Our Mission

At Red Hook Initiative (RHI) we believe that social change to overcome systemic inequities begins with empowered youth. In partnership with community adults, we nurture young people in Red Hook to be inspired, resilient and healthy, and to envision themselves as co-creators of their lives, community and society.

rhicenter.org
Red Hook Farms operates two sites in the neighborhood, farming on once vacant land and maintaining vibrant community-led green spaces.

**Growing a Local Movement**

Red Hook Farms operates two sites in the neighborhood, farming on once vacant land and maintaining vibrant community-led green spaces.

**THE FARMS PRIORITIZE:**

- **Youth Empowerment**
  - Employ Youth Farmers from Red Hook.
- **Community Engagement**
  - Provide opportunities for residents to learn about healthy food.
- **Fresh Food Access**
  - Grow and distribute at least 20,000 pounds of produce.
Youth Farmers Program

On Red Hook Farms we hire, train and mentor teenagers from Red Hook in urban agriculture while cultivating their leadership, career and job readiness skills. The program offers three cycles aligning with the growing season: spring, summer and fall.

Last year, 21 youth farmers participated in all aspects of production from seed to sale. Youth farmers had an opportunity to:

- Learn and practice sustainable urban farming techniques
- Operate our weekly farm stands accessed by thousands of local residents
- Offer cooking demonstrations to support local culinary education
- Engage with peer organizations around food justice advocacy and collective learning

6,292 hours worked
$94,583 earned

“My work leaves me feeling fulfilled — it feels good to be a part of something bigger than yourself and give back to the community.”

Anthony, Youth Farmer
Meet the newest members of the Red Hook Farms family

In 2019, our team welcomed 10 chickens to their new home, a volunteer and youth-built coop at the Columbia Street Farm. The chickens will be a source of learning and delight for youth and visitors to the farm for years to come!

Farm Based Learning Program

Red Hook Farms serve as outdoor classrooms where children and youth roll up their sleeves, learn about plants and explore where their food comes from. Focusing on institutions that serve Red Hook youth, we host groups in the spring, summer and fall from schools, summer camps and local teen programs. Visits include a farm tour, plant exploration, service-learning activities and a farm-fresh snack.

Topics Explored

Botany · Compost ecology · Insect life cycles · Soil science

In 2019, we welcomed over 650 students through 36 visits to the farms.
Changing Local Health, Menus and Minds

In 2019, Red Hook Farms deepened its roots by reaching more local households than ever before.

24,412 pounds of produce harvested on two urban farms

63 households participated in our CSA

67 individuals accessed a weekly, low-cost Fresh Food Box

31 barter distributions served

1,908 NYCHA residents

44 farm stands served

2,750 individuals

Red Hook Farms grows and harvests a variety of vegetables and herbs using organic and regenerative farming practices. This past season, our survey of over 200 Red Hook residents provided local input on our crops and improved our ability to serve Red Hook’s under-resourced African American, Latinx and Asian communities. By offering multiple access points — through farm stands and memberships — we send produce into the kitchens of Red Hook families.

95% of our end-of-season survey respondents said the farm stands help them eat more fruits and vegetables.

“I see farming as an act of revolution. It’s not expected of young black men and women to be interested in agriculture because of the history. It’s a form of revolution and rebellion and also a way to be economically stable and provide for myself and my family.”

Chantel, Education and Culinary Assistant
We are grateful for the partnership of generous institutional supporters.

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Americon HIT
Baked
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Borough Bees
Calexico
City Gardens Club of New York City
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Ripple
Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust
Scherman Foundation
Seth Sprague Education & Charitable Foundation
Sixpoint Brewery
Stella and Charles Guttmann Foundation
Trio Foundation of St. Louis
Whole Cities Foundation

Thank you to our community of dedicated volunteers.

In 2019, we hosted over 700 volunteers including the following groups:

Americon HIT
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group
Berkeley Carroll School
City Squash/PAVE
Getty Images
Goldman Sachs
Google
Home Studio
Kantar
Kroka Expeditions
Krupp Group
New School
NY2X Coalition
NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Ripple
Sir Kensington’s
Stuyvesant High School
Sustainable Summer
The Retreat
Viacom

2019 Income

- 63% Foundation
- 12% Earned Income
- 16% Government
- 5% Individual Donors
- 3% Corporations

Total expenses $640,000

RHI relies on general operating support from countless donors who believe in our mission. For a complete list of institutional supporters, visit rhicenter.org.
“Thanks for keeping me healthy! My doctors like my numbers from eating all these vegetables. I don’t know what I’m going to do without you until June.”

Ms. Louise, Red Hook resident

Red Hook Farms Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Javier Lopez</td>
<td>Chief Strategy Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saara Nafici</td>
<td>Director of Red Hook Farms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Souhair Kenas</td>
<td>Farm Youth Programs Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendan Parker</td>
<td>Farm Manager, Columbia Street Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nefratia Coleman</td>
<td>Farm Manager, Wolcott Street Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristi Chaudhuri</td>
<td>Distribution Coordinator</td>
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<td>Dimond Brown</td>
<td>Fresh Food Box Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Valle</td>
<td>Farm Stand and CSA Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chantel Kemp</td>
<td>Education and Culinary Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chane Wright</td>
<td>Education Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth Young</td>
<td>Farm Assistant</td>
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<td>Edison Urena</td>
<td>Farm Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosalba Lopez Ramirez</td>
<td>Farm School Intern</td>
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CREATING CHANGE FROM WITHIN

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Contributing Photographers

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