

Urban Tree Connection

Summer 2011 Newsletter:
A Look Inside Neighborhood Foods
Feeding People, Transforming Lives

Dear Misako,

Summer's in full swing here at Urban Tree Connection! Take a look at what we've been up to! And don't forget to check out our new site over at [http://utenfoods.com/!](http://utenfoods.com/)



Neighborhood Foods Farm Updates

◆ We have begun harvesting our summer crops, and every Saturday we take some of the following to our Rittenhouse and Overbrook markets: tomatoes, peppers, squash, kale, collards, chard, green beans, potatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, onions, and eggplants! Come shop and visit with us!

◆ We recently built a shed from recycled materials on the farm to maximize our storage space. We constantly try to use materials such as shipping pallets and tires that the city considers to be a burden because of the difficulty it has in disposing of them. Utilizing such materials is both sustainable and shows the city that we can absorb these "waste and hazard" materials. Such a construction model represents our larger philosophy of building an urban farm in a cost effective, realistic and sustainable manner. We hope that our farm will become a prototype for other up and coming farms in the city to model.

◆ We are also working on an irrigation system for the farm that should go into construction in the next few weeks. With this system, we will be able to irrigate our crops with rainwater funneled from the rooftops of the neighboring houses, and will no longer have to rely on the city for water. This eco-conscious transition is being orchestrated by Engineering graduate students at Drexel University and funded by the McLean Contributionship. Thanks, Drexel and McLean!

◆ The building of a high tunnel, essentially an unheated green house, is also in the construction phase. The tunnel will create a microclimate that will hold heat in the winter and spring, allowing us to extend our growing season during the colder months. We are excited to utilize this structure for production this fall!

Community Program Updates

Our seniors delivery program in the Haddington community is in full swing! Every Tuesday we walk to townhouses down the street from the farm and let our senior friends know what we will harvest that week. They put in their orders for fresh veggies, purchasing them at a discounted price, and we pick and deliver the vegetables to their door. Contact our business manager, [Dylan](#), for more info on this program!



Follow UTC!



Want more info on our farms, staff, and community?

Check out our **BLOG!**



Help UTC & Neighborhood Foods Grow!



Volunteer!

Contact [Sue](#)

Join our CSA!

Contact [Dylan](#)

Donate!



Schedule a Garden Tour!
Contact [Misako](#)
Ask about UTC Programs!

Contact [Annie](#)

Want more info?
Contact [Skip](#)

Farmer Annie and our summer intern Karen from Tufts University continue to run an educational science-based program two afternoons a week at our Pearl Street Garden and Orchard. The kids read, participate in mini-science lessons, and play and work in the garden. The community has truly taken ownership of this garden and continues to maintain it throughout the week. The older participants in our after-school programs at Pearl Street have begun their own business, selling produce at the farmer's market at 52nd and Haverford on Fridays from 1pm to 5pm. These kids have been active in the garden for many years, and now have a chance to generate their own dollars from the garden.



We are lucky to have four high school students from the community with us this summer, Chaz, Bryant, Amir, and Aesean, who are participating in our Philadelphia Youth Network-funded Bridging-the-Gap summer program run by our Jefferson Medical student interns. These high school students work on the farm every day, help to maintain our other gardens in the neighborhood, participate in nutrition lessons, engage in cooking lessons using food from the farm, and will all complete their own research projects on a vegetable of choice.

Sue, our volunteer coordinator, has begun to hold weekly kids programs on Wednesday afternoons at Pennsgrove Square, one of our community gardens. She and the kids plant herbs and are getting the weeds under control in the garden. They have also formed a reading circle which the kids love!

Finally, we are also hosting a series of cooking classes in conjunction with Whole Foods this summer. These classes are being held at the Haddington Townhomes Community Center and give both kids and adults the chance to have hands-on experience cooking healthy recipes that incorporate the vegetables coming out of the farm right now.



Our Markets



Come out and support Neighborhood Foods! We currently operate at four different convenient market locations in Philadelphia, so stop by for some fresh fruits and veggies!

Haddington Farmers' Market
52nd Street
& Haverford Avenue
Wednesday, 1-5pm

Neighborhood Foods Community Market
53rd & Poplar Streets
Saturday, 10am-2pm

Overbrook Farms Farmers' Market
Lancaster & W City Aves.
Saturday, 9am-1pm

Rittenhouse Farmers' Market
18th & Walnut Streets
Saturday, 9:30am-3pm

Did You Know?



The Neighborhood Market



On Saturdays, we hold our weekly community farm stand across the street from the Neighborhood Foods farm. Originally, we were the only ones here on Saturdays, but this weekly event has grown into a larger community gathering. Lisa, one of our founders, now sells her beautiful artwork. Our friend Gail from the community who frequently comes to help out on the farm is a chef, and is dedicated to making and selling a number of delicious food dishes on Saturdays with the help of her family. Additionally, a number of community members sell clothing and jewelry. One day a group of kids stopped by and began

painting the fence around the area with vegetables and healthy living slogans. Saturday mornings continue to bring positive energy as the community gathers together.



We are harvesting over 50 pounds of tomatoes every week, all heirloom varieties!



UTC would like to send a special
THANK YOU

to

Amy Weaver for her beautiful pictures of our community!

Thanks, Amy!

THANK YOU
to All of Our
Summer
Volunteers!



Organizations

- Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
- Camp Galil
- Country Day School of the Sacred Heart
- Comcast Interns

Community Member Profiles



Anita: Anita is the block captain of the 5300 Wyalusing Avenue, and co-founder of Neighborhood Foods Farm & Annex. She grew up in the Haddington Community and has

been a long time resident. Along, with her many years of working as a state

employee, she also worked with Urban Tree Connection for 10 years, on beautification projects and helped petition/support Neighborhood Foods to get it up and running in the community. She serves as Epic Stakeholder for SCOP (Support Community Outreach Programs/DHS) to help provide recreational activities for youths and seniors in the community.

Gale: Gale lives around the corner from the farm and looks forward to helping out with the harvest every week. She has found many friends in the UTC community, and, oftentimes, her whole family, including her children, sister, nieces and nephews, will help out as well. She makes her wonderful hot food dishes and barbeques for our Saturday market.



Check back next newsletter for more community profiles!

Thank you for your continued support of Urban Tree Connection!

Sincerely,

Skip Wiener
Urban Tree Connection

- Grace Presbyterian Church
- Manor Brethren in Christ Church
- MLK365
- Philly Cares Day
- St. John's Community Services
- St. Philips Lutheran Church
- TYG Mission Philadelphia
- Universities**
- Drexel Career Development Office
- Drexel International Students
- Drexel University School of Engineering Office
- Jefferson Medical Students
- Messiah College
- Philadelphia University
- Temple Fresh Serve
- Temple SRB
- Ursinus Students
- Villanova Day of Service

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Neighborhood
Foods!

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