

HUMAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE'S YOUTH FARMING PROGRAM AND GREENHOUSE

608 Oxford St.
Fort Wayne, IN
Press contact: Ty Simmons
ucgfortwayne@gmail.com

Not for Profit's Inner-City Youth Farming Program Seeks Funding

Fort Wayne, Ind., February 17, 2020 - A local training program focused on helping inner-city high-risk youths learn skills for urban and small commercial farming is seeking funding. Human Agricultural Cooperative's Youth Farming Program has been serving youth on Fort Wayne's south side for the past three years, however they have seen significant cuts to funding for the program and the future of the program is in jeopardy.

Human Agricultural Cooperative (501c3) previously partnered with Sweetwater and the Urban League, working with over 42 youths over the past three summers. Changes in funding has forced the program to seek different avenues for funding prior to the upcoming summer.

The program teaches a wide variety of skills, from seed selection to harvest. In addition to teaching inner-city youth about the farm to table concept, Human Agricultural Cooperative also helps area youth to develop entrepreneurial skills. Most of the produce harvested through this program are donated to the community or sold at area farmer's market.

"We feel that many of the issues with our youth stem from generational and systemic educational, socioeconomic and social injustices," commented program coordinator Ty Simmons. "Our program utilizes several key factors to help build up participating youth. We focus on mentorship, entrepreneurial skills and basic farm programs as tools to educate, empower and employ these youths in the community."

The program has already received partial funding from Parkview Health System, however not enough for the program to reach an additional 30 youths later this year. Human Agricultural Cooperative has secured land on the south side of Fort Wayne for their greenhouse, but additional funding is still needed.

To donate or to learn more information about the program, contact Ty Simmons at email humanagriculturalcoop@gmail.com.