



Paid Internships with Growing Hope “GROWING FUTURES” URBAN AGRICULTURE INTERNS

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. Our demonstration gardens and urban farm at the Growing Hope Center showcases ways to grow for home gardens, in school settings, market gardens, and wholesale.

The Growing Hope Center (GHC) is blocks away from downtown Ypsilanti and serves as a public space for trainings, youth groups, tours, and events. At the GHC we aim to help people, particularly those with barriers to accessing healthy food, gain self-reliance growing their own food, while gaining the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their desired level of health. We also contribute to the local food system in Ypsilanti through producing food for area restaurants and grocers.

To address the needs of people with barriers to employment, Growing Hope is developing an urban agricultural job training program called, “Growing Futures,” and associated farm enterprise “Hopeful Herbs.” Trainees in the program will learn horticultural, agricultural, and entrepreneurial skills in the context of growing and marketing culinary herbs. These skills will be transferable to other jobs in food and plant production, maintenance, food service, and more. Trainees will develop skills to increase their employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in fields including landscaping, urban farming, horticulture, garden retail, or other food businesses. “Hopeful Herbs” will provide a source of revenue that will help to supplement the costs the job training program.

Position Description:

Growing Hope is seeking two returning citizens (people who have returned home from prison) to become Urban Agriculture Interns. The interns will consult on the “Growing Futures” job training program to ensure that we meets the needs of those with barriers to employment. The interns will be involved in helping develop and plan for the program including curriculum, pedagogy, wrap-around support services and post-program support. During the internship, they will also learn skills in urban farming, specifically around growing and selling herbs, to help develop the “Hopeful Herbs” farm enterprise.

Interns will work an average of 10 hours per week, and must be available Wednesdays 9am-2pm and Tuesdays 10am-1 pm. Included in these hours are some evening hours for community meetings, as well as 2 hours which will be chosen by each intern.

The internship begins as early as July 21, 2017 and lasts until October 31, 2017. Interns will earn \$14.65 an hour, up to a total of 180 hours total

Internship Tasks Include:

- Give feedback and input on the development of Growing Futures Job Training program
 - Participate in meetings with Growing Hope partners and staff
 - Give feedback on job training materials and learning modules
 - Provide input on how reentry services would work with program
 - Help develop program values; review components and teaching style

- Support Growing Hope's urban farm programs and social enterprise, through learning about and implementing skills in the following areas:
 - Seedling propagation and planting
 - Weeding, watering and pruning
 - Harvesting
 - Washing and packing
 - Supporting wholesale to retailers

Qualified candidates will exhibit the following:

- A belief that all people deserve access to healthy affordable food
- Experience interacting with people from all walks of life
- Ideally, some experience with gardening, landscaping or food production
- Passion for helping returning citizens/formerly incarcerated people find work and positive development opportunities
- Able to lift at least 40 lbs. and comfortable with doing some manual labor.
- Comfortable with working outdoors, sometimes in very hot, cold or rainy weather

To Apply: Cover letter (1 page) and resume that includes what you hope to gain during your internship, what you think you could most contribute, as well as where you were incarcerated and your parole status. 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.

Applications due July 26th.

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.