

Misako Scott

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Urban Tree Connection

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2010

Greetings!

Goodbye, summer; hello, autumn! We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the crisp fall weather. As Thanksgiving quickly approaches and our season draws to a close, we are excited to share with you our recent news.



Urban Tree Connection
Newsletter

[UTC News](#)

[Our New YouTube
Channel!](#)



CSA Video
on NEW
YouTube
Channel!

UTC News

UTC Named Conservator of CSA Property!

On Tuesday, October 12 The Hon. William J. Manfredi of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas appointed Urban Tree Connection the conservator of the abandoned property in West Philadelphia where we have began the process of creating a low-income community-supported agriculture farm. This is one of the first times the Pennsylvania Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act, effective in early 2009, has been used to grant conservatorship of an abandoned property for the creation of an urban farm in Philadelphia. The appointment was celebrated by UTC and the community! Read more about this in Kia Gregory's front page story from [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) today.

Thank you, IMPACT Philadelphia! [IMPACT Philadelphia](#) is an initiative of The Philadelphia Foundation which is mobilizing emerging leaders for a special grants campaign aiding nonprofits that are making a difference in Philadelphia through social media, email, events and other activities. Urban Tree Connection is one of the Philly nonprofits that will benefit from this fundraising campaign! Please visit IMPACT Philadelphia's [online donation page](#) to support Urban Tree Connection. Since IMPACT Philadelphia is not charging any administrative fees and also is providing special matching support for this initiative, 125% of each donation received through Dec. 15 will go directly to local nonprofits.

After-school Programs! Teen summer programs ended August 15 and our after-school programs have commenced. In West Philly, UTC staffers are reading books with kids for the last half-hour of every day. Many of the kids are raising black swallow-tail caterpillars, feeding them as they watch their transformation from caterpillars to pupae to beautiful black, yellow and blue butterflies. Coco, an eleventh-grade girl who worked this summer as one of the PYN kids, wants to be an elementary school teacher when she is older and is helping out at programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lauryn, the star Veggie Kid, has been selling cherry tomatoes, garlic, onions, hot peppers, eggplant, and green beans to the neighborhood once a week.

Bank of America announced it is presenting Urban Tree Connection with its Local Hero Award. I am honored to be one of five recipients at the awards ceremony mid-November!

New Partnership! UTC has formed a new farming program at the Alliance for Progress Charter School, in partnership with

Harvests have continued to be plentiful at the CSA gardens at 53rd and Wyalusing. Recently, we have been getting lots of hot peppers, eggplant, okra, carrots, green beans, black-eyed peas, lima beans, and bell peppers.

Check out an amazing video about UTC's CSA on our new [YouTube Channel](#). Many thanks to the talented Lindsay Mann for creating this piece for UTC!

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Twitter!



Whole Foods Markets, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Public Health Department and Messiah College. Five Messiah College interns are working under Brandon Hoover as after-school staff for the new program. Check out this new [blog](#) about the farming program!

Thank you, Whole Foods! Ruth Harp from Wynnewood's Whole Foods Market worked with Laura Enoch and Susanna Gieske from the Callowhill Whole Foods to deliver cooking demonstrations June - September to about 30 participants each class.



Fundraising News! The **USDA** recently announced that we will receive a large grant from its Farmers Market Promotion Program to expand consumer access to food and promote new income opportunities for producers. We will be using the almost \$90,000 for our CSA in West Philadelphia. THANK YOU USDA! Read more about it, [here](#).

The Patricia Kind Family Foundation has given Urban Tree Connection a \$30,000 over three years. This money will greatly benefit the various projects and programs that we engage in and we are very grateful for The Patricia Kind Family Foundation's support.

Lincoln Financial Foundation, the charitable giving arm of Lincoln Financial Group in Radnor, PA has awarded us with a \$10,000 human services grant as part of the company's commitment to ending homelessness in Philadelphia as well as addressing hunger, nutrition, self-sufficiency and other social service needs. This money will benefit our Growing Healthy Initiative, which aims to increase access to affordable, nutritious foods through community urban farming.



*Please support
Urban Tree
Connection!*

*To make a
donation, [please
visit our website](#)
and click on
Fundraiser 2009.*

*We thank you for
your continued
support!*



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

**More than 100
pounds of fresh
produce have**

Citizens Bank Foundation has also announced it will continue to support Urban Tree Connection through a grant of \$2,500. The Foundation is a long time supporter of our organization and we appreciate its continued donations!

Volunteer and Staff News! Vanguard Day of Caring!

About 50 employees from Vanguard joined neighborhood children and UTC to volunteer in our West Philly gardens. **Temple University** also brought a large group of students to the Uber St. garden recently to clean and maintain the urban garden. **Villanova University** students are assisting Annie Preston in delivering after-school programs on Tuesday's at Pearl St. Ryan Witmer, a **Messiah College** graduate, is assisting Annie to develop a crop rotation plan for Haddington farm sites for 2011. **Ursinus University** is still actively supporting UTC, offering us new interns for the 2010/2011 school year and engaging students to assist in our Haddington work, studying the effects UTC has on the neighborhood. **CIGNA** held a Day of Caring by volunteering with Urban Tree Connection on October 15th. **Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church** volunteered at the Senior's Rose Garden on October 16th. Thank you, all! Thank you to the **City Year Young Heroes** staff who are volunteering with us for three days in October and November!

Welcome, Sue! Sue Witte has been hired to assist in coordinating our volunteer activities, as we have an abundance of people contacting UTC and offering to help. We are very excited about the continuous growth in our pool of volunteers!

Don't forget to join us online! On Facebook: UrbanTreeConnection; on Twitter: @UTCPhila; and on YouTube.

Warmly,

Skip Wiener
Executive Director & Founder
Urban Tree Connection

been harvested
each week in
our first season
of planting at
the UTC CSA!



A very special
THANK YOU to the
**Philadelphia
Committee of the
Garden Club of
America** for its
support of our new,
low-income CSA this
year and for its
support, always.
PCGCA is one of
UTC's longest,
continuous supporters
and we are very
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