



roma apple

## AS WE GROW

Stay tuned! We are planting seeds for the following programs to grow and develop for 2010 and beyond:

1. School gardens that incorporate gardening into school curricula for hands-on learning.
2. Gardens serving churches, shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, rehab centers and other communities for therapeutic purposes.
3. Urban farms that provide income and job training for residents.
4. Food recycling and composting programs at major area institutions of higher learning.
5. Farmers markets in key urban meeting areas offering locally-grown, affordable and nutritious alternatives to grocery store chains and high-end gourmet food shops.
6. Maintain green roofs on commercial buildings to provide vegetables and spices for local restaurants.



broccoli



radish

## SUPPORT US

We depend upon private support to fulfill our ambitious mission. Private funds are essential to ensure that the community gardens and other urban farming programs are here to stay for generations to come.



You can play a vital role in giving life to TAC's programs by making a contribution in various ways such as through our annual fund, planned giving, donations, memorials, scholarships, and corporate memberships.



asparagus

## MAJOR PARTNERS

Cascade Village

The City of Akron

Crown Point

University Park Alliance



Collard greens



*Building a local food system of urban farming to revitalize the health and economy of Akron.*



yellow pepper

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red cabbage

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## ABOUT US

We grow healthy communities through urban farming by

- Cultivating neighbor-to-neighbor connections.
- Providing a special transformative power through shared work and resources.
- Offering safe, neutral and festive meeting places, food sources, rec spaces, educational centers, income sources and empowerment zones.



**Our Mission** is to build a local food system to improve the health and economy of our community. By using the wealth of resources and rich traditions of our diverse community, we unite and engage all generations and ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to share common ground and improve the conditions of our neighborhoods.

### Our Tactics

- Develop, advocate and educate for new forms of agricultural food production and land use within our urban area.
- Increase community self-reliance by developing local capacity to grow and produce food through a robust network of gardens and micro-farms.
- Design and administer programs that foster partnerships between local businesses, organizations, families and youth in the community.



leek



asparagus

## KEY PROGRAMS

**Akron Grows**, a partnership with the City of Akron and Ohio State University Extension Service, is a classic community gardening program promoting and encouraging urban gardening for Akron residents. In this first year, six vacant city-owned lots were prepared and subdivided into plots involving 58 gardeners.

**The University Park Alliance's (UPA) Community Garden** program is establishing three community gardens throughout the UPA area with future plans to develop 15 to 20 more, and small business food enterprises to increase access to fresh and healthy local foods.

**Cascade Village Community Garden** is designed for the residents of the Cascade Village housing development who grew a garden on an adjacent lot also owned by the City of Akron. TAC also created a Stone Soup Party and community arts projects.



Heirloom tomatoes



gourd

## DID YOU KNOW...

- There are 150,000 community gardens in American cities with an increase of 15-20 percent every year
- Neighborhoods that support community gardens show an increase in the number of owner-occupied dwellings, home values and personal income (as a result of attracting people with higher incomes).
- Gardening has positive effects on self-esteem, self-efficacy and mental health
- Seven million more households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs or berries in 2009, up 19 percent from 2008.
- People get involved in community gardening because they: desire better-tasting food, want to save money on food bills, and perceive better quality and safer food.
- A well-maintained food garden yields a \$500 average return per garden



Eggplant