



507 Broadway, Kingston NY 12401
 (845) 332 - 2927
instagram @yfarmkingston
facebook @KingstonYMCAFarmProject
web KingstonYMCAFarmProject.org

GROWING A HEALTHIER KINGSTON

Dear Supporter of the Kingston YMCA Farm Project,

November 2020

Now more than ever we understand the importance of a resilient, community-based farm. In response to 2020's unprecedented racial justice uprisings and the catastrophic Covid-19 pandemic, we adapted processes and projects to meet the emerging needs of our community. Our highlights of our 2020 work:

COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY FOOD ACCESS

We joined the Kingston Emergency Food Collaborative. Through this grassroots coalition, we responded to urgent food needs during the initial Covid-19 shutdown by procuring local food and assisting with meal distribution from the YMCA.

We grew 5,700 pounds of food on our 1/3 acre farm.

We operated farm stands for nine months of the year to provide safe, healthful, and affordable community-based shopping experiences. We ran our Winter Farm Stand in partnership with Hudson Valley Farm Hub through February 2020. During the growing season, we operated farm stands at the Y and the Institute of Family Health. The Winter Farm Stand is now open through February 2021.



We ran farm stands for nine months of the year.

The Youth Crew built 30 community garden beds through the Kingston Garden Bed Project. This supports a resilient local food system and - at a time of great social isolation - provides a sense of community.



Youth Farm Crews planted, grew, and harvested 5,700 pounds of food.

FARM BASED EDUCATION

We presented *Corn to Tortillas*, a bilingual classroom lesson in collaboration with the Hudson Valley Farm Hub. Students learned how corn is grown and harvested, and made their own tortillas all with simultaneous interpretation in the student's preferred language.

We facilitated bilingual virtual field trips to elementary school classes that typically visit the farm in person.

We provided farm-based experiences to the Y's summer Camp Starfish. In addition to twice-weekly visits to the farm, campers prepared a farm-based recipe with the Y Farm team, and received a bag with fresh vegetables and a recipe to prepare at home.

EDUCATING, NOURISHING, AND CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY WITH OUR URBAN FARM



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We provided meaningful employment to 37 high school and college-aged youth. We fostered a nurturing and Covid-safe environment for youth to engage in person to process the world, explore community, and take action while integrating a social justice lens.



We employed 37 high school and college-aged youth.

The Youth Design Team finalized and presented their design for the Pine St. African Burial Ground just before the shut down.

The Cooking Crew met for eight weekly sessions of recipes, local food, and family style meals. We continue recipe preparation in anticipation of our first cookbook.

BARK (*Beautifying And Restoring Kingston*) continued community-based efforts to clean-up locations throughout the City of Kingston.

Youth Farm Crews planted, grew, and harvested 5,700 pounds of fruits and vegetables. They worked in all weather to bring the freshest food possible to our farm stands.

We expanded to employ three college-aged students who participated in our programs previously. They will lead the 2021 Kingston Garden Bed Project.

EXPLORING ANTIRACIST WORK AND ACTION

The Youth Crew and staff engaged in a deep exploration of antiracist work and action.

We painted a Black Lives Matter tribute on the utility box on Schwenk Drive.

We read, discussed, and journaled alongside *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You* (a youth remix edition) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi.

The Youth Crew created their **Antiracist Statement** (included in this letter) and installed a **Say Their Names Memorial** on our farm fence in response to reading *Stamped*. The Memorial was created and shared by Joy and Elise Proctor from Portland, Oregon.

The Youth Crew visioned November 26 as *Sojourner Truth Day* during our Social Justice Tuesdays, using the illustrated *This is What Democracy Looks Like*. As a result, Ulster County, the City of Kingston, and the Town of Esopus issued Proclamations recognizing the date for 2020.

Inspired by the enthusiasm of the Youth Crew, our college-aged social justice educators are leading a weekly book group on *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

We accomplished all of this important work because we are a small, flexible, and dedicated organization that quickly adapts to the needs of our youth and the larger community. We see this especially as our Youth Crew meaningfully engages in their community and deepens their understanding of how to create the world in which they want to live. We are grateful for the past and future support from you and invite you to help us usher in our eighth season of growing a healthier Kingston. **Will you join us in supporting our efforts?**

With gratitude,

KayCee Wimbish, Project Director

Susan Hereth, Education Director

YES! I WANT TO KEEP GROWING A HEALTHIER KINGSTON

- \$50** Covers the cost of ingredients for a Cooking Crew session
- \$100** Pays for an expert to teach a workshop to our youth crew
- \$150** Enables a public school class to experience a farm-based field trip
- \$250** Provides supplies to run the farm stands
- \$500** Supplies us with organic, non-GMO seed for a season
- \$1,000** Covers the cost of one youth farm crew member for a six-week session



Please accept my tax-deductible gift of:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,500 other \$ _____

name _____

street _____

city _____ state & zip _____

email _____ phone _____

Please accept my check payable to **Kingston YMCA Farm Project**
mail to **Kingston YMCA Farm Project**, 507 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401

For online giving and information about our work:
kingstonymcafarmproject.org

THANK YOU!



KINGSTON YMCA FARM PROJECT (845) 332 - 2927 507 Broadway, Kingston NY 12401
web KingstonYMCAFarmProject.org facebook @KingstonYMCAFarmProject instagram @yfarmkingston