



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope FARMERS MARKET FOOD ASSISTANCE INTERN

About Growing Hope:

Growing Hope is a 15-year-old non-profit organization in Ypsilanti, Michigan dedicated to helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening and increasing access to healthy food. Our commitment to increased access to healthy foods is demonstrated through our Farmers Markets. We operate two Ypsilanti Farmers Market locations and the Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand. We aim to help people, particularly those with barriers to healthy food, gain self-reliance growing their own food, while gaining the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their desired level of health.

Areas of interest:

Food assistance benefits, Food Security, Community Outreach

Position Description:

The Food Assistance Intern(s) will work with the Ypsilanti Farmers Market team to operate and enhance the food assistance and token currency programs at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. Interns will gain a thorough knowledge of food assistance programs at farmers markets and participate in outreach and marketing to optimize food assistance participation at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. The Food Assistance Interns will assist with the distribution of token currencies at one of our Ypsilanti Farmers Markets (YFM), either the Tuesday afternoon YFM-Downtown or the Saturday morning YFM- Depot Town. Additionally, each intern will choose a topic of their choice related to food insecurity and farmers markets for self-study. This intern will work under the supervision of and report to the Farmers Market & Nutrition Manager and will work on site at the market with Farmers Market Assistant.

Growing Hope seeks a candidate enthusiastic and dedicated to Growing Hope's mission of helping people improve their lives and communities through gardening and increasing access to healthy food. They must be energetic and committed to the success of the markets.

Tasks include:

- Arrive prior to beginning of market and remain to the end of the market
- Transport token currencies and other materials from storage to market, and back
- Organize, maintain, and keep inventory of token supplies in storage and at market
- Operate various technology to process credit card and SNAP/EBT transactions
- Accurately distribute tokens
- Educate customers on proper use of SNAP/EBT and the other currencies and ways to pay at our YFM
- Answer questions for vendors and customers regarding food assistance and token currency programs
- Keep detailed and accurate records of all token transactions
- Assist with data entry and program evaluation
- Accompany market team to outreach events. Distribute flyers and SNAP information to target population.
 - Attend events unaccompanied after proper instruction is given
- Assist with other Food Security Partnership projects as needed.

Qualified candidates will exhibit the following:

- Ability to lift 20 pounds and work in all weather conditions
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with experience providing top-notch customer service to customers and visitors of all backgrounds
- Ability to work efficiently and accurately in counting, distributing, sorting, and recording tokens.
- Attention to detail a must
- Proficient with MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Passion for healthy food, an interest in food justice and food systems, and a belief that all people deserve access to healthy food
- A team player who will pitch in as needed for market set up and take down, and other market needs as they arise.

Unpaid Availability:

Ability to work Tuesdays and/or Saturdays during the market season for a minimum of 12 hrs/week

Summer Term: April 16, 2018-August 31, 2018. *Intern applicants who can serve for the Fall Term will be given priority.*

Fall Term: mid-August-October 30, 2018. Indoor Market continues until December 18, 2018. Preference given to someone who can stay on until December.

We understand that school schedules and school internship requirements may differ from the market season.

Minimum commitment requirement is **12 hours per week for 12 weeks.**

To Apply: Please apply by March 26, 2018. Cover letter (1 page) and resume, that includes what you hope to gain during your internship, and what you think you could most contribute. Also include your desired hours and schedule availability. Please send these documents to apply@growinghope.net or drop them off in person to the Growing Hope Center at 922 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

We encourage the following groups to apply: people of color and individuals who possess an in--depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship. 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.