

Hope Sprouts

Spring 2019

GROWING HOPE FOSTERS AN EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED TO GROW, BUY, SELL, AND EAT NOURISHING FOOD.



Upcoming Events

April

7

Big House 5K:
Trail to the Victors
presented by Toyota

May

4

Outdoor Farmers
Market Season
Begins

May

18

Ypsi Food Fight
Fundraiser

June

15

Growing Hope
Urban Farm
Open House

April

29

Last Spring
Building Blocks
Workshop

For more information about our events or how to get involved, please visit our website at growinghope.net or follow us:  [growinghope](https://www.facebook.com/growinghope)  [growingthehope](https://www.instagram.com/growingthehope)



Our New Mission & Core Values



Over the years we have expanded our work from gardening education to actively working to change and support our local food system. Our mission and values needed a refresh in order to clearly reflect the scope of the work we now do. We put our heads together with our staff, board, and key community partners and re-envisioned Growing Hope's mission and core values. We're thrilled to introduce them to you here!

Our New Mission

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

Our Core Values

Justice & Equity

We strive to dismantle systems of racism and oppressive power in the food system by ensuring fresh, affordable food is distributed and accessed fairly. We work toward greater equity to ensure people are not only food secure, but can participate in a more just food system.

Learning

We empower people with the support, resources and knowledge to grow and prepare their own food, and have a role in the emerging local food system.

Transformation

We are inspired every day to do the hard work of transforming food systems and improving the health of our community.

Integrity

We commit to creating an honest, constructive, and compassionate culture within our work spaces and in our interactions with our community.

Placemaking

We aim to create welcoming and inclusive spaces that are explicitly anti-racist and support diverse people and ideas.

Program Focus



Farm & Gardens

Introducing the Garden Mentor Program

Our Home Vegetable Garden Program has supported new gardeners in Ypsilanti with free raised bed gardens, plants, and gardening tools and resources. This year, we're engaging our community's experienced gardeners in a mentorship program to support our 2019 Home Vegetable Garden participants. Mentors will assist new gardeners in setting and reaching their garden goals through one-on-one coaching and sharing resources from Growing Hope. We're excited to connect gardeners through this program and strengthen Ypsilanti's home growers.



A helper unloads Farmers Market goodies for one of our vendors



Youth & Schools

Calling all Teen Leaders

Every year we employ 10 Ypsilanti teens for 12 weeks over the summer. Teens work on our Urban Farm and at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets building their skills in gardening, cooking and youth leadership. Working together, teens use these skills to lead youth garden lessons in community centers or on our Urban Farm. We will be interviewing for our 2019 Teen Leaders in May - check our website for more details on how to apply!



A few of our 2018 Teen Leaders with Youth & Schools Manager, Jeff Martin



Ypsilanti Farmers Markets

Get Ready for the Outdoor Market

Our indoor market season keeps us stocked with local products all winter long, and now our outdoor market season is just around the corner! Saturday, May 4th marks the first Depot Town market of the year and our Tuesday Downtown market resumes its weekly schedule on May 7th.



Food Entrepreneurship

Spring Building Blocks Workshops

Our free workshop series, *Building Blocks for the Local Food Entrepreneur*, continues through the end of April. We run these workshops in partnership with MSU-Extension, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), experienced farmers and food entrepreneurs. Join the next workshop on April 1st to learn about starting your own small business and the resources available at the Washtenaw Community College Entrepreneurship Center.

What's new at Growing Hope?
Check out some of our latest additions and upcoming events.

Save the Date!



Join us on our Urban Farm for a community open house on June 15th. There will be food, garden tours, kids activities, and educational workshops.

Celebrate Your Graduate at the MarketPlace



Located in downtown Ypsilanti, our charming and chic Robert C. Barnes Sr. MarketPlace Hall is near restaurants, shops, and local attractions. For more information go to www.growinghope.net or email Elisa at elisa@growinghope.net

SATURDAY, MAY 18 2019

YPSI FOOD FIGHT



5 TO 8 PM

YPSILANTI FARMERS MARKETPLACE

16 S. WASHINGTON

A FUNDRAISER FOR  growing hope

We Challenge You to a Food Fight!

For the past three years, Growing Hope has hosted the Ypsi Food Awards as our spring fundraiser and an opportunity to recognize our local food heroes. This year, we've decided to shake things up a bit and use this fundraiser as a platform to actively involve our community and partners in the work we do.

We've invited your favorite local restaurants to engage in a little friendly competition while raising awareness and appreciation for the Ypsilanti local food system. What's a "local food system"? Our local food system is the financial and social relationships between the growers, markets, restaurants, and YOU.

So let's do this! Let's have a party where our local food champions can be recognized, our local food leaders can showcase their talents, and you can support the local food community.

GET INVOLVED

Your support makes our work possible. Please consider making a gift to Growing Hope at www.growinghope.net or by mail to: 922 W. Michigan Avenue Ypsilanti, MI.

Visit Us

Growing Hope Urban Farm
922 W. Michigan Ave. Ypsilanti, MI
Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace & Robert C. Barnes Sr. MarketPlace Hall
16 S. Washington St. Ypsilanti, MI



Check out our group and individual volunteer opportunities, job openings, and internships at www.growinghope.net!