

THE GROWING TIMES

FOR 30 YEARS, GROWING HOME'S INNOVATIVE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HAS USED URBAN FARMING TO TACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT & FOOD INSECURITY IN CHICAGO



Farm Educator, Jovan Wade, harvesting fresh Growing Home greens.

GROWING HOME BY THE #'S

27,000

Pounds of fresh vegetables harvested in the 2024 season!

350

Hours from amazing onsite volunteers so far!

25,000

Servings (20,000 lbs) of produce distributed in food insecure neighborhoods

75

Trainees enrolled in Cohorts 1, 2 and 3 of our Farm & IT Employment Training

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Giving Tuesday
Tuesday, Dec. 3rd

2024 Share the Love WinterFest
Saturday, Dec. 14 2-5 p.m.

75

of 2024 Production Assistants have attended job fairs and/or interviews

53

Signups for our 2023 Free Englewood CSA Program

50

Homes served through our 2024 Englewood Home Delivery Program.

We have just wrapped up our Englewood Home Delivery Program for the 2024 season. Over **2400** servings of produce have been delivered at no cost to residents amongst over **800** bags of produce.



GROWING HOME ALUM CHOOSSES COMMUNITY



Anthony Jaynes currently resides in the Bronzeville neighborhood and began the 12-week job training program on Monday, June 17th, 2024. He enrolled seeking a new opportunity for employment and job training after returning from prison in January 2024. Anthony was the first African-American to graduate from Danville Correctional Facility with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

“Being a part of Growing Home has given me a chance to give back to my community. Thirty years away from family, friends, and those who stayed by my side has made me appreciate two words even more; ‘thank you’ because God turned it all around for my good”

-Anthony Jaynes, GH Employment Trainee ‘24

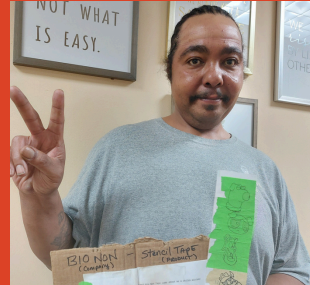
He aspires to be the best version of himself, which includes not only being a consistent employee, but also being a successful entrepreneur. Anthony was excited about gaining certifications like Forklift Operating and finding his first opportunity for employment ever!

His goal is also to explore pathways for entrepreneurship where he can utilize his degree and couple that with his passion for community development. Anthony was referred to Cabrini Green Legal Aid to discuss the potential of getting his case reviewed and record sealed and expunged.

Anthony was hired by the Chicago Cred: A Nonprofit for Reducing Gun Violence in Chicago as a Community Support Specialist, pouring into the lives of people within a community he once caused great challenges for. Anthony expressed on many occasions his desire to make a difference and stop violence in the community; and even more specifically he said that he wanted to “help people choose a different path”.

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE...

In October, Cohort 4 participated in our 2nd Shark Tank presentation with the help of Latasha Bell, Business Instructor and Advisor of Uptima Entrepreneurship, Inc.



Lamont Davenport, winner of Cohort 4 Shark Tank with Bio-Non Stencil Tape

Like in the original Shark Tank episodes, participants created a business name & concept, unit price, marketing strategies, financial analysis, competitive research, and feasibility studies. This was then presented in front of the sharks (investors).

LET THE GAMES BEGIN...

IT class participants are working towards designing a video game using the gameplay style (i.e., the way a player engages with a game using their own unique strategies, tactics, and overall preferences).

Participants will learn the concepts of designing, coding and creating this game from concept to fruition with the help of a past Growing Home IT alumni, who has a BA degree from Columbia College in game design. And this is not an easy task!

Uptima Entrepreneurship, Inc. will also coach the participants in establishing their business plan to possibly market the game to potential investors and gamers. Participants are looking to launch this idea in early 2025. Be on the lookout!



105 VARIETIES OF PRODUCE HARVESTED

aarugula / basil / dragon beans / green beans / 3 varieties of beets / (baby) bok choy / 3 types of cabbage / carrots / celery / chard / cilantro / collards / sweet corn / slicing & pickling cucumbers / dill /asian & italian eggplant / 4 types of kale / lettuce heads / mustard greens / napa cabbage / okra / sweet peas / sweet peppers / jalapenos / poblanos / cayennes / serranos / habaneros / 2 types of radishes / salad mic / scallions / spinach / zucchini / summer squash / patty pan squash / tatsoi / tokyo bekana / tomatillos / 4 types of cherry tomatoes / 5 types of slicing tomatoes / roma tomatoes / turnips asparagus / mint / emon balm / sage / strawberries / cut flowers



FARMING COHORTS UPDATES...

Providing a consistent source of produce as conveniently as possible is what we are striving for as an urban farm.

As we have concluded our Englewood Home Delivery Program for 2024 which focuses on serving neighbors, seniors, and mobility impaired community members, we will take stock of the adjustments we've made year to year. Thanks to the shift to full time from our long-time Farmers Market Associate and program graduate, Sonia, this year we were capable of offering a weekly delivery to all program participants instead of a bi-weekly delivery or pick up.



Our employment training Production Assistants have enjoyed the chance to join a delivery route and deliver fresh vegetables that they have planted, nurtured, harvested, and packed to the hands that will prepare and eat them.

We've also lengthened our delivery window and strengthened our partnership with Beyond Hunger who offers home delivery programs in Austin. This season our partnership has continued into October with beets and carrots continuing on through the end of our primary growing and distribution season of May through October.



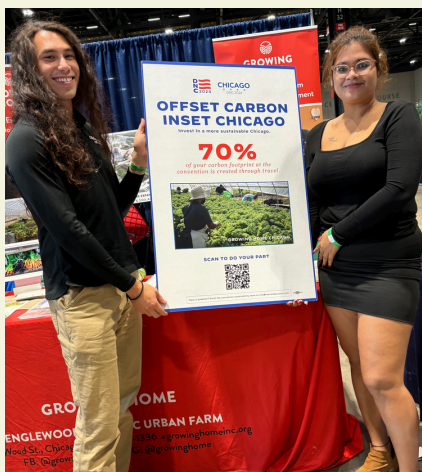
GROWING HOME, INC. GOES TO THE DNC!



Growing Home Inc. staff had an unforgettable experience as a DNC vendor, introducing attendees to their impactful work in workforce development, healthy food access, and urban agriculture.

Delegates embraced the mission, inspired by Growing Home's farm success, plans for campus expansion, and the Travel Carbon Inset Initiative, which supported sustainability efforts directly aligned with Growing Home's goals.

This exposure strengthened awareness and connections, amplifying Growing Home's positive impact.



BIG THANKS TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

On behalf of Growing Home, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to each and every volunteer. Words can't express how grateful we are for your continued support of the work we do in our community.



Special thanks to:
Elrod Friedman LLP
Deloitte
Bel Brands
GEM Realty Group
And so many more!





THE 2024 SUPPORTERS OF GROWING HOME

Our work is not possible without the support of our corporate and foundation partners. A special thank you to the organizations below who've committed \$2.5K-\$600K this year to our work!

- Accenture
- Albert and Anne Mansfield Foundation
- Amazon
- Bel Brands
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- BMO Harris
- Builders Initiative
- Chicago Bulls
- Choose Chicago
- City of Chicago - DFSS
- Conagra Brands Foundation
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council
- Dewan Foundation
- DOT Foods Inc.
- Elrod Friedman LLP
- Fifth Third Bank
- Full Circle Foundation
- Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Helen Brach Foundation
- Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development
- Illinois Dept. of Corrections - Parole Office
- IFF
- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
- Kearney
- Manaaki Foundation
- National Able Network, Inc.
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Robert R. McCormick Foundatio
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Egerter Family Foundation
- The Fruit Guys Community Fund
- The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation
- The Siragusa Family Foundation

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHTS...

Cheers to our Urban Ag Crawl sponsors!

We'd like to give a special shoutout to the incredible sponsors who made this event possible. Their support helped bring together talented chefs to create a day filled with delicious recipes, vibrant community engagement, and a celebration of fresh, local food.

From cooking demos to interactive activities, the festival 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

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