



**GROWING
HOME**

...

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



"There's never been a day that I came to Growing Home and wasn't given the support I needed. Having that support gives me the ability and confidence to hold a job."

- JOSEPHINE, 2019 GRADUATE -

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



When I joined Growing Home as the organization's Executive Director in March of this year, I knew that growth would be the theme of my tenure. Though I was already impressed with the organization's innovative employment training and food access programs, I had a vision of an even greater impact that Growing Home could have in the Englewood community.

Since then I've seen that growth is imbued in every aspect of our work. This year we celebrated the countless successes of the emerging leaders who graduated from our program and the addition of a new farm on our campus, which will allow us to distribute another 8,000 pounds of USDA-certified organic produce in Englewood.



There is no doubt that Growing Home is on the precipice of an exciting period of growth. This wouldn't have been possible without the incredible work of our staff, our community partners, our supporters and our graduates. Thank you to everyone.

We look forward to 2020 and what we all can accomplish again together!

DANIELLE K. PERRY, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GROWING HOME



GROWING HOME ABOUT

MISSION



Growing Home's mission is to operate, promote, and demonstrate the use of organic urban agriculture as a vehicle for job training, employment, food access, and community development. Our unique employment training program uses farming to teach transferable skills to individuals with barriers to employment. To date, we have empowered over 500 individuals with the tools, connections, and confidence to find and keep stable jobs, providing a path out of poverty and towards self-sufficiency.

Growing Home deepened our commitment to providing access to healthy food and food education in 2019. Through our USDA-certified organic farms, Growing Home makes fresh, affordable food and food education available to our neighbors in Englewood, where access to healthy food remains limited. By promoting fresh food consumption, increasing food choices, and disseminating information about local food systems, nutrition, and wellness, we aim to improve the health of our entire community.

AT-A-GLANCE



**WE'RE THE FIRST AND ONLY HIGH-PRODUCTION
USDA-CERTIFIED ORGANIC URBAN FARM IN CHICAGO! WE
MAKE ORGANIC PRODUCE ACCESSIBLE IN OUR
ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY. WE PAY! ONLY A HANDFUL OF
JOB PROGRAMS PAY THEIR PARTICIPANTS. WE HELP
PEOPLE STAY OUT OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. WE ARE DOING
COMMUNITY-FOCUSED, ON-THE-GROUND WORK.**



EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

...





GROWING HOME EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

PEOPLE & SERVICES



PAID JOB TRAINING ON OUR FARMS LEARNING TRANSFERABLE SKILLS



COMPUTER, RESUME & INTERVIEW CLASSES



ROOTS OF SUCCESS ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE COURSE



"TIP" EMOTIONAL RESILIENCY CURRICULUM



CASE MANAGEMENT, WRAPAROUND SERVICES & CRIMINAL RECORD RELIEF



JOB PLACEMENT + RETENTION SUPPORT



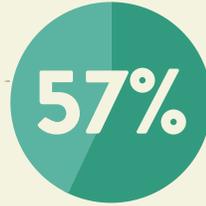
51 individuals were trained in our job program



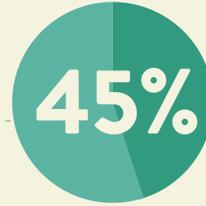
83% had previous experience with criminal justice system



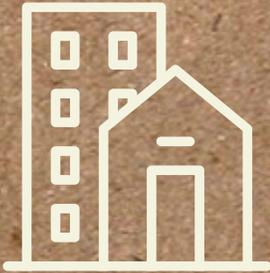
36 years old was the average age of our PA's



57% had struggled to find sustainable employment for the last 5 years before program



45% of PA's are from Englewood & the rest from surrounding neighborhoods



In 2019, Growing Home staff made over 40 supportive service referrals to alleviate barriers to employment including obtaining driver's license, accessing housing, public benefits, counseling services, and enrolling in GED programs.



94% of Production Assistants obtained their ServSafe Food Handlers Safety and Sanitation Certificate and an additional 6 PAs earned their OSHA Standing and Sitting Forklift Drivers Certificate.



90% of PAs with prior records of arrest or conviction had an onsite individual criminal records legal consultation & 17 PA's had positive legal outcome with free onsite legal aid.

"I think this is the best and most worthwhile program I have ever been in. We need more such programs."

- 2019 Program Graduate -

LONG-TERM IMPACT



IN 2019, PA'S SECURED PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES:



of 2019 graduates retained jobs for at least 30 days



Food Service
41%



Agriculture
22%



Admin and Support
Services
8%



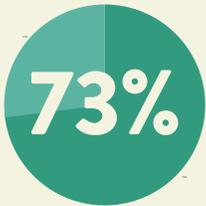
Food Production
5%



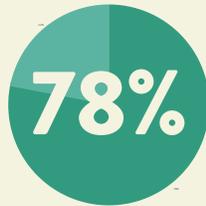
Construction
5%

IN A STUDY OF ALUMNI FROM 2016-2018, GROWING HOME'S PROGRAM WAS PROVEN TO **REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF RECIDIVISM BY 71%**

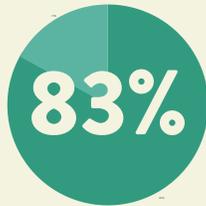
2016 - 2018 PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS WERE SURVEYED BY LOYOLA UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON SELF-SUFFICIENCY (CROSS) AS PART OF THE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL "TIP" CURRICULUM:



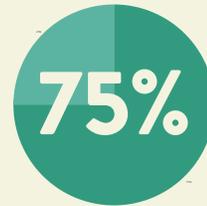
reported decrease in employment barriers



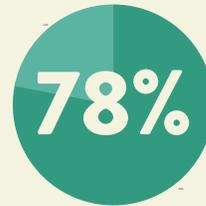
reported decrease in health and mental health barriers



reported decrease in childcare barriers



reported increase in Psychological Self-Sufficiency



reported increase in well-being of family and self

TOP 2019 EMPLOYER PARTNERS



HERBAN
PRODUCE





GROWING HOME PRODUCTION ASSISTANT'S STORY

Becoming a Leader For Other's: B's Story

"B" came to Growing Home with an ambition to become the best provider and role model for his two young children. B lacked an extensive work history due to his contact with the justice system and cycle of being stuck in survival jobs. During his intake session, B shared that "I am honest, caring, hardworking, and eager to learn new things that will better my life."

B quickly became a natural leader for other PAs and was an integral asset to the Growing Home team. B experienced some challenges around affording basic housing necessities and maintaining financial stability. While at Growing Home, B was provided with a voucher for the Chicago Furniture Bank where he successfully obtained new furniture for his apartment. This allowed for B to save the money he earned at Growing Home to get back on track with his rent and meet his goal of providing stable housing for his family.



B took advantage of every opportunity to gain new skills on the farm and advance his psychological self-sufficiency in the classroom. Given B's motivation and exceptional communication skills, he was selected by Growing Home staff to work multiple farmers market shifts. As the program progressed B become increasingly passionate about urban agriculture. B was referred to Windy City Harvest- a highly recognized urban agriculture nonprofit run by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Windy City Harvest hired B as a Corps Crew Leader to manage a cohort of 12 individuals in their 14-week paid job training program.

As a Crew Leader, B managed two farm sites while supervising his cohort on the farm and in the classroom. B utilized the skills he learned through the TIP curriculum at Growing Home to lead his cohort with a strengths-based approach, and incorporated classroom activities from Growing Home in his teachings. As a Growing Home Alumni, B has shared his remarkable journey with the public by speaking at the Growing Home Employer Breakfast and Backyard Dinner. Today, B is a profound leader who strives to pave the road for others by providing leadership and guidance through his everyday work in urban agriculture.



FOOD & FARM

...



FARM



27K

pounds of produce were harvested by our farm team & PA's!

50

crops of vegetables, fruit and herbs!

145

different varieties of crops grown

4.4K

meals of produce distributed & donated in Greater Englewood*

1.5

acres of urban land makes up our farm!



Growing Home received the Impact Chicago Grant for \$100,000 which allowed our farm staff to start building our Honore South Farm. We are excited about the expansion of our farm which will increase our yield by 8,000 pounds and our ability to distribute more food in the Englewood community!

Our organic certification is still in good standing! Growing Home is still the first and only high-production USDA-certified organic farm in all of Chicago.

Three new crops - broccoli, cauliflower and okra - were a great success this year! And collard greens is still one of our community's favorite crops.

*Based on the USDA calculation of 1 meal = 1.2lbs of food

FOOD DISTRIBUTION



FARMER'S MARKETS

We largely work from a market model and have sold our produce onsite at our Wood Street farm stand, IMAN's Fresh Beats and Eats Market in Englewood, Green City Market, and Logan Square Farmers Market. Our markets are also fantastic training spaces for our Production Assistants to hone customer service skills.

DONATIONS

We donated a total of 2,559 lbs in 2019. Most of this produce went to events, cooking demonstrations, PA's families and many community prepared food events that the community engagement team attends. We also donated to food pantries this year.

WOOD ST. FARM STAND

This year we sold more produce at the Wood Street Farm Stand and our Community Engagement Team continued providing samples of recipes highlighting many of the produce items we grow. This helped us to sell more produce in 2019, allowing people to try crops they were not familiar with and get more people to stop by the farm stand!

CSA'S

This year, we increased our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Program and gave an option to purchase a full share CSA or half share CSA, with 27 customers total. Adding two options to buy our CSA was very smart as it allowed more flexibility for customers!

"The CSA has been great! We've been more intentional about our meal planning and have had less food waste and unused produce in our fridge. We're eating more fruits and veggies, trying new recipes and loving the fresh produce!"

- GROWING HOME CSA CUSTOMER -



COMMUNITY





BY THE NUMBERS



718

event attendees for our Block Party, Back-to-School Farm Fest & Open House Chicago



1,661

volunteer hours from incredible volunteer groups!



68

tours to educate and share about our farms and our work with the greater Chicago community



3,422

people reached through food access initiatives such as pop-up markets, food drives & donations



20

speaking engagements at events & panels, reaching over 1,230 people about our work

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to Chicago Cares, Growing Home received much needed signage, site beautification and items for the Learning Garden. We worked with a total of 144 volunteers from Chicago Cares for a total of 713 hours. In December 2019, Growing Home was awarded the Chicago Cares Star Award for Community Partners!



EDUCATION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Lindblom Math & Science Academy is a selective enrollment high school in West Englewood about half a mile from the farm. In the past we had individual classes come out to the farm but not a sustained relationship with the school.

This year we were contacted by several students in different civics classes under a single teacher. Through these connections, we donated seedlings to a garden that Lindblom students were maintaining at Earle Elementary, tabled and had a demo at a student-led health fair. We are now connected to the civics teacher for future partnering.

Tabling and handing out healthy samples at Lindblom High School's student led health and wellness fair. >>

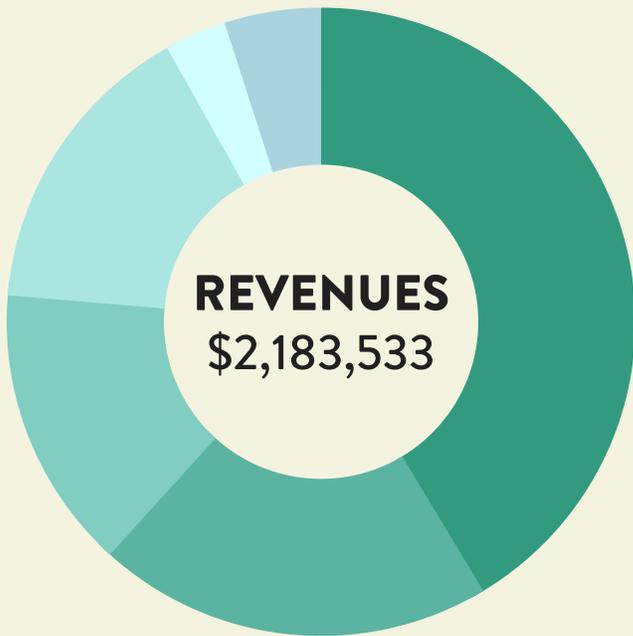


For the second year, we have also hosted Lindblom High School students on our farm site who are a part of a Special Education Life Skills class. We created a two-week experience for the 42 students across four classes. The students worked in our learning garden to clear beds, plant cover crop & winter crops, and harvest produce. We even had healthy smoothies on the hot days to cool off and to truly bring the Learning Garden alive from farm-to-kitchen-to-drink for the students! We can't wait for continued partnerships and projects next year.

<< Lindblom students clearing crops from the Learning Garden.

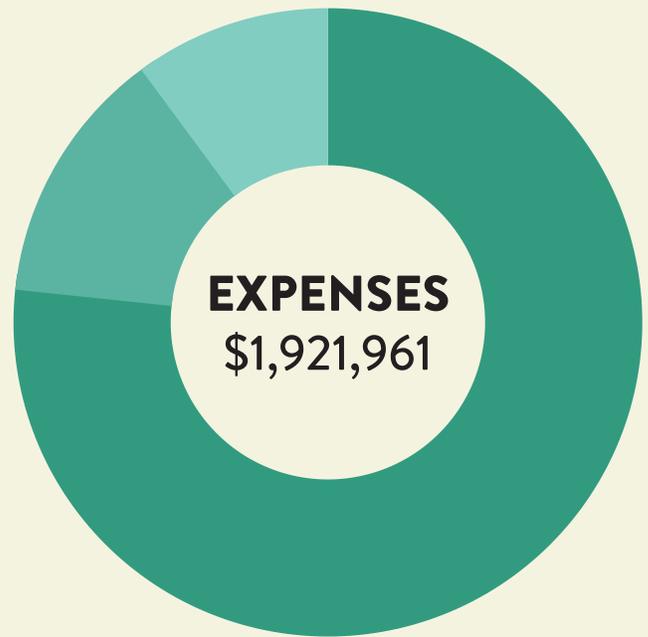


GROWING HOME 2019 FINANCES



- 41% GRANTS - \$903,100
- 20% CONTRIBUTIONS - \$444,186
- 14.5% SPECIAL EVENTS - \$319,280
- 15.5% GOVERNMENT - \$338,595
- 3% FARM & PROGRAM - \$69,458
- 4% IN-KIND DONATIONS - \$108,443

- 77% PROGRAM - \$1,473,412
- 13% FUNDRAISING - \$254,036
- 11% MANAGEMENT - \$194,513



**GROWING HOME BELIEVES THAT EVERYONE
DESERVES A GOOD JOB AND GOOD FOOD.**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 CIRCLE OF IMPACT DONORS!



LES BROWN FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

\$50,000 and above

Carmella Barrett-Perry and Lamorris Perry
Emmy and Steve Stanley
Laura Tilly and Derek Cottier

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

\$12,500-24,999

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Manaaki Foundation
Rebecca and Daniel Kaplan
The Silk Purse Fund
Thomas and Pascale Kichler

HARVESTERS

\$5,000-\$12,499

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Scott Leff
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Ted and Maura Kennedy

CULTIVATORS

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Calire Halpin
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The Lumpkin Family Foundation
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GROWING HOME

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