

2024

GRATITUDE

REPORT

**KINGSTON
YMCA
FARM
PROJECT**



The Kingston YMCA Farm Project's mission is to educate, nourish and connect the Kingston community with our urban farm.

To our Community

We finished our 11th season truly feeling that the Kingston YMCA Farm Project is loved by our community.

We're so grateful to all of the volunteers, donors, and foundations that contribute to our success and, more importantly, who show us how much they believe in the community, particularly our youth.

We are grateful to work alongside such brilliant young people and watch them thrive in a supportive, empowering environment through meaningful work and community interaction. Our greatest joy comes from witnessing the compassion, intelligence, hard work, dedication and humor of Youth Crew members. We are in constant awe of what they are capable of when given the support, encouragement, and opportunity: public speaking in front of hundreds of adults, giving tours to international visitors, teaching their peers, shaping community-based projects, running a farm stand, and so much more. We are so appreciative of all that you have contributed to that success.



Youth Crew members asked for help with college expenses so we created the Seeding the Future Scholarship Fund to directly meet their needs. This scholarship supported four Youth Crew alumni in 2024. We're so excited to see where their college paths take them! We're happy that, with your support, we could contribute to easing the burden of college expenses.

In 2024, we were successful in growing food for our community and maintaining a robust composting system that allows community members to drop off food scraps for free. We expanded our pollinator garden and will continue to do so in 2025 - building an urban oasis in the heart of Midtown by expanding a biodiverse habitat and green space.

Hundreds of school children from the City of Kingston were able to learn and play at the farm through field trips with schools and summer camps. Community members grew their own food in our community garden, families enjoyed playing on our unique playground, surrounded by plants and flowers and the pollinators they attracted.

We appreciate the ways that each and every one of you shows up to support our work. We are incredibly grateful and we couldn't do it without you.

We are living in tumultuous times, and we are committed to supporting, nourishing and standing up for our youth participants and our community members.

Gratefully,
KayCee, Susan, Pat, Briana + the Youth Crew

Thank You to our 2024 supporters!

We are grateful to the following foundations and government funded grants that made our work possible in 2024:

Hudson Valley Farm Fresh Food Grant Program of Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Lester and Phyllis Epstein Foundation, Hannaford Supermarkets, NoVo in Kingston, Sarah Rosenthal and Morgan Coy Fund, Ulster County Youth Employment Program, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Outreach Agreement

Huge gratitude to the Hudson Valley Farm Hub for year-round support and partnership.

Thank you, Phoenicia Diner, for sponsoring our Winter Cooking Crew programs!

Thanks to Kingston Bread and Bar for weekly loaves of bread!

Huge love to Rebecca Ffrench of The Upstate Table for opening her heart and space to us!

Thanks to Hannaford Supermarkets for food and monetary donations as well as hours of volunteer work on the farm.

We appreciate every volunteer that contributed time to the farm and to our events. We couldn't do it without you!

We are grateful to every single donor who chose to support our work. A complete list is on our website.



GROWING A HEALTHIER KINGSTON

2024 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Winter

During the colder months, we focused on real-world skills in the kitchen and beyond. We prepared meals, built community, used creative thinking to solve real-world problems, and provided service at farm stands.



Tuesday Cooking Crew

The Youth Crew prepared 360 meals to deliver mutual aid to the free fridges in Kingston.



Youth Cooking Crew

The Youth Crew met on Wednesdays for four months to learn cooking skills and share meals with each other.



Winter Farm Stand

The Youth Crew staffed our winter farm stand weekly from November through February. Our winter vegetables came from Hudson Valley Farm Hub.

Spring

As the ground began to thaw, our Farm Crew prepared the farm for planting and worked in the greenhouse. Youth Crews also engaged in community based projects and ecologically beneficial programs.



Seedling Sale

We grew thousands of flower and vegetable starts for our farm and community seedling sale.



Community Scientists

We collected scientific data as participants in the NYS DEC Hudson River Glass Eel Project.



Building Garden Beds

We built five additional garden beds, provided soil, plants and guidance for a RUPCO housing complex.

2024 SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Summer

The busiest season on the farm! In addition to farming, the Youth Crew took on many other roles and projects on and off the farm.



Farm-based Education

We provided free hands-in-the-dirt experiences for the Y's Camp Starfish and City of Kingston's Junior Naturalist Camp. We also hosted the Timbuctoo Institute, Bard College's Center for Environmental Policy, and the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program.



Conservation Conferences

Youth working in agriculture from across the region came together to engage in hands-on learning about sustainable agriculture, water quality, and environmental stewardship.



Summer Farm Crew

We planted, maintained, and harvested over 50 different types of vegetables that we sold at our weekly farm stands. We stewarded a mutual aid garden, pollinator garden and the Y Park playground.



Source to Estuary

In a 6 week program with RiverKeeper, we explored our watershed which culminated in a presentation to peer organizations at our water themed Conservation Conference Day.

Fall

Another successful growing season on the farm closed out our 11th year. In total for 2024, we harvested 5694 pounds of vegetables and donated 1000 pounds of them to community members.



Fall Farm Crew

Youth Crew welcomed community members to our annual free farm birthday party, hosting over 200 guests. The team stewarded the farm, planted garlic & shallots, and prepared the pollinator garden for winter. They closed out our growing season at the farm stand.



Youth Design Team

Through research and thought, the team created a design for Ganna's Way, the outdoor space of the Broadway Bubble laundromat. They gathered input and envisioned a dynamic, intergenerational space.



Compost/Pumpkin Drop Off

In a win-win for the climate & our farm, we processed over 3500 pounds of community food scraps and pumpkins, diverting food waste from landfills and generating compost for our farm.



Language Justice Training

Adult staff and Youth Crew attended trainings to deepen our understanding of language justice, sharing experiences and new learnings. We put our training into practice at our events & in our social media posts.

Seeding the Future Scholarship Fund

In the nature of reciprocal community support, we developed the Seeding the Future Scholarship Fund. We started the scholarship in response to the youth crew members' financial needs and worries about paying for further education. Even with financial aid and scholarships, college related expenses are out of reach for many. Youth Crew spend years growing food for our community, working to better our community, and developing a connection to both the people and the landscape. We want to ensure that Youth Crew participants can pursue their goals and dreams.



We proudly awarded 4 scholarships in our first year of the Seeding the Future Scholarship Fund.



"Seeding the Future Scholarship has been an enormous help in funding my college career. This Fall semester I have had the pleasure to be a teacher mentee in a third grade classroom. I have been tutoring, teaching lessons, and most importantly taking advantage of every learning opportunity I've been given. My appreciation for Seeding the Future scholarship is out of this world."

Estefany, SUNY Buffalo



"The Seeding the Future Scholarship has provided me with ease knowing I don't have to worry about how I'll pay for my class textbooks or whether I'll have enough to pay for food. I can use that time to focus on my studies in biology. I'm very grateful to be a recipient of this award and I intend to use the kindness that the Kingston YMCA Farm Project has given me to give my all in college!"

Andrea, SUNY Geneseo



"The Seeding the Future Scholarship has allowed me to attend college without the immediate pressure of finding a job, giving me the opportunity to acclimate to college life. It has also helped me invest in new technology for my classes, which I don't think I could live without now! The Kingston YMCA Farm Project meant so much to me during my high school years and I'm glad I get to carry a part of them with me to college."

Lisa, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



"The generosity of this scholarship has allowed me to focus on adjusting to a new academic environment without the burden of finances! "

Roselyn, SUNY New Paltz

In 2025 we will grow the Seeding the Future Scholarship Fund. We hope to support Youth Farm Crew graduates for multiple years of post secondary education.

GROWING A HEALTHIER KINGSTON



Summer Celebration

Our annual fundraiser supported our youth employment and empowerment programs as well as grew the Seeding the Future Scholarship. Attendees enjoyed a beautiful evening that showcased the generosity and skills of our community.

The support of our sponsors made the 2024 Summer Celebration possible: RBW, Miller Howard Investments, Hudson Valley Farm Hub, Radio Kingston, Scenic Hudson, Pfeffer Beach Foundation, & Dutton Architecture.



We have a deep appreciation for our skilled event coordinators who gracefully transitioned the party inside: Bridget Dawson of Merilina Events, Victoria Thomas of Table 75 and Rebecca Ffrench of The Upstate Table! Thank you to Scott Dutton who welcomed us to use The Fuller Building for our fundraiser when the intense June heatwave caused a last minute change of plans. Thank you to the volunteers who helped the event run smoothly.



We are thankful to our food and beverage partners for providing such delightful & delicious offerings: Black Eyed Suzie's, Chleo, Common Table, Camp Kingston, Eliza, Jenny & Francois Selections, Kingston Bread and Bar, Kingston Standard, Maya Kaimal, Promises Kept, Rosie's General, Samosa Shack, The Upstate Table, Metal House Cider, & West Kill Brewing. Three Notch Floral generously donated stunning flower arrangements. Timely Signs kindly printed our banners and event signage.

Youth Crew members were excellent hosts at the party. Roselyn, Estefany and Lisa spoke to our supporters and shared their personal stories of how the Kingston YMCA Farm Project positively impacted their lives. Matteo and Brianna graciously emceed the evening.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the event and made it such a successful evening!





2025 Events

*Check out our new logo and refresh!
Thank you to William van Roden for
help with our new look!*

Seedling Sale

Saturday May 17 / 10–12pm
Thursday May 22 / 330–6pm
At the greenhouse

Thursday Farm Stand

June 5 through October 30
330–6pm
In the YMCA Lobby

Summer Celebration Fundraiser

Tuesday June 17
Our annual fundraiser at the farm!

Tuesday Farm Stand

July 1 through August 26
10am–12pm
In the YMCA Lobby

The Farm's Birthday Party

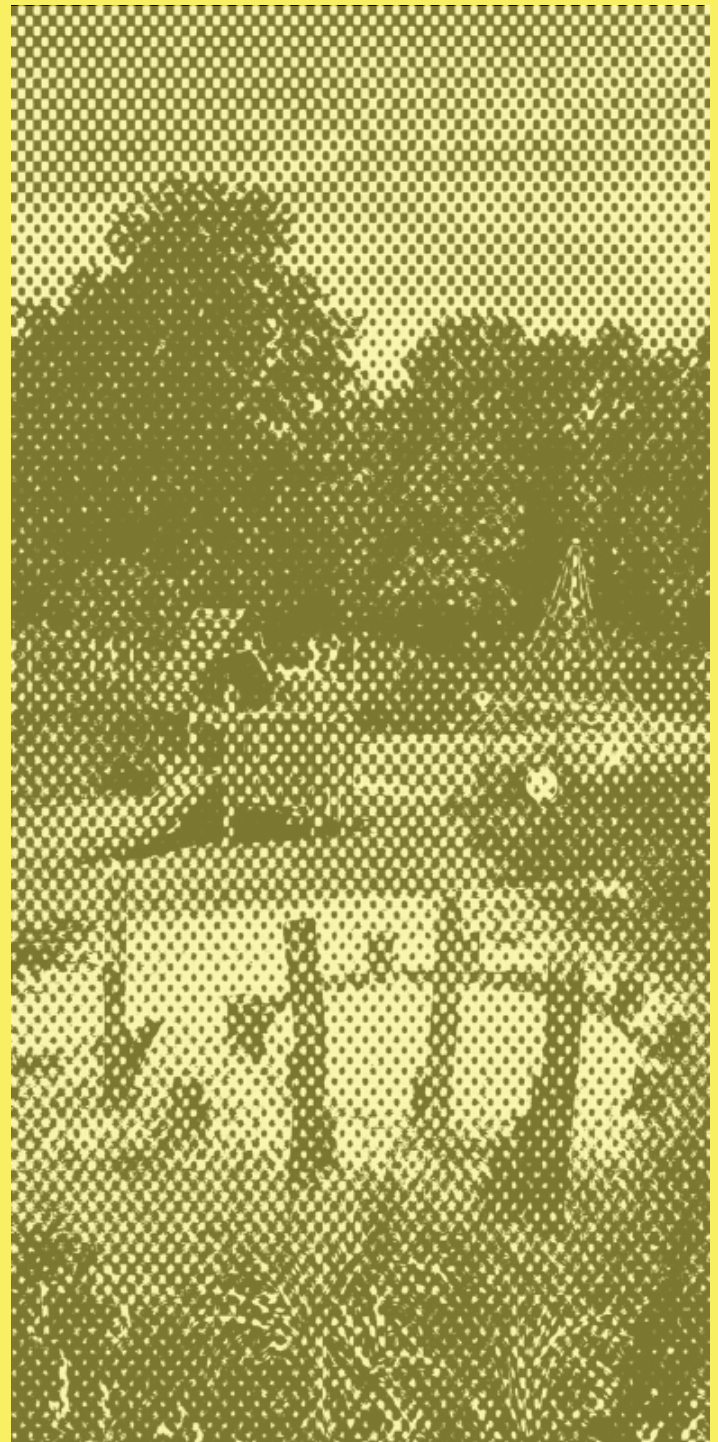
Tuesday September 16
5–7pm
Our annual free event at the Y park

Winter Farm Stand

November through February
Thursdays / 330–6pm
In the YMCA Lobby

Volunteer Work Days

May 17 / June 14 / July 17 / August 7



📷 yfarmkingston

📘 KingstonYMCAFarmProject

kingstonymcafarmproject.org

