



## Eden Streets Fall 2021 Newsletter



# Eden Streets Newsletter - Fall 2021

To you, our new members, on behalf of our team at Eden Streets, I extend a warm welcome! Thanks for signing on and joining our journey! The intention of these brief monthly newsletters is to summarize the progress we are making to connect a worldwide community of urban farmers with social missions. You can find details in our recent blog posts.

With the tidal wave of harvest now behind us and the first frosts on the ground, I have more time to reflect and take stock of the season. It's been a very productive year at the Green Phoenix Farm. In fact, it's been the best of five years since its inception. **We grew and sold more seedlings, produced more food, and gathered more seeds than ever before** on this 0.8 acres under cultivation. Valuing the farm output for what it is, we assess that 0.8 acres on this 1.4-acre lot has yielded ~\$105,000.

Whether the soil continues to build in fertility, whether we hit the seeding at the right time, or whether we lucked out with the weather, I am not sure why. However, after all that hard work, it is extremely gratifying. Our team facilitates growth, Nature makes it happen. For that daily miracle, I am grateful.

What's more important and of greater value are the lives of the people that have experienced the farm. Their yield is significant. I've watched the women who work here move from uncertainty to hope, from fear to confidence. **We are not at 100% completion rate, but for those who chose to work with us, long-term housing and their next job are close to a reality now.** October, otherwise known as "Job-tober" is now scheduled with job interviews. These amazing women farmers have experienced the full circle, from seed to seed. Now they are collecting the seeds from the fruits of the plants they seeded in March. I've seen so much growth in each women's confidence from their experiences on the farm.

I, too, have been building bridges to the future - a future that includes you who aspire to farm or are already farming with people who are experiencing the healing and energy of the farm. Aaron, my son (and website developer), and I visited Missoula, MT - home of **Garden City Harvest**. We enjoyed observing their youth selling vegetables to the seniors as part of their Youth Harvest apprenticeship. I've since traveled to Houston to visit **Plant-it-Forward, Hope Farm, and The Brookwood Community**. Whether working with refugees, youth, children, or those mentally disabled, the life-giving power of the garden is the same. I saw that in **Austin at Community First! Village and Roots Harvest**. I have visited **Merit Medical** and visited with enthusiastic employees who have shared stories of their gardening experiences. I enjoyed finally meeting Bobby Wilson and his amazing crew at **Metro Atlanta Urban Farms**.



Wasatch Community Gardens GPF



Garden City Harvest



Community First! Village



Plant-it-Forward



Metro Atlanta Urban Farm



Urban Roots Austin



Brookwood Community



Merit Medical

With you, my fellow farmers, I rejoice in new friendships made and the hope of learning so much more from each other. This work has the power to lift lives and reconnect people with this healing earth.

I wish you great satisfaction as you reflect on the fruits of your labors - on the work you have done this season to make a difference in the lives of people in your community.

## Thanks for all you are and do!

Cheers! - Farmer Karl

