

fresh from the farm

A Farm to School program of Seven Generations Ahead

FFF Begins a New Partnership with a Community School in Pilsen:

FFF staff implemented our middle school curriculum, Linking Plants and Food, with a new partner school, Orozco Community Academy, in Pilsen. "Seeds and Sprouts," a group of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, focused most of their time on outdoor learning in their beautiful garden space that included 14 raised beds! The afterschool group maintained the beds, planning, planting and harvesting herbs and vegetables. The students often stopped gardening to talk to neighbors who were walking by asking what was growing in the garden. The space was creatively set up to encourage neighborhood inquisition about what was being grown in the garden. "Seeds and Sprouts" will continue nurturing their new relationship with SGA and the garden in the Fall.



A student at Orozco Community Academy holds a turnip from a June harvest.



Orozco Garden Club
"Seeds and Sprouts"

Spring Educator Training Expands in the Great Lakes Region:

So far this year, FFF has held educator trainings in Springfield, Carbondale and Chicago, IL. The downstate locations of Springfield and Carbondale were at capacity and widely regarded as fulfilling trainings! The response was so positive that our sponsor, the IL Department of Women's Health, is asking for a 3rd training in 2013! One participant in particular stood out in the Chicago training. Dorothy, from Michigan, had already received funding to implement FFF at her local school. Dorothy traveled down to Chicago with a new baby in tow to learn more about FFF's farm to school curriculum and resources. FFF looks forward to training in Novi and Grand Rapids, MI in August!

FFF Pilots a New Kindergarten Curriculum at Goethe Elementary:

This spring Fresh from the Farm piloted its curriculum with Kindergarteners at a new partner school in Logan Square called Goethe Elementary. Typically, Fresh from the Farm classes incorporate reading and writing to educate children about fruits and vegetables. For our youngest students, the FFF team revised the approach to use more drawing and pictures to highlight plant identification, mindful tasting and discussing which parts of the human body benefit the most from the food. The kindergartners honed their investigation skills by using their senses to explore fruits and vegetables from blueberries to jicama. The pilot led to FFF's gardening program at Haas Park's summer camp up the street from Goethe.

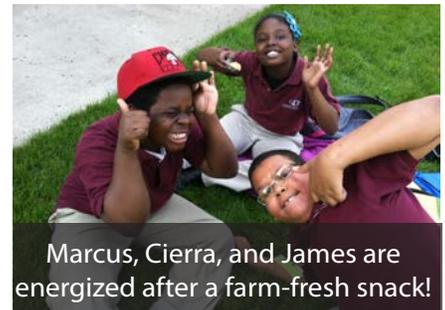
The Fresh from the Farm program is made possible through the support of the Chicago Community Trust, the Illinois Department of Women's Health, and the Lumpkin Family Foundation



James proudly displays his favorite part of gardening: the worms!

A Healthy Partnership at Perspectives Middle Academy Grows Stronger

For the past two years, FFF has been teaching gardening and nutrition at Perspectives in Auburn Gresham. Children learned about the importance of healthy eating through interactive games and discussions. They also planned, planted and maintained their very own school garden. Students were given free reign of the garden, deciding exactly what to plant and the best place to plant it. One student surprised the class with a special planting of an entire packet of watermelon seeds! This led to a great learning opportunity on the merits of reading a seed packet pre-planting. By the end of the class it was evident that the students took ownership of their beautiful garden.



Marcus, Cierra, and James are energized after a farm-fresh snack!

SGA Provides Garden Expertise for CPPW Partners

June brought the conclusion of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) project throughout suburban Cook County. Seven Generations Ahead was selected as the technical assistance provider for 8 model communities focusing on school and community gardens. Over the past 18 months, SGA worked with them on 3 key benchmarks: garden implementation, garden integration into the curriculum and long-term garden sustainability planning. SGA's Fresh from the Farm and Linking Plants and Food curricula were adopted by several schools. SGA's crowning event was a Oak Park Garden and Composting Tour featuring 2 master composters and 4 garden managers sharing their knowledge and resources at 2 exemplary Oak Park schools. Participants even left with composting bins in hand!



SD127.5's garden project at Ridge Central Elementary School where 18 raised beds were built!

Truckin' through Chicago for the 2012 Tour!

Truck Farm Chicago is back on the road for our second season touring Chicago! This season has brought some exciting new visits and new partnerships. The tour had a great boost when Truck Farm's Kickstarter Campaign raised \$4,400 to keep us on the road this season - thank you KickStarter donors! As for visits, Truck Farm will visit Tarkington School of Excellence for a four visit series as programming during CPS's summer lunch program, LunchStop. These visits were made possible by Ernst & Young's Earth Day Jeans Day fundraiser, which raised \$1,735 for scholarship visits. Truck Farm is also doing a four visit series at Eugene Field Park, not only teaching kids that fruits and veggies are cool, but also partnering with Bike-a-Bee (bee keeping and bee education, all via bike!) to teach kids the importance of bees. It's rolling out to be a great summer, look for us as we tour Chicago! Sign up for a visit at www.truckfarmchicago.org

Connect and Learn with the Resource Center

The FFF Resource Center is your home for continuous farm to school program updates, information, and discussions. Explore funding opportunities, read up on nutrition, collaborate on a new project, and more.

To share ideas, ask questions, and get involved in discussions, check in at...



Fresh from the Farm's website
<https://sites.google.com/site/sgaff/>