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The Food Literacy Project

That's a Wrap! The Fall 2025 YCAP Crew is Breaking Records and Barriers



With winter settling in, the fall 2025 Youth Community Agriculture Program (YCAP) has officially wrapped, closing out our most successful growing season yet! Over the past 14 weeks, the YCAP crew has supported the cultivation and harvesting of an amazing 11,000+ pounds of youth-grown produce. In addition to their work at the farm, the crew activated their power in our community by creating and presenting their end-of-season Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) project at the community meal. The crew's research this season centered around the guiding question **"How does local transportation affect food access?"** To answer it, the crew conducted community-based research, interviewed local experts, and created a documentary and booklet providing resources to community members. Their findings sparked powerful conversations about how transportation barriers, neighborhood infrastructure, and systemic inequities shape access to healthy food in Louisville.



The 2025 Fall YCAP crew leading a panel about food access issues and solutions in Louisville before the documentary viewing.

The night opened with a panel hosted by YCAP Communications Specialist “Meadow” Meechie, who invited the crew to share reflections from their season. During the panel, crew members were asked common questions like “What was your favorite farm activity?” and “What was the most surprising thing you learned this season?” The audience and staff had a good laugh when the crew agreed that Ty “Tomato” was the best at tying up the tomato plants- an activity that can easily frustrate the best of farmers. Then, the audience got a chance to ask the crew questions to learn more about the crew’s take on food access issues and the crew’s responses were deeply personal. When asked “What was the most surprising fact you learned when doing the research for this documentary” Tae’Sparagus shared that where he lives in the Shawnee neighborhood, there are only 2 or 3 grocery stores that he can rely on without having to use local transportation. Jericho “Juniper” mentioned that, the first time in 40 years, a local downtown church had run out of food in their food pantry, bringing light to the depth of the issue in Louisville.



The crew preparing the meal for their community members, family and friends, including freshly harvested kale and sweet potatoes from the farm!

After the panel discussion, the crew debuted their documentary - a quality overview of the challenges people face in Louisville when trying to access food and possible solutions community members can take part in to improve the situation. In the documentary, the crew interviewed Cassia Herron, co-founder of the Louisville Community Grocery, Doug Holm from the Cabbage Patch Settlement House and our very own “Celery” Celeste who manages where our food donations go from the farm. The film illustrated how families who lack access to vehicles must travel further to reach food from a grocery store rather than shopping at a convenience store. This is especially true in the West End neighborhoods of Louisville. You can watch the full documentary by clicking the link below. Please share with your friends and family so that we can continue to uplift their voices around this issue and create lasting solutions.



We are incredibly proud of the fall YCAP crew — Drae “Starfruit,” Jericho “Juniper,” Laurel “Lemon,” “Meadow” Meechie, Moxxie “Foxberry,” Mykell “Malay,” Samara “Thee Strawberry,” Tae’Sparagus, and Ty “Tomato”. This crew exemplified growth, dedication, and community impact over the last 4 months. This season, our last on the Paradise Lane farm, youth transformed their communities through food, farming and the land. Thank you to every friend, family member and community partner who joined us to celebrate this YCAP crew. Your belief in young people fuels positive change.



ACCESSIBLE BY TARC

Dare to Care Food Bank (5803 Fern Valley Rd, 40228): The main warehouse is accessible via the Route 28 bus and provides food to a network of smaller pantries across the city.

Sister Visitor Center (2235 W Market St, 40212): Serves the Portland, Russell, and Shawnee neighborhoods and offers a client-choice pantry. Located near TARC Route 19.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Food Distribution Center (415 E St Catherine St, 40203): Provides food assistance and is near TARC Route 2, 4, and 21.

Community Ministries of Walnut Street Baptist Church (220 St Catherine St, 40203): Offers a food bank and clothes closet. Located near TARC Route 2, 4, and 21.

First Lutheran Church Food Pantry (417 E Broadway, 40202): Provides food assistance on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Near the TARC Route 23 and 25.

Newburg Community Center (4810 Exeter Ave, 40218): This center has a food program and is on the TARC Route 29.

South Louisville Community Ministries (415 1/2 W Ashland Ave, 40214): Operates a Dare to Care food pantry and is located near TARC Route 4 and 18.

Neighborhood Places: These centers partner with Dare to Care Food Bank to provide emergency food assistance.

Beechmont Community Center: Near TARC Route 4 and 18.

California Community Center: Near TARC Route 2 and 21.

Molly Leonard Portland Community Center: Near TARC Route 19 and 23.

Parkhill Community Center: Near TARC Route 2 and 4.

Shawnee Arts and Cultural Center: Near TARC Route 19 and 23.

Southwick Community Center: Near TARC Route 19 and 23.

Sun Valley Community Center: Near TARC Route 19.

Kroger (Multiple locations) 2710 W Broadway (Route 21, 23, and 71) + 3165 S 2nd St (Route 4 and 6).

Falls City Market (400 S 2nd St, 40202): A food court and market hybrid that sells grocery items. Accessible via TARC Route 2, 4, and 21.

Frank's Meat & Produce (3342 Preston Hwy, 40213): Offers fresh meats and produce. Located along TARC Route 18 and 43.

ALDI (3442 Preston Hwy, 40213): Grocery store with fresh produce and specialty items. Located along TARC Route 18 and 43.

4 Point Grocery (1035 S 3rd St, 40203): A full-service grocery in Old Louisville. Near TARC Route 4 and 6.

Webb's Market (944 E Muhammad Ali Blvd, 40204): A corner store with some groceries, produce, and made-to-order sandwiches. Accessible via TARC Route 19.

List compiled by the Food Literacy Project Youth Community Agriculture Program



Roots & Recipes - Bring Home our First Community Cookbook for the Holidays



Just in time for the holiday season, you can purchase *Roots & Recipes: A Community Cookbook*! This project was grown with love, flavor, and community spirit over the last year and a half. Created in collaboration with [Women Who Wine for a Cause](#), this cookbook is a collection of stories and dishes from across the Food Literacy Project community.

Inside its pages, you'll find a delicious mix of recipes contributed over the years by program participants, partners, board members, staff, supporters, and friends... and with the holidays upon us, it's the perfect time to try featured dishes like:

- Roasted Vegetables from John Varanese
- Pumpkin Soup from Jenni "Perennial"

In September, we celebrated this endeavor with a launch party at the [Younger Women's Club of Louisville](#), where supporters gathered for an evening of community and delicious food. Guests enjoyed dishes provided by [Ashbourne Farms](#), music from Russel Aldridge, and the opportunity to be among the very first to purchase a copy of *Roots & Recipes*. It was a meaningful kickoff to a cookbook that truly reflects the generosity and creativity of our community.



Thanks to generous sponsorships from [Shirley's Way](#), [Women Who Wine for a Cause](#), [Younger Women's Club of Louisville](#), and [Taylor Blvd Save A Lot](#), the entire cost of printing has been covered. That means 100% of every cookbook sale goes directly toward supporting youth leadership, food access, and community-rooted programs on and off the farm.

holidays than by giving a present that helps to activate youth power and build a more resilient community?

You can order [your cookbook now](#) and schedule a pickup at the farm any of the following days:

December 14, 21, 28 and January 5

1:00–3:00 p.m. at the Paradise Lane farm (GPS directions: use 522 Paradise Lane)

Simply place your order online and email info@foodliteracyproject.org to confirm your pickup time.

Prefer to shop in person? You can also find Roots & Recipes at:

 [Carmichael's Bookstore](#) (@carmichaelsbookstore)

 The Food Barn and Bakery at [Bear Fruit and Grow](#) (@bearfruitgrowllc)

 [Work the Metal](#) (@workthemetall)

Whether it's for your kitchen or wrapped under the tree, Roots & Recipes is a gift that gives back this season. Warm holiday wishes, and happy cooking!



11,000+ pounds of Growth, Resilience, and Food Equity



We are celebrating an incredible milestone: over 11,000 pounds of youth-grown produce harvested in 2025. That's more than triple last year's harvest total. It's a joyful and bittersweet milestone as we prepare to say goodbye to the Paradise Lane farm where we've been growing since early 2024, and plant new roots on land of our own.

This achievement is no small feat. It reflects the collective effort and dedication of the Spring, Summer, and Fall Youth Community Agriculture Program (YCAP) crews, who worked together to cultivate, care for, and harvest food that nourishes both people and community transformation. Youth leaders spent months planting, weeding, and learning, and their hard work shows in every ounce harvested this year.

We also want to give a shout-out to our Farm & Facilities Manager, Kelsey "Kabocha" Voit. This was their very first season farming with us, and while it came with challenges, Kelsey helped set a powerful new standard for what our urban farm can accomplish with a skilled farmer guiding the team. Their leadership, creativity, and care helped make this record-breaking season possible.

The impact of this food reaches far beyond our fields. Every pound grown at the farm is more than just a number on a spreadsheet...it's youth activating their power to transform their communities. The harvests are shared with partners and neighbors who need it most, including Southwest Community Ministries, La Casita Center, Neighborhood House, Change Today Change Tomorrow's Feed

As we close this chapter and prepare to root ourselves in our new Forever Home, we carry these accomplishments and this community with us. What a way to end our final season on this land: with abundance, gratitude, and over 11,000 pounds of proof that youth-powered farming can create real change in our community.

It's Been a Great Year. Help Us Continue Our Work in 2026!



Field-to-Fork Club at one of our partner schools in Louisville!

Check out this video created by one of our Field-to-Fork Club partner schools! It truly highlights the work we do outside of the farm to inspire and empower the "little farmers" in our community. Shout out to Arabella "Amaranth" and "Celery" Celeste for being the backbone of the Field-to-Fork programming. This work goes far beyond school gardens and cafeterias; students take what they learn home to share with their family and friends, creating a multi-generational ripple effect that can't be measured.

As you watch these young chefs and gardeners discover their power in the Field-to-Fork Club, we hope you'll consider what it takes to make moments like this possible. We're putting down roots on land of our own this winter. We're turning bare soil into a place where youth can continue learning, leading, and transforming their communities through food, farming, and the land.

space where youth, families, and neighbors can grow together.

Every dollar you give before December 31 helps activate the next generation of leaders and cultivates a healthier, more equitable Louisville.

Will you make a gift today and help us take root at our Forever Home?

Together, we can grow this dream.

Donate



The Food Literacy Project invites young people to leverage their power to cultivate health, justice, and sovereignty through a sustainable community food system.

This work is only possible with contributed support from our community.

Our mailing address is:

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