



KICKING OFF OUR 2023 SEASON

A new year, full of promise and possibility, is upon us and 2023 holds promise for great things at GardenWorks! We are planning exciting new initiatives, new partnerships, and new approaches to improving food security and access to healthy food for all.

Mark your calendars and RSVP for this season's kickoff events!

- Feb 8 – [FGN Open House and class: Composting and Reducing Food Waste](#)
- March 8 – [Volunteer Kickoff Meeting](#)
- March 15 -Cook's Night Out benefitting GardenWorks: evening of March 15th at Berger Bros Pub, Winfield. Save the date!
- April 12 – FGN class: Water Conservation the the Garden
- April 19 – [Volunteer Garden Leader Training*](#)
- May 19 & 20 – Spring Seedling Sale, Wheaton

Speaking of new – we're in the process of creating a NEW website which will contain our entire 2023 events calendar, but in the meantime you can access these RSVP links at our current site and on our eventbrite pages.

*For garden leads only. If you've volunteered with us for 4+ years and are able to volunteer at a garden site with our clients twice a month May – October, you are eligible to

become a garden site lead! If you're interested in this beautiful opportunity to guide clients and other volunteers through a successful growing season and build relationships with program participants at one chosen site, contact amanda@gardenworksproject.org to learn more!

[RSVP for Spring Events](#)



BOARD MEMBER REFLECTION

Board President, Emily Kehoe, notes that 2022 was a year of change for The GardenWorks Project. "We wanted to be bold, try new things, and grow our organization to further our impact. We wanted to plant the seeds for a better, more sustainable future for all."

These changes had a great impact. 85% of our garden program participants said they spent less on their groceries this past year. 96% had more vegetables for their family because of their garden. We grew and harvested over 15,000 pounds of produce from our gardens, equaling to approximately \$37,500 in the cost of groceries saved for our families and community.

Read more in Emily's 2022 reflection blog on our website:

[Read Emily's 2022 Reflection](#)



SPONSORS BUILD FOOD SECURE COMMUNITIES

We're grateful to all the community members and businesses that have supported GardenWorks and shown their commitment to improving sustainability and food security in their communities.

We seek to recognize and elevate the support network of our mission – local farms, restaurants, businesses, and community members that share our vision of a more healthy and food secure region.

We thank last year's sponsors and donors and encourage you to support these businesses and organizations that make our work possible:

HARVEST LEVEL – \$5,000+

- BALL HORTICULTURAL
- CHICAGO REGION FOOD SECURITY FUND
- DUPAGE FAIR AND EVENTS CENTER

GARDEN LEVEL – \$500-\$1999

- 1st CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GLEN ELLYN
- BARRINGTON ROTARY
- BLOOMINGDALE GARDEN CLUB

- FIRST TRUST CARES
- HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION
- ANONYMOUS

- BRUSS LANDSCAPING
- CANTIGNY FOUNDATION
- CAROL STREAM ROTARY
- ELMHURST-EDWARD HEALTH
- ERGOSEAL
- GROVE FOUNDATION
- ILLINOIS FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION
- KANE COUNTY
- PRESENCE MARKETING
- THE GROWING PLACE
- SCIENCE OF SPIRITUALITY
- ANONYMOUS

Pollinator Level – \$2000-\$4999

- CAROL STREAM ROTARY
- COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
- DULY HEALTH CHARITABLE FUND
- HIGHWIND IMPACT FUND
- MERCEDES BENZ USA
- NICOR GAS CHARITABLE FUND
- TYSON FOODS

See [full list on our website](#).



Or is your employer looking for ways to show its dedication to improving health and wellness in their communities?

Partner with us and make investments in your community. Together, we can expand our reach and impact, creating more opportunities to promote sustainability, eliminate food waste and increase food access for families throughout Chicago's west suburbs.

Contact us about creating a unique, cross-promotion opportunity or becoming a corporate sponsor for this growing season. We arrange custom volunteer events for our business sponsors, offering a service and team building opportunity.

[Become or recommend a 2023 sponsor](#)



LUNCH AND LEARN OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

A company culture that fosters a sense of purpose and values learning, growing, and connecting is a win-win for the employer and the employees. Lunch and Learns are a great way to show your employees that you're dedicated to their success and wellbeing and support these values.

This year, The GardenWorks Project is offering **Lunch and Learns** for businesses and civic organizations that desire to educate their staff on the important topics of food security and food waste, and their environmental and societal impact.

Show your employees you care and empower them with ways they can make a difference, while helping raise awareness of the great work GardenWorks does in the western suburbs.

[Request a Lunch & Learn](#)



JOIN OUR 2023 VOLUNTEER TEAM

Is getting more involved in your community or volunteering more one of your 2023 resolutions?

We've got you!

Join our team and help improve food security right in your own backyard. We're fortunate to have a dedicated – and growing – team! We have gardeners who volunteer weekly, dedicated groups that tackle a huge job once a season, people we can call on last minute for unexpected needs, and all manner of folks in between.

We're grateful for every one of you and all the work you help accomplish. We have lots of volunteering opportunities this year – help us make fresh produce accessible to all.

[Join Our 2023 Volunteer Team!](#)



NEW FACES ON OUR TEAM

Please welcome our new Board of Directors and new interns here at The GardenWorks Project! New to the board – Joy Rosenberg, human resources professional with experience in corporate and nonprofit organizations, and Bill Waters, a bond underwriter and seasoned garden enthusiast. We also welcome our interns from Adler University – Adrien Guadagnino and Alexandra (Ali) Turlas!

We're thrilled that they have chosen to use their passions and skills to address the realities of local food insecurity with us, and excited for what we can accomplish this year!.

If you have skills that will help propel our organization forward, we'd love to hear from you and see how we can work together in 2023! We have committee positions available to If interested, please email info@gardenworksproject.org.

[Get to Know Our Board](#)



SIGN UP FOR FGN TODAY FOR THE 2023 YEAR!

Snow and ice on the ground means it's the perfect time to plan this year's growing season!

Join the Food Growers Network, and for \$25, receive:

- 10 seed packets of your choice
- discounts on seedlings at our spring and fall sales
- free access to all educational events
- plus exclusive access to workshops, trainings, and events just for FGN members.

Most importantly, your membership fee provides the starting seeds for a new home gardener participating in our Home Gardening Program.

For renewing members – thank you for your ongoing support of our program! Please note a few program changes this year – 10 seeds packets OF YOUR CHOICE will be included with your membership, available for pickup at a spring FGN event or on designated days at our offices in Wheaton. We can mail for a small shipping fee.

Join the network that will keep local food growing plentifully in our region, and make a difference with your donation.

[Sign up for Food Growers Network](#)



FGN OPEN HOUSE AND EDUCATIONAL EVENT - FEB 8

Ring in a new year of workshops at our first FGN educational event, Composting and Reducing Food Waste. Learn how to build a sustainable composting solution in your backyard this year! Instructor Urban Oen, Ph.D., Agriculture Education, Research and Evaluation, has taught high school and community college courses and given talks on a variety of agriculture subjects throughout DuPage County.

Urban and family were grand champion vegetable and flower growers at the DuPage County fair for 15 years, and he's been featured several times in the Organic Gardening Magazine, Chicago Tribune and the Daily Herald. We're thrilled to have him speak!

RSVP today and come see what Food Growers Network is all about. You can register for FGN and choose your seeds at this event!

Feb 8 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm | GardenWorks Office 2100 Manchester Rd, Building B.

[RSVP for Feb 8th Event](#)



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECOGNITION FOR GARDENWORKS AND STOJAN'S VEGETABLES

GardenWorks Project was honored to attend the Greater Winfield Chamber of Commerce holiday celebration and publicly thank the Winfield Farmers' Market and Stojan's Vegetables for their partnership in expanding fresh food access and reducing food waste this summer.

Stojan's Vegetables donated hundreds of pounds of vegetables at the close of the Winfield Farmers Market every Wednesday. Other donating vendors include Tidey Farms, Noffke Family Farms, Gundersen Orchards, Jon's Apples, and Hemp Works.

We thank Rich Bysina, WFM Manager, for his enthusiastic support of our organization and helping to grow a more food secure community. We were also thrilled to see Gisele Kruk,

of Gisele's Designs, win our raffle basket! Find her custom ceramics on Etsy.

Mark your calendar for the Winfield Farmers Market Opening day – May 31st, 2023 – to shop and say hello to GardenWorks!

NGI'S CHARITY TRIVIA NIGHT

DuPage Foundation's **Next Generation Initiative (NGI)** is hosting a fun night out that supports local non-profits. On February 2nd at Empire in Naperville, the winning trivia team has the opportunity to recommend a grant to their favorite DuPage not-for-profit!

We'd love to have you join us and try for the win to nominate The GardenWorks Project! Register your team of 6 or contact Eileen to join individually with GardenWorks.

[Learn More & Register Today!](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT WITH THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Our partner and sponsor, The Conservation Foundation, is hosting a virtual summit, "[Electrifying DuPage County](#)", on Thursday, January 19th, 2023. It will discuss the benefits of solar power and electric vehicles, and how these technologies reduce carbon emissions and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Last month, the Conservation Foundation hosted our Board retreat, where we toured the many ways they are using alternative energy to as a sustainable solution for their facilities and grounds. Summits like these are a great way to learn about technologies that benefit our environment!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thank you for your support as we work to create a more sustainable and food secure community.

Events in 2023

February

- *February 08, 2023: FGN Open House and Class* , type: food growers event . open house .

workshop, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)

March

- *March 08, 2023: **Volunteer Kickoff Meeting*** , type: food growers event . gardening . open house . workshop, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)

April

- *April 12, 2023: **FGN class: Water Conservation in the Garden*** , type: food growers event . workshop, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)
- *April 19, 2023: **2023 DuPage Fairgrounds Garden Volunteer*** , type: gardening, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)

May

- *May 13, 2023: **GardenBuild Volunteer***, May 13 , type: gardening, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)
- *May 20, 2023: **GardenBuild Volunteer***, May 20 , type: gardening, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)
- *May 27, 2023: **GardenBuild Volunteer***, May 27 , type: gardening, [learn more](#) [RSVP](#)

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