
Whole Foods Market

\$50,000- \$99,999

ACT of Hope Foundation
Boeing Company
Illinois Department of Corrections
Kraft Foods Group Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation

\$25,000- \$49,999

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The Field Foundation of Illinois
The Leo S. Guthman Fund
The Northern Trust Company Charitable Trust
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Gale Zemel and David Mausner
Allison Zepp and Mike Neben
Ze-Zereshk
Robert Zofkie

Communities represented by 2012-2013 production assistants

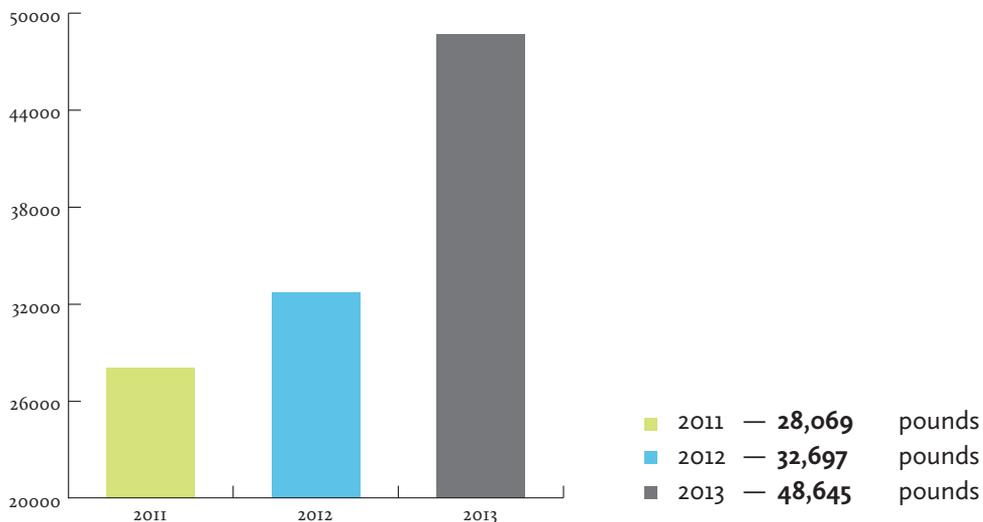
Growing Home's 2012-2013 production assistants represented 29 neighborhoods from around Chicago.

- 1-5 production assistants
- 6-10 production assistants
- 11-15 production assistants
- ▲ Growing Home Wood Street and Honore Street Farms

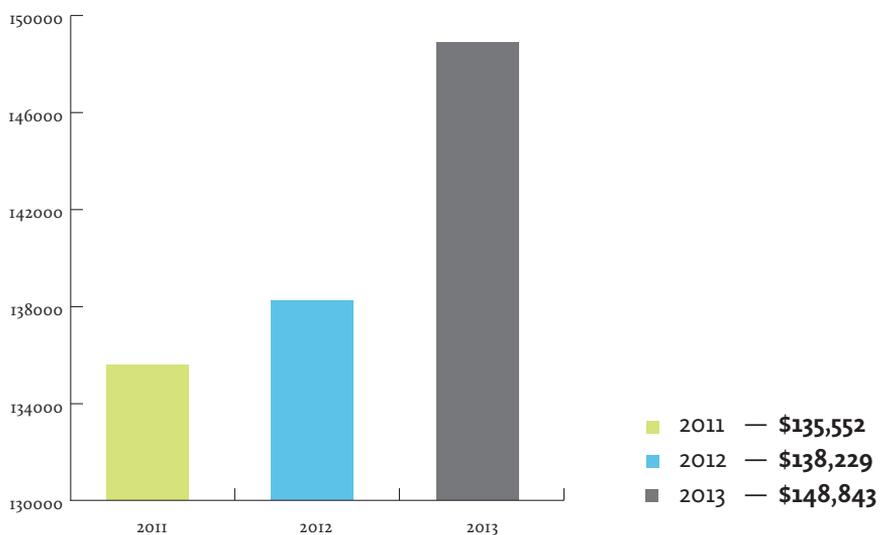


Social Enterprise Growth 2012-2013

Pounds of organic produce harvested

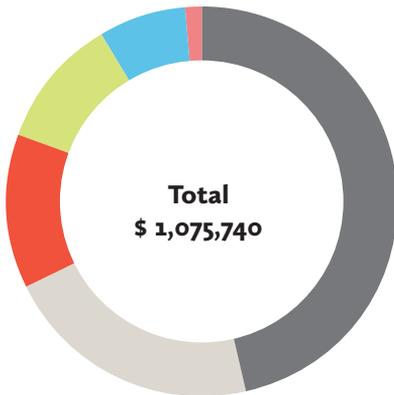


Revenue earned



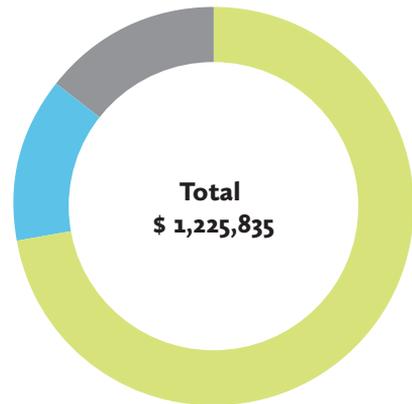
Financial Statements 2012-2013

2012 Revenue



■	Private and Corporate Grants	\$501,072
■	Government Grants	\$228,227
■	Farm Sales	\$138,229
■	Individuals & Small Businesses	\$118,062
■	Special Events	\$77,652
■	Interest and Other Income	\$12,498

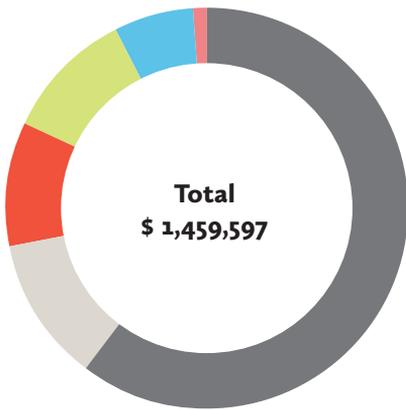
2012 Expenses



■	Fundraising	\$174,398
■	Program Expenses	\$885,894
■	Management and General	\$165,543

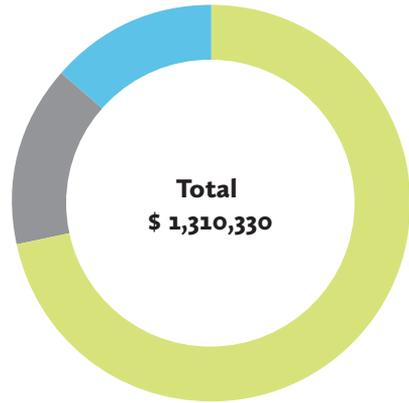
Change in Net Assets: (\$150,095)

2013 Revenue



■	Private and Corporate Grants	\$881,439
■	Government Grants	\$169,657
■	Farm Sales	\$148,843
■	Individuals & Small Businesses	\$151,875
■	Special Events	\$92,589
■	Interest and Other Income	\$15,194

2013 Expenses



■	Fundraising	\$194,445
■	Program Expenses	\$939,180
■	Management and General	\$176,705

Change in Net Assets: \$149,267

**Please support Growing Home
by making a donation today.
You can help us continue to
provide unique programming
that positively impacts lives
and communities in Chicago.**

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