

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world." -Gandhi

Welcome to Growing Hope!

Our Mission: Helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening. Growing Hope fosters learning, improves nutrition, encourages self-reliance, and promotes positive community futures.

What We Do: Growing Hope acts as a catalyst and resource for community-based garden programs, with specific emphasis on education, food production, and life empowerment. Growing Hope serves as a technical assistant, program coordinator or partner, and general resource for non-profit organizations, public agencies, and schools that wish to use gardening as a way to further their social, educational, and/or environmental missions.

How We Do It: We provide start-up and ongoing gardening assistance, develop innovative programs, teach classes and workshops, develop curricula and trainings, and facilitate partnerships and collaboration. Growing Hope primarily serves under-resourced and disadvantaged populations, either directly or through collaboration with partner agencies/organizations.

What We Believe: Growing Hope is committed to social and environmental sustainability through organic gardening, diversity in our communities, and environmental justice.

Learn more about some of
Growing Hope's projects
on the back of this sheet!

How You Can Support Us:

Growing Hope relies on a network of community volunteers, supporters, and partners to educate and empower through community gardening. Here are some ways for you to join the effort and help us grow!

Volunteering

Growing Hope depends on volunteers to lead and assist all activities, including garden design, maintenance, teaching, and volunteer coordination.

Volunteer groups large or small are welcome on a one-time or ongoing basis. Please, come dig in!

Do you want to be kept up to date of volunteer workdays and opportunities?

Join our garden volunteer email list!

Contributing

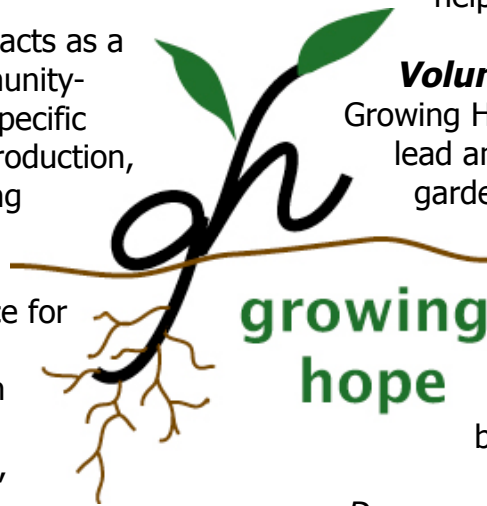
Supporters help Growing Hope by contributing monetary or in-kind donations. Financial supporters are invaluable to maintaining the person-power it takes to sustain Growing Hope. These supporters can know that their generosity has helped to improve the lives of young and old in our community. Additionally, many of our gardens have been built primarily with donated (in-kind) materials including plants, seeds, lumber, and tools, including previously-used items.

Do you have something you'd like to donate to Growing Hope?

Drop us a line and let us know!

Have you seen us on the web?

*Check us out: **www.growinghope.net***



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Some of Our Projects...

Perry Learning Garden. A school and neighborhood youth learning environment, the PLG acts as both an outdoor classroom for Perry Child Development Center and a safe space for neighborhood youth to explore, work, eat, and learn from a garden. Other community organizations also use the garden on a one-time and ongoing basis. The garden is maintained by volunteers, staff, & youth from the community and U-M.

S.O.S. Crisis Center. With the support of Growing Hope, a small garden was built behind the organization's Crisis Center on River Street in Ypsilanti to provide fresh produce for clients. Two full garden seasons have brought bountiful harvests!

Ypsilanti Roots & Shoots Garden Program. Begun in Spring 2003, the Ypsilanti Roots & Shoots Garden program builds on the success of the Perry Learning Garden by bringing youth ages 10-14 together to learn about nutrition, leadership and entrepreneurial skills, and local history as they construct a new garden near Depot Town's Freight House, site of the weekly Farmer's Market. Youth work both there and at the Perry Learning Garden, and enjoy field trips to horticultural, agricultural, and historical sites around our community. The group meets three times a week and sells at the Farmer's Market the last Saturday of each month.

Grow-It-Yourself classes. Growing Hope teaches people to grow fresh, nutritious produce and herbs at home, inexpensively and in containers as part of cooking classes for low-income consumers at community restaurant Oasis Café.

Ypsilanti Head Start Gardening. Head Start and gardening go hand in hand in Ypsilanti. In Summer 2002, Perry Learning Garden interns worked with Head Start staff to develop the Growing in the Garden Curriculum and teachers received a half-day training around the curricula before school began in the fall. After moving away from its site at Perry CDC, Head Start provided Growing Hope support to develop a garden at the new site, and several teachers from the school will serve as garden leaders. Growing Hope and Head Start are actively pursuing grants together to increase literacy and improve parent involvement at school through gardening.

Chidester Place Garden. Growing Hope worked with Chidester Place residents and Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS) to organize a garden at this HUD-subsidized housing community in the south side of Ypsilanti. Two wheelchair-accessible raised beds and container gardens provide a place for residents to experience the joy of growing and sharing with their neighbors.

WWII-style Victory Garden. A coalition of partners, including Growing Hope leader Amanda Edmonds, came together to build a WWII style Victory Garden at the Yankee Air Museum, adjacent to the Willow Run airport and former Willow Run Bomber Plant during the Summer of 2002.

We look forward to hearing how you'd like to get involved with Growing Hope in our community! Please, call or email Executive Director Amanda Edmonds to learn about opportunities.