

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

The YouthLaunch Urban Farm

Our Mission: The YouthLaunch Urban Farm will **engage under-served youth to grow food**, provide opportunities to serve others, and will educate the community about the value of healthy lifestyles.

Program Description: This innovative program will combine positive youth development with hunger relief, social entrepreneurship, and education. On a 2 - 3 acre urban farm, the project will provide employment, life skills, and service opportunities to youth aged 14-18 in East Austin. Through the process of growing food and distributing it to those in need, youth farm interns will become stewards for the community and for their environment. Their efforts on the farm and in the community will inspire other young people and adults to understand and experience the value of healthy food.

The Plan: YouthLaunch will hire and pay youth farm interns to **plant, maintain, harvest, market and share a wide range of organic fruits, vegetables and herbs**. In addition to this hands-on farming, there will be field trips and participation in team building activities as well as a variety of life and job skills workshops.

Following the academic school year schedule, there will be 12-week sessions in the fall and spring, and an intensive 6 week summer session. Our target start date is in the spring of 2008.

Farm Program Model:

Layer One: *Growing Land – Growing Self – Growing Community*

Young people learn **life and job skills** through **hands-on training** in sustainable food production, business development, nutrition and consumer awareness. They learn **the importance of equal access to healthy foods** by distributing food to those in need.

Layer Two: *Growing Leaders*

Seasoned interns build on their **agricultural training and leadership abilities** by leading tours and work crews, coordinating volunteers, managing farm stands and speaking at public events.

Layer Three: *Growing Teachers*

Returning interns educate the community about the value of fresh foods by teaching organic gardening classes at elementary and middle schools, along with community recreation centers. They will give presentations on **healthy eating, food access, and sustainable agriculture** at conferences and to various community groups.

How you can help: Join our **FARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE** and help us fine-tune the development of the Urban Farm Project Plan and find the best ways to partner and collaborate.

Help us locate and secure **potential farm sites**. We need an affordable, long-term lease for 2-3 acres of farmable land within the Austin city limits.

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