

For Immediate Release

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Building Healthy Communities

Washtenaw County organizations awarded grants to promote healthy eating

YPSILANTI, Mich., Feb. 11, 2020 – Washtenaw County Health Department is pleased to announce a total of \$30,000 in grant funding for three community projects that are helping improve access to, and consumption of, healthy foods.

The Health Department awarded the funding through its Building Healthy Communities program. Building Healthy Communities creates policy, system, and environment changes that support physical activity and healthy eating. The program aims to reduce cardiovascular disease, obesity, and other chronic conditions.

“We are incredibly excited to support our local partners and work together to build foundations for all residents to live healthy lifestyles,” says Tedi Milgrom, MPH, health promotion coordinator with Washtenaw County Health Department. “These projects align with our work to support health equity by engaging residents and investing resources where most needed in Washtenaw County.”

Funding was awarded to Food Gatherers, Growing Hope, and the Farm at St. Joe’s for the following projects:

- Food Gatherers is engaging partner agencies and food pantry clients in conversations on improving hunger relief programs. Clients will share insights and perspectives about how Food Gatherers can support agencies to make more healthy food available in our community. This project will support Food Gatherers in identifying several strategies to improve the quality of programming, increase the amount and kinds of healthy food going to pantries, and better meet the needs of their program clients.
- Ypsilanti Farmers Markets, funded and staffed by Growing Hope, will host the Power of Produce (POP) Club to encourage children ages 5-12 to taste and experience fresh produce. In this eight-week program, children can become POP Club members to receive \$2 per week in tokens to spend on fruits and vegetables. They can also participate in conversations with farmers, educational games, and produce tastings. The program aims to expose children to new fruits and vegetables, empower them to make their own shopping decisions, and increase fruit and vegetable intake for the whole family.
- The Farm at St. Joe's will build a new hoop house for growing plants from seeds and nurturing seedlings. A hoop house is a structure characterized by a half-round "hoop" shape that is used as a green house or a season extender for growing food. The hoop house will provide a dedicated year-round place to start crops while teaching youth and adults the skills

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to plant and grow food (in gardens or containers) at home. The hoop house will support the Produce to Patients and Farm Share Plus programs that provide fresh produce to food insecure families in Washtenaw County.

Building Healthy Communities

This funding is through Washtenaw County Health Department's [Building Healthy Communities program](#). Building Healthy Communities creates policy, system, and environment changes that support physical activity and healthy eating. The program is funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and aims to reduce cardiovascular disease, obesity, and other chronic conditions. Washtenaw County Health Department works with partners and residents to implement local projects where they are most needed and can be most effective.

Washtenaw County Health Department

The Washtenaw County Health Department promotes health and works to prevent disease and injury in our community. Our mission is to assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs.

The Washtenaw County Health Department has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board and maintains state accreditation through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Visit us at washtenaw.org/health or call 734-544-6700.

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