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Grow It Green Morristown, Inc. 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Food is one of our most basic needs. Yet food also has the ability to connect us around the importance of community, equity and sustainability. Food—how it tastes, looks and grows—can bring great joy!

In 2021, we welcomed young children, high school interns, aspiring young farmers, and volunteers of all ages safely back to The Urban Farm with nearly 2000 visits. A full year of safe outdoor experiences engaged our community around food and where it comes from.

After a year of uncertainty, it was a relief watching people interact again as they shared stories and laughed while growing healthy food for our community. With interns and volunteers coming to the farm and Early Street Community Garden, there is renewed hope for the future; they put their phones down, get their assignments, and go into the field to work and interact with each other. These experiences were more important than ever this year.

LISA ALEXANDER
Executive Director
LETTER FROM FARMER SHAUN

As 2021 ends, it is time to reflect on this year and rest for the amazing year to come. Grow It Green Morristown donated 5.5 tons of produce, hosted over 1,200 students and logged over 2,500 volunteer hours.

Grow It Green looks forward to 2022 where we can continue this great work of feeding and educating one another. Food is important and we should all know where it comes from.

This year, I was so grateful to be able to expand our education programs at The Urban Farm thanks to the support of The New Jersey Conservation Foundation for funding our pilot year of our apprentice program and to loyal donors who enabled us to double our paid internship program.

We were able to implement new sustainable features like the solar composter in the chicken coop, the 50 foot moveable tunnel, insulation in two of our tunnels, and more that will improve our harvests and help educate our youth about the importance of sustainability.

There are so many thing to be proud of as I look back on 2021, and I can’t wait to see what 2022 brings!

SHAUN ANAKO

Director of Agriculture & Education
IMPACT IN 2021

22% MORE FOOD GROWN
30% MORE FOOD DONATED
724 VOLUNTEER VISITS
1,283 STUDENT VISITS
30 VIRTUAL VIDEOS
15,000 PARTICIPANTS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS
Doubled the internship program
Launch of apprenticeship program
OUR MISSION

GROW IT GREEN MORRISTOWN creates sustainable farms and gardens, and educates communities on healthy eating and environmental stewardship. We believe that fresh, local food should be accessible to all.
"When they go to the activities they see familiar faces, they see where their food comes from, and you guys create these positive experiences that engages them on a sensory level, which is invaluable and something that online activities can’t replicate. Thank you to everyone at Grow It Green for creating these opportunities for our patients and families to enjoy these experiences!"

- AHS Social Worker
"I loved taking my children (2 & 5) to Tyke Time. It encouraged us to talk about the food we eat, and we even started our own garden at home. They even tried and loved Sugar Snap peas from the farm stand!"

- TykeTime Mom
"We love getting fresh produce locally. It often lasts longer and tastes better than what I can get at the store, and there is a much smaller carbon footprint. Plus, the large amounts of greens and veggies encourage me to eat better. I love supporting an organization that does so much to provide our community with healthy food."

-CSA Member
"When I visited The Urban Farm this past spring and talked to them about the possibility of donating fresh food for Newark families, they didn't hesitate to offer to give us the fresh produce we would need to reach more families with Farm to Table shares. Without a funding source, they gave anyway - and continued to provide the freshest, organically grown produce for 20 weeks."

-Tobias Fox, Founder Newark SAS

"We have always valued our relationship and the produce donations we receive from Grow It Green are crucial to nourish.NJ's services."

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-Tobias Fox, Founder Newark SAS

"We have always valued our relationship and the produce donations we receive from Grow It Green are crucial to nourish.NJ's services."
“It is an amazing experience to be able to work at a sustainable farm rather than a conventional one. It’s so eye opening to see really where your food comes from.”

- Grace Bambilla, 2021 Farm Apprentice

“The intergenerational space at the farm, this activity of collectively coming together to work with food to work on the land- to produce food that is good for our bodies- that is done with soil regenerative practices…. The byproduct is deep connection with others.”

- Chris Rodriguez, 2021 Farm Apprentice
PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

PAID HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- Doubled the program
- 8 total interns
- 120 hours a week of hands-on learning at The Urban Farm

Outdoor education has many benefits providing safe places for people to connect and educational experiences to happen adapting in the face of COVID-19 and in all sorts of weather.

"Making new friends here has been nice. You feel like a community."

“Coming here it felt like we were all together and it was a community again after Covid. Covid still existed, but we were outside in open air and everyone was having fun doing their jobs.”

"It feels really good that you picked this food and it is going to people in need or who really want the food."

Summer Interns 2021
PROFILES OF PARTICIPANTS

EARLY STREET COMMUNITY GARDENERS

- 94 Garden Plots
- 10% Subsidized Plots
- Community beds for Homeless Solutions, Morris County Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood House, and Wind of the Spirit
- 515 lbs. of Produce donated in donation bin on Early Street
- New community Eco-Mosaic Piece of Public art depicting sustainable features of the garden
- 1st Seed Swap and Share Public Event in spring
- Winter Solstice Celebration returned in person at ESCG Parklet with bilingual yoga and gratitude practice and intention setting
COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALFRESCO AT THE FARM

- 350 participants
- 6 farm education and craft stations
- Bomba lessons from our farm apprentice
- Music funded by MPAC
- Pizza donated by Millie’s Old World Meatballs and Pizza using grow it green produce
- Free for community due to generous support of Kings food markets!
COMMUNITY EVENTS

WINTER FARMERS MARKET

• 13,000 PARTICIPANTS IN 2020-2021 SEASON OUTDOORS AT MORRIS MUSEUM AND 10,500 PARTICIPANTS OVER 14 WKS IN 2021-2022 SEASON AT CONVENT TRAIN STATION PARKING LOT
• MOVE CREATED GREATER ACCESS WITH INCREASED TRANSIT OPTIONS
• 42 LOCAL VENDORS- MANY OF THEM WOMAN AND MINORITY OWNED

"The market has been a total life saver. I don't go to the supermarket for health reasons and i really miss being able to see the food that i buy. My family has enjoyed going to the market and being able to see the fresh produce and bakery goods. It has been great to see people and to be able to pick out my own food." - Winter Market 2021 shopper
COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

- Interns return from Food Justice programs at Drew University.
- Summer College Interns
- Graduate Intern- Dr. Aisha Steplight Johnson completed her internship at The Urban Farm to receive her Virginia State University (VSU) College of Agriculture (COA) Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate.
- Scout Projects- mentored 2 Girl Scouts to help them achieve their Gold Awards, the highest achievement within Girl Scouts with projects aimed at food waste and community education on recycling.
- 1,283 student visits to the farm
WHAT WILL WE DO IN '22!

- Winter tunnels are already helping to increase production to give more fresh food when supplies of fresh food are challenging.
- How many summer high school interns will we be able to hire this year?
- New sensory herb garden & community pollinator garden at the urban farm plus increased accessibility to farm.
- Great demand for education programs from schools and youth groups.
- Wellness weeks and returning in person to classrooms at MSD schools and on farm.
- Newark urban farmer training- new program with Newark SAS.
- Changes coming to early street community garden.
- What more will your funding and participation make possible?
THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 SPRING INTO ACTION SPONSORS

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The Red Oaks School
PreK through Grade 8 in Morristown, NJ
A legacy of life learners.

Fox Rothschild LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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