



2024 Season Report



A PROJECT OF RED HOOK INITIATIVE  
**RED HOOK**  
FARMS





**Red Hook Farms, a project of Red Hook Initiative, is a youth-centered urban farming and food justice program in Red Hook, Brooklyn that creates opportunities for local teens to expand their knowledge base, develop their leadership skills, and positively engage with each other, their community, and the environment.**

**16,524 pounds  
of produce  
harvested across  
2 farms**

**25 Youth Farmers**

**150 volunteer  
sessions**

**5,106 volunteer labor  
hours donated**

**15,909 pounds of  
organic material  
collected and  
composted**

Since 2001, we have operated 2 urban farm sites: the 2.75 acre Columbia Street Farm and the 1.1 acre NYCHA Red Hook Houses Farm (aka the Wolcott Street Farm). Our programs include a youth farm apprenticeship, weekly farm stands, a CSA farm share, a school workshop program, a community composting operation, and a Garden Club for NYCHA residents. We strive to improve access to healthy, affordable produce while nurturing a new generation of green leaders on community land we steward with care, integrity, and intention.

The 2024 season was a robust year at the farms! Our education programs and produce distributions were fresh and full: cooking demonstrations alongside produce giveaways at Wolcott farm, youth farmers leading volunteers at Columbia farm, school groups exploring compost piles, and volunteers in every corner. Amidst this thriving constellation of programs, we embarked on 2 reimagined endeavors to further our food access, education, and conservation work: the Food as Medicine program and our Community Compost Operation.

As always, Red Hook Farms offers a space for community members to breathe fresh air and access healthy produce in a meaningful and joyful way. We take our role as land stewards with weight and honor, paying respect to the Lenape stewards who came before as well as present now.



## Growing for our Community

With thousands of pounds of produce coming off the fields, we had plenty of ways to get those veggies to the kitchens of our community!

At the free Friday Farm Stand at Wolcott Farm, we distributed more than 6,000 pounds of produce to NYCHA Red Hook Houses residents, while also hosting 57 live cooking demonstrations that showcased how to prepare seasonal, just-picked ingredients.

At the Columbia farm, our Saturday farm stand offered sliding-scale pricing for over 1,600 market visitors. Among those visitors were participants of our newly launched Food as Medicine program! In partnership with NYU Family Health Center, the Red Hook Community Health Network, and RHI's Community Building team, we offered 30 food-insecure families a weekly \$25 voucher to spend on farm-grown produce, as well as fruit and eggs we purchased from other local farms. As a result of the program, 92% of participants reported eating more fruits and vegetables and 100% tried a new fruit or vegetable!

Finally, our CSA is still going strong after more than 20 years in operation, with 40 members from in and around Red Hook.

*"I've been eating more vegetables... Now I have to have cabbage or cucumber or lettuce, tomatoes on the side. But I never did that before."*

- 2024 Food as Medicine participant

**6,017 lbs of produce  
distributed to 1,151  
residents at Wolcott  
Farm distribution**

**57 cooking  
demonstrations  
presented**

**40 members and their  
families fed through  
our CSA program**

**1,601 visitors to 22  
farm stands**



# Growing the Next Generation



*"Our students looked forward to visiting the farm all week! They especially loved feeding the chickens."*

- PS 15 teacher





Red Hook Farms stewards two sites in the neighborhood, transforming once vacant land into vibrant and green community spaces.



### Youth Farmer Apprenticeship Program

25 youth farmers joyfully farmed over the 2024 season, harvesting garlic, planting the fields and raised beds at both farms, and traveling to conferences around the city. They attended Making Brooklyn Bloom at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden—where our Farm Director, Saara, also presented—along with GreenThumb's GrowTogether Conference and the Youth Food Justice Network Summit at East NY Farms. Their pepper sauces and body butters were peak farm alchemy last year!



**\$124,900**  
**collectively earned**  
**by youth farmers**

**7,788 hours**  
**collectively worked**  
**by youth farmers**



### Farm-Based Learning

Our littlest farmers came from schools around Red Hook and beyond to talk bugs, explore the fields, and taste farm specialties like lemon sorrel, garlic chives, and strawberries! In 2024, we were able to offer visits to PS 15, PS 676/Harbor Middle School, PAVE, and South Brooklyn Community High School.



**27 school visits**

**460 school visitors**





# Growing a Local Movement

## Community Compost Operation

For the first time ever, we received direct funding from NYC Council to run the compost operation at the Columbia Street Farm, which was formerly run through partnerships with other organizations. Taking on full management has allowed the team to train our youth farmers in compost best practices and work closely with volunteers and Master Composters to manage the compost piles! We now collect food scraps from community members 24/7 through accessible bins at the gates, and give back finished compost to community gardeners, while nourishing the farm soil to grow even more nutrient-dense produce for the community.

**15,909 pounds of food scraps diverted from the landfill and turned into compost**

**105 community members received free compost for their gardens**







## Welcoming Volunteers

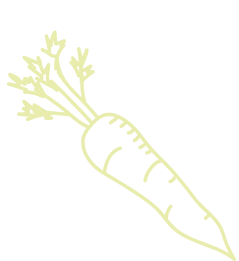
A key ingredient to the farm mix is our incredible community of volunteers! From the greenest first-timers to the seasoned returners, this eager band of merry farmers are always ready to weed through forests, mix soupy food scraps, or harvest itchy okra. They bring the best vibes and we are so very grateful for their constant love and labor!

## Red Hook Houses Garden Club

A third of Wolcott farm is dedicated to the Garden Club, an ethnically-diverse group of resident farmers who grow their own vegetables, herbs, and flowers in 24 raised beds. We supported them with tools, seeds, and seedlings and they brought a celebration of creativity and eclectic invention as they trellised, terraced, and intercropped their way to a bountiful harvest.

**5,106 hours of labor  
were donated by  
volunteers over 150  
work sessions**

**24 resident farmers  
grew their own  
produce**





*"Working at Red Hook Farms has given me the opportunity to branch out and develop numerous skills such as leadership skills. Being able to work with a diverse group of individuals has been an amazing experience because the farm is my second home."*

- MS, 2024 Farm Team



*"To get going every Saturday was a sense of community... a bunch of us would just sit there and talk, get our vegetables and just talk."*

- 2024 Food as Medicine participant





## We are grateful for the generosity of individual donors and institutional supporters.

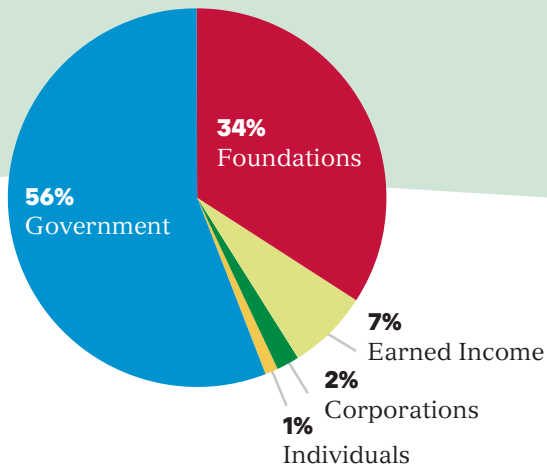
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*RHI relies on general operating support from countless donors who believe in our mission.  
For a complete list of institutional supporters, please visit [rhicenter.org](http://rhicenter.org).*

### 2024 Income



**Total expenses: \$680,503**







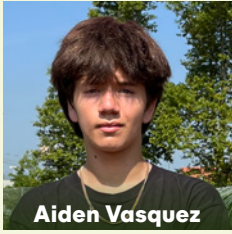
*"I invented so many things with kale and kohlrabi that now I should have my own cooking show!"*

- 2024 CSA member





# Meet the 2024 Farm Team



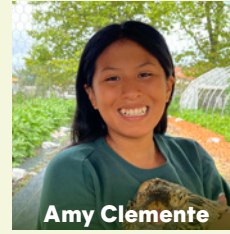
**Aiden Vasquez**



**Airihanna Martinez**



**Amalia Jaimes-Lukes\***



**Amy Clemente**



**Angel Zuniga**



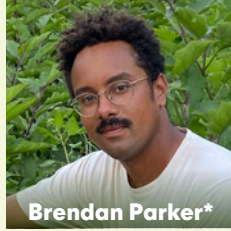
**Anisha Rathod\***



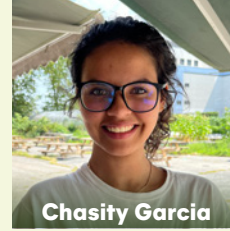
**Avonnie Chapman**



**Betty Bernhart\***



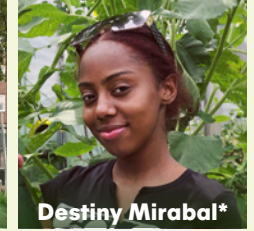
**Brendan Parker\***



**Chasity Garcia**



**Chyane Wright\***



**Destiny Mirabal\***



**Donovan Benavides**



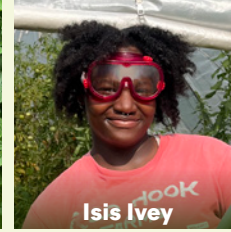
**Dunya Almansouri**



**Eyma Gonzalez**



**Giselle Hernandez-Chalini**



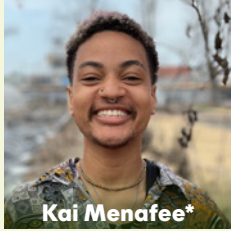
**Isis Ivey**



**Jayla Sostre**



**Joshua Colón\***



**Kai Menafee\***



**Kelly Clemente**



**Kristi Chaudhuri\***



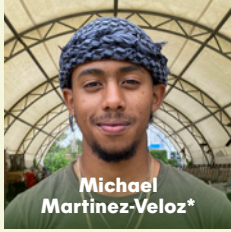
**Lavon McClellan**



**Makaylah Mirabal**



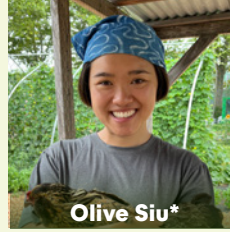
**Melany Salcedo**



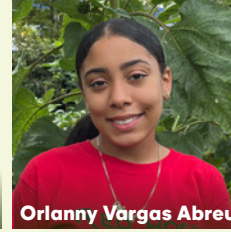
**Michael Martinez-Veloz\***



**Nasir Trower**



**Olive Siu\***



**Orlanny Vargas Abreu**



**Qa'deer Oden\***



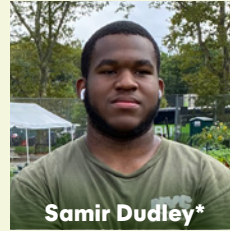
**RayVaughn Honoré**



**Saara Nafici\***



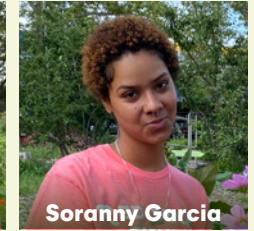
**Samantha Neckles\***



**Samir Dudley\***



**Sophia Ukeni\***



**Soranny Garcia**



**Taliyah Trower**



**Timothy John**



**Unique Hoyte**



**Xiaochun Sun\***

**Not pictured:**  
**Giselle Martinez,**  
**Latrell McClellan, and**  
**Merryjane Xocol Garcia**  
**\*Adult staff**







767 Hicks Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

## 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.

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

## Red Hook Farms Team

**Saara Nafici**  
Director of Red Hook Farms

**Brendan Parker**  
Assistant Director

**Amalia Jaimes-Lukes**  
Education Co-Coordinator

**Joshua Colón**  
Education Co-Coordinator

**Chyane Wright**  
Wolcott Farm Coordinator

**Anisha Rathod**  
Columbia Farm Coordinator

**Destiny Mirabal**  
Farm/Distribution Assistant  
(spring)

**Qa'deer Oden**  
Farm Assistant

**Kai Menafee**  
Farm Assistant (fall)

**Samir Dudley**  
Farm Assistant

**Michael Martinez-Veloz**  
Compost Educator

**Samantha Neckles**  
Chef Educator

**Kristi Chaudhuri**  
Distribution Support

## 2024 Board of Directors

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**Executive Director** Michael Partis

## CREATING CHANGE FROM WITHIN

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   @redhookfarms @rhookinitiative

## Contributing Photographers

Josh Colón  
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Anisha Rathod  
Melany Salcedo