



## **Part-Time Position with Growing Hope YOUTH PROGRAMS ASSISTANT**

### **About Growing Hope**

Growing Hope is a 16-year-old nonprofit organization rooted in Ypsilanti, Michigan with a mission to foster an equitable and sustainable local food system that empowers all people to grow, buy, sell, prepare, and eat nourishing food. We envision a community where all people--particularly those with barriers due to race, class, culture, language, ability, and mobility--have access to nourishing local food that is culturally appropriate and affordable. People can grow and prepare their own harvests, and may earn a living as a food grower, producer, or entrepreneur.

Our culture is rooted in our values: Transformation, Education, Justice & Equity, Placemaking, and Integrity. We commit to upholding inclusive practices and policies while creating space for courageous conversations as a staff and within our community. Instead of simply providing services, we aim to leverage the vast resources already within our community in order to empower and partner with participants and customers. We believe that community members have the ability to make their own decisions about their health and wellness goals and that Growing Hope acts as a resource to increase access and opportunities to meet these goals.

Our areas of work include Youth & Schools, Farm & Garden, Farmers' Markets, and Food Entrepreneurship. This position will work out of the Growing Hope Urban Farm as well as school and community sites throughout Ypsilanti. The Urban Farm is a multi-purpose space used for organic-practice production, garden demonstration, and youth and adult education and events.

### **About the Youth Programs Assistant Position**

The Youth Programs Assistant will work directly with youth Pre-K to 12th grade to implement lessons and activities. This person will support many of Growing Hope's youth programs, including our summer and after-school "Seed2Plate" gardening and cooking lessons, youth field trips to our Urban Farm and Farmers Markets, and our Teen Leadership and Summer Program. Occasionally, this position will attend community events and meetings. All of our youth programs are framed as garden-based education that addresses racial justice in the food system. Additionally, we are beginning to offer STEAM-based lessons that build on classroom curricula standards.

### **Youth Program Assistant Responsibilities**

#### *Youth Field Trips:*

- Promote, recruit and schedule youth field trips.
- Review and complete lesson plans for field trips.
- Prep and facilitate scheduled field trips.
- Collect and enter participant data and evaluations.

#### *Youth Cooking & Nutrition lessons: Seed to Plate*

- Review and complete lesson plans for "Seed2Plate."
- Prep and facilitate "Seed2Plate" clubs and summer camps in schools & community sites.
- Collect and enter participant data and evaluations.

#### *Teen Leadership and Summer Program*

- Support Growing Hope teens to lead “Seed2Plate” lessons at summer camps.

### **Youth Program Assistant Qualifications**

Growing Hope is seeking someone who is passionate about youth education and changing the food system through hands on garden-based education.

- Passion and experience in place-based education, food justice concepts, and vegetable gardening using organic practices.
- Experience with youth education in a garden setting.
- Experience with simple food preparation and cooking using whole, seasonal ingredients.
- Ability to connect with and facilitate youth of all ages.
- Able to work collaboratively with people from diverse backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, class, religion, sexual orientation, and gender.
- Work in various weather conditions such as rain, heat, humidity or wind.
- Familiar with using Microsoft Word and the Google Suite (e-mail, drive, calendar).
- Reliable transportation to Growing Hope and to programs within Ypsilanti.

### **Qualities that will enhance your application:**

- Participated in Growing Hope as a volunteer or program participant.
- Experience creating lesson plans; experience with STEM-based education.
- Training in place-based education and popular education practices.
- Knowledge of the food system and the local food justice movement.
- Understanding of and experience talking about racism and social justice with youth.
- Strong connection to Ypsilanti with a commitment to long-term relationship building.

**Hours & Compensation:** This position is paid hourly at \$15.00 per hour, 20 hours per week. This position is majority grant funded and scheduled to begin in February, 2020 and run through December, 2020 with opportunity to continue based on funding. The weekly schedule will be determined by programming and availability, though some weekends and evenings will be expected. During the summer must be available Tuesdays 2:00pm to 7:30pm and Wednesdays 10:00am to 1:00pm. Benefits are not included. In addition to monetary compensation, all Growing Hope staff may take home extra produce and flowers from the Growing Hope Urban Farm.

**To Apply:** Submit resume or description of relevant experience. Please include a cover letter detailing your interest and why you are qualified for this position. Include at least two references (professional or personal) to [apply@growinghope.net](mailto:apply@growinghope.net). Applications accepted until Friday January 31st at 5:00 pm. No formal education is required for this position.

*Growing Hope encourages people of color and individuals who possess an in-depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship to apply. We welcome a diverse pool of applicants and make employment decisions on the basis of merit. We do not discriminate potential employees based on race, creed, age, physical ability, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status. Accommodations will be made so that the application process and position is made accessible for qualified applicants.*