

The Food Literacy Project
Iroquois Urban Farm (1400 Bicknell Ave., Louisville, KY, 40215)
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The Food Literacy Project Provides Fresh Produce from Iroquois Urban Farm to Area Community Ministries

[LOUISVILLE, KY.] The Food Literacy Project is working in partnership with South Louisville Community Ministries and Southwest Community Ministries to **distribute the fresh food grown on Iroquois Urban Farm to neighbors in need**. The partnership arose in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in many Louisville families turning to food pantries run by the community ministries for assistance.

"During this pandemic, SLCM has increased almost all of our emergency assistance because of the exponential need," said Clare Wallace, Executive Director of South Louisville Community Ministries. "Thanks to the Food Literacy Project, we're able to bring back fresh produce! **Fresh vegetables are otherwise not widely available in food pantries**, and with produce being the most expensive thing to purchase, it's left behind at the grocery. The Food Literacy Project has added some life, color, and nutrition to our staple items, and our families could not be more grateful."

The fresh vegetables come from Iroquois Urban Farm, an 8-acre youth-driven farm on the site of the former Iroquois Homes complex off Taylor Boulevard. This week, the Food Literacy Project's Youth Community Agriculture Program (YCAP) will welcome a cohort of young change-makers to earn and learn through the work of farming and exploring food justice. The Food Literacy Project made the decision to share our harvest with neighbors in need this season – instead of taking those crops to market. So far, this growing season, salad mix, spinach, and radishes have been harvested and shared - with more to come as the season continues.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in community-driven solutions to address the systemic barriers that have long impeded many of our neighbors' access to healthy food," says Carol Gundersen, Executive Director of the Food Literacy Project.

In addition to fresh vegetables, the Food Literacy Project is **distributing family-friendly activities and garden seeds to promote a connection to food, farming, and the land**. More information about the Food Literacy Project and Iroquois Urban Farm can be found at www.foodliteracyproject.org, or at their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TheFoodLiteracyProject) or by following @FoodLitProj_Lou on Instagram.

"During a time of uncertainty, it is refreshing to know that we have partners who are going out of their way to make sure that our clients, many of which have never been here before, have access to the **fresh produce they might not have been expecting to get**," said Sarah Gaither, Executive Director of Southwest Community Ministries. "We value great partners like The Food Literacy Project and the impact that they help us make in our community. We are looking forward to hearing about their green beans as they start to grow!"

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About the Food Literacy Project

The Food Literacy Project's mission is youth transforming their communities through food, farming, and the land. **With a vision for a healthy and equitable community where people and places thrive** since 2006, The Food Literacy Project has engaged over 50,000 youth and families – inviting them to discover the joy and power of growing, cooking, and eating wholesome foods, while deepening their connection to the land, cultivating leadership, employment and community engagement skills, and fostering relationships that support healthy lifestyles. Through our programs, youth and families experience gardening, cooking, nutrition, food systems, leadership, and food justice, gaining the knowledge, skills, and access needed to thrive and drive community change.