

HOPE SPROUTS

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



The core Growing Hope staff cohort on our urban farm just outside of downtown Ypsilanti

“One of the most beautiful things about our team is that it is composed of folks from across our community, representing various cultures and backgrounds, who’ve banded together with the common interest of a more just food system.”
- Julius Buzzard, Executive Director

Our staff tend to our urban farm, operate the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets and Ypsi Area Online Market, manage our incubator kitchen, empower youth through garden-based programming, plan events, fundraise, write grants, and keep track of our finances. Every area of the organization relies on our volunteers, interns, donors, and community partners to keep the different facets of the organization functioning.



SOME OF
MEET OUR STAFF

Our interactions with community members have a profound impact on our team. Program staff have shared about their work with Growing Hope, the greater Ypsilanti community, and their own unique personal stories. It is a joy to share their passion with you!



“It’s exciting to work with folks who are deeply invested in sharing their ideals for a better food industry.

The innovation, dedication and care our makers show inspire a more sensible, sustainable and thoughtful way of life. Being able to nurture relationships that cultivate more balance, sovereignty and collaboration will ultimately foster a meaningful food sector that benefits everyone who contributes to our food system.”

Bee Incubator Kitchen Manager



“There are so many barriers to being able to grow food in Ypsilanti.

Running the Home Vegetable Garden program for the first time this year reminded me of the difficulties our community faces. Growing up, my mother and father often shared their memories of eating and growing large quantities of food in El Salvador with me. They had less access to money and resources before fleeing to the US, however, healthy, fresh foods were more accessible due to the strength of their community. As I was welcomed into 25 Home Vegetable Garden participants’ homes, my hope was rejuvenated, and I remembered the stories my parents shared with me. Together, we pushed against HOA rules, physical barriers, land access, soil contamination, landlords, and an overall lack of resources to create vegetable gardens. This experience has touched me in so many ways, and further solidified that there is so much we can do as a community when we come together. Building relationships and getting to know people through gardening has been a joy. Ypsilanti truly is a strong community.”

Cristi Garden Manager



“There’s so much desire for community self-sufficiency in food here in Ypsilanti.

It doesn’t seem to matter what walk of life someone is coming from or what stories and knowledge they are carrying: every supporter of the farmers market I have met has a mind and a heart that understands the beauty and liberation that’s possible within a hyper-localized food system. Food is a foundational aspect of human existence, and I love having that shared relationship to local food with everyone who makes up the farmers market scene.”

Vivi Farmers Market Assistant

“I learn new things everyday alongside the teens,

from community members who run their own gardens and initiatives or from our own staff members, like Christopher, Esha and Cristi, who have a lot of ecological and gardening background to share. While I have a lot of experience in educating, and a passion for home gardening, there is so much more for me to learn.”

Juniper Teen & School Manager



“My relationship with the land I am cultivating is a celebratory act of hard manual labor, dedication, and love

to provide ethical and sustainable food. Farming at Growing Hope allows that celebration to spread into the community by way of good wholesome food and the knowledge of how to grow it!”

Christopher Farm Manager

“I truly see our teens fighting alongside us for a kinder, more resilient and abundant future.

Just by facilitating and participating in (sometimes intense) conversations around food justice, social identity, community organizing, and sustainable agriculture, my understanding of all the topics we cover deepens by seeing glimpses into the way they perceive the world.”

Esha Youth Programs Manager



Juniper with teen program staff at the market

“Farmers markets help create and foster community.

Even as technology and convenience become more prevalent in the local food landscape, open-air markets will remain relevant and necessary gathering places because of our hunger for togetherness and connection through food.”

Dayna Farmers Market & Nutrition Manager



Dayna with market staff, interns and volunteers

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

Intern Highlight

Every year, people from all over southeast Michigan join us for internships on the Growing Hope Urban Farm and at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. Kristen, Sarah, Abigail and David are Urban Agriculture interns and students at the University of Michigan, working on five different urban farms this summer including Growing Hope. These folks not only provided extra hands on the farm, but brought a wealth of knowledge, energy, and camaraderie that we are incredibly grateful for.



Chefs in the Garden September 11th, 18th, & 25th

Join us on the Growing Hope Urban Farm in the twilight of late summer. On three enchanting September evenings, you have the opportunity to enjoy a one of a kind, fine dining experience. Each evening of this three part dinner series features local culinary talent and benefits Growing Hope.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 11 Chefs in the Garden with Chef TBA	September 18 Chefs in the Garden with Chef Allison Anastasio	September 25 Chefs in the Garden with Chef Eve Aranoff	October 25 Last Day of Downtown Farmers Market	October 29 Last Day of Depot Town Farmers Market
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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)