



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 Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace and in two Ypsilanti senior locations.

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.

Areas of interest:

Food Security, Community Outreach, Food Access, Senior Nutrition, Youth Programs

Position Description:

The Ypsilanti Mobile Farm Stand Intern will assist with the operation of Growing Hope's weekly Farm Stand running July through September. The Intern will assist with set-up and tear-down, produce sales, distribute free food samples, assist with social media marketing, and provide exemplary customer service. Additionally, each intern will choose a topic of their choice related to food insecurity and food access for self-study. This intern will work under the supervision of and report to Growing Hope's Farmers Market Assistant.

Tasks include:

- Set up and take down farm stand (includes marketing and merchandising of displays), including coordinating 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/EBT/Bridge, Double Up Food Bucks, and other food assistance programs.
- 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:

- Interest in food justice and food systems, and a belief that all people deserve access to healthy food
- Passion for and experience with healthy, vegetable-centric cooking and seasonal produce
- 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
- Ability to lift 40 pounds and work in all weather conditions

Unpaid Availability:

Summer Term: Thursdays from 10:30am-6:30pm July 1 through Sept 30, 2019 with additional flexible time to equal 10-12 hours/week.

To Apply: Please apply by June 28, 2019 with a list of relevant experience or resume and cover letter (1 page) 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 Urban Farm at 922 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Growing Hope encourages people of color and individuals who possess an in-depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship to apply. We welcome a diverse pool of applicants. We do not discriminate based on race, creed, age, physical ability, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status. Accommodations will be made so that this position is accessible for qualified applicants.