Teens for Food Justice

Teens for Food Justice works with teens ages 13-17 referred from the diversion program from The Center for Family Outreach. For 8 weeks in the summer, teens work at our educational garden, take cooking classes, go on field trips to other farms, learn about local food insecurity, participate in horticultural therapy sessions, and design and implement their own food related community service project. Upon completion of the program, in addition to other requirements through the diversion program, the teen’s record is cleared and they receive a small stipend.

In 2016, Teens for Food Justice hosted 5 teens for 8 hours a week for 7 weeks! 80% of the participants stated that they learned important job skills through Teens for Food Justice. 60% plan on volunteering to address the issue of food insecurity in the future. 100% agree that their knowledge about plants, gardening, cooking, and nutrition have increased because of the program.

Program Highlights

- Developing and implementing the service project was a highlight. The teens planned and cooked a healthy meal with produce from the farm for homeless families and individuals at Catholic Charities. We served 86 people a delicious, farm-fresh, lunch!
- We took fields trips almost every Wednesday with the group to places such as FoCo Café (donation-based café), The Murphy Center for Hope, The Food Bank for Larimer County, and other local farms.
"I am so grateful to meet everyone here. The past weeks have been amazing, it is great to be outdoors. I was always inside playing video games. I loved feeding over 86 people at Catholic Charities. We met a homeless guy there and his stories were really awesome. I do plan on coming back to the farm" - Justin, 16

"The boys wanted to harvest carrots. After washing their harvest they all wanted to eat one. Every single one of them kept yelling "this is the best carrot I have EVER had!!"

-Growing Project Staff
The Growing Project

PROGRAMS

Young Farmers Training Program

Young Farmers Training Program provides part-time summer jobs and hands-on educational opportunities for teens ages 15-17 at The Growing Project’s one acre educational garden.

In 2017, 3 youth worked 12 hours a week for 8 weeks.

Program Highlights

- Trainees had the opportunity to talk to local, farm-to-table chefs and eat at the FoCo Café
- Trainees went to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for the Indigenous Wisdom and Permaculture Skills Convergence
I absorbed so much knowledge about myself and the professional world around me. I learned more in this job than in any other about the options I have in life. –Michael, 17

“This job has taught me so much about myself and about the world. I have been challenged, forced to grow, comforted and inspired by things that I have done and the people that I have met during this internship. In more ways than I can articulate here, this experience has positively affected my whole outlook on life.”

-Will, 17
The Growing Project University

The Growing Project University provides low-cost or donation-based classes on topics such as foraging for native/edible plants, primitive skills, eating bugs 101, humanure, food preservation, gardening, seed saving, harvesting wild grains, tincture and medicine making, and more. Classes are open to the public and no one is turned away if they are unable to pay.

In 2017, The Growing Project University held 20 classes with 211 unduplicated participants.

Program Highlights

- We hosted a weekend-long bow making workshop!
- We hosted our first ever "Harvesting Wild Grains" workshop and it was a huge success!
- The mushroom foraging class was a great day up the Poudre Canyon!

Success Stories/Testimonials

"I appreciate the diverse and unique topics that The Growing Project University offers. Also I like that the classes are so low-cost, they are really affordable and kid-friendly!"

-TGU University attendee
The Growing Project

PROGRAMS

Educational Garden

The Growing Project runs a one-acre educational farm located at Hope Farms! Not only are our youth programs hosted at this garden but also 4 weekly volunteer sessions are held. Volunteers have the opportunity to learn about growing food and take home produce in exchange for their help in the garden. All produce (that is not taken by volunteers) is donated to the community through our free, youth-ran market stands. The educational garden is also a space for events, workshops, field trips, service learning, and volunteer potlucks!

In 2017, the educational garden hosted 231 unduplicated volunteers and interns who worked over 4,923 hours. The garden produce roughly 11,000 pounds of produce for the community!

Program Highlights

- We built an outdoor kitchen at the farm and hosted weekly community meals.
- We built a small lending library for the public to use that has books on gardening, sustainability, ecology, and food/social justice movements.
- We saved a lot of seed from the educational garden to plant next year and distribute to the public.
- We hosted a number of volunteer and school groups at the garden this year.
The Growing Project

HIGHLIGHTS

Feeding the Families

The Growing Project partners with the nonprofit The Vegetable Connection to provide a weekly CSA share to low-income families. We provided food for 6 families this season!

Odell Brewing Giving Garden

The Growing Project built a “giving garden” at Odell Brewing Company. Odell is our founding sponsor and supports us in so many ways!

Community Meals

The Growing Project hosted two weekly community meals at the Educational Garden after our evening volunteer hours. Staff and interns cooked big meals with vegetables from the farm for volunteers and community members. We served 23 delicious meals and fed 25-40 people each evening!

Food Truck on the Farm

We hosted an amazing event called Food Truck on the Farm! We had 3 bands, 1 food truck, beer, henna tattoos, yard games, and more! We raised some money for our farm and got to show it off to over 300 people!
Agricorps
With the new, one-acre educational garden at Hope Farms, we were able to provide more opportunities for groups of volunteers. The Growing Project partnered with Agricorps (part of Larimer County Conservation Corps) to host 10 teens at the farm once a week for 4 hours each time this summer. The teens are hired by the Conservation Corps and paid a stipend for their work. Not only were they a huge help to the farm but they learned a lot about agriculture and The Growing Project!

Fortified Collaborations Farm Dinners
The local business Fortified Collaborations hosts two farm dinners every year to benefit The Growing Project! Both the 3 Forks Progressive Farm Dinner and Bounty and Brews Beer Dinner raised over $8,000 for our organization. We are so grateful!

Elderhaus
The Growing Project partnered with Elderhaus this season to provide individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities fun and educational opportunities at the farm. The group was so much fun to work with and they helped us harvest onions, weigh winter squash, save seeds and more!

Seed Swap and Seed Saving Event
In partnership with Poudre River Library District, we host an annual seed swap to provide anyone with the desire to garden with seeds for free! We also saved a lot of seed from our Educational Garden and had a seed packing and saving event in the fall! We believe that saving seed is very important and so is spreading this knowledge!
The Growing Project

2017

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

Associates in Family Medicine
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Odell Brewing Co.
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Pour Brothers
Public Service Credit Union
Sand Box Solar
Simply Organic
United Way
Wells Fargo
Woodward

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our ten interns this season who dedicated over 2,000 hours of their time to The Growing Project!