

Young people improving their lives by improving their communities.

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YouthLaunch

February 2010

URBAN ROOTS *Introduces* 40-Member CSA

Support Urban Roots, Get Fresh Produce Weekly



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It's not too late to sign-up for the new Urban Roots CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). With the expansion of the farm to over 3 acres, we are excited about this new opportunity to connect the community with our program and the local food system.

CSA members have the opportunity to pick up their produce beginning in March. Pick up is available Wednesdays at the Austin Farmers' Market at the Triangle or Saturdays at the Austin Farmers' Market Downtown.

Your share will consist of a variety of vegetables and herbs grown on the Urban Roots farm and will change on a weekly basis. One share will supply a family of 2-4 fresh produce for a week, depending on your eating habits. The produce includes a variety of basil, beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, cilantro, cucumber, eggplant, fig, green bean, leek, melon, onion, pepper, potato, radish, squash, tomato, turnip and an assortment of leafy greens.

In addition to the produce, you will receive a weekly

newsletter with stories from the farm, seasonal recipes and a cooking class with new recipes for your produce!

A portion of the Urban Roots CSA is tax deductible. Can't eat an entire share on your own? Find someone to split it with!

Click www.urbanrootscsa.kintera.org to sign up or for more information.

To learn more about Urban Roots, click [HERE](#)

Eat Local Week A Record-Breaking Success

As long as we are talking about local food, thank you to all who participated in Eat Local Week by attending an event or eating out or shopping at one of the over 75 participating restaurants and markets.

"This was by far our best Eat Local Week ever. The events were fantastic, we had a record number of restaurants and markets participating, and the week brought an amazing amount of energy, buzz and publicity to Urban Roots" said Executive Director Russell Smith. "Even with some bad weather (the Great Snowstorm of Ought Nine), the week brought in close to \$34,000, up 35% from last year."

Our special thanks go to Marla Camp and Jenna Noel with *Edible Austin* magazine for their continued support of Urban Roots and outstanding coordination of Eat Local Week. We also love Leslie Luciano at Bicycle Sport Shop, Michelle Cohen, Dustin Meyer, the Sustainable Food Center, the Paramount, Whole Foods, Wally Workman Gallery, Les Dames d'Escoffier, the Alamo Drafthouse, Austin Museum of Art, the Hotel San Jose, the Whip In, and many, many others who helped make the week such a success! For photos of the week visit <http://www.dustinmeyer.blogspot.com>.

HWNT Health and Hope Benefit Showcases No Kidding



The Austin chapter



of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas focused on teen pregnancy and the No Kidding program during its annual Health and Hope Benefit on December 7th.

The benefit not only educates the attendees on a particular health topic important to woman in the Hispanic community,

but also inspires them to take action and make a difference.

No Kidding interns Mayra Nunez and Claudia Shenoda spoke about their experiences as teenage mothers. No Kidding Program Coordinator Jenifer De Atley wrapped up the evening by talking about how the community can help teens make good choices in their lives as well as how they can support young parents in our community.

To learn more about No Kidding, click [HERE](#)

Lights, Camera, Help YPC

Lights, Camera, Help, a non-profit dedicated to encouraging non-profits to use film and video to tell their stories and spread their message, presented a series of workshops for our Youth Partnership for Change program on film making and editing.

"The success of our Facebook Cause to raise money for two Flip cameras made it possible for us to also have two donated through the 'Flip Video Spotlight' program. It was wonderful to have Lights, Camera, Help teach us how to effectively use our new technology" said YPC Program Specialist Laura Maher.

Staff and Community Educators can't wait to get started filming. Stay tuned for the first Public Service Announcement featuring Youth Partnership for Change.

Lunch with YouthLaunch Featuring YPC

Join us for our first Lunch with YouthLaunch in 2010 featuring YPC. We'll provide lunch and a chance to hear about this dynamic program. Chat with YouthLaunch staff and hear from YPC Community Educators on why they are involved with the program.

Join us at 11:30 on Tuesday, February 9th at the YouthLaunch office, 7756 Northcross Drive, Austin, Texas 78757.

Please RSVP jlester@youthlaunch.org.

To find out about Youth Partnership for Change, click [HERE](#).

Partnerships & Opportunities

Refresh - Vote Now, Vote Every Day (through 2/28/10)

This month Urban Roots is competing in the Pepsi Refresh Project. As one of 200 nonprofit programs competing for one of 10 \$50,000 grants, we need your vote to make it happen. Go to <http://www.refresheverything.com/UrbanRoots> every day through February 28th to vote.

This grant will allow Urban Roots to "Reach and Teach" more kids about healthy eating on and off the farm. So spread the word and vote often!

Volunteer Opportunity

From time to time YouthLaunch is offered the opportunity to volunteer at an event in exchange for a donation to our organization. Being a small organization, we cannot always fulfill the volunteer need on our own. Therefore, we are creating a list of volunteers interested in assisting us when these opportunities arise.

One such opportunity is on February 20th - we have the opportunity to help run a USAA Track Meet. YouthLaunch receives a percentage of the entry fees based on the percentage of time our volunteers work. If you are interested in helping out, please email Jen Lester at jlester@youthlaunch.org. And if you would like to be on our list of volunteers for these types of opportunities in the future, let Jen know.

Thank You to Our Recent Supporters!

YouthLaunch is grateful for the generous support of the

following individuals and institutions in December and January: Kimberly Gustafson, Rick Evans, James Parsons, Marjorie Coward, Molly Stevens, Phyllis Newton, Alvin Yoong, Erin Blake, Ryan and Brooke Rothrock, Jay & Christina Ellwanger, Karen and Gordon Wise, Alix Jones, Don Woodhouse, Eric and Michele Starkloff, Bob and Sue Evans, Nicole Daspit, Bonnie Mills, Judith & Beber Helburn, Cathryn Dorsey, Kathryn Benson, Eric Scott, Robin Sanders, Bill Swail, Deidra Mills Ryan, Michelle Moore, Sean Flammer, Patrick Swillinger, Lopa Cooper, Valinda Bolton, Robert Butler, Russell and Rachel Cobb, Judith Feris, Sarah Goettsch, Sean Hale, Marvin Hecker, Gwendolyn Jewiss, Shirlene Justice, Paxton Knight, Amanda Koplos, Joelle Lowe, Jason and Adrienne Lowenstein, Janelle Manner, Bradley Maples, Stacy McCracken, Ruth McRoy, Gail & Neil Miller, Linda Mann, Jill Nokes, Michelle Rossomando, James Taylor, Grant and Margot Thomas, Nikki Wunningham, Jennifer Wuamett, Rebecca Yerly, Robert Zachary, RGM Advisors, the Shield Ayres Foundation, and the Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation.

YouthLaunch is excited to welcome new and returning officers of our Board of Directors

President: Scott Smyth

Vice-President: Ryan Rothrock

Vice-President (Development): Michelle Rossomando

Treasurer: Katie Reed

Secretary / Nominations: Rebecca Yerly

Program Committee Chairperson: Deb Haas

Service Awards Luncheon Chairperson: Michelle Rossomando

[Forward](#) this e-newsletter.

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