



## **Part-Time Position with Growing Hope YOUTH & SCHOOLS 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:**

Growing Hope is seeking an organized and enthusiastic Youth & Schools Assistant to join our team. This is a part-time, permanent position will begin April 1, 2017. The Youth & Schools Assistant is responsible for bringing Growing Hope's vision to life through supporting youth programs that emphasize gardening, cooking, and nutrition education; policy and environmental change in our local schools and other youth settings; and, more broadly, healthy food access particularly for low-income audiences. Our youth programs include: after-school and summer garden-based nutrition education clubs, a teen internship program, youth centered field trips to the Growing Hope Center, school garden training and support, outreach in classrooms and at school events, a Farm to School initiative, school food and health policy, and other community outreach activities.

The Youth and Schools Assistant reports to the Youth and Schools Manager.

### **Responsibilities Include:**

- Move Growing Hope's strategic plan forward in all areas connected to youth and schools; ensure youth engaged with Growing Hope, and their families, are connected to other Growing Hope programs and services.
- Provide safe, secure spaces for youth of all ages to share, learn and grow.
- Assist with program planning and evaluation.
- Lead weekly Growing Hope's garden-based nutrition education (Seed2Plate) clubs during the school year and in summer camps, including lesson planning, facilitating sessions, record keeping, and implementing evaluation.
- Support and train interns, volunteers, and teen interns to assist in Seed2Plate, eventually building a team of lead Seed2Plate facilitators.
- Support school administrators, teachers, parents, and community members with school garden development and sustainability.
- Assist with field trips to the Growing Hope Center.
- Implement outreach activities in the community including tabling at schools, community settings, as well as making presentations in classrooms.
- Maintain positive relationships with site coordinators and community partners.
- Assist with the planning and facilitation of the Teen Mentor program, including: hiring & general job training; leading educational sessions; training teens in garden maintenance and lesson planning; connecting teens with other aspects of Growing Hope; and other duties as needed.
- Support Farm to School initiative, healthy school/food policies, and support other policy, systems, and environmental change.



### Required Qualifications

- Experienced vegetable gardener and cook, enough to be able to teach to youth.
- Teaching experience at multiple levels, from early childhood through teens.
- Ability to model positive and proactive attitudes, behaviors and language with students.
- Excellent classroom or group management skills with young people.
- Experience working in multicultural communities of color.
- Strong collaboration, mediation, and team building skills.
- Experience working with volunteers.
- Strong organizational skills and the ability to work independently.
- Knowledge of nutrition, food access, and food justice.
- Knowledge of lesson planning, curriculum building, and school structure.
- Highly competent in use of computers (Mac & PC both) and comfort using technology on a daily basis.
- Must have personal vehicle to use for work (mileage reimbursement available) and have clean driving record and valid drivers license; if no license or vehicle, must be proficient in utilizing bike or public transit to get around to sites efficiently, including transporting supplies
- Must pass DHS child abuse clearance and other required background checks.
- 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 25 lbs.
- Must be able to work outdoors in different and sometimes inclement weather conditions.
- Must be able to teach in a garden or urban farm setting, which may be dusty or dirty, or have slippery surfaces.

### 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.
- Familiarity with nutrition, SNAP-Ed, or USDA dietary guidelines a plus.
- Teaching certificate.
- Spanish, Arabic, or other foreign language.

**Compensation:** \$14.50/hour. No benefits.

**Schedule:** Average hours 28 hrs/week during school year (September-May). Hours could increase between June and August.

### To Apply:

Preferred application deadline is March 1st. Preferred start date is April 1.. Submit resume and 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.*