



November 2017

Dear Supporter of the Kingston YMCA Farm Project,

What a bountiful fourth year we had! Our urban farm produced food for our community, provided habitat for native pollinators and was a place of learning, exploration and new experiences. Your support enabled us to reach more children with our programming, expand and deepen our youth development program and get more food into our community. **We hope you will help us continue our work in 2018!**

2017 Accomplishments

COMMUNITY FOOD PRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY FOOD ACCESS

After expanding our growing space, we grew **4,300 pounds** of chemical-free produce! We served **30-100 customers** a week throughout the season depending on the number of farm stands running each week. Our farm stands are located at the YMCA, WMC Health Alliance and the Kingston Library. Our youth ran the mobile farm markets for senior citizens at Yosman Towers and Governor Clinton Apartments in July and August. We keep prices low and accept SNAP and WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks. **15% of purchases** were made with SNAP or FMNP checks.

FARM BASED EDUCATION

Over **600 area children** worked, learned, explored and ate in our Learning Garden and on the farm in 2017. For many children it is the first time they have tasted a strawberry or tomato right off the plant. We heard one third grade visitor say, **"I never want to leave this farm!"**

Continue on back --->



15%

Of Purchases Were Made with SNAP or FMNP Checks



600

Area Children Worked, Learned, Explored and Ate in Our Learning Garden



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT -We told you we would do it and we did!

Our 2017 youth farm crew program expansion, April 1-October 28, was a huge success with **4 youth farm crews**. Youth either earned school credits toward graduation or salaries. The **20 youth positions** in 2017 contributed over **1300 hours** to community food production, food access, and education. Summer crew members helped with farms stands and education programs resulting in many intergenerational experiences. To deepen the connection between **growing and eating fresh food**, we had on-the-farm cooking using freshly harvested ingredients as well as bringing our farm crews into the community to work with chefs in local restaurants.

We are about to pilot an **After School Cooking Crew** at the YMCA and Peace Nation to further meet the need we have found for youth to connect with the nutrition and preparation of fresh, locally sourced foods.

OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$10,000 BY THE END OF 2017

Your donation directly impacts children and youth in our programs as well as community members at our farm stands. In 2018 we will continue our community based food access work. **Will you invest in meaningful farm-based experiences for children and youth along with increased food access for a healthier community?** Together we can build a more just food system, inclusive of all of Kingston residents.

Warmly,



Susan Hereth
Education Director



KayCee Wimbish
Project Director/Farmer



Coming in 2017

After School Cooking Crew



Can You Help Us Raise

\$10,000

by the End of 2017?



The Kingston YMCA Farm Project's mission is to educate and empower young people and their families in the City of Kingston by directly engaging them in sustainable food production on our urban farm while increasing the community's access to fresh, local food.

