



MENTORSHIP APPLICATION

Growing Hope's Home Vegetable Garden Program (HVGP) increases access to healthy food for lower-income Ypsilanti residents through installing free gardens and providing one-on-one garden support at family homes, community centers, housing facilities, apartment complexes and religious institutions. Program participants are provided free raised garden beds, along with seedlings, seeds, and other necessary tools and supplies. Gardens provide participants with opportunities to build resiliency through increased community engagement, opportunities for intergenerational experiences, and improvements in their health from exercise and increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables.

This year, new HVGP participants will be paired with a garden mentor to provide extra support to help folks learn about gardening and reach their goals.

Mentors will assist new gardeners in setting and reaching their garden goals through one-on-one garden coaching and sharing resources from Growing Hope. Whether it be help with pest management, or spending more time with their family outside. Gardening can be a venue for achieving many personal goals, from spending time with loved ones, changing your diet, reconnecting with cultural traditions and more. We will work to pair up mentees and mentors based on shared interest and skills.

Benefits of becoming a Garden Mentor for the Home Vegetable Garden Program

- Build garden leadership and teaching skills through a train-the-trainer workshop during orientation
- Access to Growing Hope's farm and garden staff for technical support
- Join a peer-to-peer support network
- Learn and practice building raised beds with Growing Hope (this is optional)
- Receive free seeds and seedlings of vegetables, herbs and flowers for your garden during our 3 free seedling distributions
- Gift bag of gardening tools and supplies
- Stipend for your time and energy

To Apply To be a Garden Mentor: Please fill out the attached application and drop off or send to: Growing Hope, Attn: Bee Ayer, 922 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Growing Hope fosters a just and equitable local food system where all people are empowered to grow, buy, sell, prepare, and eat nourishing food.



GARDEN MENTORSHIP APPLICATION

We are excited to announce the launch of Growing Hope's Garden Mentorships for Home Vegetable Garden Program participants. In order to uplift the many experienced and inspirational gardeners in our community we are starting a mentorship program to connect these folks to new gardeners and strengthen our gardening community. In addition, we aim to strengthen the intergenerational component of this project through prioritizing gardeners with children, and prioritizing senior gardeners who may have grandchildren.

Since 2009, Growing Hope has worked with over 350 families, helping Ypsilanti residents to grow their own food. This year, we will work with 25 new sites and hope to find 10 mentors to cheer them on and provide garden support.

In addition to the training provided at the orientation, mentors are encouraged to attend the free monthly garden workshops at Growing Hope urban farm. Our hope is that the Mentorship serves to elevate the mentee and the mentor.

Orientation & Training

Participants are required to attend a garden orientation Thursday March 21st from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Growing Hope Urban Farm. The orientation will include all the logistical information about the program, time to meet and learn about each other as well as participatory activities to practice garden teaching methods. Mentors will also be provided with a binder of some of our favorite garden handouts and tools.

Responsibilities:

- Attend mentor orientation at the Growing Hope Center
- Fill out pre-mentorship and post-mentorship survey and evaluation
- Check in with garden mentees monthly to answer their questions and provide encouragement
- Provide mentees support through at least two visits to their garden during the season
- Document your experience in the format of your choice: words, photos, pictures, etc. that can be shared with other mentors, mentees and Growing Hope.

Qualifications to Become a Garden Mentor:

- Passion for and experience with, growing food and flowers using sustainable practices.
- Able to work collaboratively with people from diverse backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, gender (including non-binary), sexual orientation, class, and religion
- Stay in the Ypsilanti area, 48197 or 48198 zip code
- Are an active gardener in the Ypsilanti area
- Preference given to former participants in Growing Hope's Home Vegetable Garden Program

About Growing Hope

Growing Hope is a 15-year-old non-profit organization rooted in Ypsilanti, Michigan whose mission is to foster an equitable and sustainable local food system that empowers all people to grow, buy, sell, prepare, and eat nourishing food. We envision a community where all people--particularly those with barriers due to race, class, culture, language, ability, and mobility--have access to nourishing local food that is culturally appropriate and affordable. People can grow and prepare their own harvests, and may earn a living as a food grower, producer, or entrepreneur.

Our areas of work include Youth & Schools, Farm & Garden, Farmers Markets, and Food Entrepreneurship. This position will work out of the Growing Hope Center and Urban Farm, a 1.4 acre property in the heart of Ypsilanti. The Urban Farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, garden demonstration, youth and adult education and events.

Organizational Culture and Values

Our culture is rooted in our values: Transformation, Education, Justice & Equity, Placemaking, and Integrity. We commit to upholding inclusive practices and policies while creating space for courageous conversations as a staff and within our community. Instead of simply providing services, we aim to leverage the vast resources already within our community in order to empower and partner with participants and customers. We believe that community members have the ability to make their own decisions about their health and wellness goals and that Growing Hope acts as a resource to increase access and opportunities to meet these goals.

Please contact Elizabeth Bee Ayer, Director of Programs & Operations 734-786-8401 or Bee@growinghope.net, with any questions!

GARDEN MENTORSHIP APPLICATION

Personal/Household Information

Name	
Address City, State and ZIP	
Phone(s)	
Email(s)	
Preferred Contact Methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Text
Your Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 <input type="checkbox"/> 60-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 65+
Does anyone in your household participate in or receive food assistance from:	<input type="checkbox"/> EBT/SNAP <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> WIC <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> Project Fresh <input type="checkbox"/> Food pantry <input type="checkbox"/> TANF <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
What is your household income?	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 to \$15,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$16,000 to \$20,100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$21,199 to \$25,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,001 to \$29,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000 to \$37,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$38,000 to \$45,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$38,000 to \$45,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000 or more
Are you associated with Habitat for Humanity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes how so?
What ways have you been (if any) involved with Growing Hope?	<input type="checkbox"/> Past member of Home Vegetable Program <input type="checkbox"/> Past member of Growing Gardens Program <input type="checkbox"/> Past/Current volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Shop at Ypsi Mobile Farm Stand <input type="checkbox"/> Shop at Ypsi Farmers Markets <input type="checkbox"/> Shopped at YpsiPlanti Garden Supply <input type="checkbox"/> Attended Growing Hope Fundraising Events <input type="checkbox"/> Attended Growing Hope workshops/classes <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other:



Mentors will receive free seedlings and seeds for their garden

Please let us know which date you prefer to pick up your seedlings

Spring Seedlings (Choose one)

- Tuesday, April 23rd 1-6pm @ Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace, 16 S. Washington St, Ypsilanti
- Saturday, April 27th 10am-1pm @ Growing Hope Center, 922 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti

Summer Seedlings (Choose one)

- Tuesday May 21st 1-6pm @ Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace, 16 S. Washington St, Ypsilanti
- Saturday, May 25th 10am-1pm @ Growing Hope Center, 922 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti

Fall Seedlings (Choose one)

- Tuesday, July 23rd 1-6pm @ Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace, 16 S. Washington St, Ypsilanti
- Saturday, July 27th 10am-1pm @ Growing Hope Center, 922 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti

Gardening Experience

<p style="text-align: center;">How many years of gardening experience do you have?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(circle one)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or more</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tell us a little about your gardening experience</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">What are you hoping to share with a garden mentee?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What do you want to learn?</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Do you currently grow in...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Check all that apply)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Plots in the ground <input type="checkbox"/> Raised Beds <input type="checkbox"/> Containers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cold Frames <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Season Extension</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>



Please tell us your skill level on the following topics

(circle one)

1. I Kind of know how to do this, but not enough to teach someone else
2. I would need to read up on this topic first
3. I'm confident to teach someone how to do this, but would need some time to prepare
4. I'm pretty good at this, I would need to take a minute to prepare
5. I am an expert and could give a lesson right now!

Seeding.....	1	2	3	4	5
Transplanting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Identifying weeds.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sustainable Pest Control.....	1	2	3	4	5
Watering.....	1	2	3	4	5
Harvesting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Planning a garden.....	1	2	3	4	5

What types of produce do you plan to grow this year?	
What do you plan to do with the food you grow?	<input type="checkbox"/> Eat It fresh <input type="checkbox"/> Share It <input type="checkbox"/> Freeze It <input type="checkbox"/> Can It <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Please share a quote or short story about how gardening has impacted your life.	
What other ways might you be interested in participating with Growing Hope? <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Classes and workshops <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching classes/workshop: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Shop at Ypsi Farmers Markets <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Thank you for applying!

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