

YPSILANTI FARMERS MARKET INTERN
Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope



About Growing Hope:

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.

Growing Hope's commitment to providing improved lives and communities through greater access to healthy foods is demonstrated through our Farmers Markets area of work. This includes running two Ypsilanti Farmers Market locations, operating the Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand, and providing training and by providing consulting in the farmers market sector. By providing a venue for farmers, urban gardens, and other entrepreneurs, we contribute to local economies, developing our downtowns and strengthening our communities. The Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand by Growing Hope features produce from the Growing Hope farm, as well as locally grown fruits and vegetables from vendors at Growing Hope's Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. The Mobile Farm Stand travels to locations throughout Eastern Washtenaw County, providing fresh food access to underserved neighborhoods.

Position Description:

The Farmers Market Intern is responsible for being on-site at the Farm Stand on Fridays (September-October) and at special events as available to help set-up and tear-down, sell produce, distribute free food samples, assist with social media marketing, and provide exemplary customer service. In addition, the intern will be on-site at the Ypsilanti Indoor Farmers Market (November-December) assisting in social media marketing, data entry, produce selling, and general market operations assistance.

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:

- Set up and take down farm stands (includes marketing and merchandising of displays), including coordinate loading of supplies, signs, and product display
- Oversee and support food sampling at Farm Stand
- Assist customers with prompt service in sale of produce and specialty foods

- Educate customers about and how to use SNAP/Bridge, Double Up Food Bucks, and other food assistance programs at farm stand and farmers markets
- Educate customers about Ypsilanti Farmers Markets and Growing Hope
- Educate customers on nutritional and culinary uses of local produce, in particular what is available seasonally
- Execute sales (cash, electronic, and token sales) and maintain financial records; maintain inventory of product and daily report
- Stand/walk during shifts, and carry 40+ lbs

Qualified candidates will exhibit the following:

- Ability to work Fridays from 10am to 5pm September-October with additional flexible time to equal 10-12 hrs/week, and Tuesdays from 1pm to 8pm November-December with additional flexible time to equal 10-12 hrs/week
- Ability to lift 40 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
- Attention to detail
- Passion for healthy food, an interest in food justice and food systems, and a belief that all people deserve access to healthy food

Internship Dates:

Fall Term: Preferred start date: August 21-December 19, 2017.

To Apply: Preference given to applicants who apply by August 18th, 2017. 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.

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.