



When we surveyed 204 local residents, 64% reported leaving Red Hook in order to buy fruits and vegetables and expressed concern about their cost and availability.

Each year, RHI impacts the lives of over 6,500 residents of Red Hook through an interconnected model of youth development, community building and local hiring.

Since our founding in 2002, RHI has prioritized the needs of this historically under-resourced community by confronting the impacts of racial inequity and decades of disinvestment. Our community of youth and families residing in Brooklyn's largest public housing complex faces disproportionate rates of health disparities, poverty and food insecurity. Despite living in a rapidly transforming neighborhood, residents of Red Hook public housing remain geographically isolated and poorly served by public transportation. The lack of local access to healthy, affordable produce has created public health crises including high rates of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Red Hook Farms works to increase access to fresh, affordable produce and nurture the next generation of green leaders.

In late 2018, RHI assumed management of Added Value, one of Brooklyn's first and largest urban farms, and relaunched as Red Hook Farms — an innovative model for urban agriculture, youth development and community-led food production.



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





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.



Nurturing the next generation of green leaders

Youth Farmers Program

Apprenticeship Activities On and Off the Farms

Visit to the SIMS Municipal Facility

Camping trip in the Delaware Water Gap

Featured partner at the Chile Pepper Festival
at Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Participant in the national
Black Urban Growers Conference

Co-organizer of the NYC Youth
Food Justice Summit

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

2019 Youth Farmers

Anthony Casado, Judah Daisley, Samir Dudley, Lauren Duran, Shamira Graham, William P. Hilaire, Alex Isidoro, Dontae McCoy, Destiny Mirabal, Justin Mirabal, Dyami Monroe, Qa'deer Oden, Jamale Pollard Jr., Unique Rose, Anthony Rivera, Andy Rivera, Mickhel Waldron, Ashley Valle, Jose Valle, Melina Valle



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.



In 2019, we
welcomed over
650 students
through
36 visits
to the farms.

Topics Explored

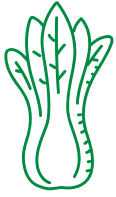
Botany • Compost ecology • Insect life cycles • Soil science

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!



Fresh Food Access



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.

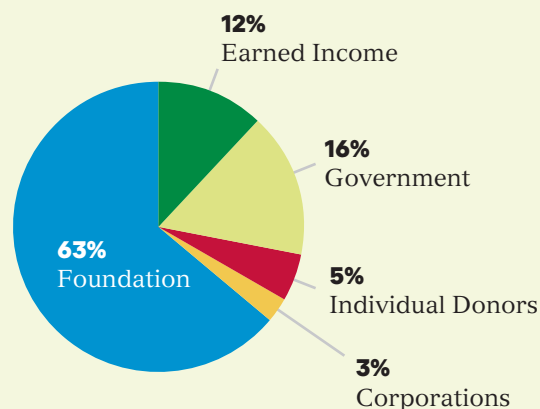
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Thank you to our community of dedicated volunteers.

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

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 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



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.





767 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231

"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

Javier Lopez
Chief Strategy Officer

Saara Nafici
Director of Red Hook Farms

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Farm Youth Programs
Coordinator

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Columbia Street Farm

Nefratia Coleman
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Wolcott Street Farm

Kristi Chaudhuri
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Diimond Brown
Fresh Food Box Coordinator

Jason Valle
Farm Stand and
CSA Assistant

Chantel Kemp
Education and
Culinary Assistant

Chane Wright
Education Assistant

Kenneth Young
Farm Assistant

Edison Urena
Farm Assistant

Rosalba Lopez Ramirez
Farm School Intern

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CREATING CHANGE FROM WITHIN

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