



## **Part-Time Seasonal Position with Growing Hope FARM ASSISTANT**

Growing Hope is a grassroots non-profit organization in Ypsilanti, Michigan dedicated to empowering individuals, groups and communities through gardening and increasing access to healthy food. We aim to use good food as a vehicle to Grow Healthy People, Grow Healthy Places, and Grow Healthy Economies.

### **Position Description:**

We are seeking an enthusiastic, hard working Farm Assistant to join our team. This is a part- time, seasonal position that will begin April 1 and go through October. The Farm Assistant is responsible for bringing Growing Hope's vision to life through the cultivation of the outdoor portions of our 1.4 acre urban property in the heart of Ypsilanti, including an urban farm (including 30x96 foot hoophouse) and surrounding grounds/landscape management. The farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, demonstration, education and events, and the Farm Assistant will be responsible for keeping the Growing Hope Center grounds, farm, and garden areas productive, presentable and inviting to the public at all times. We are also in the planning stages of a potential expansion production site; as that comes to fruition that Farm Assistant will help, too, on that site development.

The Farm Assistant will be responsible for implementing annual farm plans, meeting farm earned revenue targets (that partially fund the position), and inspiring, instructing, and teaching volunteers, job trainees, youth, and other visitors. S/he will work implement our urban farm's business plan, support the farm production and selling through existing and new wholesale, retail, and farmers markets/farm stand settings, keep careful records of inputs and outputs, and other Growing Hope staff duties as assigned.

The Farm Assistant reports to the Farm and Garden Manager.

### **Responsibilities Include:**

- Implement planting schedule and manage seasonal garden and farm tasks
- Assist with all aspects of planting and tending the garden, including transplanting, seeding, weeding, thinning, fertilizing, organic pest control, pruning, harvesting, compost management, etc
- Support maintenance of overall site (lawn, grounds maintenance, hoophouse maintenance, et al)
- Prepare new beds for planting
- Support and promote food safety throughout the farm and harvest process
- Harvest, wash, bundle crops
- Keep detailed records and documentation; assist with farm certifications as needed
- Assist in transport of produce
- Assist in coordinating wholesale and retail sales
- Support garden installations through Growing Hope's other programming, as well as through fee-for service
- Work with volunteers, visitors, and interns, orienting them to Growing Hope, our site, and to projects or tasks



**Qualified candidates will exhibit the following:**

- Passion for farming in an urban community, has firm understanding of race, social justice and food systems work.
- At least 1-2 seasons experience in vegetable farming. Previous experience with four-season farming/hoophouse cultivation.
- Experience facilitating and educating groups preferably in a farm or garden setting.
- Experience working in teams with the ability to work and effectively communicate with diverse populations, ages, and personalities.
- Highly competent in use of computers (Mac & PC both) and comfort using technology on a daily basis.
- Organized in record keeping, data collection, paperwork, and data entry.
- Flexibility to work nontraditional hours in non-traditional settings, including evening and weekends as scheduled.
- Clean background check, driving record, and valid driver's license will be required.
- Belief in asset-based, social justice approach.
- Commitment to sustainability and environmental friendly practices.
- Creativity, flexibility, resourcefulness and positive thinking.

**Physical Demands/Work Environment:**

- Bend, stoop, kneel, sit and/or stand for extended periods of time
- Able to lift 40 lbs.
- Willingness to do physical labor in all weather.

**Additional preferred characteristics:**

- Preference given to Ypsilanti-area residents or those willing to relocate to and engage in the Ypsilanti community.
- Experience in nonprofit and community-based organizations.
- Carpentry skills, equipment maintenance skills and small engine repair skills a big plus.
- Knowledge of perennial, fruit tree, and mushroom cultivation
- Experience driving trucks and trailers a big plus.
- Someone who wants to grow professionally with the organization.

**Compensation:** \$14.50/hour. No benefits. Seasonal: April-December.

**Schedule:** Average hours 28 hrs/week. Seasonal: April-October

**To Apply:** Preferred application deadline is March 1st, 2017. Preferred start date early April. Submit resume & page cover letter, complete with reference contact information, to Amanda Edmonds, Executive Director at [apply@growinghope.net](mailto:apply@growinghope.net). Samples of past work welcome, though not required.

*Growing Hope is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate potential employees based on race, creed, age, color, disability, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status. We encourage the following groups to apply: people of color and individuals who possess an in-depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship.*