



# FUNDING SET FOR TWO NORTHSIDE GARDEN PROJECTS

Two organizations have been funded by NorthWay Community Trust to advance the urban agriculture movement in North Minneapolis. The process of granting funds to the WE WIN Institute's Rites of Passage "Youth Garden" and Project Sweetie Pie involved an unprecedented level of community involvement. NorthWay's Listening Sessions were the forum used to decide which organizations would be funded.

### We Win Rites of Passage

We Win's Rites of Passage is a program designed to develop capable and responsible adults by participating in activities that complement school. Families play an active role in their children's learning using a holistic approach facilitated through a mobile programming model. The Rites of Passage program provides academic resources to support youth that are facing education difficulty and social problems.

### Youth Gardens

Youth Gardens are a major component of the Summer Rites of Passage program. With Youth Gardens, WE WIN teaches young people about the importance of food origins, eating healthy, and exercise. Participants learn the difference between organic and commercial fruits and vegetables. Children are responsible for every aspect of the garden. They till the land, spread the compost, plant seeds and seedlings, water, weed, develop walkways, and harvest the crops. They also learn how to cook with the food they grow and share their cuisine with family and the community. Now in its second summer, WE WIN's Youth Garden at Zion Baptist Church, has proved to be a wonderful tool to show urban youth the importance of growing your own food and the direct impacts on our environment.

### Activities

During the summer months (June-August) youth that participate in our summer program will experience agricultural education, gardening, entrepreneurship

Once the food is harvested elders in the Northside community will teach We Win youth to make meals from the food from their garden. Then they will prepare a meal to share with the participants of "Take Back the Night" and at the end of the summer event that We Win will hold at Zion Baptist Church.

### Project Sweetie Pie

The goal of Project Sweetie Pie is to build urban areas into sustainable resilient neighborhoods where residents assist in the feeding of their families.

The project seeks to increase healthy eating in urban communities by growing, consuming and marketing freshly grown vegetables. Additionally, Project Sweetie Pie will provide educational opportunities in horticulture, entrepreneurship and job creation by participating with stakeholders in the nonprofit and for-profit arena.

Project Sweetie Pie has identified land to develop into Urban Farms and has commitments to farm 6 urban plots, including a 2-acre site. The lots are located along the commercial corridors and make an easy transition to an urban farm. The following is a list of the activities and progress to date: 15th and Irving in North Minneapolis. The fenced-in standard city lot (100'x50') has been donated usage rent-free.

Green Squad from North High School through an after school program has cultivated the plot. Sweet Potato and other starter plants have been growing in the North High Solarium and will be transplanted to this and the following farm plots.

### 1108 25th Avenue North

The plot is a fenced-in standard city lot that has been donated rent-free. Blake School Students and Project DIVA, a girls nonprofit Empowerment Initiative will be working on this garden plot. It has been cultivated, plowed and tilled.

### 1515 Fremont Avenue North

The fenced-in standard city lot will be tended by The Minnesota Jaguars, 16 year old AAU Basketball team and ATCEM, a nonprofit that integrates boys into mainstream society.

### 1422 Oliver Avenue North

The fenced-in standard city lot plot will be managed by Immanuel Jones and his mother Andrea Jones, of Eco Village with Shoshana Daniels, of the YMCA.

### 621 Elwood Ave N., Zion Baptist Church.

The plot will be managed by Titalayo Bediako who manages a summer youth program from the church. The We Win Institute will Assist Titalayo. The land has been cultivated plowed and tilled.

### 13th and Humboldt Avenue North.

This 2 acre plot is still in the planning stages. Watch for an announcement this summer.

### Education

Project Sweetie Pie will educate Kids and develop business skills on the job training on the farms, classes and speakers. Students will go on field trips to food businesses and will receive on the job business skills by distributing produce at the new Broadway Farmer's market.

All operations will be filmed by students. Shoshana Daniels, of the YMCA will teach and help develop social media, marketing, radio shows, web design, broadcast, print and package products to promote their brand.



Photos by Michael Chaney, Project Sweetie Pie and Pat Carney for NorthWay Community Trust.