

#ILHungerSummit

Agriculture, the Economy, and the Future of Fresh
Produce

Vista 4/5 Room



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Terri Nally
Director,
Feeding Illinois



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Karen Lehman
Director,
Fresh Taste



Fresh Taste is an initiative by twelve Chicago-region foundations working together to relocalize the Chicago foodshed and improve equity of access to food that is healthy, green, fair and affordable.

www.freshtaste.org



Our current members include

- The Chicago Community Trust
- Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- J.R. Albert Foundation
- Kinship Foundation
- Leo S. Guthman Family Fund
- Liberty Prairie Foundation
- The Lumpkin Family Foundation
- The Lutsey Family Foundation
- Stuart Family Foundation
- Walter S. Mander Foundation

With additional support from

City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development

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Nicole Bridges
Executive Director,
Prosperity Gardens



Our Mission

Through neighborhood farming, Prosperity Gardens is dedicated to cultivating healthy communities through education, employment, and collaborative opportunities.



P.G. is located at 302 N. First St, where we grow 40 different vegetables in 32 raised beds.



Our Staff

Nicole Bridges, Executive Director



Josephine Tritsch, Program Coordinator





P.G. Board of Directors



David Freeman, along with Sandy Mason, was the catalyst for the start of the Prosperity Gardens on North First Street. They initially chose this location for the original fourteen raised bed garden. He is Master Gardener, a bee keeper, and an individual who is enthusiastic about the lessons that can be learned by youth in the garden. When Prosperity Gardens needed to form a governing body to move forward, David agreed to serve on the ongoing board of directors.



Christine Moore, community member and vice president of the Prosperity Gardens board, is an avid gardener. Concerned about the consequences of poor nutrition, she is committed to teaching others how to grow and prepare fresh, local produce. Christy Moore is a health care professional who works at Prosperity Garden events and believes Prosperity Gardens has the power to make a valuable impact on the local community.



Napoleon Knight, M.D., M.B.A., is the Medical Director of Hospital Medicine, Regional Emergency Medicine and Hospital Services for Carle Hospital and Carle Physician Group. In addition, Dr. Knight is Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and is a Board Certified Emergency Physician and a Certified Physician Executive. He is particularly passionate about the impact of Prosperity Gardens on our community.



Rebecca Minsky joined the work of Prosperity Gardens because of her interest in youth development, specifically issues of youth nutrition and workforce readiness. She works as the Vice President for Administration & Support Programs at One Man Development, LLC, a nonprofit development and management company located in Urbana-Champaign and holds a B.S. in Economics and an M.B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Sandra Mason is a University of Illinois Extension Project Educator in horticulture. She is a double listed with a B.S. in horticulture and a M.S. in agricultural education. She trains and assists with coordinating the Master Gardener program. Sandy appears regularly on the Illinois Gardening program and hosts the "In the Garden" segment on WICV-TV. Along with David Freeman, Sandy encouraged the five people who were the catalyst for the effort to start a youth focused garden on North First Street.



Mary Ellen Weather has worked for more than 21 years as a grant writer and program manager in the areas of medical research and affordable housing, currently as District Executive Director of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. An avid gardener, she joined the Prosperity Gardens board in 2012 because she believes in the organization's goal to teach about the benefits of growing and eating healthy food while providing opportunities for job training and neighborhood improvement.



Champaign/Urbana: Community Need Local Food Insecurity and Obesity

- 17.2% of residents are Food Insecure in Champaign County
- This is the equivalent to 34,790 people who do not have adequate food and nutrition. many who are children.

As we know, the obesity rate in our nation, our counties, and our neighborhoods is steadily growing. Through education, employment and collaboration, we are trying to turn the tide on both fronts.



Education

- The READY Program
 - Health & Wellness
 - Workforce Development
- Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club
 - Garden Club





Seasonal Youth Employment Program

- READY Program students
 - Each summer we provide part-time positions on our urban farms. Since 2012, P.G. has employed 14 students.








VOLUNTEERS

Community support is what keeps us growing!
Volunteers put in hundreds of hours each year at Prosperity Gardens!



Who volunteers at P.G.?
University of Illinois students, Master Gardeners, church groups, and community members of all ages!





P.G. Local Markets

- Farm Stands
 - Tuesdays 4-7 @ Downtown Champaign
 - Wednesday 1-5 @ Frances Nelson &
 - Thursday 3-6 @ 302 N. First St.



PROSPERITY GARDENS

FARM STAND

- P.G. strives to provide organic, local produce to people in the Champaign/Urbana community. We also strive to ensure that the produce we sell is accessible and affordable for all people.



Prosperity Gardens Mobile Market






P.G.'s Pay-What-you-Can Mobile Market provides FRESH PRODUCE from our urban farms weekly to patients at Frances Nelson Health Center.



Community Partners

- Frances Nelson
- City of Champaign
- Sola Gratia Farm
- The READY Program
- Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club
- University Of Illinois
- University of Illinois Extension
– Master Gardeners






Bearsdley Park Expansion Project 2015-2016



Prosperity Gardens

Since 2010 Prosperity Gardens has used its knowledge to improve access to affordable, locally produced foods and vegetables. Prosperity Garden's partnership with the urban community of North Champaign includes nutritional and educational programs for children, health and wellness programs, formal and informal classes, and a farm stand from which they sell the produce from their urban vegetable garden.

In 2015 the City of Champaign pledged to support the vision of Prosperity Gardens by providing them access to one acre of donated land near the corner of downtown Champaign. Garden members already have spent the first part of the spring (including a major rain) in the fall but will enjoy the biggest Prosperity Garden ever built on the Champaign community.

Future Plans

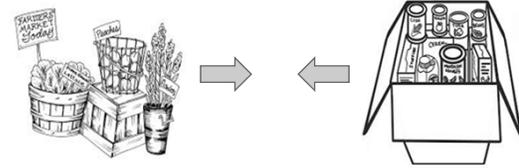
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Corey Chatman
Program Manager,
Experimental Station



Farmers Markets & Food Banks

Ways to connect them



Mission - Farmers Markets

- Support the community
 - Food access,
 - New Town Square
- Support local farmers
- Educational programing
 - Chef Demos, food prep
- Fight hunger
 - SNAP and Incentives

Mission - Food Banks

- Fight Hunger
 - Distribution networks (Food banks, soup kitchens)
 - Donations (funding, food drives)
- Support the community
 - Food access
- Educate the public about hunger

How they intersect

- Vulnerable communities
 - Unemployed
 - Families on fixed income
 - Working poor
- In many cases participating in SNAP and WIC.*
- Volunteerism
 - Education

How to help Farmers Markets

- Promote food access programing
 - SNAP
 - WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers
 - Incentives
- Volunteer

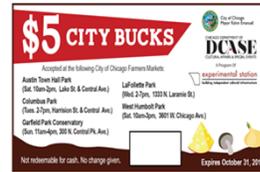
How to help Food Banks

- Food Drives
- Gleaning Programs
- Volunteer



Working together

- Managers should stay connected
- Work on programs that help each other
- Example - City Buck Program



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Time for Q&A!

